

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five subchapters, these are the background of the study, the statements of the research question, objectives of the study, the significances, scope and the limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an imaginative work or a reflection of a reality that describes human expressions in the form of oral or written works based on opinions, thoughts, experiences, and feelings. The results of the author's imagination will be express in their literary works such as novel, short story, poem, drama etc. The author's imagination or creative ideas have an important role in inspiring his work. Wellek and Warren (2017) says that;

“The term "literature" seems best If we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. There are certain difficulties with so employing the term; but, in English, the possible alternatives, such as "fiction" or "poetry," are either already pre-empted by narrower meanings or, like "imaginative literature" or *belles lettres*> are clumsy and misleading. One of the objections to "literature" is its suggestion (in its etymology from Utera) of limitation to written or printed literature; for, clearly, any coherent conception must include "oral literature." (Warren, 2017, p. 10).

A novel is a narrative work of fiction prose that tells about certain human experiences over a long period of time (Prahl, 2019). Novels is literary works in the form of long narrative prose and contains intrinsic and extrinsic elements, and there is a series of stories about the life of a characters and the people involved in the story. Several major subgenres tend to generate large volumes of product sales,

although there are many other genres or mixed genres out there. Some of the major novel types you may need to know about (Prahl, 2019): Mystery Novel, Science Fiction and Fantasy, Horror/thriller novels, Romance, Historical Fiction and Realist Fiction.

According to Abram (2009), The term "novel" is now applied to various kinds of writings which only share the same characteristics as works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from short stories and intermediate works called novelette; its magnitude allows for greater character variation, greater plot complexity, development of stronger environments, and more continuous exploration of characters and motifs than the shorter, more concentrated modes (Abrams, 2009). From the statement above, novel is applied to various types of writing which only have the same characteristics as works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, novels are distinguished from short stories and from intermediate works called novelette which have a larger version of the character, greater plot complexity, and a stronger development environment.

The author uses the character to perform actions and can also bring the character through many problems in various situations such as conflicts between protagonist and antagonist characters. According to Barnet (1988), Characters always appear in literary works such as novels, poetry, and drama. One of the important elements in literary works is character, especially in the novel. According to Abrams (1982), a figure appearing in a prose narrative or novel is interpreted by the reader as a person who has certain moral qualities and inclinations such as what is expressed, what is said, and what he does is called a character. Character is also important to dominate the whole story in a literary work. There are two types of

characters; major characters, such as protagonist and antagonist. While minor characters, such as foil, static, dynamic, flat, round, and stock. In literary works, there is a characterization. Characterization is a literary device used to highlight and explain details about the characters in a story. These two types of characterization; direct or telling characterization and indirect or showing characterization.

Kelly Barnhill's novel with the title *The Girl Who Drank The Moon* is one of the literary works chosen by the writer for analysis. *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* by Kelly Barnhill is a children's novel published in 2016. This novel is very interesting to analyze because there are many unique characters, such as a kind-hearted witch, a kind-hearted monster, and a dragon as small as a dove. Based on several considerations, The writer chose this novel to be analyzed for several reasons. The novel received several awards, one of which received a rating of 4.7 on Amazon, and 4.10 on Goodreads, this shows that Kelly Barnhill has succeeded in creating interesting characters and plots, so that many people are interested in reading it.

Besides, this novel also received six awards in 2016; first is An Entertainment Weekly Best Middle-Grade Book, second is A New York Public Library Best Book, third is A Chicago Public Library Best Book, fourth is An Amazon Top 20 Best Book, fifth is A Publishers Weekly Best Book, and the last is A School Library Journal Best Book. In 2017, the novel also received award, namely Newbery medal-winning book. Not only novels, Kelly also wrote short stories, essays, and poetry. She is also the author of the novels, such as *Witch's Boy*, *Iron-Hearted Violet*, and then the novella *The Unlicensed Magician*. Besides, Kelly was also a finalist for the Minnesota Book Award, and the Andre Norton Award.

Kelly Barnhill was born in Minneapolis. She is also an American writer for children's literature, such as fantasy, science fiction, and also she also got many achievements such as won the Parents Choice Gold Award, the World Fantasy Award, the Charlotte Huck Honor, and also the McKnight Foundation in Children's Literature. Kelly Barnhill is America's best writer, one of her best works is *The Girl Who Drank The Moon*. The writer would find the personality of the major characters portrayed in this novel.

The Girl Who Drank The Moon novel tells about sacrifice, friendship, and courage, and sincerity. Every year the Protectorate village sacrifices a baby to a witch in the forest to keep their village safe. However, the witch was confused why the villagers every year leave babies in the forest. They do not know that witches are kind and helpful. Xan always took the baby to find adoptive parents in another village and take care of babies by feeding starlight. One day, Xan accidentally give the baby moonlight. Eventually the baby becomes a magic baby, so Xan decided to take care of the baby herself and the baby was named Luna. Xan did not take care of Luna alone but was assisted by Glerk and Friyan. Luna has such great magic that Xan blocked her magic and will open it at the age of 13 when Luna understands the meaning of kindness and is able to better control her emotions. However, Xan's condition was getting weaker from year to year.

Therefore, based on the story of the novel *The Girl Who Drank The Moon* above, the major characters in this novel are very interesting to be analyze using character theory according to Edgar V. Roberts is used to find out what personalities do the major characters of *The Girl Who Drank The moon*.

After understanding how are the major characters portrayed, this study also analyzes the characterization method used by the author to present, describe or explain the major characters presented by the author in this novel using the characterization method by M. H Abrams in his book *Glossary of Literary Terms (Seventh Edition)*.

1.2 Statements of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the research question is formulated as below:

1. What personalities do the major characters of *The Girl Who Drank The moon* have?
2. How are the major characters exposed in the novel *The Girl Who Drank The Moon*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statement of the research problems above, the objective of this research as follows:

1. To identify the personalities traits of the major characters of the novel *The Girl Who Drank The Moon*.
2. To describe how the major characters are exposed in the novel *The Girl Who Drank The Moon*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this research can have a good impact on the reader theoretically and practically.

- a) Theoretically, this study will give a better understanding of character theory and Hopefully, this analysis can enrich character analysis.

b) Practically, this study will guide us to understand what character is and readers can also understand that characters in a literary work have an important role. Characters also have the power to dominate the whole story. This study can provide a better understanding of the characters in a literary work to readers and especially other researchers. Hopefully this study can help the next writers to further develop studies that use similar studies.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research focused on analyzing the personalities do the major characters in the novel *The Girl Who Drank the Moon* using character theory by Edgar V. Roberts in his book *Writing Themes about Literature*. To analyze and describe how the major characters are exposed, the writer using the characterization method by M. H. Abrams in his book *A Glossary of Literary Terms/ Seventh Edition*.

In conducting this research, the writer must limit the analyzed data only analyze the major characters because this will help the writer in choosing which factors can be categorized into the scope of this research and which are not. There are four major characters chosen by the writer; Luna, Xan, Glerk and Fyrian.