

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Ones definitions of novel, according to Wellek and Warren say “Most realistic novel, the very “slice of life”, in book *theory of literature* (1997: 26). The book they describe that novel is as portrayal of human condition of real life. Some novel theme raise is about psychology. Depression is one example psychological problems that usually suffered by characters that have acts or behavior abnormal.

One of the novelists that raise theme abnormal behavior is Elizabeth Costova in her novel entitled *The Swan Thieves* (2010). She is an American novelist. She graduated from Yale and holds an MFA from the University of Michigan, where she won the Hopwood Award for the novel in progress. Her novel portrayed abnormal behaviors on characters that caused by depression they have. The characters who describes in the novel are Robert Oliver, Kate Oliver and Beatrice de Clerval Vignot.

There are many problems that cause characters undergone in depression like physical, environmental, economical, and cultural which become inevitable factors for abnormal behavior.

Furthermore, the Swan Thieves novel is chosen as the source of the data because abnormal behavior that resulted by the characters in the novel sometimes becomes as one of the topic until now in society real life because of that it is interesting novel to be analyzed.

Based on the background above, the study appropriately having a title *Abnormal Behavior Resulted from Characters' Depression in Costova the Swan Thieves* for reason of the study is will to analyze the symptoms seen with characters' depression usually in the form excessive behavior (abnormal behavior) and what factors that cause the characters' abnormal behavior. This study will be a motivation for whom in the same problem.

In line with the explanation above, the abnormal psychology is possible theory that will be used to analyze characters abnormal behavior on the novel which is it portrayal normal or abnormal behavior is influenced by a psychological problems. By using the theory in this study can analyze deeply behavior of characters in the novel in relation with abnormal psychology. As Sharma states "Modern psychology has been defined as a science of behavior" (2003: 2).

Related to the source of the study, there have been some studies that analyzing the same theory. The first one is study by Yulianti (2003), as student of Department of English of Sanata Dharma University entitled *An Analysis On Esther's Abnormal Behavior as A Result Of The Societal Pressure in Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar*.

The second is a study is by Siri Amalia (2011), as a student of English Letter of Department Islamic University Syarif Hidayatullah entitled *A Psychopath Analysis on Michael's Characters in Halloween Film by Rob Zombie*.

Based on the explanations above, all of them analyze abnormal behavior by using the other source. However, none of these studies analyzing

abnormal behavior using the source The Swan Thieves novel by Elizabeth Costova.

1.2. Statement of Research Problem

Based on the background of the study above, this study discusses about characters' depression which become on abnormal behavior reflected in Costova The Swan Thieves' novel. Furthermore, the problems are formulated as following questions:

1. What are the symptoms of behavior abnormal on characters' depression in the novel?
2. What are the factors that cause characters' abnormal behavior in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of problem above, this study is intended:

1. Explain symptoms of behavior abnormal on depression in the novel.
2. Explain the factors that cause characters' abnormal behavior in the novel.

1.4 Significances of the Study

This study is expected to able to provide the benefits of theoretical and practical. The first theoretically, the result of the study is expected to strengthen and enrich the theory of abnormal behavior. Meanwhile practically, the result of the study is expected for gives knowledge to others about abnormal behavior theory and depression theory.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study is focuses on manifestation of characters' abnormal behavior used the theory of abnormal behavior on abnormal psychology. The limitation of this study is on the utterances and actions of characters or author explanations about abnormal behaviors in the novel.