CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background, statement of problem, research question, research objective, significance of research, previous study, and definition key terms.

1.1.   Background of Research

Language is a tool that human use to communicate each other. People use language to deliver the argument and some opinion which come from the thought. Before spoken language used by human, they use another way to communicate such as using body gesture which has a symbol implicitly. It still called as language because of the utilizing thing to convey a message to communicate as an aim. According to Sapir (1921), "language is purely human and non-instinctive method of communicating ideas, emotions and desires by means of voluntarily produced by symbols."

Symbolism is the use of symbol to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literary sense. Symbolism can take different forms, generally it is an object representing another to give it entirely different meaning that is much deeper and more significant. Symbol can be a person, place, thing, event or pattern in literary work that designated itself and at the same time figuratively represents or 'stand for' something else. Shaw (1881:367) assumed that, "symbol is something used for, or regarded as, representing something else. More specifically, a symbol is a word, phrase, or

other expression having a complex of associated meanings; in this sense, a symbol is viewed as having values different from those of whatever is being symbolized."

Symbol commonly use in literature because of the contribution in formulating and developing the story particularly in literary work. Though symbol is not only exist in literary work, but also in many dimension of life like culture, environment, science or etc, according to Hawthorne (1985:662), "symbol is not limited to literature and art, they are central to all known human cultures."

A symbol is literary devices/element contains several layers of meaning. The purpose of symbol in a literature is to convey a reclusive meaning and often concealed at first sight. Symbol becomes a vital tool that allows the author to convey meaning and imagery. Symbolism used in literature to help readers understand a literary work.

Besides symbolism meaning that the author put in the text, the readers also have their own thinking that related to the text directly. The readers is an active participants can determine the meaning of symbol from the text they were read. The reader can construct a meaning in different way because the reader is the chief source of interpretation. In accordance with Rosenblatt (in Ruddell and Unrau, 2004:1396), "every reading act is an event of transaction involving a particular reader and a particular pattern, signs, a text, and occurring at a particular time in a particular context." The meaning does not ready-made in the text or in the reader but happens or comes during the transaction between reader and text. Thus the reader get involve to the text directly.

Reader response is one of literary theory that focuses on the reader and their experience to the text or literary work. Reader response is emphasize ingoing examination of a text. It is about understanding how the text is organized and what the text is trying to reflect on its reader. Process of reading a text is making the readers understand and be connected to the text. Due to Probst (1988:235), "reading process demands readers to get involved in the text. "Moreover, the readers can put their feeling into the text which can influence the result of the reading act. This is supported by Iser (in Dobie, 2002:137) who asserts that, "readers involve their life, personality, and identity as the tool of elaborating the text which will be criticized.

In literary reading, the reader engage to the text to become involved in imagine events, setting, actions, consequences, character, atmosphere, feeling and ideas, and to enjoy the reading process itself. However, reader response theory focus on readers response to the text and interpret the text by own reader thinking.

While the reader read to comprehend the literary text they will relate their life's experience to the text. Mostly, readers choose an interesting book to read that have an aesthetic and artistic element inside. Both elements can be found in some literary works such as short story, poetry, poem, novel, even in a film. Literary work can be defined as a branch of literature dealing with words as raw material to create a picture, an idea or a story in a meaningful pattern.

Literature is divided into many forms such as poetry, drama and prose. A novel is one of prose sub-genre which probably the most popular literary work in the present age. The popularity is caused by the readers in great quantities which include

all of human being's interest. Novel started being popular because of the science development in making a printing machine. According to Dhumel (1965:440), "novel is the story of prose about imaginary people long enough to cover a book. In the other word novel is an imaginative story book."

Frankenstein; or, *The Modern Prometheus* Novel is the novel written by English author Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, the daughter of the philosopher William Godwin and the feminist Mary Wollstonecraft. This novel made in nineteenth century during the Romantic Movement. It has been done in one year and published in 1818. Frankenstein is infused with elements of the gothic novel and the Romantic Movement. At the same time, it is an early example of science fiction. Frankenstein is the second works of Mary Shelley and at once become her masterpiece. The researcher selects this novel as the object because the researcher sees another thing from the novel. The researcher want to analyze the darkness symbol appear in a text particularly in a novel.

From the explanation above, the researcher focuses the research on reader understanding of darkness symbol in Frankenstein novel as the object of the research. Whereas this novel consists of gothic elements and the theme raise is all about gothic issue. Gothic related to describe strange or frightening events that take place in mysterious places, and also defined as style of literature characterized by a gloomy setting, mysterious, grotesque or violent event. Furthermore, the researcher aware in gothic novel there would be many things that show the gloomy atmosphere,

mysterious character even the dark side of human and definitely has some darkness symbols that can be represented such as death and monster.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Frankenstein is a novel that has a gothic fiction/horror fiction genre. In this novel the theme raise is all about horror/gothic issues, because of that the researcher want to examine the similar thing from the novel itself. The researcher wants to analyze the darkness symbols that can be found in Shelley's novel Frankenstein. In this case, the symbol that will analyze by the researcher in this research is form of text.

Due to statement of the problem above, this research will be formulated into two questions below.

1. What are symbol of darkness portrayed in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Novel?

2. What are the readers' interpretations toward the darkness symbol in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Novel?

1.3. Research Objective

Based on the problem statement mentioned above, the researcher has the following objectives:

1. To find out the symbols in Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Novel

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2. To find out the readers' interpretation toward the darkness symbol in Mary Shelley Frankenstein Novel

1.4. Significance of Research

There are two research significance defined by the researcher, there are theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research can be used by the readers as an additional reference for discussion of readers understanding of symbol. Also, this research is expected to give some contributions particularly in the research of reader understanding of symbol in a novel. Practically, the research significance is to increase understanding about literary works in fiction genre and particularly in interpret the symbols by the readers in Frankenstein Novel. And for English department student, this research is useful to help them in comprehending literary works.

1.5. Previous Study

The researcher presents some previous research that deal with the study about readers understanding that had been researched by Riki Ruswandi in his graduating paper entitle 'Reader's Understanding of Figurative Language Meaning on Gibran's Novel: The Broken Wings' published in 2012. His research is focused on how the readers understand the figurative language. In this research, he describes the result which analyzing readers' response through questionnaire. Another research is done by Sandi Ibrahim Abdillah entitle 'Mythical Symbols on The Da Vinci Code'

published in 2006. In his study, he describes about the theory of symbol. Moreover, the last related study is graduating paper entitle 'Symbol of Holiness In Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code' written by Zazi Haerizal, published in 2011. His research is focused on how the symbol of holiness represented in the novel The Da Vinci Code. As the result, the researcher found the representation of holiness in the novel The Da Vinci Code.

1.6. Definition of Key Terms

1. Symbol   Symbol is sign, shape or object which is used to represent something else that is different from its literal meaning.

2. Symbolism   Symbolism is the use of symbol to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literary sense.

3. Reader response   Reader response is a litarary theory that focuses on the reader and their experience about the text they were read.

4. Novel   Novel is a long printed story about imaginary characters and events, normally in prose, and typically published as a book.