

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents important sub-chapters to be discussed in this study, namely the background of the research, problem statements, research objectives, research significance, and the scope and limits of the study.

1.1. Background of The Study

Literary works are art products in the form of text. There are various kinds of literary works, such as prose, poetry, short stories, and novels. This is a reflection of human life. Developments in literary works will not occur without the influence and events of society. One of the developments in literary works is the emergence of gothic literature such as the presence of monster or spirits. Gothic genre is a literary work that aims to make readers feel afraid because they always imagine the horror storyline that has been read. Therefore, in process of writing Gothic novels are used to fill the horrifying in the reader though. "Gothic genre was calculated to keep a fearful reader awake at night". (Roger, 1987:313). In this case, it is an important element in the writing of Gothic literature. The fearful atmosphere is obtained not only on the plot but also the setting of the story.

Gothic stories are a collection of features that make the mind creepy and frightening. The emphasis on gruesome portrayals, prominent supernatural uses, general insistence on ancient arrangements, the presence of highly stereotypical characters and attempts to spread and perfect literary tension techniques are the

most important in writing. Even in David Punter's book *The Literature of Terror* (1980) - ignited expansion in the study of Gothic that includes and opens various critical approaches that collectively make Gothic come alive (like Frankenstein creatures) as important, multi-layered, and in-depth schemes symbolic to deal with most of the mental fundamentals of western culture and concerns. Hence, gothic writing is written in various forms so that readers can understand where the gothic is raised.

Gothic literature is devoted to stories about terror, horror, and supernatural powers. These forces can be called the dark side of man, meaning that human desire is irrational and destructive. This is caused by human desire that cannot be achieved by his own efforts so that it involves other creatures to help him. Problems like this are marked by the presence of events that are not fair and present excessive character. Agnieszka (2017: 3) state that "Radcliffe wrote a type of Gothic fiction is sometimes referred to as 'explained supernatural' because supernatural events that look very valuable to be found have rational explanations". This idea means that supernatural creatures can be proven rationally, sometimes gothic stories are written because there is a real event. Therefore, writing gothic stories is recommended to be able to attract the attention of readers to enter the story.

In Contrast, gothic literature was written to foster readers' fears and curiosity about the identities of supernatural beings and the signs of their existence. Therefore, this theory is interesting to research because this theory can be applied to a literary work that discusses a mysterious or horror story but also

presents a romantic story that makes the reader luxuriate and fosters curiosity related to the next story.

In fact, gothic literature is aimed at everyone both adults and children. Gothic stories aimed at adults are usually more scary and real. Consequently the story served is not monotonous and seems ordinary. Thus, the form of literary work must be in accordance with the current level of development and knowledge of adults. Gothic characters must also be portrayed in eerie details, even to the point where the reader is always overshadowed and frightened when he wants to sleep after reading the gothic story. If that can be proven, then that story is an extraordinary gothic story.

In addition, gothic stories are also designed for children who aim to form independent characters and assume monster are forms that are not real. "Monster have existed in myths, legends and folklore for thousands of years. While most people accept that monster aren't real, many insist that they exist. Some even claim to have met them" (Eppard, John. 2013 p. 4). That means there are two opinions about monster, some people assume that monster are real forms and even see the shape directly and some people think monster are forms that are not real in order to form an independent and brave attitude. therefore, there are gothic stories also written for children.

Children will feel happy if they read the gothic genre because it is full of anxiety and offers many opportunities to practice inference as well. This makes children interested and love gothic stories. Usually, Gothic stories have horror

and spooky elements. Gothic stories for children are not more cruel than adults, but they tend to be creepy and mysterious. One example of a gothic story for children is *Zombelina Dancing Nutcracker*, by Kristyn Crow and Molly Idle. This story explains about Zombelina, a zombie girl who is good at dancing but in a scary and scary style. However, when he joined the ballet team, it turns out he really had stage fright. Readers will be frightened in a pleasing way by the sinister illustrations that accompany interesting and unusual text or delightful macabre humor.

Monster is one of the characteristics in Gothic literature. Monster in people's perspective is bad characters but don't apply to all people. For the most part, Monster is portrayed as evil creatures. Over time there are also stupid monster, good monster, even funny monster. But the name "monster" will always be terrible if heard by the human ear. Moreover, the teasing and haunting humans is their job but the monster in this novel is only wishful thinking or imagination from the public. That caused the writer to be interested in doing research in the novel *All The Missing Girls*.

This thesis uses a novel entitled *All The Missing Girls* from Megan Miranda as source of data. The author was a scientist, and a middle school teacher before deciding to write, which emerged from his interest in scientific mysteries - especially those related to the brain. Miranda lives near Charlotte, North Carolina, who graduated from MIT with a degree in biology, intended to pursue a career in biotechnology. Instead, she became a successful fiction author whose book *All the Missing Girls* is a New York Times best seller. Both careers

share a trial-and-error approach to achieving success, she believes. Megan Miranda created many works besides *All The Missing Girls* (2016), there are also some works in example *The Last House Guest* (2019), and *The Perfect Stranger* (2017).

This novel is very interesting to study because its plot is twist - intentionally twisted so that it gives a surprise effect. Besides, this novel tells about mysterious and horror stories so that gothic theory is very suitable to be applied with this novel. The gothic element in this study contains issue about the existence of monster that occur due to mysterious murder.

Megan Miranda has written *All the Missing Girls*, which tells woman who disappeared without knowing why until ten years later it was followed by a woman disappeared without a trace. During their disappearance, some of their friends and communities thought they were eaten by monster in a haunted cave in the middle of the forest. Then, an investigation was carried out regarding this case for fear that there would be more female victims. Until it was discovered that leaving them was caused by a murder that came out of retaliation.

Previously, there have been studies using gothic literature by Bc. Zaneta Skalošová conducted research on "Monster and monstrosity in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*" explaining the concept and identity of monster in *Frankenstein's* novel. This research also discusses various interpretations of monster and also discusses some features that define monster such as murder, fear, threats, hatred,

misery, and sadness. The second part of this thesis defines what kind of monstrosity is represented by the characters and writers in this novel.

Therefore, this study is used gothic literature, because the source of data from Megan Miranda's *All The Missing Girls* is influenced by Monster and Monstrosity perspective. This novel had never been researched before either thesis or journal form.

1.2. Research Question

Based on the background of the research and the focus of the study, the writer wants to conduct research by stating the following research questions:

1. How do the monster and monstrosity revealed in the *All The Missing Girls* novel?
2. How do people react to the problem about the existence of monster and monstrosity in the *All The Missing Girls* novel?

1.3. Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the previous research questions, the purpose of this study aims to:

1. To identify how do the monster and monstrosity revealed in the novel *All The Missing Girls*.
2. To recognize how people react to problems about the existence of monster and monstrosity in the *All The Missing Girls* novel.

1.4. Significant of Study

There are two important points from this study: Theoretical and Practical Contributions.

1. Theoretically, this research is expected to be able to contribute to literary critics, especially in the development of gothic literary approaches.
2. Practically, this research provides information to readers that the rules in writing Gothic stories are indeed made mysterious. Sometimes, many readers can not conclude the story. Therefore, the rules are made by the writer solely in order to the reader can feel the story in them. This study can be used as a reference for other researchers to analyze other novels using the Gothic literature approach by Fred Botting, especially for students majoring English at University of Trunojoyo Madura. This study can also provide various knowledge for other researchers who will analyze literary works using gothic theory. From this research, researchers will show how monster appear and how people react to monster in the *All The Missing Girls* novel.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the boundary of the gothic story by Megan Miranda using Fred Botting's theory of gothic literature studies on the perspective of monster and monstrosity. This is to find out gothic features created by the writer through Gothic stories. Gothic story taken from Megan Miranda, entitled *All The Missing Girls*. The limitation of this study is to analyze the gothic literature in the *All The Missing Girls* novel that answers research questions.