

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This introduction consists of five subchapters. The first is the background of the study. The second is the statement of the research questions. The third is the objectives of the study. The fourth is significance of the study and the scope and limitation of the study as the last.

1.1 Background of the study

Masculinity is basically a concept that has the same basic goals as patriarchy which is to get the highest or superior position in society. However, masculinity has different way from patriarchy. Masculinity is more concerned with its position remains safe, while patriarchy is not. One way is to build the image of men who cannot be refused such as responsible and ruling while the depiction of women in masculinity is the contradiction to the identity of male masculinity image such as weak, easy to cry, sensitive and others that make them seem beneficial to men.

Masculinity itself is built from gender problems that have occurred in society. In the past, the problem of the gender often occurred such as the violence against women which was caused by men who feel powerful and have the right to do anything to women at that time. It was caused by the disparity of rights between men and women. The patriarchal system is one of the triggers of these gender problems because patriarchy implements coercion and pressure in order to get the top position from female subordinates. As Millethas emphasized, that "Patriarchal

system has been used to referring male domination and the power relationships by which men dominate women. It means that the patriarchal system is a way for men to dominate women or to make them gender-coordinated. (Millet, 2000:25)

However, Today, As time goes by, subordinated women which is often being subordinated by men begin to oppose the patriarchy system. They claim equality on the right between men and women. This is something that is not easy to avoid and this is also agreed by Connell's statement that "everyday life is an arena of gender politics, not an escape from it (Connell, 2005:3). Therefore, in this period the patriarchy system could no longer be easily applied in society or begin to be threatened in its position. Hence, it is not surprising that the patriarchal system is replaced by masculinity. Undeniably, the construction of masculinity also appears in several literary works such as novels. Many novels with various genre play an active role to describe the image of masculinity of an ideal male. One of the genre that contain the ideal male image is detective fiction. In detective fiction novels, usually, a man is portrayed as well as ideal men. Smart, meticulous and rational are some examples of the characteristics of the male image in detective fiction novels. One famous detective fiction writer is Agatha Christie. Christie has written so many novels with detectives fiction genre, for example, *The Mysterious Affair at Style*, *The Secret Adversary*, *Murder on the Links*, *Cards on the Table*, *A Murder is Announced*, *Crooked House*, *Death in the Clouds*, *The Five Little Pig*, *Curtain*, *Murder in The Mews*, *Murder Is Easy*, *Hercule Poirot's Christmas*, *Three Act Tragedy*, *The Listerdale Mystery*, *Parker Pyne Investigates* and so many else. According to *Guinness World Records (2007)*,

Agatha Christie is a writer on the list of "The most translated authors. This certainly illustrates that Christie has attracted the interest of readers from all corners of the world, including the writer of this study. One of Christie's works that are interesting and displaying many of male images is *A.B.C Murders*. *A.B.C Murders* tells the story of detective Hercule Poirot and his colleague Arthur Hasting in solving the mystery of the "A.B.C" murder case. In addition, Most of the characters in this novel are male. They also play important roles during the story and the evidence of the contributions of the important role male characters in *A.B.C Murders*. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing this novel.

To analyze this novel, the writer was used the theory of masculinity based on R. W. Connell. The reason why the theory of masculinity by R.W. Connell was used because this theory clearly explains the masculinity that exists in the novel *A.B.C Murders*. Although the purpose of this study is to explore the depiction of the construction of male characters masculinity in the novel, it does not rule out the possibility of discussing female characters in this case because the element of masculinity is precisely not only in men but also women and Connell also argued that "masculinity does not exist except in contrast with 'femininity.' A culture that does not treat women and men as bearers of polarized character type, at least in principle, does not have a concept of masculinity in the sense of modern European/American culture". (Connell, 2005:68)

There are five results of the study that analyze the same source of data. Early researches on the novel have focused on many aspects. It starts from the linguistics aspect: language and the culture in translation, *Hedge Expression on*

The Novel of ABC Murder by Agatha Christie in Two Decades Versions (Ilham Bulkani; Saifullah Darlan, 2016) and *Cognitive-Linguistic Manipulation and Persuasion* (Alexander, Marc Ganriel, 2006). Next, researcher more focused on how Aghata Christie in *A.B.C murders* write the story such as The murders method, motive, the way characters make mistakes (Slamova, 2014, on how formula of the classical detective exist through the *A.B.C Murders* (Hidayat,2004), and *The detective ambition, psychogenic needs*, (Nofianti,2016). But none of the studies or the writers analyzed the depicted of the construction of the gender aspect especially masculinity study of *The A.B.C Murders* novel. That is the reason why the writer used masculinity theory proposed by R. W. Connell in Agatha Christie's novel, *The A.B.C Murders* with the title "Constructing Masculinity in Aghata Christie's novel, *A.B.C Murders*."

1.2 Research Problem

Related to the background of the study, the statement of the research problem can be formulated as follow :

1. What masculinities that exist in *A.B.C Murders* ?
2. How are masculinities constructed in *A.B.C murders* male Characters?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Concerning with the preceding research question, this research are attempt to :

1. Explore the existence of masculinities in *A.B.C Murders*
2. Elaborate masculinity construction in *A.B.C Murders* male Characters.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of this study focused on the R.W. Connell theory about Masculinity towards Male characters in *A.B.C Murders*. This study limits in *A.B.C Murders* character's utterance, the author's narration in sources of data and other information to contribute in this study like document, article, etc.

1.5 Significance of the study

In this study, there are two significant differences. The first is theoretical significance which explains the connection between the findings and the existing theory that was used in this research as the theoretical framework. The second is practical significance which explains the benefits of the findings of this study to other researchers or the reader.

1. Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge about toward male characters in *A.B.C Murders* novel by Agatha Christie in which the writer applying masculinity theory proposed by R.W. Connell as the theoretical.
2. Practically, this study builds upon to give a contribution to the reader or researchers for the next study which analyze the same source of data or theory. It is hoped this study will inspire further study especially to English literature students who are concerned in analyzing literature.