

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter present a general description of the paper. It consists of five components such as background of the research, statements of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Reseach Background

For many people, the reality of life has meaning, such as the relationship between children and parents due to time apart, the relationship between children and friends and neighbors at school, or their own experiences. On the other hand, people also create inspiration. He can use lyrics, novels, plays, or diaries to explain the reality of his life.

In human life, there are many events that can affect and cause pressure on human life itself. Whether this impact is good or bad depends on how humans accept it or how humans themselves are. Examples of events that can affect a person's behavior. For example, losing a loved one in your life. Indirectly, this event will cause the human to experience changes, either for the better or even for the worse, depending on how the human accepts that it is a fact of life. Help and support from others to get through difficult times like this is needed by us as social beings.

According to Wellek and Werren (1993:14), the term literature is best applied to literary art, namely literature as an imaginative work. As an imaginative work, the author uses beautiful language as a form of creativity. Literary works are a view of the social environment. This view occurs because the author cannot be separated from certain social ties in social society. Good literature does not only record the reality that exists in society. Literature can be seen as a social phenomenon. Literature presents life, and life is largely made up of social reality. (Wellek and Werren, 1993:109).

Literary works exist as tangible representations of the author's creative imagination, with various procedures used by different authors, especially when

creating works of fiction. These procedures are personal; hence, each author may use different methodologies. The differences cover a wide range of areas, from the language of delivery to the methodology, the creative process that emerges, and how to represent what is in the author. As literature plays an important role in everyday life, prose is one of the literary genres that has contributed to the vitality of the literary world. In the world, fictional poems or fictitious stories, as well as the author's imagination used to entertain readers and bring stories to life, are classified as literature. Poems, short stories, and novels are examples of literary works. Novels are sometimes literary masterpieces that continue to be in demand among adults and the public.

Literary works are born in the midst of society as a result of the author's imagination and reflection on the social phenomena around him, according to Iswanto in Jabrohim, quoted from <https://teguhwirwan.blogdetik.com>. This point of view shows that literary works, especially dramas, novels, and short stories, can paint a picture of life through their characters. According to Nugraheni Eko Wardani (2009: 15), the work is fictional because it tells the story of the character's struggle and pursuit of real ideals in his environment. The personalities and behaviors of fictional characters in literature often reflect mental and psychological problems and difficulties that people face in real life. Psychology and literature both often address social and individual human issues. Utilize human experience as a topic of study. Some people believe that literature is simply a product of the author's imagination, as it is described in the words that make up the work.

Literature is the result of a writer's thought process and thinking, which is created in their subconscious state and then poured into their conscious state. The imagination of writers occurs when they are in their subconscious state, which happens when they dream. The relationship between literature and psychology can be seen in literary works, which often reveal the satisfaction of conflicts, impulses, and desires that are presented in search of fictitious satisfaction and accompanied by efforts to hide and suppress feelings by employing impostors from the deepest heart (Abrams, 1979)

Literary works serve as a means to preserve the nation's culture. Literary works are considered a spiritual and intellectual platform to raise the dignity of a nation's civilization. Literary works are very useful for life because they usually contain many values that can be taken by readers about life, even though they are depicted in the form of fiction. Literary works reveal facts that more or less reflect the culture and civilization of the nation concerned. One form of literary work is the novel. A novel is a form of literary work made in the form of a fictional story that tells about human life.

Researchers chose novels to be used as research objects based on several reasons. First, novels are one form of popular literary work that is in great demand by people from various circles. Second, a novel is a literary work that is most widely circulated among the public because of its broad communication power, so novels are easily accessible. Third, novels are a form of literary work that contains a lot of learning so that it can be used as an example for readers.

Novels are literary works that reveal all aspects of human life in depth and are presented using subtle language. Novels are one of the most popular forms of literature in the world. This form is widely circulated due to its wide communication with the public. A novel is capable of featuring real characters and events, but these appearances usually serve as mere condiments, and they are included in a series of stories that are fictional or have fictional details. The events and characters are fictional, but they bear a resemblance to real life; they are a "reflection of real life."

Novels are long prose, containing a series of stories of a person's life with the people around him, emphasizing the character and nature of each actor. Prose fiction (novel) is built by two elements, namely intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are elements that build fictional prose (novels) from within, such as plot, theme, plot, mandate, and others. Extrinsic elements are elements that build literature from outside, such as education, religion, economics, philosophy, psychology, and others. (Nurgiyantoro, 2010:4

The quality of literary works such as novels is strongly influenced by the character or character of the characters, because the quality of a good literary work is determined by the author's ability to bring the characters to life. In addition, the character aspect of fiction is an aspect that attracts more attention. Basically, the content of a literary work contains human behavior through the characters. Currently, novels are more in demand by the public, and novels are one of the most widely read literary works compared to other literary works. Currently, many novels can be found, such as children's novels, teenagers novels, and popular novels that have good quality.

In Theory of Literature, Wellek and Warren state "literature represents life in large measure, a social reality, and the real world is also an object of imitation of literature.". This means that literature represents life in large measure, a social reality, and the real world is also an object of imitation of literature. So, in fact, novels not only provide entertainment to readers but also function as human learning about the values of life from the characters in the novel. In addition, readers can take moral messages from what the characters experience in the novel as an understanding of human life.

Researchers assert that the basis of any creation of a fictional literary work should be a main theme. Especially in novels, there is usually one main idea and several supporting ideas that serve as vehicles to communicate the main idea to readers who are knowledgeable about literary works. Some of these additional main themes take the form of problems, conflicts, disputes, or disagreements that characters go through in a literary work. These problems, conflicts, disputes, or disagreements are often referred to as conflicts. Since humans are representations of activities that can be viewed from the perspective of their lives, they are often used as literary objects.

Characteristics refer to a person's character and lifestyle and the values that develop regularly so that behavior becomes consistent and easy to notice. Characteristics are revealed by how the character responds to conflict through

conversation and through description (Study.com/academy/lesson/character). A character is what a character looks like. Characters can be static, showing little change, or dynamic, significantly influenced by the narrative. As such, characters have the power to dominate the entire story. John Green gave the title *Looking for Alaska* to make readers wonder about what happened to Alaska that resulted in the accident. And in this study, the author wants to discuss more about the main character, Miles Halter.

Character refers to two things, namely the form and nature or characteristics of a person. The characters and actions of the characters in the novel both have very important elements. In *Looking for Alaska*, there are several characters, namely Miles as the main character, Alaska, Chip, and Takumi. The novel contains themes of meaning, sadness, hope, and teen-adult relationships.

Conflict itself was divided into two levels. A prose or novel had both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Title, theme, plot, point of view, character, and place were the intrinsic components. Extrinsic components, meanwhile, included elements from the researcher's biography, personality, and surroundings. The conflicts in the novel were regulating an implusive sequence of connected causes and effects. There were other thoughts and view point as well.

Conflict was a key component of story because it revealed the extremes of human energy and forced individuals to make choices about their behaviour. It divided between internal and external conflict as two different sorts of conflict. Three types of conflict can be identified in stories and novels, conflict between men and society, conflicts between men and environment.

The story's most crucial component is conflict. According to Kenney (1996) conflicts can arise between people, between people and nature, or between people and society. The conflicts that the main characters go through are the focus of this study. Conflict analysis was chosen because it can have a significant impact on the plot, heighten the tension, and pique the reader's interest in this research. A literary work's conflict is thought to be crucial since without it, it would be boring.

John Green's "Finding Alaska" is the main work of this book "Learning" is a youth novel with the theme of struggle. John Green is an American novelist for young adults. The author chooses John Green because He has many amazing works. John Green was also awarded for his work. The authors chose Looking for Alaska as the subject of this study because the author believes the novel has moral value and the author must show this reader. Although the author wishes to demonstrate the moral value of the novel to the reader. The author also wants readers to recognize the moral value of the story and to do so motivate them, especially young people.

According to a biography on John Green's official website, he grew up there Orlando (FL) before attending Indian Springs School and continuing at Kenyon College. John Green is a New York Times bestselling author Works such as "Finding Alaska", "Katherine's Harvest", "Paper Towns" and many others and The Fault in Our Stars. In Will Grayson's book he becomes a co-author with David Levison. He received the 2006 Michael Prinz Prize. he is him 2009 Edgar Award Winner Named Los Angeles Times Book Finalist double prize. John Green's books have been published in more than a dozen countries language.

The author's research is not the first of its kind, there are numerous sources for data and objects. Previous studies were identified as all previous studies that have discussed the topics that the author is dealing with these topics in this study and other journals that researched Trauma disorder first. However, there is a very interesting difference between this study and previous research, in this study of course we are looking for different things to become an analytical study.

In the first study, titled "The Effects of Childhood Trauma on Alaska Young's Personality Development," done by Pilangka (2016) at Brawijaya University, The theme of the character's childhood trauma, which led to the character developing post-traumatic stress disorder, was discussed in John Green's Looking for Alaska novel. The trauma the character goes through is a result of both the character's dysfunctional connection with the father and the death of the mother,

both of which induce disturbances in the character's personality. Additionally, this study comes to the conclusion that Alaska Young, the main character, has PTSD, which is characterized by four key symptoms: excessive wakefulness, persistent recollections, avoidance, and reliance (Pilangka, 2016).

The second is by Rendila Restu Utami (2015) from Indonesia University of Education and is titled *The Portrayal of "Journey" in John Green's Two Novels Looking for Alaska and Paper Towns*. To better comprehend the similarities and variations in the ways that John Green portrays the voyage in *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns*, the researcher examines and contrasts the two works in this study. In order to see the implicit traits and elements underlying the plots of *Looking for Alaska* and *Paper Towns*, the researcher in this case used a structuralism technique employing narratology in accordance with the Hermeneutic Code and Proairetic Code. Then, by demonstrating how the voyage shapes the identity of the primary characters, the finding demonstrates how the similarities and variations in the representation.

The third is a 2015 study by Marcy Sulisty Putri from Airlangga University with the title *Miles Struggle to Find a Meaningful Life in John Green's Looking for Alaska: a New Criticism Study*. This study examines how Miles's yearning for a meaningful existence is portrayed in storyline, characterization, and irony, as well as how Miles perceives what a meaningful life is. Here, careful reading is used as the method and new critique is used as the approach. However, the research's findings indicate that the story's plot can illuminate Miles' struggle to have a fulfilling existence. Characteristics of Miles and the language device irony can both be understood through the story's plot. It demonstrates how the plot, characterization, and irony actually cooperate to working together to build the theme.

The fourth is the research was done by Rezi Oktafiani (2016) entitled "Psychological Trauma Analysis in "The Perks Of Being A Wallflower" Novel By Stephen Chbosky. The researcher analyze Psychological trauma aspect, the impact

of trauma, and the self-defence mechanisms which are reflected in the main character named Charlie on *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* novel. The researcher use Qualitative method with psychological approach to analyze data to describe about the main character from psychological perspective. The researcher applies several psychological theoris from Neale, Davison & Haaga (1996), Freud in Kleinman (2006), Freud (1937), in Chauvel (2006) related to psychological trauma such as; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), anxiety and self defence mechanism. Thus, the researcher found psycholgical traumas in the story are traumatic loss, sexual abuse, and witnessing traumatic events. The impact of the trauma are guilt or self-blame, anxiety and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The defense mechanism are repression, denial and displacement.

The fifth research was done by Gledys Adelin (2016) entitled “Kecemasan dan Mekanisme Pertahanan diri Alice Howland dalam Novel *Still Alice* karya Lisa Genova”. The researcher analyzes Alice’s anxiety and Defense Mechanism that are shown in the novel. The combination of two approache are applied namely the instrinsic and extrinsic ones. The theories by Robert Stanton (2007) and Edgard Robert (1964) are used to analyze the main character’s personality. Freud’s psychoanalysis is used to analyze the main character’s anxiety and defense mechanism, C. George Boeree’s book entitled *Personality Theory* (2006) are used in this research. The researcher find that Alice Howland has two types of anxiety that are neurotic anxiety and moral anxiety. Alice also has some different mechanism: which are projection, diplacement, turning agains the self ratioanalization, denial, compensation, and reaction formation

It is clear and well known from the aforementioned preview related researches that there are differences and similarities between this research and them. This study differs from the first three studies mentioned above in that it aims to determine whether there is a link between Traumatic disorders. Compared with the three previous studies above, this present research has similarities and differences.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The main problem that will be discussed by the researcher is the conflict and struggle of the main character in the novel *Looking for Alaska* (2005). The author limits the problem to two questions that will be the main focuses on this research, they are:

1. How does the author portray trauma the childhood main character in the novel *Looking for Alaska*?
2. How does the main character of Miles apply self defense mechanism to eliminate anxiety of childhood trauma in the novel *Looking for Alaska*?

Based on the description above, the researcher will discuss are the causes problem in the novel *Looking for Alaska*, there are many types of trauma, but in this study the author will concentrate on the types and effects of trauma caused by several factors.

1.3 Research Objectives

This study to analyze conflict and struggle of the main character in novel *Looking for Alaska*. The research purposes based on the problem formulation are:

1. To explain the types of conflict experienced by the main character in *Looking for Alaska*.
2. To find out trauma in main character and describe how to apply self defense mechanism..

Based on the formulation of the research question above, the researcher is intended to explain the conflict experienced and the struggle of the main character in novel *looking for alaska*.

1.4 Research signifiacnce

This research is expected that this research can be used as a reference that helps to understanding the readers, especially Adab and Humanities students majoring in english literature and for other students. Especially analyzing “ Main character’s conflict in Novel *Looking For Alaska*” . This research is expected to

provide a good lesson for student of the Adab and Humanities faculty for reference who are to interested or want to analyze this novel, it also can be used by lectures who use the research as a supporting source for teaching, and it is hoped that this research can be used for others love novel in order to undestand the novel. Finally, all the signifiante may be and additional reference, especially for peoplo who are studying literature.

1.5 Definition of the Key Terms

in order to prevent misunderstandings regarding its use, several key terms are put below.

1. Novel

A novel was a lengthy piece of writing that included a chronology of a person's life story surrounded by his or her people and displayed his or her traits and attitudes in each character. Plot, character, point of view, topic, and conflict can all be found in a novel. Students had trouble identifying which was the plot, subject, or conflict when those were pointed out to them. According to the researcher's experience, this is why it was challenging to identify those components, particularly conflicts, because the novel was far too long.

2. Conflicts

Conflict can arise between people, between people and nature, or between people and society. The conflicts that the main protagonists and secondary characters go through are the focus of this study. Conflict analysis was chosen because it can have a significant impact on the plot, heighten the tension, and pique the reader's interest in the book. A literary work's conflict is thought to be crucial since without it, it would be boring.

3. Trauma

Trauma is physical and psychological reaction that is bad stress due to an event, event or experience of spontaneous / sudden, which makes individuls surprise, shocked, frightening, etc. which are not easily lost in human memory, James Drever

(1986) says trauma is any injury, pain or shock that occurs in the physical and mental individuals which result in serious disorders.

4. Anxiety

GAD (general anxiety disorders) is an anxiety disorder that is characterized by a general feeling of anxiety and that something bad will happen and a state of increased bodily excitement. GAD is characterized by persistent anxiety that is not triggered by an object, situation or activity that is specific, GAD is a stable disorder, appearing in mid-teens to mid-twenties and then lasts for life (Rapee, Edwards, Kennedy s,& ingram, 2005)

5. Defense Mechanism

Defense mechanisms are a set of psychological strategies used by individuals to protect themselves from threat or emotional stress. The concept is drawn from Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory, which states that humans naturally develop certain ways of dealing with inner conflict and tension. Defense mechanisms act as "shields" that help individuals cope with difficult feelings or challenging situations.

In the context of psychoanalysis, defense mechanisms operate outside the individual's consciousness, making them difficult to notice or access directly. Some defense mechanisms may be an automatic response to psychological stress and may act as an adaptation tool to maintain mental balance. Although defense mechanisms initially arise in response to stress, their excessive or unbalanced use can lead to psychological imbalance.