

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which covers background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

In the daily life, people can imagine about something and it has been a part of human habit. Most people imagine because they do not have any kinds of activities, gets stress, or their reality life is not like what they want. In the society, imagining is unusual and still strange, but sometimes most people make imagining as their habit. They imagine because they can feel free to manage what they want. Surely, almost all of people in the world have ever imagined in their life. Imagination can make us satisfied because they will be free to imagine everything that they want. Therefore, life is not only about reality, but also illusion. It is in line with Stein's statements about illusion as follows.

Illusion is defined as a perception that represents what is perceived in a way different from the way it is in reality. An illusion is a false mental image or conception which may be a misinterpretation of a real appearance or may be something imagined. It may be pleasing, harmless, or even useful (Stein, 1982: 662).

It is clear that impossible thing that still exists in real world can be called as an illusion. It makes most people use it to imagine something. Therefore, it shows that illusion has close relationship with a imagination. From the Stein's statement above clarifies that illusion still exists in people imagination. It can be pleasing, harmless, or even useful.

An example of illusion is Magic. Magic can be impossible thing that happens in real world and it is can influence the people's mind. Magic is almost same with a religion. This statement is proposed by Marcel Mauss' describing that "Magic, like religion, is viewed as a totality; either you believe in it all, or you do not" (Mauss, 1972: 91). The people can believe it or not, it depends on each people's perception.

In literary works magic genre can be interpreted based on the reader who read the literary work. The readers determine the theory which will be used to analyze literary works. This statement is also followed by Tyson's statement below.

Every literary work can be interpreted using every critical framework, most works lend themselves more readily to some frameworks than to others, and the attempt to read a text using an incompatible framework can be a relatively fruitless endeavor that risks distorting elements of the text, the theory, or both, as we try to make them fit each other (Tyson, 2006: 5).

Nowadays, magic genre is an interesting part in the fiction story. Fiction story as one of the major genres literary works has some genres, such as romance, adventure, fantasy and horror. One of the newest genre in fiction story is magical realism. According to the Bower (2004), magical realism navigates the

complexities of one of today's most popular genres within literature, art and film. It means that nowadays the most contemporary trend of international fiction stories is magical realism. Magical realism is one of genres of literary work which become interesting to be analyzed, because it combines two opposite things, magic and real.

According to Tzvetan Todorov magic is the fragility of the limit between matter and mind which not in any explicit way the domain of spirit or mystery (Faris: 2004). It tells about magic and reality, fantasy beyond reality. It means that both of them are two opposite things. Hence, the combination between magic and reality is called magical realism.

One of literary works which deals with about magical realism is Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*. It is undoubtedly a very exciting novel to analyze. It was published in January, 2005. This novel also gets some literary award, those are; the first is World Fantasy Award for Best Novel (2006), the second is Independent Foreign Fiction Prize Nominee for Longlist (2006), the third is PEN Translation Prize for Philip Gabriel (2006), then Deutscher Jugendliteraturpreis Nominee for Preis der Jugendjury (2005), and the last is Tähtifantasia Award (2010).

The *Kafka on the Shore* novel by Haruki Murakami's is about a 15 years old boy, Kafka Tamura, who runs away from home to escape, or perhaps, to fulfill, a strange family curse. It's also about an elderly man with the uncanny ability to talk to cats, who goes on a journey to find and do something he doesn't quite

know yet. This novel tells about interesting thing that is history of world war II become the Japanese got unusual thing reflected magical realism.

Based on the content in the Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*, it is appropriate to analyze the novel by using Magical Realism theory especially focusing on five elements of Wendy B. Faris' concept to find out whether the novel can be regarded as magical realism or not.

As a basis for investigating the nature and cultural work of magical realism, I suggest five primary characteristics of the mode. First, the text contains an "irreducible element" of magic; second, the descriptions in magical realism detail a strong presence of the phenomenal world; third, the reader may experience some unsettling doubts in the effort to reconcile two contradictory understandings of events; fourth, the narrative merges different realms; and, finally, magical realism disturbs received ideas about time, space, and identity (Faris, 2004:7).

According to the Faris' statement above, Faris' argues that those five characteristics can be used determine whether literary work from Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore* belong to magical realism or not. The five elements of Wendy B. Faris' concept are first, irreducible element, the second is the phenomenal world, the third is the unsettling doubts, fourth is merging realism, and finally, magical realism disturbs received ideas about time, space, and identity (Faris: 2004).

Furthermore, there are some previous studies that analyze literary works using same theories, magical realism. Those are *Magic Realism in Gabriel Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude* By BJ Geetha (2010), *Elements of Magic Realism: A Reading of Gabriel Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude*

and Salman Rushdie's Midnight's Children By N. Ramesh Candra Srikanth (2014), *Realisme Magis dalam Novel Beloved* Karya Toni Morrison By Niko Fedianto (2014), *Dreaming in Isolation: Magical Realism in Modern Japanese Literature* By Ida Mayer (2011) and *Magical Realism in Audrey Niffenegger's The Time Traveler's Wife* By Emi Asmida (2018) .

The previous studies above are different from the present study. This study discusses about magical realism in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*. Their differences this study will be discussed in the chapter II. This study use the literary work from Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore* focuses in the theory of magical realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept. Therefore, this study is not same as the previous study above.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

From the explanation of the background of the study above, the questions are formulated as follows:

1. What elements of magical realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept are portrayed in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*?
2. How is the historical world war II reflect Magical realism in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

From the statement of the questions above, the objectives of study are:

1. To reveal what elements of magical realism of Wendy B. Faris' concept are portrayed in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*.

2. To discover how is the historical world war II reflect magical realism in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

There are two significances of the studies. The first is theoretical significance of the study and the second is practical significance of the study.

The first is theoretical significance of the study is expected to make the reader understanding about the theory of magical realism especially in five elements of Wendy B. Faris' concept. Then this study also expected to enrich more references and knowledges to the reader who want to take this theory. This study will give more inspirations to the reader who intends to analyze literary work using Magical Realism especially for students of University of Trunojoyo Madura who take literature as their concentration.

Then, practical significance of the study is expected to be able to give more knowledge about magical realism to the readers, especially for the English Study Program students of University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discusses magical realism in *Kafka on the Shore* novel by Haruki Murakami that published in January, 2005. The scope of this study is theory of magical realism especially of Wendy B. Faris' concept. Then, the limitation of this study are the author's narrations and the characters' utterances in Haruki Murakami's novel entitled *Kafka on the Shore* which are related to the research questions.