

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the explanation of some parts of introduction. They are background of study, statement of research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Fiction as one of the major genres in literary works has some genres also, such as adventure, historical, science, fantasy and romance. One of the newest genres is magical realism. Bowers (2004) claimed that nowadays, magical realism is one of the most popular genres in literature, art, and film. It means that one of the most contemporary trends of international fiction is magical realism. It is the global phenomenon. Magical realism becomes interesting to be analyzed because it combines two opposite things, they are real and fantasy. It blurs their differences till the extraordinary seems ordinary (Faris, 2004). To make sure the distinction among magical realism, realism and fantasy, it will be explained below.

According to Watt, realism assumes that “the external world is real, and that our senses give us a true report of it” (Bowers, 2004). It means that realism conveys the real world in literary form and the readers accept it. In realism there is no fantastic thing in it. Meanwhile, Fantasy according to Todorov is the fragility of the limit between matter and mind which not in any explicit way with domain of spirit or

mystery (Faris, 2004). It means that fantasy is beyond reality. From the explanation about realism and fantasy, both of them are two opposite things. The combination between them is called magical realism.

One of literary works which is assumed as magical realism is Anthony Doerr's best seller novel, *All The Light We Cannot See*. The novel gets Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 2015 and Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction in 2015. The achievements show the novel gets a good response from public. The novel tells the struggle of LeBlanc family, especially Daniel-the principal locksmith for National Museum of Natural History and his daughter, Marie Laure-blind girl-to keep a magic stone while World War II. At that time, French believe that the keeper of the stone will live forever, but those people who loved by the keeper of the stone will get disaster.

The novel is a great work because Anthony Doerr spent 10 years to write it. Anthony Doerr was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He is a talented author because he got many achievements. His fiction won four O. Henry Prizes and has been anthologized in *The Best American Short Stories*, *The Anchor Book of New American Short Stories*, and *The Scribner Anthology of Contemporary Short Fiction*. He won the Barnes & Noble Discover Prize; the Rome Prize; the New York Public Library's Young Lions Award; a Guggenheim Fellowship; an NEA Fellowship; the National Magazine Award for Fiction; three Pushcart Prizes; two Pacific Northwest

Book Awards; three Ohioana Book Awards; the 2010 Story Prize, which is considered the most prestigious prize in the U.S. for a collection of short stories; and the Sunday Times EFG Short Story Award, which is the largest prize in the world for a single short story. In 2007, the British literary magazine *Granta* placed Doerr on its list of 21 Best Young American Novelists (2015/2016 Portland Arts & Lecturer Season, 2015).

All The Light We Cannot See has two interesting things. First is the history of World War II, according to (*Primary History of World War II*, 2014), this war is fought between two groups of Countries. On one side are the Axis Power, including Germany, Japan, and Italy. On the other side are the Allies. They included Australia, Britain, Canada, China, France, India, New Zealand, The Soviet Union, and The United States of America. The history of World War II becomes the historical anchoring in the novel, so that the magic appears ordinarily in it. Magic will leave the realism and become fantasy if the historical anchoring-narrative technique in magical realism-is not used. Moreover, historical anchoring is discussed in one of magical realism five elements of Wendy B. Faris' concept, the phenomenal world. Yet, it will be explained in the other point in chapter IV to give more detail explanations and deep discussion because historical anchoring is specifically discussed about the history anchors the magic.

The second interesting thing is the magic stone-Sea of Flames, it is because this stone like as the symbol of authorization that is fought by two groups of countries. This stone also seems like the Hope Diamond, the curse stone, in Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History. Therefore, the magic stone is the magic thing that appears in the real, in World War Two. They combine each other to be masterpiece.

The interesting combination in magical realism is between the ordinary and extraordinary till the extraordinary seems ordinary, and then the readers rarely give no comment toward it. It is the reason why the writer chooses this theory. Then, the writer chooses *All The Light We Cannot See* because the phenomenal history-World War II and the magic stone-Sea of Flames combine beautifully. In the other hand, the writer chooses them because both theory and the novel are the newest thing which are interesting to be analyzed.

Based on the contents in the novel *All The Light We Cannot See*, it is appropriate to analyze the novel by using five elements of Magical Realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept to find out whether the novel can be regarded as Magical Realism or not. According to Faris (2004), there are five primary characteristics of mode of Magical Realism. They are The Irreducible Element, Phenomenal World, Unsettling Doubts, Merging realms, and Disruptions of Time, Space, and Identity. Those five elements can determine whether literary works belong to Magical Realism or not.

After knowing the degree of Magical Realism, this study analyzes how the historical anchoring reflected in the novel, to know the function of historical facts and to know that magic in magical realism has connection with its realism.

Furthermore, there are three previous studies that analyze literary works by using Magical Realism theory. Those are *Magic Realism in Gabriel Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude* By B.J Geetha (2010), *Elements of Magic Realism: A Reading of Garcia Marquezs' One Hundred Years of Solitude And Salman Rushdies' Midnight's Children* By N. Ramesh Chandra Srikanth (2014), and *Realisme Magis dalam Novel Beloved Karya Toni Morrison* By Niko Fediyanto (2014). However, the previous studies are different with the present study. Their differences will be discussed in chapter II. While for the source of data, none of researcher analyzes it. This study is the first research which analyzes this novel using theory, especially the theory of five elements of magical realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept. Therefore, this study is really different with other researches.

1.2 Research Questions

The research questions are formulated as below:

- 1.What elements of the magical realism are portrayed in Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*?
- 2.How is the historical anchoring reflected in Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this study are to explore:

- 1.The elements of magical realism found in Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*.
- 2.The historical anchoring in Anthony Doerr's *All The Light We Cannot See*.

1.4 Significances of The Study

Hopefully, this study is expected to give contribution both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge about Magical Realism and as reference for the next studies. Meanwhile, practically this study is expected to educate readers to care each other and not to become greedy towards authorization.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

This study discusses the Magical Realism in *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr that published in New York, 2014. The scope of this study is Magical Realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept. The limitations of this study are the author's narrations and the characters' utterances in *All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr which are related to the research questions.