

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter divides into five sub chapters of introduction such as background of the study, statements of the research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

The idiom states that ‘there is nothing new under the sun’. It means that all of the things in this earth have existed for many times. Several things have come in this earth before human’s birth. For examples the mountains, river, sea, forest, etc. Something which has already appeared doesn’t means that it is the first appearance or the beginning. Either it is not the last or the ending. It is possible that the similar thing will appear again in further times. The similar thing is potentially exists tomorrow or two days until five years later. It likes life’s seclude—die, alive, die, and alive again.

Regarding above discussion, in the literary world, literary work which comes in this time may not being the first. It is indicated as the second or third works. Take the examples of Mandy Hubbard’s *Prada and Prejudice* and Elizabeth Eulberg’s *Prom and Prejudice* are influenced by Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, and Khaled Hosseini’s *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is inspired by the poem of Saib-E-Tabiri’s *Kabul*. Those examples strengthen that it is true of

nothing new under the sun, including in the literary works. Even though, it cannot be separated between the writer and his own inspiration.

Inspiration can be caught from wherever—even the family, environment, close friends, or many things. Writer's inspiration not only can be from his own life, but also other writer's works. Then the writer writes similar work in its theme, character, title, plot, or etc. Sometimes the writer is directly or indirectly aware that he has inspired and influenced by other writer. As Snyder states:

[...] A writer can be influenced by texts without realizing it, through the writer's research into her topic, or texts she has studied previous to her work. However, a writer also can choose texts purposefully, desiring their influence on her work, and she can guide that influence.

(Snyder, 2011:122)

It is intended that the work never bears alone, but it is indicated as the relationship of the previous work. The previous work might be a contribution for the further work in writing, creating, and producing similar work. Sometimes the writer is carefully doing transformation in his work, it means that the text is chosen before he concludes in his own work. In this case, it is kind of the guidance for him.

Discussing about the imagination and creativity of the writer, although the work has created or published, and it is categorized as a new work, but it cannot be mentioned as original. It is because the texts might be the form of the transformation, imitation, modification, or translation of other languages.

In regarding above, Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* and Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* are two works which relate to each other. Both have similarities and differences of the intrinsic elements. Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* is influenced by Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*.

There are three reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing the sources of data. The first reason, it is because both works have won some awards. *The Lovely Bones* has got two awards such as American Booksellers Association Book of the Year Award for Adult Fiction in 2003 and the Bram Stoker Award for First Novel in 2002. It also stayed in the *Times Bestseller* list for five months. As the further achievement, it was adapted into a 2009 movie with the same title by Peter Jackson. Meanwhile, *The Five People You Meet* was fast success and launched in the *New York Times* best-seller list. Same with *The Lovely Bones*, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* was adapted into a television movie for ABC directed by Lloyd Kramer in 2004.

The second reason because both works are unique stories, particularly in their setting of place. One of the places setting in both novels is in heaven. The main characters, Susie in *The Lovely Bones* and Eddie in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* have similar fates, that is they have to face the death and stay in heaven. In heaven, they meet some people who teach them about the meaning of life. During in heaven, they can also see people from the heaven.

The last reason is because Alice Sebold of the novelist of *The Lovely Bones* and Mitch Albom of the novelist of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*

are favorite's novelists of the writer in this study. Almost all of their works based on their own experiences and people's experiences around them without losing of fictional values. From both novels, Eddie of the main character in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom comes from his uncle's name that has passed away. Meanwhile, Sussie of the main character in *The Lovely Bones* has passed away by raping to killing. It is found that Sebold has ever got a substance abuse like brutally raping.

In addition, this study uses theory of intertextuality by Julia Kristeva. The theory is suitable in analyzing both novels. It is acclaimed to find the connection in both novels. Payne (1997:258) explains that intertextuality is a term by Julia Kristeva "to indicate a text's construction from texts: a work is not a self-contained, individually written whole, but the absorption and transformation of other texts, 'a mosaic of quotations'. Kristeva's explanation means that all the written texts are tightly influenced by other texts. Texts like puzzles, it relates to each other, as Kristeva states that 'a mosaic of quotations'. In this study, the writer of *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* that is Mitch Albom might be inspired or influenced by Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*.

Therefore, this study uses intertextuality as the theory in analyzing Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. The theory is used to analyze similarities, differences, and the elements of both novels.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background above, the research problems will be formulated into the following questions:

1. What are the similarities and the differences in both novels?
2. How are the elements in Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* that influence Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* connected each other?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research problems of the study, it is intended:

1. To find out the similarities and differences in both novels.
2. To elaborate the elements in Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* that influence Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

It is hopefully that this study gives the theoretical and practical significances as below:

- For the theoretically, this study gives a good understanding, knowledge and more information about the analysis of intertextuality in Alice Sebold's *The Lovely Bones* in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.
- Practically, it is expected the readers believe that everywhere there is connection and nothing new under the sun. Everything relates to each other, including in literary works.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

As the scope of the study, this study uses intertextuality by Julia Kristeva as the theory. The theory is used in analyzing the text's construction from other texts and the influence from other writer.

Furthermore, the limitation of the study is about the similarities, differences, and elements of Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* are influenced by Sebold's *The Lovely Bones*. The data in this study are the utterances and narrator's explanations which involve in both novels.