

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with five components, such as the background of the research, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and the definition of key term.

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is divided into high and popular literature. Williams in Strinati argues that popular literature means literary work being seen from the point of view of people rather than from those who seek the power over it (2). Furthermore, Hamilton and Brian argue that works of popular literature are only popular, while the works of high literature are art (v). These mean that the differentiation between high and popular literature is in the purpose. MacDonald in Strinati argues that high literature is made as the pure expression of people, while popular literature is made as a business to get the consumers (9). Apparently, popular literature appeals the readers to choose which works they will buy and read.

Based on the Q.D Leavis' statement in Strinati that in this modern era, readers cannot and do not appreciate the high literature anymore because their literary taste of high literature is reversed by the success of popular choice (20). This means that there are the roles in popular literature which makes its work popular. One of the roles that make the works popular is the pattern of the story or the formula which used in a literary work. Cawelti in Sharkey argues that formula is the contribution of genre's success (7). He adds that the authors will satisfy their audiences and their publisher by provides the formula in their story. Therefore, the author will create the pattern of story based on what the readers want.

There are some genres in popular literature. One of them is the hard-boiled detective genre. This genre has the formula that makes it popular. Hard-boiled detective genre itself is

a detective story which not only tells about the detective who solves the clues but also there is the pattern of action in the story. Cawelti says that hard-boiled detective fiction affirms that the true justice is depended on the individual rather than the law by showing the helplessness of the law when confronted by evil (35). Therefore, the hero in hard-boiled detective usually acts out the law.

The formula that makes the hard-boiled detective story popular is the obstacle which should be faced by the hero. Adi argues that the main plot of the hard-boiled fiction is the struggle between good and evil (68). The similar argument comes from Umberto Eco in *Strinati* who says that Lévi Strauss's binary oppositions can be the reason for the popularity of hard-boiled detective story. This is because the binary opposition has the universal theme which lies behind the popularity of hard-boiled detective story. He adds that this universal theme represents the struggle between good and evil (96). This kind of formula is almost similar with the fairy tale or the knight story in which the hero should face the obstacles to attain his purpose. When the detective overcomes the evil or the obstacle to find the truth, the author usually provides the suspense for the readers. According to Adi the main formula of hard-boiled detective story is the suspense (90). This is because when the readers read the suspense, they will not want to lose the moment after that. So that, the readers will keep reading the story until the last page.

The hero in hard-boiled detective story usually is a single man or a group of men that conquer the obstacles. In the other words, hard-boiled detective tells about man's adventure to find the justice or the truth. In his adventure, the confronted with the villain. According to Gallagher, adventure is the sponsor of the stage of men experience, such as boyhood and play, manhood, and even violence (23). Moreover, Adi argues that the adventure is related with masculinity because a man character is presented as a hero who overcome the obstacles to find the justice (77). Therefore, hard-boiled detective story is related to masculinity. This is

because, masculinity emerges from the situation in which a man confronted with another men. Adi argues that the target of the hard-boiled fiction is the male consumers (71). Then, Cawelti in Adi argues that hard-boiled fiction is made with the masculine formats (74). This means that as the other hard-boiled story, the hard-boiled detective story tells about man and his masculinity aspects.

Masculinity refers to man and his world. Ryall in Adi argues that masculinity appears from the narrative situation and the obstacle which should be face by the hero from the struggle with other male characters (114). Connell argues that masculinity is about the way man live by shows his risk-tasking, responsibility, and even the Zeus energy. Moreover, he argues that masculinity refers to what man actually are, what man ought to be, and the symbol of the authority of man (68). This means that masculinity refers to every element in man included the physical appearance, skills, and the behavior of man.

The portrayal of masculinity in hard-boiled fiction included in hard-boiled detective changes years by years. Since 1990 the ideal masculinity in hard-boiled detective story is not represented by man's muscle anymore, but through the expressive physical appearance, the good behavior, the heroic action from the hero (man), and even man's insight. Carroll says that detective story is an icon of American masculinity that articulates the lone hero. In the detective story, masculinity must be proved by solving the case (130). The similar argument comes from Griswold who argues that masculinity is not only about the violence but also about male's insight (13). Adi argues that to show his masculinity, the hero is not identic with the muscle of his body, but also with the professionalism and brightness (118-119). This means that the masculine hero is the intelligent man.

Those kind of masculinity aspects are used in many novel, such as Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. This novel is written by Dan Brown in March 18, 2003. This novel is published by Doubleday in New York. Today, it is translated into more than fifty different languages

worldwide. This novel has been adapted into movie by Columbia Pictures in May 19, 2006. Oropeza argues that the reason for the popularity of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* is because this novel declares that Jesus Christ as likes the human in which he is described as a husband and father that experiences the sexual relation with Mary Magdalene (<http://www.apu.edu/articles/15537/>). This means that some people have the opinion that *The Da Vinci Code* becomes the popular choice because it tell about Jesus Christ that has the sexual experience with Mary Magdalene, and they have some bloodline who still alive, such as Sophie Neveu with her family. Actually, *The Da Vinci Code* tells about the adventure of Robert Langdon as a detective or hero under the orders of Jacques Saunière to goes on a mission to destroy the evil (villain), and rescue the lady (Sophie Neveu). These pattern of plot describes the adventure of a detective (Robert Langdon) in help Sophie Neveu to find the truth. In his adventure, Robert Langdon must overcome many obstacle in which he has the responsibility to protects Sophie Neveu, while he is surrounded by the threats. Based on this pattern of the story, *The Da Vinci Code* is concluded into hard-boiled detective novel. Therefore, the masculinity is constructed in this novel because masculinity rises from the hard-boiled situation that constructed in this novel.

There are some previous studies about masculinity, hard-boiled detective fiction, and Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. Those previous studies are as follow, first *The Representation of Masculinity in Children's Literature* by Candy Lynn Thyssen (2013). This is a paper comes from University of Cape Town. Second is *Masculinity and Violence in 21st Century U.S. Film: A History of 'Violence' and 'Drive'* by Isael Moranta Alorda (2013). This is the paper comes from University of Balearic Island. Thirs is *The Hard-Boiled Detective: Personal Relationships and The Pursuit of Redemption* by David George Howard (2010). This is a paper comes from Indiana University. Fourth is an article "Hard-Boiled Detective Fiction as a Vehicle of Social Commentary in Raymond Chandler's *The Big Sleep* and Walter

Mosley's Devil In A Blue Dress” by Paul Bird (2011). This article comes from Kyoto Gakuen University. Fifth is *Detective Elements in Dan Brown’s Novel “The Da Vinci Code”* by Gustiawan Syahputra (2009). This paper comes from University of Sumatera Utara. The last is *Symbol of Holliness in Dan Brown’s The Da Vinci Code* by Zazi Haerizal (2011). This paper comes from Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University.

From those previous studies, it can be summarized that this research has the differentiation with them. This is because this research analyzes the masculinity, hard-boiled detective, and Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* altogether. The chapters that follow will explore this in detail.

### **1.1 Statement of Problem**

Based on the research background above, the researcher limits the analysis on Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* into two research questions as follow.

1. How are hard-boiled detective formulas constructed in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*?
2. How are masculinities constructed in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*?

### **1.2 Research Objective**

Based on the research questions above, the researcher has two purposes of this research as follow.

1. To understand the hard-boiled detective formulas in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*.
2. To analyze the masculinities in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*.

### **1.3 Research Significance**

In conduct this research, the researcher expects that this research will be has the significant. Practically, this research expected to be a reference for the reader who wants to analyze the similar problem. Then, this research also expected to provide the knowledge to

the reader in understanding the hard-boiled detective formula and the masculinity in the literary work, especially in the novel.

Furthermore, theoretically this research is expected to reinforce the theory of hard-boiled detective formula in the novel, especially in *The Da Vinci Code* novel. Besides that, this research also expected to reinforce the theory of masculinity in hard-boiled detective novel.

#### **1.4 Definition of Key Term**

##### **1. Masculinity**

Masculinity refers to man's world. This shows the man's physical appearance, man's act, man's behavior, man's skill, and other aspects that related to man. Masculinity in hard-boiled fiction usually related with the man's heroic action.

##### **2. Hard-Boiled Detective**

Hard-boiled detective story is the other genre of detective story. In hard-boiled detective story, the hero usually surrounded by the threats, and there is always the suspense that constructed. This genre is not only shows the clues solving, but also the pattern of action.

##### **3. Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code**

*The Da Vinci Code* is an American popular novel which is written by Dan Brown in 2003. This novel was published by Doubleday in New York. This novel has been translated into more than fifty-one language.

