

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1. Background of the Study

Some people in the world show their feeling or ideas into literary work. Literature is a picture of human life; there are three genres of literature. They are prose, poetry, and drama. According to Abrams (1999: 246) states that prose is an inclusive term for all discourse, spoken or written which is not pattern into lines either metric verse or of free verse. So, prose can be said as a creative process of the writer to expresses the feeling or idea. The writer has freedom to show up their ideas without any rules in their writing. Prose is divided into two forms is non-fiction and fiction.

The forms of prose based on the story that created by the writer are non-fiction and fiction. First, non-fiction prose is a narrative which tells about the true events such as newspaper, journal, letter, or science report. Second, prose fiction is any literary narrative which is invented of being an account of events that in fact happened. It is a narrative which shows the imaginative. Sometimes, it is a true event which added by imaginative. It tells about untrue event such as short story, novella, and novel (Abrams, 1999: 94).

Novel is now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose (Abrams, 1999: 190). Novel is divided into three based on the length. As extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and from the work middle length called the novelette. It means that the novel is development of a greater variety of characters and greater complication of plot. So, the novel is the long narrative in fiction that reflected to the human life. Almost all the stories in novel happen in the real life.

The Reader is an example of novel which is written by Bernhard Schlink. It was published in Germany 1995 and in United State (translated into English by Carol Brown Janeway) in 1997. The novel was adapted into movie entitled *The Reader* on December 12, 2008 which is directed by Stephen Daldry. The major characters are Ralph Fiennes as Michael and Kate Winslet as Hanna Schmitz. The novel also got several awards. The awards are Nominated for the International IMPAC Dublin, Literary Award, and Oprah Book Club selection (Doering, 2009).

Bernhard Schlink is a German writer with legal background. He is the author of several prize winning crime novels. The awards are Hans Fallada Prize (Italy), Prix Laure Bataillon (France), and Glauser Prize (Germany). He also has mystery novels, *Selbs Justiz* (with Popp 1987), *Die Gordische Schleife* (1988), and *Selbs Betrug* (1992). His novels influenced by German history especially in World War II. The novel entitled *The Reader* became European success. It tells about love, guilt, loss, and human frailty (Doering, 2009).

By reading a literary work, automatically the readers can develop their knowledge and science. Novel *The Reader* is a story of love which influenced by Post-war Germany. Hanna Schmitz is one of major character in the novel who cannot read and write. Illiterate is one of the victims of the Holocaust in Germany. On the other hand, Michael Berg is young man who against the illiterate post Holocaust in Germany. He reads some great stories to Hanna who is his lover. When Hanna becomes prisoner, Michael sends a tape recorder of his voice in reading a story. There is not certain purpose of his habit but purely of his love. Other benefit of his reading is against illiterate. Later, Hanna learns to read and write when she was in prison. She uses a tape recorder from Michael to learn read and read. In this novel, the readers will find out the symbols or signs related to the story that has meaningful.

In the broadest sense a symbol is anything which signifies something; in this sense all words are symbols (Abrams, 1999: 311). In literature, the term symbol is applied only to a word or phrase that signifies an object or event which in turn signifies something. Symbol is divided into two, universal and specific. Universal is used in around the world and specific is related to own culture. For example, red rose symbolizes love. It is indirect expression to show up the feeling. Red rose is a signifier that has several meanings such as flower, beauty, and love.

The study of signs is semiotic, as these functions in all areas of human experience. The sign is not limited to explicit system communication such as language, Morse code, and traffic sign can be analyzed as signs which function in diverse kinds of signifying system (Abrams, 1999: 279-280). Semiotic or

semiology means the systematic study of sign, and this is what literary structuralism are really doing. Semiotic is not only the meaning of the word itself but deeper meaning based on interpretation. For example of sound, “Ssstttt !!!” It is the expression of ask to keep silence. When the people only produce sound “Ssstttt !!!” then, the other people will know the meaning of sound “Ssstttt!!”. The sign has direct relationship with the sound. One of the semiotican is Roland Barthes who develops the theory of sign more comprehensive. He identifies into five narrative codes. They are hermeneutic code, semes or signifier code, symbolic code, proairetic code, and cultural code.

There are many implicit codes that find out in the novel. So, the readers want to know the story. The novel not only explores about the condition of post Germany war and love, but also the whole of the story contains narrative codes such as hermeneutic code, semes or signifier code, symbolic code, proairetic code, and cultural code. The codes are the cause of many implicit messages through the novel. The codes are conveyed by narration and characters’ utterances.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the question that belongs to the statement of the problem is:

1. How are narrative codes reflected in novel entitled *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem, this study conducted with the purpose as follows:

1. To elaborate narrative codes according to Roland Barthes in the novel entitled *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink and to develop the study using Roland Barthes theory.

1.4. Significances of the Study

The significance of this study is achieving a deeper knowledge to literary work. This study is expected to improve in theoretically and practically. Theoretically, it will give better understanding about the meaning of narrative codes. Practically, this study expected to give benefit to the society especially in University of Trunojoyo Madura (UTM). This study can be as the reference for their research. This study will not only give contribution in appreciating and understanding literary work but it can be used as knowledge to identify symbol or sign in the society and culture.

1.5. Scope and Limitation of the Study

This scope of this study is structuralism approach especially in narrative codes by Roland Barthes. The application of the theory in analyzing novel entitled *The Reader* by Bernhard Schlink. To avoid a broad and uncontrolled analysis, this study is limited by focusing the discussion only on the plot, narrator's narration, and utterances related to the narrative codes.