

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

Mimetic criticism views literary works as reflections of human life's realities. Critics of this kind perceive literature as imitating aspects of nature. Literature mirrors the world of human existence, and the criteria used by critics gauge the extent to which literary works depict reality. The clearer a literary work portrays reality, the better it is considered. The method in literary criticism that contains coherence within the literary work and is based on experiential facts constitutes aesthetic value. Similarly, according to Wellek, coherence within the literary work and reliance on experiential facts constitute aesthetic value. Furthermore, the maturity of a literary work can be seen in the truthfulness of experiences referring to the world beyond literature, which demands a comparison between literature and reality. It is further expressed that judgments will be associated and based on aesthetic terms concerning clarity, intensity, patterned comparison, breadth, and depth similar to life. The analogy between literature and life is particularly prominent when processed with certain styles (Lukens, 1999).

There are many literary works created by writers based on the reality of social phenomena or commonly known as "literature as mimetic", the reality of social phenomena raised by writers are diverse such as stories about family, love, friendship, society, and others. In the theme of love, there is also a diversity that is widely raised by writers to be used as literary works, such as happiness that arises because of love, the struggle in pursuing love, the world after marriage, to affair. The theme of affair is often a theme that is widely used as a literary work, especially in novels and movies. Of course, the theme of affair is often used by writers to create literary works because the theme of affair is very close to social phenomena and lot of people experienced it so it is not surprising that there are many readers or viewers of literary works that carry the theme of affair.

Affair can be categorized into several types based on the level of emotional involvement of the cheating partner. Here are some types of affair (Guitar, 2017):

1. **Serial Affair:** Involves minimal emotional attachment but often occurs repeatedly. These relationships are usually for pleasure or momentary adventure and do not involve long-term commitment.
2. **Flings:** Similar to serial affairs, but typically occur only once or in the short term without deep emotional involvement.
3. **Romantic Love Affair:** Involves deep emotional involvement, often causing the partners to consider leaving their marriage and marrying their lover.
4. **Long Term Affair:** A prolonged relationship involving deep emotional engagement, sometimes even known by the legitimate partner and family.

Affair brings serious consequences to marriages, causing feelings of heartbreak, anger, depression, and profound disappointment. Wives who highly value loyalty are usually the most devastated, often becoming suspicious and seeking evidence of their partner's affair. The husband's unwillingness to be open about the details of the affair can exacerbate the situation, making the wife even angrier and harder to trust again. In many cases, affair leads to divorce because the wife feels unable to continue after being betrayed. However, some couples choose to maintain their marriage, despite the negative impact of the affair being deeply felt by the wife. They often experience long-term depression, feelings of insecurity, and intense anger in the early stages after the affair is revealed.

If affair issues are left unresolved, they can lead to four main behaviors (Douglas, 2008). First, anger. Anger is disbelief that one's partner has cheated creates significant disappointment, anger can be directed towards the cheating partner, the third party, the social environment, or even towards God and oneself for feeling like a failure as an individual in maintaining the marriage. The second is heartbreak, heartbreak is the betrayed partner feels deep heartache as they no longer feel valued, their rights are violated, and their position is replaced by someone else. This heartache can leave lasting scars in memory and influence decisions and actions in the future. And the third, hatred. Hatred is unaddressed anger often evolves into hatred. The victim of affair may withdraw, become hostile,

or even seek revenge on their partner or the third party. This hatred is usually expressed through passive-aggressive behavior. And the last is disappointment. Disappointment arises due to the mismatch between expectations and reality. Partners of those who commit affair also feel disappointed in themselves for not realizing they've become victims of deceit. The greatest disappointment is feeling like they've chosen the wrong life partner, causing internal conflict between accepting the truth or denying it. Affair is often associated with marriages full of conflict or unhappiness. However, affair can also occur in families that appear harmonious. A harmonious family might seem perfect with healthy and loving interactions. However, hidden dissatisfaction may still exist. This dissatisfaction can be emotional, such as the need for more attention or a desire to feel more appreciated. Sexual dissatisfaction can also be a factor, even if the relationship appears generally harmonious. Individuals may feel their needs or desires are not fully met, even if they do not openly express it. A social environment full of opportunities and temptations can also be a factor in affair.

In a harmonious family, one partner may feel comfortable and not see a significant risk in forming relationships with others. Work relationships, social media, or social circles can provide opportunities for affair. Opportunities combined with temptations can often be hard to resist, even for those in seemingly happy marriages.

Humans have a need to feel recognized and appreciated. In some cases, someone may seek recognition outside their household, even if they are happy in their marriage. The desire for adventure or to experience something different can also drive someone to cheat. This need is not due to a lack of love for the partner but rather to seek new experiences or different sensations.

Identity crises or midlife crises often trigger affair. In a harmonious family, one partner may start to question the meaning of their life or feel anxious about aging and losing attractiveness. Affair can emerge as a way to prove to themselves that they are still attractive or desirable to others. This often happens without any real problems in their daily relationship.

Rigid and monotonous routines in marriage can lead to boredom. In a harmonious family, partners may become too comfortable with their routines and no longer feel the passion or intimacy that once existed. To overcome this boredom, one partner might seek emotional or sexual stimulation outside their marriage, even if there are no significant problems in their relationship.

Social and cultural pressures can also influence the occurrence of affair. In some cultures or social groups, affair may not be considered a serious offense, especially if it is not known by the partner. Pressure from friends or coworkers who are already involved in affair can be a driving factor for someone to engage in such behavior.

In many harmonious families, communication may seem good but not always effective. Partners may avoid discussing difficult or uncomfortable topics, leaving small problems hidden and unresolved. The lack of open communication about each other's needs and desires can lead one partner to seek fulfillment elsewhere.

Of the many literary works about affair, such as film *The Great Gatsby* (2013) by Nick Carraway, *Match Point* (2005) by Woody Allen, *Closer* (2004) by Patrick Marber, novel *Belenggu* by Parmijn Pane, *Kamu Sadar Saya Punya Alasan Untuk Selingkuh Kan Sayang?* by Tamara Geraldine and *Hati yang Damai* by N.H Dini. These literary works are different, but there are two works that attract the researcher's attention, the TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus*. These two works come from different countries, different cultures, even the novel *Layangan Putus* is written largely based on the experiences experienced by Mommy ASF, the author of the novel *Layangan Putus* and this novel was very popular at that time, it made researcher curious and chose this work, while the TV series *Doctor Foster* is a completely fictional literary work, but these two literary works have many similarities, such as the purpose for affair occurring in these two works and their representations of affair are similar.

In this research, the researcher chose two literary works for the research object, TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* based on sampling technique in 'Konsep Teori Dasar' by Prof. Akhmad Fauzy, S.Si, M.Si., Ph.D. The

researcher chose this two literary works based on non-probability sampling and purposive sampling. “No probability sampling is a sampling technique with the way the samples were taken was not random. Selected population elements become Samples can be obtained by chance or because there are other factors previously planned.” and “Purposive sampling is sampling is carried out in accordance with the sample requirements required. The sampling was carried out deliberately by way of taking only certain samples that have characteristics, features, certain criteria, or characteristics. Thus, sampling not done random.” (Fauzy, 2014).

Doctor Foster is a series written by Mike Bartlett and directed by Tom Vaughan for the first season and Jeremy Lovering for the second season. This series has ten episodes, which first season has five episodes which aired on September 9, 2015 until October 7, 2015 and second season has five episodes too which aired on September 5, 2017 until October 3, 2017. The *Doctor Foster* series focuses on the story of Dr. Gemma Foster (Suranne Jones) who suspects her husband is having an affair. Dr. Gemma Foster was a talented family doctor, the 'ace' of her community, a loving wife and mother, a woman people could trust, but her world is shattered when she suspects her husband, Simon Foster, of having an affair. After she follows several lines of inquiry, she becomes determined to find the truth, unearthing a dark secret that threatens everything she loves in her life was a mess. Dr.'s Gemma ended in divorce and endless fighting with her ex-husband, Simon.

Layangan Putus is a novel by Mommy ASF which tells the story of a woman named Kinanti who decides to marry Aris. The novel which was published in 2020, succeeded in shaking the emotions and feelings of readers. Kinan completely devoted herself to her husband and her dream of becoming a career woman was dashed because she chose to stay at home and become a housewife, but everything changed. Her husband, Aris, is cheating on her. Kinan, who had given up her whole life to become Aris's wife, had to die. The household she tried to protect collapsed too. When she was pregnant with her fifth child, she had a miscarriage, and Kinan found out that Aris was cheating on her. All messed up.

These two literary works, TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* come from different countries, different cultures, even the novel *Layangan*

Putus is written largely based on the experiences experienced by Mommy ASF, the author of the novel *Layangan Putus* while the TV series *Doctor Foster* is a completely fictional literary work, but these two literary works have many similarities, such as the reasons for affair occurring in these two works and their representations of affair are similar. The similar reason and representation of TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* make researcher want to compare these two literary works with comparative literary studies. So it is of interest to researcher to identify how TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* by Mommy ASF represent affair and analyze the purpose of affair and the representation of affair between the two literary works (Ibrasma, 2019).

Based on the background above, this research is entitled, "Affair in TV Series *Doctor Foster* and The Novel *Layangan Putus*" With this, the comparative literature approach functions to discover the uniqueness. According to Darmono (2009:1) comparative literature is an approach in literary science that does not produce its own theory. It could be said that any theory can be utilized in comparative literary research, also known as studies. In Sapardi Djoko Darmono's book, he refers to Clements (1978:7) which has 5 approaches to theme/myth, genre/form, movement/epoch, relationships between literature and the arts and other disciplines, and literary exploration. Therefore, the researcher took a theme approach from these two works which have similar themes in them.

Both literary works are interesting to study. To better understand and find an affair in both literary works, it is necessary to study the two literary works. The study needs to be carried out to find out the purpose of affair and the representation of affair in the two literary works. To find deeper meaning in this two literary works, researcher do analysis by the narrative elements (conflict and goal) and intrinsic elements (theme, plot, characterization, setting and point of view).

In general, TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* has many similarities as well as differences. The similarities between the two literary works mentioned above are not limited to themes alone, but also similarities in other elements, including the purpose of the affair and the representation of the affair in two literary works. Therefore, even though the two literary works were created from

different countries and cultural backgrounds, they both have many similarities despite their differences. Therefore, TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* chosen by researcher.

Comparison of these two literary works, the novel *Layangan Putus* and TV series *Doctor Foster*, does not mean to look for each other's weaknesses. The comparison of these two works focuses on seek the similarity of the purpose of the affair and the representation of affair appeared. Literary works have several similarities and differences, especially in show the affair appeared. Even though the theme in TV series *Doctor Foster* the novel *Layangan Putus* are same, apart from using different language, the representation of affair in *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* are slightly different. This is because *Layangan Putus* features the character of Indonesian people and *Doctor Foster* features the character of Western people and the different culture impacted to this two literary works.

These two works are truly unique works in the novel *Layangan Putus*, an affair that occurs using the guise of religion for polygamy while in the TV series *Doctor Foster*, the affair that Simon commits is with a woman who is very similar physic to his wife when her was young.

Research that is relevant to this research. Below, the researcher describes previous research that is relevant to TV series *Doctor Foster*, the novel *Layangan Putus* and the comparative literature study in this research.

Previous research that research of the novel *Layangan Putus* is thesis *Konflik Batin Tokoh Utama dalam Novel Layangan Putus Karya Mommy ASF* by Nanda, Panji and Asri. This study explains the inner conflict that occurs in the main character in the novel *Layangan Putus* by Mommy ASF at the psychological level. The causes of inner conflict include too focused on career, lack of affection, lack of opportunity to self-actualize, lack of communication, affair or betrayal.

The next research of the novel *Layangan Putus* is research in the thesis *Inner conflict of Kinan characters in the novel Layangan Putus* by Siti Nur Fa'izah examines the psychological conflicts experienced by the protagonist Kinan in Mommy ASF's novel. Using a literary psychology approach, the study aims to describe Kinan's inner conflicts and their relevance to Indonesian language learning

in Madrasah Aliyah. It employs qualitative research with descriptive methods, primarily drawing data from the novel *Layangan Putus*. Through content analysis and triangulation theory, the study identifies nine forms of inner conflict experienced by Kinan, totaling 31 conflicts, including discrepancies between expectations and reality, opposing choices, and moral dilemmas. These conflicts are categorized into id, ego, and superego conflicts, with ego conflicts being the most prevalent. The study suggests that *Layangan Putus* serves as suitable teaching material for Class XII in the 2013 curriculum, addressing basic competencies in analyzing novel content and designing narratives while fostering psychological understanding and character education. Overall, the novel not only presents a compelling narrative of inner conflict but also offers valuable insights for Indonesian language learning, particularly in enhancing students' writing skills and psychological comprehension. (Fauziah, 2022).

The third previous studies of the novel *Layangan putus*, the study entitled: *The values of Character Education in the novel Layangan Putus by Mommy ASF*, written by Najla Wani and Hasanah aim to identify character education values in the novel. Using a qualitative literature research approach, primary data is collected from the novel itself and secondary data from related literature. Content analysis is employed for data analysis. Despite the theme of affair, the novel contains various character education values such as cooperation, religiousness, integrity, independence, and nationalism. These values are exemplified through themes like mutual support, religious tolerance, honesty, hard work, and social care. The study emphasizes the importance of character education in shaping individuals and contributing positively to society. The identified values can be applied in both academic and domestic settings, suggesting that the novel serves as an effective medium for internalizing these values. Overall, *Layangan Putus* offers not only entertainment but also educational insights into ethics, morals, and social values applicable in everyday life. (Najla Wani, 2022).

Previous research that research TV series *Doctor Foster* is Ismila Yuliana Sari's thesis with the title *Divorce Reflected in Mike Barlett's Drama Series Doctor Foster*. By using research based on Laurenson and Swingewood theory, the aims of

this thesis are: 1) to classify how divorce is contained in the drama series of Doctor Foster (2015), 2) to analyze the drama series of *Doctor Foster* from a sociological viewpoint, especially sociological analysis to find the view of the author, 3) To find out the solutions offered by *Doctor Foster*, the playwright. Researcher used a qualitative method that used two data sources, primary and secondary, primary data were obtained from the original drama series *Doctor Foster* and secondary data were obtained from different journals and literary criticism and from the internet were obtained articles discussing the drama. The researcher can obtain the results with qualitative analysis that: 1) the divorce contained in the doctor foster is split into two, namely the events before and after the divorce, 2) the divorce experienced by the echo character, 3) Echo Foster as a tough woman and Simon Foster as a person who lies constantly (pathological wild), 4) a toxic relationship and divorce.

And the next research is the research that analyzed the affair, *Proses Healing pada Istri yang Mengalami Perselingkuhan Suami* thesis by Adriana Soekandar Ginanjar. The purpose of Adriana Soekandar Ginanjar's research is to find an in-depth and holistic understanding of the betrayed wives' healing process. Also studied is any supporting factors that helps them in their healing process. This study uses qualitative method with case study design. Participants are researcher's clients, which consist of three wives whose husbands are involved in extra marital affairs. They have been in therapy for at least six months or undergo at least ten continuous therapy sessions. And the other previous research about affair is *Motif Perselingkuhan dalam Pernikahan* by Maulani

Another research that compare of two literary works was put forward by Dayang Atika Kurniawati with the title *Intertextual Study on the Novel 'Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan' and Novel 'Air Mata Surga'*. This research aims to describe the intertextual study on the novel 'Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan' and the Novel 'Air Mata Surga'. The specific objectives of this research are 1) Description the main characters in the novel *Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan* and the novel *Air Mata Surga*. 2) Description of the storyline in the novel *Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan* and the novel *Air Mata Surga*. 3) Description of the setting of the story in the novel *Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan* and the novel *Air Mata Surga*. 4) Description of intertextual relationships in

the novel *Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan* and the novel *Air Mata Surga*. This research discusses the novel *Surat Kecil Untuk Tuhan*, a book based on the true story of the struggle of a teenage girl with cancer. This story was reviewed on the Kick Andy program, previously this book was published online and read by more than 350,000 visitors. Many readers were inspired by the story of this novel so that this book was printed and sold more than 30,000 books. This book was successful in Indonesia and Taiwan within two months. This novel tells the story of a beautiful, smart, kind, cheerful girl, patient, sincere, diligent, loving and simple. Cantika or usually called Keke, is a 13years old who suffered from the first soft tissue cancer in Indonesia. Farahanna Juliani's thesis *Perjuangan Perempuan dalam Novel Para Pawestri Pejuang Karya Suparto Brata dan Novel God's Callgirl Karya Carla Van Raay*. The difference between her thesis and my research is the use of different media. In her thesis, the literary works chosen were both novels, while in this research used different media, because researcher comparing novel and film from different production countries.

The difference between this research and previous research is that in the previous research, the authors only analyzed each work without trying to compare it with other works, whereas in this research, this researcher used the comparative literature method, researcher looked for literary works that would compare with TV series *Doctor Foster* in different media and different countries with the novel *Layangan Putus*, because in Sapardi Djoko Darmono's book 'Pegangan Penelitian Sastra Bandingan' (p. 2); "Comparative literature compares the literature of one country with the literature of other countries and compares literature with different media as a whole expression of life," as Remak (1990:1) refers to. For the comparative work, researcher used a novel written by Mommy ASF, namely the novel *Layangan Putus*, researcher still use literary works for the comparative work because according to Nada (1999:9), "Comparative literature is a study or study of the literature of a nation that has a relationship history with the literature of other nations" therefore researcher still choose literary works as comparisons, but literary works originating from different countries to the comparative works.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the problem can be formulated in the research questions as follows:

- 1) What are the purposes of affair in the TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* by Mommy ASF?
- 2) How are the affairs represented in TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus* by Mommy ASF?

1.3 Research Purpose

Based on the statement of the problem can be formulated the research purpose as follows:

- 1) The purpose of affair in TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus*
- 2) To representation of affair in TV series *Doctor Foster* and the novel *Layangan Putus*

1.4 Research Significance

The researcher has used in theoretical context, to obtain empirical data evidence regarding the analysis of the purpose and the representations of affair raised by the TV series *Doctor Foster* and the Novel *Layangan Putus* by Mommy ASF which will be useful for;

- 1) UIN Sunan Gunung Djati
Developing student's knowledge and academics in the field of literature, that maybe can help the other students for their research with the similar research. This research can be used as information material and as an additional reference related to the variables in the research, namely the analysis representations affair in the novel and series.
- 2) Science
This research is new research which can later also be used for internal knowledge "Affair in TV series *Doctor Foster* and The Novel *Layangan Putus*"
- 3) Individual

This research is useful for researcher to fulfill the requirements to become a Sarjana Humaniora in English Literature Department of Adab and Humanities Faculty.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To provide clarity and a solid foundation for the analysis in the thesis titled "Affair in TV Series *Doctor Foster* and the Novel *Layangan Putus*," it is essential to define the key terms that will be frequently used throughout the study. These definitions will help to maintain consistency and specificity in discussing the thematic elements and cultural contexts of the works being compared.

1. **Affair:** In the context of this thesis, an "affair" refers to a romantic and/or sexual relationship that one or both participants are engaged in outside of their committed marital or exclusive relationship. This term is crucial as it directly pertains to the primary theme of both the TV series and the novel (Blow, 2005).
2. **Comparative Literature:** This term refers to the academic discipline concerned with the study of literature beyond national and linguistic boundaries. Comparative literature involves analyzing and comparing literary texts from different cultures, languages, and genres to identify common themes, trends, and cultural insights (Caesar, 2014).
3. **Cultural Context:** The set of social, historical, and cultural circumstances that surround the creation and reception of a literary work (Barbara, 2014). This term is vital for understanding how *Doctor Foster* and *Layangan Putus* reflect and address the societal attitudes and behaviors towards marital fidelity and personal relationships in their respective cultures.
4. **Representation:** In literary studies, representation refers to the way events, themes, and characters are portrayed and the techniques authors and creators use to convey their messages to the audience (Lethbridge, 2003). This term is key to analyzing how affairs are depicted and the implications of these portrayals in both works.

5. Theme: A central topic, subject, or message that acts as a foundational element of a literary work (David, 2009). In this thesis, the theme focuses on affairs, exploring the reasons behind them and their consequences within the narratives of *Doctor Foster* and *Layangan Putus*.
6. Narrative Technique: Refers to the specific methods and stylistic choices employed by authors and film makers to tell their stories. This includes point of view, structure, character development, and the use of symbols and motifs. Understanding these techniques will aid in dissecting how the stories are crafted to communicate the theme of affairs effectively (Snow, 1976).
7. Intrinsic Elements: These are the internal elements of a story, including plot, setting, character, theme, and conflict. Intrinsic elements are essential for a through analysis as they contribute to the depth and complexity of the narrative, influencing how themes like affairs are developed and perceived (Mittel, 2015).
8. Psychophysical Reasons: This term combines psychological and physical factors that might contribute to a character's decision to engage in an affair. It recognizes that both mental and bodily dimensions can influence behaviors in significant ways (Koocher, 2008).

By defining these terms, the thesis will establish a clear and academic framework to explore and analyze the reasons behind and representations of affairs in *Doctor Foster* and *Layangan Putus*. This groundwork will ensure that the comparative study is rigorous, focused, and informed by a deep understanding of both literary and cultural dimensions.