

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five subchapters; these are background of the study, the statement of research problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of Study

A lot of people are interested in reading literature. They have a big enthusiasm to follow the development of literary works that are created by the authors during this time. Hence, it is known that reading literature is an interesting activity. In their literary works, the authors explore and express their ideas, emotions, and experiences beautifully. Through this brilliant creativity, the authors drive the reader's imagination and emotion. Thus, when the readers read a literary work, they feel various feelings, such as sad, angry, disappointed, scared, or happy. These feelings give much satisfaction to the readers. Based on these explanations, it is described that literature delivers a pleasure and contentment to the readers.

Reading is the effort of the reader to actively understand the message of the writer (Smith and Robinson in Papadima, 2009: 119). By seeing this statement, it is known that reading literature also gives the advantages, such as information and message. The readers acquire the new knowledge within the author's works in which deals with human being and human life. One of

knowledge that can be learnt by the readers is about human beings' psychological aspects.

Psychological aspect of human beings in literature means that any kind of psychological aspect which people have is represented by the authors within their works. The authors reveal these psychological aspects through the fictional characters. Characters are the persons in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons said and their distinctive ways of saying it-the dialogue-and from what they do-the action (Abrams and Harpham, 2009: 42). It is concluded that the authors present the fictional characters with their own personality and characteristics. For example, the authors depict the character as a temperamental, antisocial, friendly, or humble person.

By seeing the explanations above, it is known that literature has a relationship with psychology. Both psychology and literature clarify about human psychology. In the field of psychology, people clarify about the various human beings' psychological aspects in a real condition. While, in the field of literature, the authors represent human beings' psychologies within a story of their literary works imaginatively.

Concerning with psychology and literature, there is an author that explores the idea of psychology through the characters within a literary work. She is Noelle Harrison. Noelle Harrison is an Irish author who has a pen name, Evie Blake. She began wrote some plays and novels in the early nineties. Her literary works are *Beatrice*, *A Small Part of Me*, *I Remember*, *The Adulteress*, *The Secret Loves of*

Julia Caesar, Valentina, Valentina on the Edge, and Valentina Unlocked. Some of Evie Blake's books have been translated and published in Italy, Germany, Holland, and Hungary. Even, it became the best seller novels. One of them is *Valentina* which became a bestseller novel on the Der Spiegel Bestseller list in Germany.

Valentina is the first novel in Evie Blake's trilogy. *Valentina on the Edge* and *Valentina Unlocked* are the sequels of her trilogy. In a novel *Valentina*, Evie Blake brought a creative idea by telling the two plots within. She told the two main characters that lived in different decades and places. They were Valentina who lived in year 2012 in Milan and Belle who lived in year 1929 in Venice. The unity of the two plots gives the uniqueness to a novel *Valentina*. Therefore, it becomes the first reason why this novel is chosen by the researcher to be analyzed.

Though the two plots in *Valentina* were separated by the different decades and places, Evie Blake gave a connection between the characters of Valentina and Belle by depicting the representation of human sexuality, especially for women, which was experienced by those characters. Blake told they experienced their latent desires. At the beginning, Valentina and Belle were told as women that covered their sexuality tendencies. Yet, during the time, they discovered their desire and explored it by having sexual intimacy with their partners. Furthermore, both of them not only had sexual intimacy with one person but also some other people. These characters' behaviors were driven by certain motives and purposes. Based on these explanations, it is showed that a novel entitled *Valentina* presents

psychological aspects of the characters; Valentina and Belle, in doing sexual activities. Then, it becomes the second reason why the researcher chooses this novel.

Sexuality is valued if it was confined to the commitment which we call a marriage and its aim to create a family (Schuurman, 2001; Seidman, n.d.). Hence, sexuality is interesting to be analyzed because through this novel, we can see that human sexuality is not depended on the social norm which exists in the society. In *Valentina*, Evie Blake showed a marriage relationship as the commitment and the social norm was not the reason that affected the two main characters to have sexual activities. Therefore, the researcher analyzed a novel, *Valentina*, by the title *Valentina's and Belle's Sexual Motives and Purposes in Evie Blake's Valentina*.

In addition, the concept of sexuality has already used by some researchers who analyzed the different literary works. The first researcher is Fernanda Sousa Carvalho (2009) who analyzed Angela Carter's *The loves of Lady Purple* and *The Lady of the House of Love* and Anne Rice's *The Vampire Lestat* and *The Queen of the Damned*. The second researcher is Birgit Aas Holm (2010) who analyzed Toni Morrison's *Love*, *Sula*, and *The Bluest Eye*. Both of those researchers analyzed the issue of gender and sexuality which were experienced by the characters in each literary work. Meanwhile, this study focused on sexual motives, purposes, and activities of the two main characters; Valentina and Belle, in Evie Blake's *Valentina*.

1.2 The Statement of Research Problem

Based on background of the study, there are two statements of research problem that will be solved in this study, those are:

1. What are Valentina's and Belles's sexual motives and purposes in the novel?
2. What are kind of Valentina's and Belle's sexual activities in the novel?

1.3 The Objective of the Study

In line with the statements of research problem previously, this study is intended to explain:

1. Valentina's and Belle's sexual motives and purposes in the novel.
2. Kinds of Valentina's and Belle's sexual activities in the novel.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this study can give benefits both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study can give a better understanding about the theory of psychology and literature which focuses on psychological aspects of the characters in doing sexual activities. In addition, practically, this study is expected to be able to give more knowledge about sexual motives, purposes, and activities to the readers, especially for the students of English Study Program of University of Trunojoyo.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the use of theory of psychology and literature. Further, it focuses on sexual motives, purposes, and sexual activities of the two

main characters; Valentina and Belle. Meanwhile, the limitation of this study is the characters' utterances and the author's narration which contain Valentina's and Belle's sexual motives, purposes, and activities.