

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this section, the researcher will explain the background of the research on the representation of social isolation, short stories, themes and characters. Some related reviews from Susan Bassnett from Comparative Literature, research questions about social isolation through theme and character, research objectives and research significance.

1.1 Research Background

Literary works are the result of the author's creative and imaginative thinking when conveying their ideas. Literary writing usually comes from the author's personal experience talking about social, political, economic, and other issues. Readers receive a moral message from a literary work written by an author. According to Handayani (2019), there are several classifications of types of literary works, including drama, prose, and poetry. Types of prose include novels, short stories, romances, and so on. Short stories are one of the literary genres that are able to convey complex messages in a short and concise form. In literary works, literature is divided into two types, namely imaginative and non-imaginative. Imaginative literary works consist of poetry, prose and drama. While non-imaginative literature consists of biography, essay, history, criticism, autobiography, letters and diaries. This research will examine one type of prose, namely short stories.

Short story is a fictional narrative that is usually summarized and focuses on a single event or a small group of characters. The content of a short story tells a story that is chronological and constructed using language as the main element. According to Endah Tri Priyatni in her book, short stories are characterized by their conciseness and ability to convey a complete storyline in a fairly limited number of words. Short reading duration, short stories offer fast and in-depth reading, creating interest for writers and readers. Meanwhile, James Cooper Lawrence (2023: 275) states that a short story can be told or read in one sitting. This definition requires

two things about a story: the story must be short and the story must have enough coherence to keep the reader or listener from getting bored from start to finish. Relative definition requirements Of course, it is not possible to draw a firm and quick line and say that any story containing less than a few hundred words is short, while a story containing one word more than the specified part is long.

In literary works, ideas are conveyed through literary devices, which contain fictional truths and retain their contextual truths in the narrative. Although literary works have the ability to reflect real life, they still have a fictional essence that distinguishes them from reality (Eagleton, 2005, p. 3). To express an idea, literary devices are essential as they serve as elements that facilitate the representation of ideas in the work. Representation was developed by Stuart Hall which defines representation as the process of forming meaning through the use of language. Representation is related to a concept that allows a person to refer to the real world or the imaginary world. According to Hall, representation falls into two main categories: mental representation and language. Mental representation includes ideas or concepts that are present in the mind, whereas language plays a key role in the formation of meaning. Representation also involves using language to convey something meaningful or describe a meaningful world to others. Hall emphasized that representation is an important part of the process of meaning formation and exchange among members of society. In addition, representation serves as a means of communication and social interaction, and is a basic necessity in communication, without which humans cannot interact. William Faulkner's "A Rose for Emily" and Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" are both will analyzed through its representation of social isolation and its impact on individuals. Although these two short stories were written in different time periods and social contexts, they share one main theme: the representation of social isolation.

Social isolation has actually existed since ancient times, but this representation grew in popularity around the 19th century. Social isolation is an objective state in which a person loses contact and social interaction (Hennet, 1980). Therefore, social isolation is related to the sociological status of individuals. Social isolation

is usually used to describe the social state or psychological state of a person who feels alienated from the society or social environment around him. This isolation can come from a variety of factors, such as internal conflicts, social differences, plagues, family rules, or even political sites that affect the lives of characters in literary works. Basically, the concept of social isolation applied in literary works is often used to explore the conditions of confined humans and how they struggle to find meaning or purpose in their lives in isolation. Social isolation has various meanings depending on the context, but the isolation told in the short stories "A Rose For Emily" and "The Yellow Wallpaper" has the context of social isolation, which tells the story of a person who is alienated or separated from the surrounding environment due to certain factors. In literary works, isolation is often used as a means to explore the psychological and emotional aspects of a character. Isolation representations can provide a layer of complexity and depth to the themes raised by the author.

This research focuses on representation, by looking for isolated figures in literary works, where the works inherently represent these figures. To clarify the social isolation in literary works, the theory of Literary Devices or intrinsic elements, developed by Nurgiyantoro, is used as an analysis tool. Nurgiyantoro (2015, p. 14) identifies these intrinsic elements as Plot, Theme, Characterization, Setting, and Point of View. But in this study, the researcher will focus on themes and characters.

The researcher chose the short story "A Rose for Emily" as the first object to be analyzed in this study because the topics contained in the story have high academic relevance and are widely discussed in academic literature, both in literary, psychological and social contexts. In addition, the researcher chose the short story "A Rose for Emily" because this short story was written by a famous writer who is known to have a deep writing style. The next step, after determining the first object, the researcher looks for a comparison object that has a similar theme to provide a more comprehensive perspective. This process involves tracing various literary works that highlight the same antisocial, psychological, and themes.

After analyzing several works, Charlotte Perkins Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper" has a special background and is relevant to the experiences and views of people of her time. The short story depicts the story of a young female writer who was driven into insanity (like Gilman herself) due to the typical Victorian Period recess drugs, based on "*A Combination of Total Rest and Overeating*" (Martin, 2007: 736) and prescribed by her husband, John (Salinas, 2004). gender roles, and the limitations faced by women in society at that time. Diagnosed by her husband as hysterical, she prescribed rest and rented a house for her. As a result, she spends her days confined to bed, glued to the yellow wallpaper in her room. His condition deteriorated rapidly, and he began to see a woman trapped inside the wallpaper, convinced that she was struggling to break free. In a last-ditch attempt to free the imaginary woman, she tore up the wallpaper. The narrator vividly describes his emotions inside the house and the sense of freedom he experiences after knocking down the wallpaper.

Researcher found common themes in "A Rose for Emily" and "The Yellow Wallpaper." This similarity can be seen from the aspect of the theme of social isolation in the two short stories. Researchers realized that the different socio-cultural backgrounds in these two works resulted in similarities in themes, which sparked an interest in digging deeper. To understand and find the existing similarities, further research is needed on these two works.

Both Emily in "A Rose for Emily" and the nameless character in "The Yellow Wallpaper" face conflicts that constrain and limit their individual freedom, which creates suffering and isolation. Social isolation in the literature has been explored from various perspectives. Gilmartin (2013) and Msn (2013) both conducted an analysis of social isolation, identifying sensory deprivation, social isolation, and confinement as key attributes, and highlighting negative consequences such as anxiety, depression, and loneliness. Social isolation refers to a situation in which a person experiences a tendency to withdraw, experiences a decrease in social interaction, and may even be unable to communicate with others. This mainly includes difficulties in expressing and confirming feelings, both negative and

positive, that he feels. Isocial isolation causes a person to become unable to live a good daily life, think negatively about himself and his environment, become withdrawn, lazy to do activities, unable to cope with problems, experience excessive shame and guilt.

In a short story, there are components that are built, namely intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic insur is an element that builds the literary work itself. People who read literary works will find this element (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 23). While extrinsic elements are elements that are outside the literary work but affect its structure indirectly. In other words, these elements affect the story of the literary work but are not part of it (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 23). The elements that build short stories that will be analyzed in this study are intrinsic elements that contain characters, plots, settings, titles, points of view, style, tone, and themes are elements of fiction builders (Stanton in Wiyatmi, 2006: 30). However, the researcher will focus on the analysis of themes and characters in short stories.

In the Dictionary of World Literature (1962:417), Shipley describes the theme as the subject of discourse, a general topic, or a major problem that is raised into a story (Nurgiyantoro, 2012:80). He divides the themes of literary works into levels, ranging from the simplest to the most complex, such as man as a molecule, man as a protoplasm, man as a social being, and man as a subject. These two short stories show how social isolation can have a profound and damaging impact on individuals. In "A Rose for Emily," Emily's isolation from society and her inability to adapt to change leads to personal and social tragedy. Meanwhile, in "The Yellow Wallpaper," the narrator's isolation from the social and intellectual activities imposed by her husband results in a decline in her mental health. Both of these stories remind us of the importance of healthy social relationships and the negative impact of forced isolation.

In a short story, of course, there are elements that play a very important role in creating a complete story, these elements are characters and characterization. According to Abrams (1981:20), characters are people who are featured in a story that the reader interprets to have certain moral traits and tendencies expressed in

their speech and actions. According to Atmowiloto (1982: 51), characters can be humans, animals, objects, or the environment. Objects and atmospheres can have human-like feelings. People are used to look at problems, outline problems, and find solutions. Characters in fictional stories are depicted through a plot that is both the perpetrator and the sufferer in various events told (Nuryatin, 2010:7). The characters in the story are divided into two categories, namely the main character and the subordinate character. The main character is a character who is heavily involved and experiences events in the story. The main character can be divided into two categories, namely the main character of the protagonist, who has a good disposition or conveys positive values, and the main character of the antagonist, who has a disposition that is contrary to the protagonist's character or conveys bad values, and the subordinate character, which is a character who plays a role in helping or supporting the main character (Ratna Wulansari, 2021:256). They are agents who carry out actions, have goals, motivation, and experience conflicts and developments throughout the narrative. Characterization, on the other hand, is a technique that writers use to reveal the traits and personalities of the characters. This can be done through a variety of ways such as physical descriptions, dialogues, characters' thoughts and feelings, as well as their actions and interactions with other characters. Effective characterization helps readers understand the characters' backgrounds, personalities, and complexities, which in turn enriches the reading experience and emotional engagement with the story.

In addition to themes, character and characterization also play a very important role in the expression of the moral message and theme of a work according to literary analysis. In the short story "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner, Emily Grierson's character is the main actor who portrays an individual who is isolated from action and opposed to change because it proves the upstream between two eras in South American society. The comparison between these texts yields a similar idea, namely social isolation that is the focus of this study. Comparative Literature is clearly a field of study that crosses disciplines because it can investigate literary works by utilizing various fields of knowledge (Bassnett, 1993, p. 1). This theory is considered the most important because of its role as the

core of the research. Comparative literature helps in explaining topics represented in more than one text. The concept of isolation as a socio-critical topic can be analyzed through the Comparative Literature approach to various literary works, because of its interdisciplinary and universal nature (Bassnett, 1993, p. 33).

Each writer has a different style, approach, and topic in writing his work, one of which is through comparative literary analysis. Comparative literary analysis is important to compare and explore the differences and similarities between literary works. Each literary work has its own characteristics, including literary characteristics that associate literary works with literature or other dimensions. This relationship intersects with the similarities and differences of a work with other works, it is not surprising that there are always comparisons between literary works because literary science itself will continue to develop both explicitly and implicitly. This literary characteristic is called comparative literature. The researchers will discuss the topic of this isolation concept through comparative literature analysis. The representation of social isolation contained in the short stories "A Rose For Emily" and "The Yellow Wallpaper" will be analyzed and then compared between the similarities and differences in detail.

The social isolation told in the two short stories must have different characteristics because the two short stories were written in different time periods, regions, and cultures. These two short stories have very similar experience, reflecting significant character changes in the isolation they experience. In addition, the image generated from the main character of the two short stories played by a woman will be one of the important issues that can be related to the social isolation she experiences. An expert in the field of comparative literature named Susan Bassnett stated that comparative literature is the interdisciplinary study of cross-cultural texts and focuses on patterns of relationships in different literary works, both across time and space. The understanding expressed by Bassnett can be said to be only a brief understanding, because in its broad scope, comparative literature must be able to reach non-literary texts, such as music, film, painting, photography,

and so on in addition to dialogue with the field of cultural life, such as religion, technology, politics and so on.

Research on comparative literature is becoming increasingly important in literary studies, due to the increasing attention and proliferation of literary works from different cultures. The definition of comparative literature is a literary composition from around the world that includes several works, history, and criticism, as well as literary phenomena that have emerged and are considered as a whole. That's because comparative literature does lead to world literature (Muhammad Arief Budiman, 2018: 58). Technological advances and globalization have succeeded in facilitating access to literary works from different parts of the world which encourages research and comparison of these works. The comparison of works that will be discussed in this thesis is to compare the topic of isolation between two short stories titled "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman and "A Rose for Emily" by William Faulkner. These two literary works were chosen because they depict the lives of individuals who are alienated from their social environment. The comparison is quite contrasting between the two works so it is interesting to check out. Both stories explore themes related to tradition that play a central role in depicting conflict and change in society.

In this study, the two short stories that were the object of the analysis were of American origin, but covered different time periods. Using Susan Bassnett's theoretical approach, this study pays special attention to the importance of understanding social and cultural contexts in the process of comparative analysis and translation. Susan Bassnett asserts that social and cultural contexts play a key role in understanding and interpreting texts, especially in the context of comparative analysis between the two works. The comparison of American short stories with American short stories in this study is intended to reveal how these stories reflect and reflect American society and culture in different time periods and changing historical contexts. Through narrative stories, this research seeks to uncover the layers of meaning hidden in two short stories, investigating how shifts in American society are reflected in narrative stories.

Through narrative storytelling, this research seeks to uncover the layers of meaning hidden in both short stories, investigating how shifts in American society are reflected in narrative stories. By analyzing short stories from different periods, this study aims to highlight cultural and social evolution, as well as changes in people's views of various aspects of life. This approach is in keeping with the principles of Susan Bassnett's theory, which encourages a deeper understanding of texts through an understanding of the social and cultural contexts that influence their creation and interpretation. Thus, this study views the comparison of American short stories with American short stories as a wide-open window into a deeper understanding of America's changing cultural and social dynamics over time.

1.2 Problem Formulation

Based on the research background, the researcher proposes several research problems. The following are some formulations of the problem that will be analyzed using comparative literary theory in this study:

1. How is the theme of social isolation identified in the short stories "A Rose for Emily" and "The Yellow Wallpaper"?
2. How is social isolation represented through the characters and characterizations of the short stories "A Rose for Emily" and "The Yellow Wallpaper"?

1.3 Research Objectives

To study and describe the above problems, the researcher made several goals so that this research can be useful for readers. The objectives of the research based on the research problem are:

1. To identify the representation of social isolation in the short stories 'A Rose for Emily' by William Faulkner and 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the two short stories, it is hoped that it will reveal how the theme of social isolation is explored

and represented through the characters and characterizations in the stories. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of how social isolation can be understood through literary works.

2. To analyze the impact of social isolation on the main characters in the short stories 'A Rose for Emily' and 'The Yellow Wallpaper'. By analyzing the characters and characterizations in the two stories, it is hoped that it can be revealed how social isolation affects character development and forms the narrative of the story. This research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of the theme of social isolation in literary works.
3. To present a broader understanding of the representation of social isolation in literary works through a comparative analysis between 'A Rose for Emily' and 'The Yellow Wallpaper'. By making a comparison between the two short stories, it is hoped that differences and similarities can be revealed in the way the two authors describe social isolation. This research aims to make a new contribution to the understanding of the theme of social isolation in contemporary literary works.

1.4 Research Benefits

The theoretical benefit of this research is that it provides a deeper understanding of how the theme of social isolation is explored and represented through characters and characterizations in the short stories 'A Rose for Emily' by William Faulkner and 'The Yellow Wallpaper' by Charlotte Perkins Gilman. By conducting an in-depth analysis of the two short stories, this research is expected to make a new contribution to the understanding of the theme of social isolation in contemporary literary works. In addition, this study also aims to provide a broader understanding of the representation of social isolation in literary works through a comparative analysis between the two short stories.

The practical benefit of this research is to explore the impact of social isolation on the main characters in the short stories 'A Rose for Emily' and 'The

Yellow Wallpaper'. By analyzing the characters and characterizations in the two stories, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the complexity of the theme of social isolation in literary works. Thus, this research can provide new insights for readers to understand how social isolation affects character development and shapes the narrative of stories in literary works.

