

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are three chapters to discuss in this chapter. Those are background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those are important to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

New Criticism is a literary theory that focuses on the internal elements of a text, particularly emphasizing close reading and the analysis of form, structure, and language. In character analysis, this theory examines how a character is constructed through literary devices such as imagery, symbolism, and narrative structure, without considering external contexts like the author's background or historical influences. It explores tensions, paradoxes, and conflicts within the text to reveal how a character's development contributes to the thematic unity of the work. By treating characters as integral parts of the text rather than as real people, New Criticism allows a deeper understanding of how they reflect and enhance the novel's central issues. One of literary which focuses on character and character development is the new criticism theory. It is related to the presentation of characters and linked with the issues in the novel. Therefore, the writer is interested to examine this novel using the theory of new criticism.

Studying character development through New Criticism is intellectually stimulating because it demands a meticulous engagement with the text, fostering a deeper appreciation for literary craftsmanship. By isolating the text from external factors, scholars can uncover the aesthetic and structural intricacies that shape a character's journey. This approach not only refines analytical skills but also reinforces the idea that literature functions as an autonomous artistic entity, where meaning is embedded within the text itself rather than derived from external interpretations (Aail & Wasil, 2019, p. 47).

One of the novels that issued this topic is the novel *Shadow and Bone*. There are some reasons the writer considers this novel as the source of data. The First

reason is the writer considers that this novel has significant literary value in terms of themes, characterization, or use of language by the writer. Additionally, the stories they form offer valuable insight into certain aspects of life, culture, or society that are relevant to the writer being conducted. In addition, it may also be due to the novel's popularity among readers or the presence of certain elements, or world setting, magical elements, that are of interest to researchers.

Despite its amazing fantasy worlds and interesting plots, many moral lessons can be found throughout this novel. The protagonist, Alina Starkov, undergoes significant character development. Initially portrayed as a weak figure who relies on partner mages. Throughout the story, her personality evolves due to various factors and the influence of those around her. Ultimately, Alina transforms into a Grisha, an independent and strong woman who acts alone in overcoming her problems. It makes her a central and impactful character for readers.

Alina's transformation in the novel is also influenced by the presence of other characters, especially Baghra. Baghra's influence on Alina in the novel may include various aspects, such as the development of magical skills, character growth, and self-acceptance. Baghra can encourage Alina to explore her potential in more depth, face fears and uncertainties, and help Alina understand her role in a complex world in the development of her personality. Baghra also taught Alina about fortitude and courage, which are important aspects in developing a mature personality. Therefore, Baghra is one of the key figures who plays a role in Alina's transformation in the novel.

The writer found several previous studies that use the same theory with different sources of data. The first writers are Tiara Arti Issar Nur Cahya, Abu Fanani, Amiq, from the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, UIN Sunan Ampel, Surabaya. With the title *Theodore Finch's Social Conflict in All the Bright Places* by Jennifer Niven (2022). The writer uses social conflict by Lewis, cause of conflict by Mike, and New Criticism Theory. The finding was that Finch underwent social conflict: conflict of position, conflict of interest, and conflict of role, whilst cause of conflict refers to the difference in perception and difference in personality.

The second writer is Arifah Fauziah, from Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. With the title *The Portrayal of Regret as Seen in Adele's Hello: A New Critic Reading* (2017). This study analyses the intrinsic element of the song by using New Criticism theory. This study found that the portrait of regret in the song "hello" contains characteristics of regret such as self-blame, disappointment, guilt, and any unpleasant feelings which describe how the psychological condition of regret affects social situations. The main aim of this research is to explore how Adele's song "Hello" conveys the theme, structure and emotional nuances of the song.

The third writer is Dewi Aminatun Najah, from the Faculty of Letters and Humanities Sunan Ampel State Islamic University Surabaya. With the title *A Study Laura's Changing Character in Angela Lambert's the Constant Mistress* (2017). This study uses New Criticism theory and focuses on the plot, character, and characterization to analyse Laura's changing character. This study is to analyse and understand the transformation of the character Laura in Angela Lambert's novel "The Constant Mistress." By examining Laura's development throughout the novel, the study aims to uncover underlying themes, motivations, and the impact of her changing personality.

The fourth writer is Savira Fitri Adiyatma, Sudar Ida Farida, Rizal Octofianto Datau, from University of Airlangga. With the title *The Influence of Literature on Lana's Character Development in the Novel The Day I Fell Into A Fairytale* (2023). This study is using New Criticism theory based on direct and indirect characterization that is depicted in the story. The data in this study were taken from the novel, mainly gathered from word, phrases, sentences, and symbolism. This study aims to reveal Lana's character development in the novel *The Day I Feel into A Fairytale* written by Ben Miller.

The fifth previous study is *Modulation in Translation of Novel "Shadow And Bone" from English Into Indonesian* written by Atta Mimi Aulia (2022) from JIA Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu bahasa. This study aims to examine the phenomenon of modulation in the novel *Shadow and Bone* and its translation. Using a descriptive qualitative approach, data were collected through in-depth reading of the source

text (original English version) and the target text (translated version). The analysis was conducted by applying Newmark's modulation theory to identify various types of meaning shifts in the translation process. The research findings revealed significant perspective shifts between the source and target texts. Specifically, five dominant types of modulation were identified: (1) shifts from abstract to concrete (15 data), (2) term reversals (8 data), (3) transformations from passive to active forms (3 data), (4) shifts from cause to effect (2 data), and (5) replacement of one part with another (2 data). On the other hand, several types of modulation such as changes from space to time, intervals and boundaries, and changes in symbols were not found in the data of this study.

There are several similarities and differences among the three previous studies. The similarity lies in the theory used, which is New Criticism. However, the difference lies in the researched data sources, as one of them focused on analysing a song. Although this study employs the same theory, it utilizes a different data source compared to the previous studies. In this study, the data source is a novel titled 'Shadow and Bone' by Leigh Bardugo, with a specific focus on the characterization of the main character in the novel, Alina Starkov.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the explanation above, there are two statements of problem to conduct this research:

1. What are the factors that influence the transformation of Alina's character?
2. How is the transformation of the character Alina Starkov described in *shadow and bone*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

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

1. To discover the factors that influence the character transformation of Alina Starkov.
2. To discover the transformation characterization of Alina Starkov's character.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Hopefully this study gives the theoretical and practical significance as below. There are varieties of theoretical significance and sensible importance. For practical importance, the writer hopes that this study can increase the reader's information to better recognize the hidden truths within the novel, especially in reading Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*. Especially Leigh Bardugo *Shadow and Bone* using the new criticism approach. Specially, this study can offer greater statistics about social stratification.

Even as the sensible significance is that the author hopes that this evaluation could make society, especially students, realize that all people are identical and identical.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research belongs to the field of literature. It focuses on characterization of a character from a novel entitled *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, Alina Starkov. The study uses the theory of new criticism by Lois Tyson in analysing the data.

Since the study focuses on the novel titled *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo, the limitation of this study is to investigate the character development of Alina. By using the theory of new criticism by Lois Tyson, the data of character development is taken in form of descriptions or utterances which are presented in the novel.