

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter divided into five subchapters. Those are Background of the Study, Statements of the Research Question, Objectives of the Study, Significances of the Study, and the last one is Scope and Limitation of the Study.

1.1 Background of the study

An expression of human society is called literature, because it is a mirror of life (Wellek and Warren, 1954:95). In other words, literary work presents about the condition of life, but it is not all the copies of the condition. The authors also use their imagination to create their works beautifully for the readers.

The literary works can be differentiated into two parts, fiction and nonfiction. One of the most well-known fiction is a novel. Novel is one of literary genres which presents complicated problems. The basis of a novel is a story, and a story is a narrative of events arranged in time sequence (Forster, 1927:30). It shows that novel is a story by authors who express their idea based on social condition. All events that are faced by novelist are viewed in the novel as the product of life's experience, on the same time the authors also include the element of entertainment information such as human's life to make interesting.

Therefore, literary works not only entertain the readers but also enrich their knowledge. There are several aspects that can be learnt by reading literary works like novel. Sometimes the authors take the differences of human feeling as the theme of their

works, such as the conflict of authors' life. Conflict is a problem faced by human being in the world. As human being which created of God has many different kinds of characteristic. Sometimes the difference of characteristic causes the different perceptions which creates a conflicts in the novel.

From the conflict itself, it will be able to help the writer to identify the characteristic of human and know many ways how to solve the conflict which are faced. Because each conflict has a different way to solve it. For example, among one and others person have a disagreement. Hence, it can be solved by negotiation to reach the solution. It is include in the characterization techniques, those are what the characters say or do, how characters act, feel and look.

Characterization is the way used by the author to reveal the characters to the readers. It is important to examine what the characters look like. It is useful to identify the character's role in the literary work. By analyzing the characterization, it can be known how the characters react in the situation of conflict which are faced in the story.

In this study, characterization can be revealed by two ways, they are direct characterization and indirect characterization. First, direct characterization is direct description of the character's personality by the author which is stated in the literary work. Second, indirect characterization shows the character's personality by presentation of other characters. For this characterization, there are five different methods. They are speech, thoughts, actions, looks and the effects on other characters.

The character and conflict are important thing in a story. The story without character and conflict will be not alive. Conflict is one of causes in a story which makes a story more attractive. While, the character is a person who can create the conflict in the story and can solve the conflict itself. The way to solve the conflict are usually based on the experience of each person. In this study, there are two conflicts in Nawal El Saadawi's *Woman at Point Zero* that will be analyzed, those are internal and external conflict which are experienced by Firdaus as the main character in the novel. The internal conflict is more commonly referred to character vs. herself and deals with a character having to overcome something about her being which they are struggling. While, the external conflict is a struggle with a force outside one's self, which is include conflict among other character, character and nature, character and society.

In this study, a novel *Woman at Point Zero* is chosen as the source of data because of its written by Nawal El Saadawi. She is an internationally renowned writer, novelist and fighter for women's rights both within Egypt and abroad. She has written many books on the subject of woman in Islam. The novel *Woman at Point Zero* is a powerful Egyptian novel relaying the life story of a woman waiting death row in Cairo prison for murdering a pimp. This novel, or rather creative non-fiction, takes the reader into the cell of a woman the night before her execution. Besides that, it can be said as a wonderful story because this novel used Middle East society, as their main background. Women in Middle East often perform resistance in order to resist ill treatment exercised on them. Moreover, this novel portrays the social condition and moral system through the main

character. As the result, the readers are able to imagine the condition and situation which experience by the main character.

The other reason *Woman at Point Zero* is chosen as the source of data, because it is very interesting. This novel tells about conflict which faced by Firdaus since she was childhood. There are two types of Firdaus' conflict, they are internal and external conflict. Firdaus has to solve all of her conflict by herself because there is no one who really care with Firdaus. The conflict of this novel much tells about male's oppression, where men have authority over women, because men have strong physic then women. In the end of this novel Firdaus can kill a man who force becomes her pimp. Hence, the writer interests to analyze the characterization of Firdaus also. So that, this study focuses on the conflict and characterization of Firdaus.

The writer uses intrinsic elements approach to analyze the characterization and conflict which is faced by the main character. The intrinsic elements is used to analyze this novel in order to understand the characterization and conflicts. By understanding them, the readers who read this study will get better understanding about the characterization and conflicts in a literary work.

In addition, the same source data of *Woman at Point Zero* novel is used by some researcher who analyze the different theory. The first researcher is Gloria A. F. (2012) who analyze this novel using feminist theory which focuses on the analysis of female's oppression in University of Jos, Nigeria. The second researcher is Lina Azizah (2008) who also analyze using feminist theory but focuses on gender perspective in University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta. The last researcher is Rengganis I. (2011) who analyze

using psychological approach that focuses on the personality development in Sanata Dharma University, Yogyakarta.

1.2 Statements of the Research Question

Based on the background of the study, this study will analyze the intrinsic elements in Nawal El Saadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*, the statements of research question can be formulated as below:

1. How is the characterization of Firdaus in Nawal El Sadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*?
2. What are the conflicts faced by Firdaus that happened in Nawal El Sadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To elaborate the characterization of Firdaus in Nawal El Sadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*.
2. To explain the conflicts faced by Firdaus that happened in Nawal El Sadawi's *Woman at Point Zero*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study has significances of study which are very useful. This study is expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the results of the study expected to give some contributions to strengthen the understanding of the intrinsic elements about characterization and the causes and effects conflict that happened in the literary works.

In relation to the statements above, practically it can give more understanding how to analyze novel referring to intrinsic approach and increase the knowledge of the readers especially to the Student of English Study Program of Trunojoyo University Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discuss about the intrinsic elements that explain about characterization and conflict which happened in the novel. The scope of this study focuses on the intrinsic approach in a novel, *Woman at Point Zero*, by Nawal El Saadawi. In addition, this study is limited on the form of words or the character's utterances and the author's narration that answer the research questions, which are experienced by Firdaus.