

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five points. The first is the background of the study which discusses the reason for choosing the topic. The second point presents two research questions on the study. The third is objectives of the study which focus on explaining the purpose of the study. The fourth is the significances of the study which describes the use of the study. The last is scope and limitation bordering the discussion of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Heroism is the noblest act performed by a human being, it accepts physical danger or social sacrifice for the good of others (Allison, 2017, p. 2). In critical moments, a hero shows not only extraordinary courage, but also unwavering loyalty to the values of freedom and justice. They are willing to face high risks in the form of physical dangers or social pressure, in order to protect and help others. According to Allison (2017, p.2), heroism is also referred to as the pinnacle of human behavior, as it reflects the pinnacle of inspiring courage, loyalty, and altruism. So, it means that the heroic behavior not only changes things for the better but also inspires other to do the same, displaying the best qualities of humanity in the most challenging situations.

The concept of heroism is also expressed in the form of literary works which are used as a theme. In literary works, the characters of heroes are brought to life through narratives that describe their courage, sacrifice, and determination, so that readers can feel and understand the deep meaning of these heroic actions. Literary works with heroic themes not only entertains but also educates, inviting readers to reflect on the moral and ethical values represented by heroes, and motivating them to emulate these noble traits in real life. There is classic novel which has heroism theme and it connecting the concept of heroism in fictional stories and real life. For example, the novel by J.R.R. Tolkien, it has heroism theme (Korte & Lethbridge, 2017, p.22-23).

In any fiction, the story may not be complete in one book, it can be divided into a sequential story called a trilogy. Even so, a trilogy novel still has one

common theme with interconnected stories. *Shadow and Bone* is an example of a novel that has a long story about heroism and it is not enough to finish in one book. *Shadow and Bone* portrays the story of a fight to defend a territory from any kind of dominance by an underappreciated and forgotten people. The story revolves around a war between the Russian Empire and machine gun armies. The story continues and is completed in three series.

This novel was chosen by the writer as the source of data for this analysis. This analysis was taken because the novel *Shadow and Bone* by Leigh Bardugo contains a story about heroic actions. According to Korte & Lethbridge (2017, p.10), a hero, both male and female, has a projection space for dreams, ideals, and explorative fantasies as well as experimentation and operates in the border zone where conflict occurs. This novel talks of Alina's resistance in liberating and defending her native region, Os Kervo, from the clutches of the Shadow Fold, which is a form of The Darkling's attempt to control the area. The Darkling wants the Os Kervo people to become slaves to the Kingdom of Os Alta.

The writing style presented by Leigh Bardugo in the novel is amazing. This novel has a storyline under magical storytelling about hidden magic that is unknown by the individual who has it. *Shadow and Bone* also shows about despair, lies, betrayal, and reality, so this novel is very suitable to analyze using heroism theory. The main character in this novel is Alina Starkov, the girl with hidden magic. Meanwhile, this novel also has several minor characters which is equally important point out the story such as Malyen Oretsev, Baghra, and The Darkling.

This novel has been analyzed by two previous researchers. The first finding is the research conducted by Ravelyan Yulio Ragatama (2021), which analyzed the Alina Starkov's character development using new criticism theory which has the aim to explain to the readers about the characteristics of Alina Starkov. The other research is written by Nur Annissa Rose (2020), which analyzed the novel using space and time theory. It aims to show that the novel has the concepts of space and time to control its enemies. Therefore, the topic

chosen by the writer regarding the analysis of the heroic values of the characters performed in this novel is a completely new issue to analyze.

The issues underlined by the writer in this study of heroic values are analyzed using the heroism theory by Allison (2017). This theory is suitable to be used to analyze this novel based on the issue of heroic values. Everyone calls as hero if they have eight characteristics as described by Allison, which are intelligence, strength, selfless, caring, charismatic, resilience, reliability, and inspiring (Allison, 2017, p. 93). Meanwhile, the heroic values are also based on the character's personality. Therefore, this study also uses the theory of personality traits by Lauther (1998) to determine the personality of each character in the novel. The personality traits correlate the existence of the heroic values in accordance with the issues in this study.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, this study contains two questions as follows:

1. What kind of heroic values are performed by the characters in Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*?
2. How does the personalities influence the heroic values of the characters in Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to attempt the heroic values and personalities portrayed by the characters. The objectives of the study are:

1. To discover the heroic values that have been performed by the characters in Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*.
2. To describe the influence of personalities of the characters in the heroic values of the characters in Leigh Bardugo's *Shadow and Bone*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study concentrates on the New Criticism study of characters' heroic values and personality as a means of making a significant contribution of making theory of heroism theory and personality traits on the

research, particularly in the literature discipline. Moreover, it also supports the existence of using these theories in the study.

Practically, this study can contribute to the development of literary study, especially in the English Study Program at the Universitas Trunojoyo Madura. This study can be used as a consideration in finding a gap for the next researchers using the same novel. In addition, the writer hopes for further researchers who want to analyze the *Shadow and Bone* to use different theories and analyze from different sides, such as analysis of its magical side.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study only focused on analyzing Leigh Bardugo's novel, *Shadow and Bone* using the heroism theory. Many elements can be analyzed in the novel but the writer only limits the analysis on the personality of each character using the Theory of the heroic values of the character found in the novel using the Heroism Theory by Allison (2017) and the personalities of the character using the theory of personality traits by Lauther (1998). The writer also limits this study to only focus on three characters which portray the heroic values in this novel. They are Alina Starkov, Malyen Oretsev, and Baghra.