

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction. It contains five subjects that explain about background of the study, statement of research problem, objective of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

In real life, of course, every person has a different personality. So, every person has a characteristic that distinguishes him/her from others. In general, personality refers to the nature and characteristics of each person. According to Mischel in *Introduction to Psychology*, personality usually refers to the distinctive patterns of behavior including thought and emotion that characterize each individual's adaption to the situation of his/her life (Mischel, 1976, p. 2).

Someone's personality emerges as a result of a response or reaction to the environment surrounding him/her. The response or reaction can be in the form of negative or positive things. A Simple example of a positive response is when we meet our neighbor on the street, then we say hello or give a smile to him/her. Then, he/she is giving a smile and says hello back to us. This will gives a good impression in interacting between one with the others in the society. Meanwhile, an example of a negative response is when we meet our neighbor on the street, then we say hello or give a smile to him/her. Then, he/she does not reply to our greeting or just gives a glance with sharp eyes. This will gives a bad impression in interacting between one to the others in the society.

The personality of someone in real life is the same as the personality of the literary character because the character in literature is the description or interpretation of the personality of someone in real life. In the other opinion, literature is a kind of art, creative, and imaginative work as a human expression, because it is a mirror of life (Warren, 1954). One of literary work

that is become the reflection of someone's personality in real life is the character in a novel for example.

In the novel, formal elements are needed to build a story so it can run as desired. In general, the formal element is the structure that constructs a story that consists of several elements and literary devices. The formal element is the structure of the story where is consist of the character, characterization, plot, setting, moral value, and symbol (Tyson, 2006). Each element has an important role/place in a story and between one element will be connected to the other elements. The formal elements determine whether a novel is good or not.

In this study, the writer will analyze the formal elements in the novel *A Dog's Purpose*. *A Dog's Purpose* is a novel written by American writer, W. Bruce Cameron. The novel was published in 2010. The reason why the writer chooses this novel is because this novel becomes a #1 New York Time and #1 USA Today bestselling for forty-nine weeks. Besides that, this novel teaches us the importance of loyalty, love, and hope shown by the main character to find a purpose in life. This novel was followed by the previous two sequels, that are *A Dog's Journey* and *A Dog's Promise*. This novel tells the story of a dog's journey to find the purpose in his life through four lives, this is also known as reincarnation. This novel also tells the loyalty of a dog to his owner even though he has been reincarnated repeatedly. Because this novel becomes a best seller in New York Time, finally caught the attention of DreamWorks Pictures to buy the adaptation rights and then make the film. This film adaptation is directed by Lass Hallstrom with the same title.

A Dog's Purpose novel tells about the importance of loyalty, love, and hope shown by the main character to find the purpose of life through four lives, usually called reincarnation. Toby is a mixed dog (Beagle/Terrier/German Shepard) who lives with his mother and siblings and learn to adjust to where he lives. Until one day, their place was closed because it was not suitable for occupancy. Toby was reincarnated as a Golden Retriever puppy named Bailey. Then Bailey met Ethan (8 years old) in an

exhaustion and heat condition in a car. Bailey lives with Ethan and his family in a happy and difficult situation, until Bailey begins to ask himself “what is my purpose in life?”. Several years later, Bailey kept asking the same question. Until one day, when Bailey almost found his purpose in life, he died. Bailey’s soul was reincarnated into a different breed of dog, a German Shepard dog named Ellie. This life is different from her previous life, Ellie was adopted by a police named Jacob as a sniffer and rescue dog. Just like in the previous life, Ellie also asks “what is my purpose in life?”. However, like Bailey, Ellie died. Ellie’s soul was reincarnated into a different breed of dog, Bear, a Labrador Retriever was adopted by Wendi. However, Bear is not treated well by Wendi’s family and then dumped on a country road. Then, Bear aka Bailey found Ethan who was an old man and changed his name to Buddy. Several years later, when Ethan got ill, he realizes that Buddy is Bailey, and Bailey has found his purpose in life as a dog.

There are several studies using new criticism theory to analyze various aspects or motives of literary works. The first study the novel entitled “The Pale Horse” which the writer focuses on how the author develop the plot of the novel (Kusumawati, 2007). The second study is the novel entitled “The Constrant Mistress” which focuses on the main character’ life in the novel and how it can change her character (Najah, 2017). The third study is the novel entitled “Pollyanna” which present the irony of finding happiness in the novel (Dewi, 2018). The fourth study is the poem entitled “Yonosa House” which focuses on the overall meaning of the poem (Khasanah, 2019). Another study is the film adaptation from the novel with the same title “A Dog’s Purpose” which focuses on the reincarnation delineated and the impact of reincarnation towards the character in the film (Kurnia P, 2020).

In this study, the writer uses the New Criticism theory to analyze the formal elements in the novel *A Dog’s Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. This study focuses on analyzing the relationship between the formal element and the discovery of a character’s personality in the novel *A Dog’s Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

Related to the background, this study analyzes the relationship between the formal element and the discovery of character's personality in the novel *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. The problem is formulated in the question below:

1. What is the relationship between formal elements and the discovery of character's personality in the novel *A Dog's Purpose*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

From the research question above, the objective of this study is to discover:

1. The relationship between formal elements and the discovery of character's personality in the novel *A Dog's Purpose*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study describes the relationship between the formal element and the discovery of character's personality in the novel *A Dog's Purpose* by W. Bruce Cameron. This study provides theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, this study could enrich the knowledge about analyzing the formal element in a literary work by using New Criticism theory. Meanwhile, practically this study could give an understanding to the reader about the relationship between the formal element and the discovery of character's personality in the novel.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study discusses the relationship between the formal element and the discovery of character's personality in the novel *A Dog's Purpose* by W.

Bruce Cameron by using New Criticism theory. The scope of this study is New Criticism theory which is used to analyze the story. While the limitation of this study are the character's utterances and the author's narrations which shows the function/role of elements in discovering the main character's personality in the novel.