

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes briefly about the five sub-chapters which are important to be explained in this study, such as the background of the study, the statement of the research problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of study

Within this advance world, people are commonly clustered within two major basic mindset. The side that believe and uphold on something real and the other side become the opposite of it. Believing in something such as ghost, mystical creature and magical power that unseen is one of ancient heritage from our accentor. They believe in magical thing such as Holy Spirit, holy statue or holy place which later on stands as their helper and guider. The word Magic has translated into bigger understanding related to its function as vital element within conservative community.

The word magic derived from the Greek *Magike Techne* meaning the art of the Magi. The Magi were priests of ancient Persia (Iran) who also practiced in Chaldea and Babylon. (Gardner, 2000, p.166). In the modern era, the word magic is defined not only for supernatural things but also for trickery things that done for entertainment. (Strecher, 1999, p. 15). The variety of magical occurrence in magical realist writing includes ghosts, disappearances, miracles, extraordinary

talents, and strange atmospheres but does not include the magic as it is found in a magic show. Conjuring magic is brought about by tricks that give the illusion that something extraordinary has happened, whereas in magical realism it is assumed that something extraordinary really has happened.

Magic has widely translated into various form of definitions and have already adapted by the literature as one of unique topic within literary works. Further, as she has defined that literature is the depiction of human life. It means the literature always capture the fluctuation of social phenomena and transform it into enchanting narration and various forms such as novel and poem. The dynamic of social phenomena always captured and adopted by the author into various form of narration which later becomes well know literary work.

The form of literary work also relates to the way how the author expresses her idea. One of the common literary works that could be media to express author's imaginative ideas is novel. Novel presents various model of plot, novel's enthusiast growth wider which cover almost any layer of ages and society. Novel comes as one of the most famous form of literary work in the twenty century. Theme within novel hold an important role to boost the issues that appears within the story. One of the new age themes is Magical theme; the installment of magical sense and element into literary work has raised a good reading material for the reader.

Furthermore, magical realism appears as one of the new age theme that exists in recent century novel. Many famous and well-known authors have clothed

this genre within their recent masterpiece. Moreover, magical realism forms from two contradiction element, magic and realism, the magic must be a part of the whole narrative, intrinsic to its construction so that realism is chipped at throughout the work. (Tankersley, 2010, p. 23). Magical realism comes from two words that are realism and magic. Realism is a rational perspective on reality and magic is worldview acceptance of supernatural things as a prosaic reality. Magical realism involves fusion between real things with fantastic things, or in other words a merger between realism and fantasy. (Bowers, 2004, p. 19) stated that ‘Magic’ refers to the mystery of life. ‘Magic’ refers to any extraordinary occurrence and particularly to anything spiritual or unaccountable by rational science. She attempted to headline the correlation between the life of human being and the existence of magic. She defines that magic deals with extraordinary occurrence. It cannot be accepted by human mind.

“Realism is most often associated with the tradition of the novel as its expansive form, in contrast to shorter fiction, allows the writer to present many details that contribute to a realistic impression.”

(Bowers, 2004, p. 20)

A realistic impression becomes a vital feature if dealing with realism. Literary work consist of much more realistic element will might be more enchanting for the reader. Further, realism is often found in short fiction which allows the author to create their own realism within the work. The growth of literature knowledge has discovered that magical realism could be the scalpel theory for current issues.

Magical realism has widely seen as one of inseparable element within postcolonial culture. The wave of postcolonial notions has widely spread and leads magical realism as one of the newest part of it and also highly contributes on the fame of magical realism. The atmosphere that raised and shaped by the author through magical realism genre has magnificently attracted the reader from any layer of ages to come and read the magic of magical realism element within a novel.

Moreover, various experts have recently discovered that magical realism gives not only the sense but also distinctive element that could be a research topic such as magical power. Maggie Ann bowers within her book entitled *The New Critical Idiom*. She has much headlining the magical power as the important element within magical realism concept. Magical power becomes her ground work defines as unacceptable condition where the occurrences always against the logic mind.

Among a number of fictional novel, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom serves fresh air among many fictional novel to boost the reader amusement. The novel is serve trilling and unique plot with various fictional element which is able to attract readers appreciations. Other remarkable thing goes to the way the author shaped the character and the atmosphere within the novel. The writer interested to analyze the novel because this novel could win the reader's heart so it could earn some awarded. It was proven by The New York Times Best Seller list for 95 weeks when it was first published in 2003 by

Hyperion book. The author also praised because of the way he serves the language within the novel which could be very motivational for some reader.

Moreover, the magical realism which displays within the novel influences the writer to conduct the analysis. The issue goes under the concept of magical realism element which exists within each section of the novel. Phenomena about magical realism and its element recently becomes new trend in research and analysis sector. In this study, there are differences rather than previous study. Other studies commonly used the theory from Wendy B. Faris which focus on five elements of magical realism. However, this study uses Maggie Ann Bowers' theory which only focuses on magical power.

1.2 Research Questions

Regarding the focus of the study, the main questions will be foregrounded as follows:

1. What are magical powers portrayed in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*?
2. How do magical powers influence main character's life in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research questions above, the writer has several objectives to follow:

1. To discover the magical power which exists in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.
2. To explain how magical powers influence the main character's life in Mitch Albom's *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

Theoretically, this study gives valuable contribution to the development of magical realism especially which concern on magical power and its phenomena within literary work.

Practically, the findings of this study give obvious explanation about what magical realism is, so that the reader can readily understand the concept of magical power in magical realism. In addition this study can be a reference for further readers who are interested to analyze the same theory of magical realism.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is the magical realism theory particularly in magical power. This study focuses on magical powers portrayed in the novel entitled *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* by Mitch Albom.

The limitation of this study only focuses on the utterances of the characters and the narrator which dealing with magical power's existence within the novel.