

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1. Background of Problem

Popular fiction is the product of popular literature. There are some genres on it, one of them is romance genre. Abrams (260) says that, “The romance is said to present life as we would have it be—more picturesque, fantastic, adventurous, or heroic than actuality”. While according to the article about the romance genre:

“All romances have a central love story and an emotionally satisfying ending. Beyond that, however, romance novels may have any tone or style, be set in any place or time, and have varying levels of sensuality—ranging from sweet to extremely hot. Romance fiction may be classified into various subgenres depending on setting and plot elements.” (para.7)

A writer can include as many subplots as he/she wants as long as the love story is the main focus of the novel (para.7). Furthermore, Cawelti says that, romance as a kind of genre that has a formula which has a woman as main character, but romance characteristics definition is not because of woman character but how the actions develop love relationship.

The formula that makes romance story popular is love story that developed by narrative structure. In the formula of romance, usually the characters opposed each other in the beginning of the story then they fell in love each other in the last of the story. The relationship of these two main characters can be arranged in

narrative structure and an ideal structure which makes attention the reader.

Radway (33) also emphasizes the interaction between woman and man main characters in love relationship is the essence of romance. The main romance plot is centered in the two people who love each other and struggle for their love relationship, moral fantasy in romance fiction is the victory of love by solve all love problems.

In popular literature, plot is called narrative structure. Narrative structure has a function in organizing love story in the romance fiction. Love story is the one of favorite themes that women loved, Radway assumes “Romantic genre is additionally defined for the women by a set of characters whose personalities and behaviors can be "coded" or summarized through the course of the reading process in specific ways (120).” Furthermore Radway (14) did a research about romance reader, and found that reading romance is “a protest against the fundamental inability of heterosexuality to satisfy the very desires with which it engendered women.” to “create a fully coherent, fully satisfied, female subjectivity.”(14) It means, romance novel was made for woman reader to enjoy the woman character experience in the novel and satisfied their wants that cannot be given by patriarchal culture.

Wright in Radway (120) says Ideal romance in a romance fiction can be found through the narrative structure, it is the interaction between characters and their development as individuals. Radway (134) composed a narrative structure of romance which ideal, based on the relation between hero and heroine. Radway found thirteen function of ideal romance, those are the social identity of heroine

must be destroyed, this first function is usually organized in the beginning of the story and it is usually followed by her antagonistic reaction to the hero. The antagonistic reaction which the heroine did makes the hero respond ambiguously and the heroine interprets it as evidence of a purely sexual interest in her, it finally makes the heroine respond to the hero's behavior with anger or coldness. After those five functions are organized, usually the hero retaliates by punishing the heroine. It causes the heroine and the hero to be separated physically and emotionally in a certain condition, but after it happened the hero feels afraid of that separation and finally he treats the heroine tenderly. The heroine feels the same feeling and she responds warmly to the hero's tenderness to avoid the separation for good. In the next functions, the heroine reinterprets the hero's ambiguous behavior as the product of previous hurt. After they passed everything well, the hero declares his sincerity to loving in the commitment form to the heroine openly and the heroine responds sexually and emotionally because she begins to believe in the hero. The last function is the identity of the heroine is restored. These thirteen functions according to Radway are used to explain the ideal romance formula in *Candle in the Window* novel.

Candle in the Window is written by Christina Dodd in 1991. That romance fiction is considered as a best seller book from the first it is printed. It is also achieved some awards and re-released, Christina Dodd says in her blog :

In February 2007, after almost sixteen years of being in print, a Golden Heart award, a RITA award, a Romantic Times award, and its third, brand-new cover, *Candle in the Window* was re-released. (Dodd, para.5)

Candle in the Window become a best-selling novel in that time because the reprint of it was on the same New York Times List with her other book *Tongue in Chic*. (Dodd, para. 5).

In short *Candle in the Window* tells about a very beautiful lady, she is Lady Saura of Roget. In nineteen, while she is blind she manages the castle of her unscrupulous stepfather until Lord Peter of Miraval brings her into his castle to take care of his son, Sir Williams of Miraval. He is a knight who just become blind, he did nothing until the blindness came to him, but when Lady Saura came to his castle the atmosphere and condition was changed. In the first time they hate each other, but they fell in love. The danger awaited them behind the wall of their castle, so that they lived in struggle of become the target of the danger.

There have been several researches related to ideal romance formula, romance genre and romance fiction. Those previous studies are as follow, romance genre becomes the object such as “*Struktur Naratif Novel Twilight: Pencarian Formula Ideal Sebuah Romansa*” by Indri K. in 2014 which concluded that Stephanie Meyer’s novel entitled *Twilight* reveals how the narrative structure constructed ideal formula of romance fiction. In her paper she reveals that as a product of popular literature, *Twilight* accommodates formula in its narrative structure and has 9 functions out of 13 functions Radway’s narrative structure indicating that *Twilight* quite enough to be considered as ideal romance novel. The next research about popular culture which take romance genre is “*From Love At First Sight To Soul Mate: Romantic Ideals In Popular Films and Their Association With Young People’S Beliefs About Relationships*” by Veronica Hefner in 2011 as a

dessertation for degree of Doctor which has a result that romantic ideals and challenges are prevalent in romantic comedy films, both as overarching themes and as relational expressions.

Next, "*Studi Resepsi Audiens Terhadap Pernikahan dan Keperawanan dalam Novel Otobiografi "Pengakuan Eks Parasit Lajang"*" by Meike Lusye Karolus as her thesis. This study shows that the issue of marriage and virginity in a novel "Pengakuan" has changed the outlook, strengthened the view, and provide an alternative for the audience to view marriage and virginity.

The next one is "*Uncovering and Recovering the Popular Romance Novel*" by Jayashree Kamble. This dissertation shows the analysis of three tropes involving the romance hero, capitalist, soldier, and heterosexual. Although those researches are about romance genre, there are some differences that conducted in this research. First the object in this research is a novel by Christina Dodd called *Candle in the Window* that the researcher never found the analysis of that novel, second this research examined ideal formula of a romance fiction through narrative structure detailed

1.2. Statement of Problem

From the background above, the researcher analyzed ideal romance formula constructed in Christina Dodd's *Candle in the Window* used the thirteen functions of ideal romance formula by Janice Radway and find the representation of ideal romance formula in *Candle in the Window* novel. Hence the problems, can be formulated into following questions:

1. What are the thirteen functions of Janice Radway's ideal romance formula which constructed in Dodd's *Candle in the Window*?
2. What are the representations of ideal romance formula in Dodd's *Candle in the Window*?

1.3. Research Objective

The objective of the research are mentioned as followings:

1. To examine the ideal romance formula that constructed in *Candle in the window* novel.
2. To examine the representation of ideal romance formula that constructed in *Candle in the window* novel.

1.4. Research Significance

Practically, the significance of this research, for the researcher, is a study for improving the understanding related to the popular study and also this research adds a new understanding about ideal formula of romance fiction. For the other researchers, this research could be a guidance or reading source for their researches related to ideal formula of romance fiction. For the reader, this research is significant especially for the student of literary faculty for becoming the reference in popular literature.

Theoretically, this research directed to develop research about romance fiction in popular literature. Besides for knowing that is it true that in romance novel, there are ideal formulas which constructed in romance fiction that become the important one.

1.5. The Definition of key Term

1. Popular Literature

Popular literature is a result of creative writing, its work can be easily accepted by society. It is because the content of that work is telling about social life, not only for that reason, popular literature is made as a business to get the consumers. The formula of popular literature is the factor which makes its work popular.

2. Popular Fiction

Fiction is a story which is not made based on the reality. Popular fiction is an idea realization that contained in popular culture. It is made to satisfy and fill modern society needs in knowledge and entertainment.

3. Romance Fiction

Romance fiction is the one of popular fiction. Two basic elements comprise every romance novel are a central love story and an emotionally-satisfying and optimistic ending. Those elements can be found through the narrative structure, it is the interaction between characters and their development as individual.

4. Ideal Romance Formula

Formula is the one factor that makes a genre become a favorite one. Readers of this genre will find some patterns or formulas that appropriate with their wishes which ideal. Ideal romance formula can be found through narrative structure.