

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents sub chapters, namely background of the study, statement of the research problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, and for the last is scope and limitation. All of the chapters are important to be discussed as the introduction of this study. Followings are the description of the sub chapters.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature can be considered as a written imagination of what human thinking. Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (1997:94) state that “Literature represents life, and life is in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner of subjective world of the individual has also been object of literary imitation.” Thus, literature concerns with all aspects of human life and the universe in its totality including relationship between individual and society, people, environment, etc.

There are number of different genres of literature such as drama, poetry, and prose. Prose itself can be divided into novel, short stories, romance, etc. In this study, the main object to be discussed is novel. It is about an imaginary people and events. In general, novels reflect the author’s experiences and combined with authors’ imagination to make the writing more alive, artistic, and interesting. Novel has characters to represent many issues in real life, such as race, nationality, religion, love, family, etc. All of these issues can cause the conflict that happen to the characters.

Based on Reviews and Discussion in Bramz's blogspot, Elizabeth Berg (born on December 2nd 1948) is one of the New York Times bestselling famous author's novels of *Talk Before Sleep*, *The Pull of the Moon*, and *Until the Reas novel Thing Comes Along*, etc. Elizabeth Berg is one of wonderful authors. In her novel, she concerns with human nature, hope, fear, love, loss regret, triumph and especially about relationships. *Range of Motion* is one of her fascinating novels that were published in 1995. It is chosen to be discussed because it is an interesting novel and the contains of the novel is easy to understand. Paul Miller mentioned in his blog that *Range of Motion* had been awarded as American and International best seller. This novel is also adapted into a movie in 2000 entitled "*Range of Motion*" that were starring by Rebecca De Mornay (actor), Henry Czerny (actor) and the director was Donald Wrye.

The novel which deals with the main character conflicts are written by Elizabeth Berg entitled *Range of Motion*. In *Range of Motion*, it is told that some characters experience the conflict. Based on the statement, the focus of this study is the main character named Lainey Berman. This study is interested to be analyzed because in this novel the writer sees that Berg tries to show the life which may have many kinds of problem. Lainey's strength in caring her husband, her children and her struggle in facing society are very admirable. The motherhood story becomes an interesting part in this novel because it presents the story about a wife who has to bring the condition of unconsciousness husband. Therefore, this analysis will focus on Lainey's internal and external conflicts, its impact toward her family, and her ways to resolve her conflicts in Elizabeth Berg's novel *Range of Motion*.

In relation to the source of the study, conflict theory is used as the tools to analyze this study because in that novel, there are so many conflicts faced by the main character, Lainey Berman, who faces many conflicts in her family. This is in line to Holman (1978:119) statements who divides the conflicts into internal and external conflict. The internal is a struggle of a person against himself/herself to reach his/her goal. External conflict uses to be the primary form of conflict in genre or popular fiction, and external conflict came in several varieties: Man vs. Man (or to be politically correct Person vs. Person), person vs. nature, person vs. society, person vs. machine, person vs. some supernatural agency such as gods, demons, fate, etc.

In relation to the source of the study, there is no researchers who take this novel as their source of the study. Therefore, this study is the first time to be analyzed. However, none of these studies focus on internal and external conflict of the main character in *Range of Motion*.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problems

The central point of this study is Lainey's internal and external conflicts in the novel *Range of Motion* written Elizabeth Berg. There are some problems in this novel:

1. What are the conflicts faced by Lainey as described in the novel?
2. How do the conflicts affect her life, Sarah and Pat Swanson?
3. How does Lainey overcome her conflict?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Concerning with the problems above, this analysis is intended to achieve some objectives:

1. To explain Lainey's internal and external conflicts as described in Elizabeth Berg's *Range of Motion*.
2. To explain the conflicts that affects her life, Sarah, and Pat Swanson.
3. To explain how the conflicts are overcome.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study is useful to give understanding about the effects of internal and external conflicts. Practically, students know and understand more about how to analyze novel referring to intrinsic approach. The writer also hopes that the results of the study are useful for this department in order to develop the upcoming research.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is conflict theory, internal and external conflicts experienced by the main character. Therefore, this study limits on character's utterances, words and narration on Lainey's internal and external conflicts.