

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the basics of this research. It consists of the study background, research questions, research objectives, research significance, and research scope.

1.1 Study Background

In this era, science and technology not only have an influence on the social thinking and society life, but also are very influential on works of art and literature. In England, during the Victorian period, beginning with the outbreak of education, scientific journals, and laboratories had brought influential attitudes to public thought, literature, and art (Parrinder, 1979: 68). This means that science and technology play a role in the development of literature, For example science fiction. One interesting factor of science fiction is its ability to bring fantasy robots or cyborgs to the world of science and technology and incorporate them into stories, giving rise to futuristic impressions as human views and fantasies about the future when science and technology develop more or dominate humans.

Discussing technology and science, often in sci-fi futuristic there is the character “Cyborg” and we are familiar with it. A cyborg is a cybernetic organism, a hybrid of a machine and organism, a creature of social reality as well as a creature of fiction (Haraway 1985 :35). The meaning of cyborg is a combination of living things both human and animal with machine tools and electronics whose body functions are assisted or depend on machine tools. The

development of cyborgs in the modern era is also consistent with Bruno Latour's famous book, 'We have never been modern' (Latour: 1991). According to Latour, every material or immaterial entity has the potential to be a character because of the strength that is put together to associate and build relationships. And what happens to the cyborg character Abby in the novel *The Perfect Wife* can replace humans and also Abby robot has the same value as humans.

J.P Delaney's or Anthony Capella's was the author of *The Perfect Wife*. This novel is his work after he published the novel "*The Girl Before*" which sold well in 2017 from the history of the novel he was working on. In addition before he make *The Perfect Wife* novel he also makes other novels such as *Believe me* (2018), *Playing nice* (2020), *Chemistry for Beginners* (2009), *The Various Flavors of Coffee* (2008), *The Wedding Officer* (2006), *Tell Me Lies* (2003), *The Food of Love* (2001), *The Death Pit* (1999), *The Poison Tree* (1997) and many more. The novel he released recently in 2019, tells the story of Abby as the main character at the beginning of the story, she wakes up from a long coma with a diagnosis of Amnesia. When Abby woke up, someone named Tim told her that Abby was his wife and they had a child named Danny. Over time Tim explained everything that Abbie had before the coma, Tim also invited Abbie to the place where they first met, first date, made love and also married. Tim explained every detail of his life journey with Abbie and with the hope that Abbie can remember that time again. He also takes Abbie to vacation, they went to places that they often visited. Tim at that time really made Abbie very happy and she started to love Tim. But after Abbie believed in Tim, Abbie began to be curious and

interesting with Tim. She searches about Tim in her own way and Abbie then finds out that she is actually a Cyborg or a companion robot. She investigated how she was created and the purpose. After that she discovered what really happened to her, to Tim, Tim's company and what happened to the real Abbie or Abbie human. As long as he only woke up from a coma until the end of the story, the Abbie robot has replaced the original Abbie who reportedly disappeared and may have died 5 years ago. She behaves like a normal human. For this research, the writer wants to discuss how a robot that is made similar to Abbie could replace the real Abbie,s existence by analyzing *The Perfect Wife* novel using Cyborgism theory.

This research would use the Cyborgism theory by Donna Harraway written in 1985 which Harraway discusses the myths, hybrids, and cyborgs. Harraway explained that cyborgs have a body, a physical, and several parts that are illustrated and connected with several human subjects. Like having a body, sound, thoughts and objects that belong to humans. With statements made by Harraway on her theory, therefore the writer uses her theory for this study. This study would be focused on how robots with artificial intelligence can replace the roles and activities of normal humans.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the previous background of study, the research questions are:

1. How is the main cyborg character able to replace the role of human in the novel *The Perfect Wife*?

2. How is human-cyborg portrayed in the novel *The Perfect Wife*?

1.3 Objectives Of The Study

Based on the research questions above, the researcher decided that the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe how the main cyborg character is able to replace human role in the novel *The Perfect Wife*.
2. To describe human-cyborg portrayed in the novel *The Perfect Wife*.

1.4 Significance Of The Study

This research has expected to bring theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the results of this study are expected to be able to enrich the reader's knowledge of cyborgism and theories that lead to sci-fi, Artificial Intelligence, Technology related to literature. Practically, it is hoped to be one example of how to analyze novels using the Cyborgism approach that is rarely used in the English literature thesis. For the community, it is hoped that after reading and studying this research, it is hoped that society can adapt in the modern era where human positions or things that humans can do can also be done by artificial intelligence that can have positive and negative impacts.

The writer also hopes that the results of this research can be used for the English department, Faculty of Social and Cultural Sciences, University of Trunojoyo Madura as one of the references in studying literary work.

In this study, the writer would discuss cyborgism issues which represented through the story in the main character of the novel *The Perfect Wife* by J.P Delaney. Abby is a robot or Cyborg with AI or Artificial Intelligence. The analysis of this study will be limited to discussing the reason how cyborg characters in this novel take over human role as represented in character's utterances and writer's narration.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer would discuss cyborgism issues which represented through the story in the main character of the novel *The Perfect Wife* by J.P Delaney. Abby is a robot or Cyborg with AI or Artificial Intelligence. The analysis of this study will be limited to discussing the reason how cyborg characters in this novel take over human role as represented in character's utterances and writer's narration.