

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The introduction chapter is a description of the reasons for this study. This chapter consists of sub-chapter on background of study, research questions, research objectives, scope and limitations, and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

Family is the first environment that plays an important role in the development of children from an early age. A family is a social unit that affects the character and personality of an individual. In the family, children will learn norms and rules in social life. Good and bad families have a significant effect on the development of behavior and attitudes of children towards maturity (Brank, 2018 : 6). Family relationships that provide a sense of comfort and safety for children produce optimal growth and development. Conversely, unfamiliar relationships or family dysfunction will cause behavioral and mental disorders (Çakirtaş, 2018 : 3). Dysfunctional family or family dysfunction is a family in which there are many conflicts, accidents, victims of murder, bad behavior, and even abuse among its members (Hunt, 2014 : 21).

Family dysfunction is a psychological phenomenon that is often used as the forerunner of the main conflict in constructing literary works (Çakirtaş, 2018 : 47). The relationship between literature and psychological aspects cannot be separated because both have a close relationship. The psychological approach is created

a means of the literary work itself. Psychoanalytic theory used to assess literary works by explaining psychology as a creative process. Psychoanalysis in literary works can not only explain the author's psyche through his literary work, but is also useful for psychologically analyzing the characters contained in a literary work. Psychoanalysis in literary works is widely used in novels, short stories, poetry, and films (Roth, 2020 : 13).

The Family Upstairs is one of the best novels that takes the intrigue of family dysfunction as a psychological mystery with a plot twist. *The Family Upstairs* novel by Lisa Jewell consists of 69 chapters with a composition of 352 pages. The novel was first published on August 8, 2019 in the US as one of the best-selling thriller fiction novels by Lisa Jewell. The storyline is back and forth with the point of view of the main characters, Henry, Lucy, and the point of view of Libby. The story begins with a secret letter received by Libby Jones, the female protagonist who inherits a surprise at the age of twenty-five. Libby's simple and economical life suddenly brightens up and promises to get better. The letter he found after work not only changed his life. With claiming the inheritance in hand, he must also bear the dark secrets passed down to him and the truth about who his real parents are. The connection to an unsolved and obscure crime has been waiting for Libby to make herself known.

Previous studies are needed to support this analysis. For some information about psychoanalysis and family psychology which is represented on family dysfunction in literary works, especially in novels. The writer found several previous studies such as, the research by Araz Ahmed Mohammed's research in 2022 with the title "Trauma and Recovery: A Psychoanalytic Study of Gharbi Mustafa's *When Mountains Weep*". The results of this study indicate that the traumatic consequences on the main characters' psyches, in particular Hamko, are based on three symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder which are hyperarousal, intrusion, and constriction. Threatened by tumultuous circumstances and trapped on mountain peaks, the paper argues that generations of Kurds have lost sense of childhood and innocence growing up either as refugees or living in their own

landlocked mountains. Further research with the title "Domestic Violence in the Familial Context: Feminist and Psychoanalytic Perspectives of Ikechukwu Asika's *Tamara*" by Ifeoma Ezinne Odinye in 2022. The study has discovered that domestic violence in the familial context breeds narcissism, a certain neurotic consequence that encourages vices which could lead to a total breakdown of self or cessation of life. The male-authored view adopts the feminist concept of negotiating spaces to accommodate oppressors—an African mentality structured under patriarchy.

Then, a study from a research journal with the title "*Chetan Bhagat's 2 States: A Psychoanalytic Reading*" by K. Prabha & R. Soundararajan in 2021. This study shows that a psychoanalytic approach helps readers to understand the whole character in the novel. Journal research by Hye Yun Choi and Jee Hyun Ha in 2021 with the title "Psychoanalytic Perspectives of Social Phobia: Based on Dazai Osamu's Novel *Human Lost*". This study finds the causes of social phobia experienced by the main character through a psychoanalytic approach is internal factors such as temperamental, and external factors such as childhood trauma from the impact of family dysfunction. Finally, research in the thesis by Fidheaty Octa Rahayu in 2021 with the title "Mia Hall's Frustration And Sadness In Novel *If I Stay* By Gayle Forman (2009): A Psychoanalytic Approach". This study describes the feelings of frustration and sadness experienced by Mia Hall in living a situation of family dysfunction so that she has a reason to hold on for the love and for the future that her hopes for.

From the description of the background, the writer is interested in finding the psychological aspects reflected in the novel *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic approach is used to analyze the characters in the novel who have problems with family dysfunction. The novel *The Family Upstairs* was chosen as the object of research because family psychological conflicts in the form of family dysfunction become an interesting mystery thriller phenomenon that is suitable to be studied using family dysfunction theory of Carter & McGoldrick's.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the research, the writer formulated research questions as follows:

1. What is kind of family dysfunction in Lisa Jewell's *The Family Upstairs*?
2. How are the personality of the main characters in Lisa Jewell's *The Family Upstairs*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research question, the writer formulated the objective of the study aims:

1. To describe kind of family dysfunction in Lisa Jewell's *The Family Upstairs*.
2. To describe personality of the main characters in Lisa Jewell's *The Family Upstairs*.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The writer focuses on analyzing the psychological aspects in the novel *The Family Upstairs*. This study analyzes Libby's family problems through Carter & McGoldrick about family dysfunction theory and the psychological side of the character which is analyzed through Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory.

1.5 Significances of The Study

This study gives some significant both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, with this research, the writer hopes to contribute new information about literary psychology, especially research related to *The Family Upstairs* by Lisa Jewell. In practical terms, the writer hopes that by completing this research,

the writer can fulfill her final project as a requirement for a bachelor's degree in English Study Program at University of Trunojoyo Madura. In addition, the writer also hopes that this research can provide inspiration and can be a reference for readers and other writers, especially for students of the English Department of Trunojoyo Madura University who are interested in analyzing a novel using a psychological approach. Hopefully this research can be useful for researchers as a reference for conducting similar research with different objects. In addition, it can help readers or writers to learn more about psychoanalytic theory. This research can also provide a special understanding of family psychology about family dysfunction around us through literature studies. Furthermore, this research can be significant in improving family life in studying all phenomena of human psychology and literary psychology from Lisa Jewell's novel *The Family Upstairs*.