

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of research that describes about the important irony in literary works, statement of problems explains about kinds of irony in short story, poetry, and drama, the comparison of irony among story, poetry, and drama, and the usage of ironies with symbol to function among story, poetry, and drama, research objective is to find out the problems, research significance is to show the importance of irony in this research, conceptual framework is to know the planning concept in this research, and the preview studies are as references in creating this research.

A. Background of Research

Every human has imaginations to make something new in life. Sub of them prides writing as an activity to express the life. Writing is a way to create the history in a book, diary, and literary work. Literary work is an art of language through words created by human's mind. Human creates the literary work to express life, circumstance, beauty, and so on. The concept idea of authors fills in the literary works to present authors' imagination. Literature as "a creative activity, an art" and literature is identical with the words: the expression of human feeling, imaginative process and creativity. The creation of literature refers to the readers with their sense, thoughts, feeling to get the imagination from author (Wellek and Warren, 1972: 2). In getting inspiration, the authors refresh their mind with other way such as reading, hanging out, being alone in a place to deliver message to the readers. Literary work is the form and outcome of a creative, is essentially a media that uses language to express about human life. The language that the authors used is various like figurative language.

Figurative language is a language style which is used by the poet to convey the meaning. Nurholis (2006: 32), it is the way which used by the poet to get up and to

create imagination using figurative language. The figurative language makes the readers deeply think about the meaning because the poets use figurative language to hide the meaning inside the word. There are many kinds of figurative language such as alliteration, hyperbole, irony, metaphor, metonymy, personification, simile, and synecdoche. In the kinds of figurative language, the researcher analyzes one of them. That is irony. Irony is the condition that the expectation gets opposite in meaning with the reality. Abrams (1999: 8) stated that Irony is used to suggest the difference between appearance and reality, between expectation and fulfillment, and thus, the complexity of experience.” As Abrams (1999: 8) said that irony creates the opposite between appearance and reality, between expectation and fulfillment. It means that the ironic words which written by the authors writings are not the real meaning. The authors hide the meaning to express their emotion through their writings.

The reason in analyzing irony is, the researcher found ironies in literary works that have different functions. When the researcher compares ironies in literary works, they apparently have functions in each literary works. Then, the researcher analyzes ironies in literary works to know what kinds of function appears with the irony inside. Kurnia (2017) stated that literary works are divided into three types namely prose, poetry, and drama. The researcher analyzes all of them in this research. The first is prose. There are two short stories in prose that the researcher analyzes such as *The Chrysanthemums* (1938) by John Steinbeck and *Paul's Case A Study in Temperament* (1905) by Willa Sibert Cather. The researcher describes the point of ironies inside as follows:

In short story *The Chrysanthemums*, the researcher found several important events which related with irony. Although many figurative languages in discussions show in this story, the researcher found irony that it is as supporting events inside the story to make the story has a function. Besides, the word of irony represents to the character in the story. The story told about the main character, Elisa Alley, and Henry Alley as her husband live in Salinas Valley. Elisa feels like living loneliness because of her husband too busy with his work. The irony is Elisa does not get

caring and loving from her husband. With the description about the story, there are ironies and symbol that support the character in the story.

Then, *Paul's Case A Study In Temperament* is a short story about the character who is lonely and does not get caring and loving from his parent. The researcher chooses this story because the story related with irony. The story told about Paul, main character, got a problem with his father and he does not have a mother. His mother died. In case, it does not get caring and loving from his father in his life because his father is too busy with his business. The ironic situation happens when a child who needs a father inside but it does not happen in his life. Then, Paul gets angry and sometimes does not want to go home. Besides, there are symbols to support the character in facing his life that the symbols mean irony. Thus, in this story contains ironies use symbols.

Next, the second is poetry. There are seven poems the researcher analyzes such as *Blowin' in the Wind* (1962) by Bob Dylan, *Government* by Carl Sandburg, *Richard Cory* (1897) by Edwin Arlington Robinson, *I, Too* (1926) by Langston Hughes, *On Being Brough From Africa to America* (1773) by Phillis Wheatley, *Talking in Bed* (1964) by Philip Larkin and *Ironic* by Larry Potter(2013). The researcher will describe the point of irony inside as follows:

The first poem is *Blowin' in the Wind*. The researcher chooses "Blowin' in the Wind" as poem because inside a poem is a lot of ironic words to be analyzed. The poet wants to deliver something inside the words. The poet describes about the disappointment and fills the words to the poem. There are many truths in the story that the poet wants to convey to the reader. There are symbols in the poetry which represented the ironies.

The second poem is *Government*. The researcher chooses this poem because there are symbols that represent ironies. The poem tells about the protest to the government. The description in this poem refers to the government because the word of government become repetition that the poet wrote. Then, there are ironies and symbols used by the poet inside the poem.

The third poem is *Richard Cory*. The story tells about the people with his kindness to other. The poet wrote *Richard Cory* as the name of character in the story but beside his kindness, there is something shocked readers. There are words and symbols that present to irony. The researcher found symbols in the poem that have the meaning inside.

The fourth poem *I, Too*. The researcher found irony words inside the poem that shows messages to the readers. The poet writes from the perspective of an inferior servant to a domineering white family that shoos him away to the kitchen whenever company arrives. It describes about slavery happened in America. Africans are slaveries in America, then the poet describes the situation Africans in America through this poem. Besides, the researcher found ironies in this poem that use symbols.

The fifth poem is *On Being Brough From Africa to America*. This poem describes about the slavery situation in America. She uses many symbols to interpret her experience in her land. The researcher found ironies inside the poem. The poet conveys a message in this poem to the readers about the slavery. The poet uses symbols that the researcher guesses refer to the irony because the background of this poem is slavery.

The sixth poem is *Talking in Bed*. The poet wrote this poem that the researcher suspects it wants to convey a message to the readers. The poem is about the importance of communication in life. The poems show about the trouble in couple who do not make a conversation each other in the bed. The poet refers bed as the place in conversation. The couple seems to hard solve the trouble although they are on the bed. There is not communication doing between them. Based on the background of poem, the poet uses the symbols in the poem that researcher guesses it will become ironic messages.

The seventh poem is *Ironic*. There are ironies words inside the poem that represents about life. The poet conveys messages to the readers that face with people's activities every day. The activities connected the ironic life. It can be said

that the poet describes life through the poem. There are symbols presented ironies inside. The researcher analyzes the meaning inside the words that the words have a function that means irony.

The last one is drama. There is the play which entitled *M. Butterfly* (1988) by David Henry Hwang. The researcher analyzes this play because there are many styles figurative languages and functions here, but the researcher choose irony to analyze the play. The researcher found significant words which may have a function. Although there is a function inside this play, the researcher wants to use a play as the research which connected with other literary works. This play maybe has a function when the researcher combines with irony. There are symbols presented ironies in this play. Play played by actors and actresses on the stage. The actors and actresses called the character. The character has a significant symbol to present his likeness to someone in the story. As the title of *M. Butterfly*. Butterfly comes from M. Butterfly, a play, that it is a special name in the story. The story played in two characters Rene Gallimard as main character and Song Liling as a character who loved by Gallimard. Many supporting actors make the story becomes interesting and the point is in two characters here.

Three genres chosen have similarities and differences. The similarities are all of literary works that the researcher chose have ironies inside the story. Ironies affect a literary work and become the function of them. There are the differences that appear when ironies are inside. Irony is a figurative language that shows about unexpected something with reality. Irony can be found in literary works to express the opposite meanings inside the words.

The reason in choosing irony is, the authors have their style in delivering the situation and condition through the words. The literary works have many ironies in each work. Therefore, there is a supporting element to make the irony significant to analyze. It appears symbol to describe the meaning of the words. Some literary works above use symbol to deliver the message to the readers. Symbol is a kind of sign that has dynamic, special, subjective, imaginative, and figurative in meaning (Rusmana, 2004: 14). The poet puts the symbols in his or her literary works. The

symbol is dynamic and imaginative in author's imagination then the readers can guess the real meaning of this word. The real meaning is from the symbol that the poet created.

The researcher tries to guess the symbols in the poems because the poets use the symbols that have functions in their imaginations. The researcher suspects that the symbols are not the real meaning but it is imaginative. The symbols presented ironies in the meaning. The meaning has oppositeness with the story presented by the poet. Then, the researcher analyzes the ironies words inside the symbol which was written by the poet. Besides, the researcher analyzes the words to reveal the meanings inside and the researcher analyzes the irony that uses the symbols in this this research. Thus, the researcher conducts the research which is entitled *A Comparative Study: Ironic Functions in Literary Works*

B. Statement of Problems

Based on the background problem, the literary works used ironies as the discussion. The researcher formulated the problems into the research questions as follows:

1. What kinds of irony found among short story, poetry, and drama?
2. How is the comparison of ironies among short story, poetry, and drama?
3. What functions appeared when ironies use symbols among short story, poetry, and drama?

C. Research Objective

In this research, identifying ironies become important in literary works. Ironies in literary works give the significant functions. The function appears because of irony inside. Then, the definition of ironies in literary works purpose to:

1. To know kinds of irony among short story, poetry, and drama.
2. To know the comparison of ironies among short story, poetry, and drama.

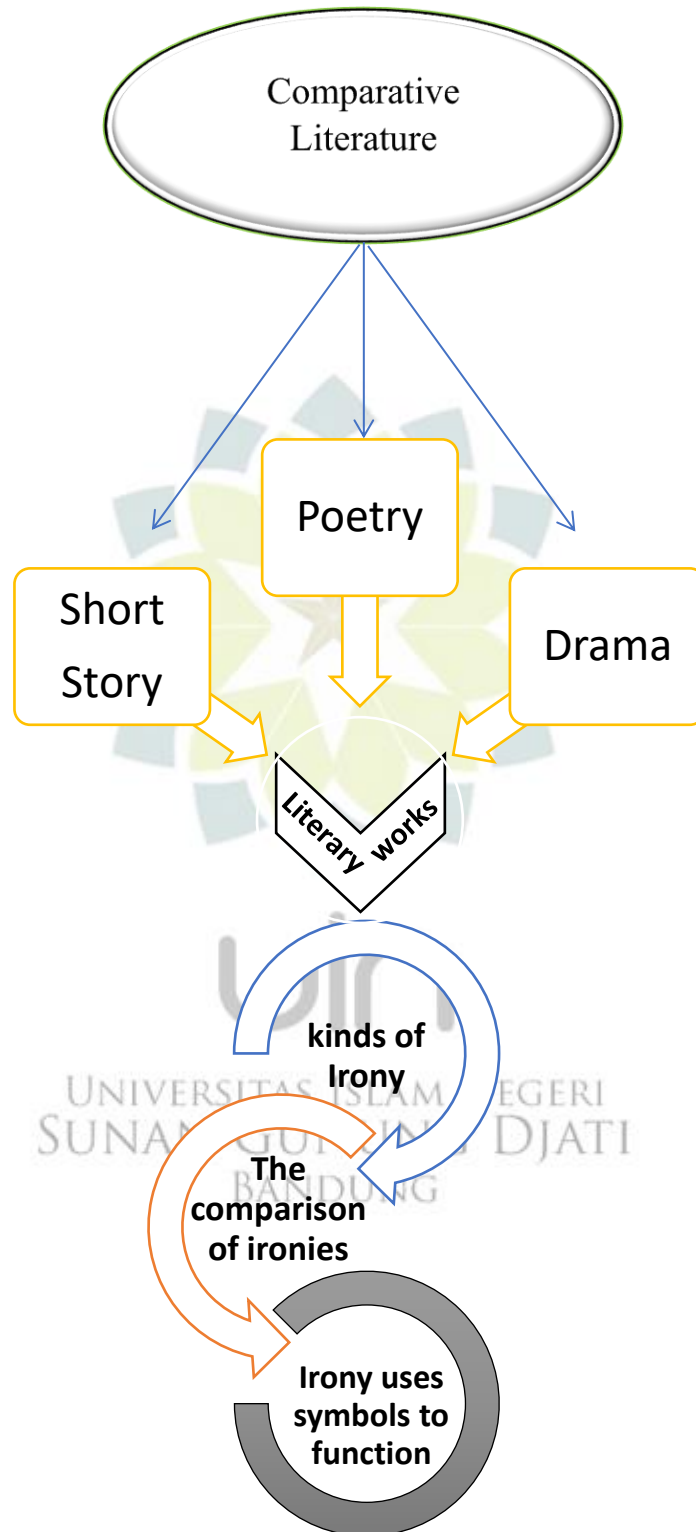
3. To know the function when ironies use symbols among short story, poetry, and drama.

D. Research Significance

The research significant shows about the importance of irony in this research. The researcher hopes the result of this research will be read by people to develop information about comparative irony in literary works. Comparative study learns two or more literary works that have similarities and differences in the works. In this research, the comparison connected with irony to make an important study. Practically, this research hopes helping the people in the future to give more information about irony. Then, this research becomes a reference for other researchers.



E. Conceptual Framework



In this research, the researcher applied the main theory of comparative literature by Bassnett (1993) and the main theory of irony by Abrams (1999). In comparing literary works, the researcher uses three genres such as prose, poetry and drama. In this research, the researcher analyzes the irony which contains the kinds of irony as the connecting among short story, poetry, and drama. As theory of Bassnett (1999) said that comparative literature attempts to connect literature each other, the researcher tries to connect the literary works to get the result. Moreover, Bassnett (1999) argued comparative literature contains the similarities and the differences which cannot be separated. The researcher describes that similarities and differences can be used in this research. The researcher uses the similarity as comparison ironies in short story, poetry, and drama while the difference is as a result of comparison among short story, poetry, and drama. Then, the result of comparison called as function. The function is a result from difference that compares the literary works. The function appears when ironies use symbol. As Rusmana (2004: 14) said the symbol is a kind of sign that has dynamic, special, subjective, imaginative, and figurative in meaning. Thus, the symbol has varies of mark which used in literary works to find out which function appears in each.

As the explanation above, the kinds of irony are as a connecting among short story, poetry, and drama. In doing comparison and getting function, kinds of irony become data to make the research can be analyzed. The kinds of ironies show data that support the research to answer the question number two and number three, then the kind of ironies become the description about irony. As Abrams (1999) said irony is used to suggest the difference between appearance and reality, between expectation and fulfillment, and thus, the complexity of experience. Irony describes as the oppositeness from reality which the readers expect something and happen anything. The readers cannot expect well to the event because the presence of irony. Irony changes the situation becomes unexpectable. Then, the unexpectable of ironies show through kinds of irony that describe in literary works. Short story, poetry, and drama become objects to analyze irony thus the points are as comparing and getting function.

F. Previous Studies

The researcher found several references that related with this study. The previous studies are the key to make the research easier to be done. The researcher connected the previous studies with this research to make the study easily to solve the problem. Here, the list of previous studies is as follows:

First, *Irony in Sugarscape Articles* by Dewi Lestari Nurholifah (2014), State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. She analyzed about irony in articles using irony theory of Ermida (2008). The problems in her research are the ironic utterances found in the articles in *Sugarscape* website and the irony markers found in *Sugarscape* website. The method that she used is qualitative research. The researcher found similarities in her researcher about the theory of irony and the kind of irony. The theory of irony that she used applied in this research to increase knowledge about irony and kind of ironies shows in her researcher and this research to analyze the irony deeply with using various irony. Then, the differences are the object. She used articles as the objects then in this research uses short stories, poetry and a drama as the objects.

Second, *Irony of Hero on Batman and Harvey Dent's Characterizations in Christopher and Jonathan Nolan's The Dark Knight's Film Script* by Bella Nur Utama Solihin (2009), State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. His researcher showed about irony in character Batman as hero in treating one's opponent in an argument. The problems are the concept of hero according to Batman and Harvey Dent in Christopher and Jonathan Nolan's *The Dark Knight* film script, kinds of ironical factors that make Batman an antihero and the factors that make Harvey Dent a hero in Christopher and Jonathan Nolan's *The Dark Knight*, and kind of ironic cases that happen in Christopher and Jonathan Nolan's *The Dark Knight*. He analyzed about ironies in *The Dark Knight* movie that the main character Batman felt. Batman whom is supposedly admired, is blamed guilty because he acts above the law. He tried to show kind of ironies to give more information about irony through the main character Batman. Then, He used the theory of Muecke (1982) about irony and ironic types in his research. He used the

method of structural research to focus on the work's structure to be comprehended by concerning its interrelated constructing elements of meaning without involving historical background, and author. The similarity between his research and this research is in the usage of theory. This research also uses theory of Muecke (1982) to give more explanations about irony and kind of ironies, and the difference is from the choosing object. His research used a film script as object while this research uses short stories, poetry, and a drama as objects.

Third, *Irony in Marry Shelley's Novel Frankenstein* by R. Ega Fitria Kemalasaki (2017), State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung. She analyzed about irony in Novel *Frankenstein* that the meaning is different from the actual meaning through the words. The problems in her research are types of irony found and irony develop in *Frankenstein*. Then, she used the theory of Abrams (1999) to analyze irony and kind of ironies. The method that she used is structural research. The researcher got the similarity in her research like the theory of ironies by Abrams. Then, the difference is from the literary works that she uses the novel as object while this research uses short stories, poetry, and a drama as objects.

In three the previous studies about irony, the researcher has similarity and difference in analyzing ironies. The previous studies above are similar in the analyzing the topic of irony. Ironies applied in literary works like in the first researcher, Dewi Lestari Nurholifah analyzed ironies in article, there are ironies and kind of ironies inside that she explained and she used the theory of Ermida (2008). Then second, Bella Nur Utama Solihin analyzed ironies in movie script. There are the methods to analyze ironies in his research that used by main character. He used the theory of Muecke (1982) in analyzing ironies. The last one is from R. Ega Fitria Kemalasaki analyzed ironies in novel. The theory of Abrams (1999) made her research actually done in analyzing ironies. In analyzing ironies that they did, the researcher got the references to make this research well. There are the other similarities, the researcher used the theory that they used in this research. The similarities are in using theory and using ironies inside the literary works, but the differences are in using the object. The objects that the researcher use is very

different although they are literary works. In previous studies, there are articles, a movie script, and a novel, but the researcher uses short two short stories, seven poems, and one play in analyzing ironies.

