

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five subchapters; the background of the study, the research questions, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the scope and limitations of the study.

1.1. Background of the Study

In studying and understanding a novel, there are several aspects that build a novel itself. According to Kuiper (2012:4), one of the principal ways to analyze a novel is by examining the myriad devices of which it is built. Those are themes, character, setting, conflict, plot, and point of view. In a novel, all the elements are important to build a story and make it come to life. The theme is the general idea or message about life that is revealed through a novel. A character is a person, animal, or imaginary creature in a story. The setting is the time and place in a story. Conflict is a struggle between two opposing characters or forces. A plot is the organization of character and action in a work narrative or drama to achieve certain effects. Point of view is the opinions or feelings shown by individuals in a situation or an event.

Point of view is one of the important elements in literary work. According to Griffith (2010:45), point of view indicates the location (point) from which the narrator sees (views) everything in the narrative. The ability of the narrator to build a story by using which point of view becomes more interesting to the reader. It is because which type of point of view that is used by the narrator can affect the other elements. For example, when the narrator uses a limited point of view in the story, it can make the reader feel and see the inner conflict of the character or the conflict between the characters. Moreover, when the reader feels curious and makes their own opinion about the plot of the story, it can be said that the author succeeds in building a story as well as making it interesting to the reader. By understanding the type of point of view that is used, the writer can also analyze the other elements in the novel, including the plot.

According to Abrams (1999:224), plot is constituted by its events and

actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects. In other words, the plot is the relationship of cause and effect between many events inside the story. Culler (1997:84) said that there are two ways of thinking about plot. From an angle, plot is the method of shaping many events to make all of them into a genuine story. From another angle, the plot is shaped by narrative, as it presents the same story in different ways. It can be simplified that the plot is shaped by the narration of the narrator, it depends on the type of point of view that is used. So, the plot could be affected by the use of point of view types.

According to Culler (1997:85), plot is the material that is presented and ordered from a certain point of view by discourse (different versions of ‘the same story’). The point of view has a lot to do with the plot of the story because, in a way, it can improve the event developments. The way every event that happens in the story develops depends on how the point of view is used in the story. That is why point of view and plot are related and cannot be separated because point of view can influence the development of plot in a novel.

One novel that is interesting to analyze regarding the issue of the influence of point of view towards the plot development is a novel entitled *It Starts With Us* written by Colleen Hoover in 2022. This is a romance novel that talks about the complexities of divorce, domestic violence, and trauma. The story is written using the main characters’ point of view, Lily Bloom and Atlas Corrigan. Lily is a single parent that has experienced and traumatic domestic violence from her ex-husband who is an abusive and temperamental person. In the beginning of the story, she meets Atlas, her special person when she was a teenager, on the streets of Boston and they are running into each other unexpectedly. In Lily’s point of view, she promises to Atlas that she would text him, but she hesitates because her ex-husband is still around her. Meanwhile, from Atlas' point of view, he does not know about that. Atlas decides to text Lily first and bring her lunch. Then, the love story begins. In the middle of the story, there are many events, conflicts, and problems they face. Lily with all her traumatic of violence she has, and Atlas with all his family problems he has. The difference of thoughts, feelings, and actions between them, of course, shows in this part. Lily and Atlas sometimes have differences of thoughts and feelings on the events that happen. In the end, they try to solve all the problems

together until finally they get married and live together.

Since the story is written by using Lily and Atlas' points of view alternately in every chapter, the reader can see the different perspectives of Lily and Atlas in telling the story. By using their points of view, the reader is invited to explore the feelings and the things experienced by each of them. The use of these points of view, of course, affects the plot development in the story. The plot of the story is developed depending on how Lily and Atlas tell the story. Lily's perspective and Atlas' perspective in every event that happens are combined and make it become a full story in the novel. This is interesting because the use of the main characters' point of view can influence the plot development in the story. Based on the explanations above, the writer decides to analyze the influence of the main characters' point of view towards the plot development in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover.

Some studies have been conducted on analyzing the point of view and the plot in the novels. The first study was conducted by Sofyanti (2016) entitled "An Analysis of Point of View and Plot on Capote's *In Cold Blood*". This analysis shows that the author of the novel uses the omniscient point of view to develop the plot of the story. Then, there is a study that analyzes the use of more than one point of view in the novel. It was conducted by Andhara (2019) with the title "Multiple Points of View in Karen M. Mcmanus's *One of Us is Lying*". This study analyzes the novel based on the levels of point of view, and the writer found the different perspectives of the four main characters in the novel. Next, a study by Putri (2021) entitled "Point of View Analysis of *The Year of Miss Agness* by Kirkpatrick Hill". This study is conducted to analyze the point of view applied in the child novel *The Year of Miss Agness* and the result revealed that the novel uses the first-person point of view within the narration.

From the previous studies above, this is interesting to study further regarding the issue of the point of view and its influence on the plot in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover. This is because the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover uses the main characters' points of view that can affect the plot of the story. Also, there is no previous study that discusses this issue in the novel *It*

Starts With Us. To show the use of the point of view and how it affects the plot development in the novel, the writer used the theory from Kenney (1966) because the types of point of view and the plot structures are explained in detail. Therefore, the writer conducts the study under the title "The Influence of The Main Characters' Point of View towards Plot Development in The Novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover".

1.2.Research Questions

Regarding the background of the study explained by the writer above, the research questions of this study are:

1. What types of point of view are used in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover?
2. How does the use of main characters' point of view influence the plot development in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover?

1.3.Objective of the Study

Based on the research questions stated above, the writer tries to achieve the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To find out the types of points of view used in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover.
2. To analyze the influence of main characters' point of view towards the plot development in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover.

1.4.Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this study is hoped to improve knowledge in the literature field especially in the type of point of view and the plot development analysis. Practically, this study is expected to make the writer and the reader understand more about the types of point of view and its influence towards the plot development, and as an additional reference and information for further studies. In addition, the result of this study can have a positive impact and give a

contribution to literature study in general and a study of point of view and plot in specific.

1.5.Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the types of point of view used by two main characters in the novel *It Starts With Us* written by Colleen Hoover. This study also describes the influence of the main characters' point of view towards the plot development in the novel *It Starts With Us* by Colleen Hoover. In the limitation of the study, this study uses the theory proposed by Kenney (1966) in analyzing the types of point of view which consists of omniscient, limited, and combination or multiple points of view, and the plot structures which consists of the beginning, the middle, and the end.