

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five parts of the introduction. Those are the background of the study, statement of the research problems, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and the scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Satire is a term that often used to criticize, ridicule, mock, and quip person, people, or objects that become a matter for someone. From the past until these days, many satirist using satire in their work in order to convey problems happen surround them which mostly comes from social problems. According to Gilbert Highet, “Where other patterns of literature tend sometimes to be formal remote, satire is free, easy, and direct” (2015:3). It means that through the form of satire, someone or individuals can freely ridicule the object they aimed. Satire is a literary device used to criticize something in life. That means satire can be classified under the coverage of postmodernism, in case of postmodern is a term which close to social reality and criticism. It is in line with literature is a mirror of human life, because it represents daily life of human being. Many aspects can be represented as a literature, and it can be written in form of plays, poets, or even novels. There have been many novelists who write their works using satire to quip about something happening in real life. For example, Emma Healey which slightly including satire in her works. She writes satire itself to criticize social issues in society.

Emma Healey's first novel, *Elizabeth is Missing* (2014), got an annual Costa Book Award for the best First Novel in the same year of the launch of her book as the debut novel. Following her first work, she wrote another novel entitled *Whistle in The Dark* in 2018. What makes novel *Whistle in The Dark* interesting is, the way Emma delivers the concept of satire in her narration. The novel is written in light and easy-understand way, but still flicking the reader with the reality of the society which actually happens in real life. Moreover, Healey uses her own surrounds as an inspiration.

Healey's second novel, *Whistle in The Dark*, narrates about mother-daughter relationship between Jen and Lana. Jen, a mother whose daughter was lost when they had holiday, and Lana, 15-years-old daughter who was lost for four days in Peak District. After Lana was found and taken to the hospital, Jen feels something wrong happened to her daughter. However, Lana keeps silent, she does not want to tell her experience. She always say that she does not remember. That makes Jen feels worthless as mother, and have to do anything to make her daughter back. After the family return to London, everything happen as usual. Their family act normal as nothing happen because Lana does not want to remember anything. However, Jen is still uncomfortable with that condition. She feels very anxious that Lana has been being hurt by someone. On the other hand, Lana's sister, Meg, who claims herself as a lesbian, makes an insemination pregnant with her friend, Tom, and she break up with her girlfriend. Meg feels like jealous for the attentions that all-going to Lana, yet she still try to understand her family condition at the time. Then, the next story is about how Jen try to

discover what happens behind the four-losing-day that Lana has been experienced, and fix the relationship between her and her two daughters.

From the short synopsis above, it can be seen that the novel is full of interesting problems from the society's life that can be analyzed. For example, queer issue which is roled by Meg, mental illness which is roled by Lana, and anxiety which is roled by Jen as a mother. Healey seems to satirize those social issues in her work. *Whistle in The Dark* was published in 2018. In that case, there is no previous studies using *Whistle in The Dark* as a source of data before. However, some researchers from the past using the concept of satire and its elements as their basic theory, such as in "*The Uses of Satire in Fiction: an Analysis of Wahome Mutahi's Three Days on The Cross and The Jail Bugs*" (2000) by Wasike Chris J. C., "*Getting The Joke: The Efficacy of Science Fiction for Social Satire in Kurt Vonnegut's Cat's Cradle—with Perspective Gained from Herman Melville's Bartleby, The Scrivener*" (2015) by Ren Osouli, "*Satire and Symbolism in Bleak House*" (1958) by Louis Crompton, "*Satirical Methods in Eight Novels of Evelyn Waugh*" (1951) by Joseph Thomas McIntyre, "*Contrivance, Artifice, and Art: Satire and Parody in The Novels of Patrick White*" (2005) by James Harold Wells-Green, "*Satire in Edward Albee's The American Dream*" (2007) by Frumensius Sonachir Huterlan Ampur, "*A Study on Satire Towards Society Through The Four Characters' Attitude in Austen's Northanger Abby*" (2003) by Fatma Widhiarti, "*An Analysis of Political Satire of Sentilan Sentilun on MetroTV*" (2005) by Junaidi, and "*Satire and Parody in The*

Fiction of Thomas Love Peacock and The Early Writings of William Makepeace Thackeray” (2004) by Mary Elizabeth Contree.

The concept of satire has been developing. Satirical literature can be categorized as Horatian, Juvenalian, or Menippean. Nowadays, many literatures take the Menippean as the way to satirize. Northrop Frye said that “Novelist sees evil and folly as social diseases, but the Menippean satirist sees them as diseases of intellect” (2000:309). It shows that someone who understand the way satirical literature delivered, is an intellectual person.

Satire is one of elements of postmodern and it links with the social condition of people nowadays, meanwhile postmodern itself is closely related with criticism and social terms. This study focuses on the satirical elements in *Whistle in The Dark*, because it provides suitable data for this study. In this study, the writer will analyze several social problems that being satirized, such as social issues happened in the society. Based on the explanation above, the writer uses “Satire in Emma Healey’s *Whistle in The Dark*: Postmodern Study” as the title of this study.

1.2 Statement of Research Question

In line with the background of the study, the research questions will be formulated as follow:

1. What social issues are satirized in *Whistle in The Dark*?
2. How are the social issues satired in *Whistle in The Dark*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Related to the statement of research questions, this study is intended to:

1. Identify the social issues which are being satirized in Emma Healey's *Whistle in The Dark*.
2. Explicate Healey's ways in satirizing the social issues in *Whistle in The Dark*.

1.4 Significances of The Study

Theoritically, this study is expected to give a better understanding about Social Satire which is oftenly used in literary work.

Practically, this study supposed to give a contribution for the next study which analyzes a similar theory or source of data, especially for the students of English Department.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study will be focused on how satire reflected in social environment of people's life in novel *Whistle in The Dark* by Emma Healey. This study will be limited on analyzing the characters' utterances and also the narration of the narrator of the novel describing the society's life being satirized. The theory used in this study is mostly proposed by Gilbert Highet.