

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five parts. They are background of the study, the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study, the significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Novel is one of literary genres that is written by an author to present human life. The differences between novel and other literary genre are its length and complexity. Novel is a kind of narrative prose which has long story and certain complexity. Novel is an imagination of human experience through sequence of events which is connected in a specific setting. The genre of a novel is broad, many types and styles. The genre of novel namely gothic, romance, realist, historical, etc (Burgess, 2014: 1).

Therefore, novel is the long form of a story based on human experience life. As a narrative prose, novel has intrinsic elements such as setting, plot, point of view, character, characterization, and theme. These intrinsic elements make novel more complex. Each of those intrinsic elements has a relation. For example, the presence of character is closely related to characterization because a character always has psychological condition which is different from other characters. Therefore, the presence of characterization has a key role in distinguishing one character with the other one. Psychological condition of the characters can be seen from their thoughts and behaviors.

This study attempts to analyze character's depression which is seen from psychological side. One of literary works which contain the portrayal of the character's depression is Mrs. Stone's character in a novel by Tennessee Williams entitled *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone*. This novel is the first novel that was written by Tennessee Williams besides of his plays, since Tennessee was well known as a great playwright too. Some of his famous plays are *A Streetcar Named Desire* and *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. In 1949, when he spent spring and summer in Rome, he had written a great novel entitled *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* and had published it in 1950. This novel had been adapted into film in 1961 and had been recycled in 2003 due to the successful of the novel.

The novel entitled *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* tells us about a life journey of Mrs Stone and the role of Paolo in her life. Mrs Stone is a successful stage actress that is growing old and facing her aging life. She goes to Rome and announces her retirement from the stage then travels with her husband to Rome, but suddenly her husband dies. Mrs. Stone's husband who cares her and protects her leaves her in her frightening about her age. Although she is 50 years old and still look wonderful but mentally she cannot face to the fact that she is in aging. Thus, she thinks that Rome is a right place to avoid the judgments of the theatre crowd. Furthermore, she is alone in Rome, no worry about money but she is lonely and terrified by aging.

The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone's novel is interesting to be analyzed from the psychological condition of Mrs. Stone. She has a tragic journey after her husband's death. Mrs Stone's depression changes her life into a different individual

in Rome. As a depressed person she cannot think rationally and she has a strange behavior which cannot be accepted by others. Therefore, the writer tries to analyze Mrs. Stone's psychological condition through psychology of literature theory by Wellek and Warren's point of view and Cognitive theory by Aaron T. Beck because those theories are the most suitable theory to analyze this novel which focuses on Mrs. Stone's character in a broad explanation. The writer tries to analyze Mrs. Stone's thoughts and behaviors that indicates the symptoms, causes, and effect of dysthymic disorder.

There is a researcher who has analyzed *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* in different aspect. The researcher has analyzed this novel by using psychology approach and formalistic approach based on Sigmund Freud's theory. However, the researcher whose name is Dwi Hajar Pamiluarsih, with her undergraduate thesis entitled *Unrealistic Psychological Burden of Mrs. Stone Causing Her Tragic in Life in Tennessee Williams's The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* (2006) focused on the tragic life of Mrs. Stone which is caused by the unrealistic psychological burden of herself.

From the previous study above, the writer finds a gap that this study is different and original. The difference between the previous study and the present study is about the theory which is used and the focus of the study. The writer interests to analyze this novel through psychology of literature theory based on Wellek and Warren's point of view as the correlation between Beck's cognitive theory and the novel as source of data. Moreover, the writer also uses Beck's cognitive theory as a theory of depression which is suitable to analyze Mrs. Stone's

dysthymic disorder in the novel. The focus of this present study is on Mrs. Stone's depression which is called dysthymic disorder. Hence, the writer of this present study focuses in analyzing the symptoms, causes, and effect of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder as the type of mood disorder and belongs to depression.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

The problems that are analyzed in this study related to the appearance of the dysthymic disorder in Mrs. Stone's character in the novel entitled *The Roman Spring of Mrs. Stone* by Tennessee Williams. Based on the background of the study above, the problem of this study are formulated into the questions below:

1. What kind of dysthymic disorder's symptoms that are experienced by Mrs. Stone?
2. What are the causes of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder?
3. What is the effect of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study is intended to give more explanation about the novel and the topic, such as:

1. To elaborate the symptoms of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder.
2. To elaborate the causes of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder.
3. To elaborate the effect of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The study is expected to be able to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the results of the study are expected to be a valuable contribution to the study of psychology of literature theory in literary works, especially in novel. In addition, it is also able to be a reference for students of English Department who want to take a novel as source of data of their thesis. Practically, this study is hopefully useful for helping other students who take psychology of literature theory as a tool to analyze a literary work in academic research and to give contribution to the readers who are interested in Tennessee Williams's work.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discusses about Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder. Based on the theory which is applied to analyze this literary work, the scope focus of this study is psychology of literature and cognitive theory, particularly in dysthymic disorder. The writer tries to find out the symptoms, causes, and effect of Mrs. Stone's dysthymic disorder. Finally, this study is limited on the characters' utterances and author's narration in the novel which are relevant with this study.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

According to Sansone, (2009: 46-51), dysthymic disorder is a mood disorder which is suffered by the patients for a long time (at least two years in adults) which is characterized by fluctuating dysphoria that is sign by brief

periods of normal mood. Furthermore, based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, dysthymic disorder belongs to Axis I in DSM-IV is a mood disturbance and the patients who suffer this disorder will experience a depressed mood for most of the day, at least two years.