

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are some people spend their time to do their hobby such as reading, travelling, doing exercise and many positive activities. One positive activity is reading some books and literary work. However, most people read a kind of literary work such as fiction. Robert (2012: 51) states that “fiction originally meant anything made up, crafted or shaped”. It means that a prose story based on the imagination of the author and it is not in literal fact. In addition, Robert (2012: 51) also states that “the essence of fiction is narration. Narration relates a sequence of events or actions. The earliest works of fiction relies almost exclusively on narration with speeches and dialogues. Most fiction includes extended passages of dialogues. In addition, there is a short fiction named short story. Robert cited Poe’s statement that a short story prevents most readers from concentrating on their reading. Poe’s theory of the short story shows that a short story or “a brief prose tale” could create a powerful, single impression on the reader (Robert, 2012: 53). Poe also concludes that “the best work of fiction was the short story that could be read at a single sitting of not more than an hour” (Robert, 2012: 53).

The conclusion that a literary work such as short story gives the picture of real life that happens in the world. It can be assumed that literature has many lessons that are presented in the reality of life. Literature expresses the human’s life such as love, loyalty, affair, relationship, friendship, etc. Literature also gives some good lessons to people’ understanding of life. Reading the works of literature, people can take the

messages and lessons that increase their understanding about life of human being and the environment. Literature expresses the life in society that contains human problems, thoughts, feelings and conflicts. In other words, literature presents the experience about human life. This opinion is supported by Graham Little in his book *Approach to Literature* “The literature of people is the principal element of its culture. It contains the record of the people’s values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts-in short, their whole way of life” (1966: 1).

It can be described that literature represents human life which has many forms. There are three literary forms that are the main forms of those fictions such as prose, drama and narrative poetry of various kinds. However, the writer would like to discuss prose or short story. The writer would like to discuss short story which consists of dialogues by the characters that make the story more lifelike. A short story also presents much knowledge about the reality of life and the aspects of human life. A short story represents human life such as love, affair, relationship, marriage, loyalty, etc. Reading a short story, the readers can enjoy getting a message that is presented by the characters through the story from the beginning to the end. A short story also presents vivid language and description through the actions and conflicts between the characters in the story.

In the literary works, there are many good writers such as Tennessee William, Ernest Hemingway, William Shakespeare, JK Rowling, Stephen King and many more who present some good messages in their works. One of the good writers is Alice Munro. Alice Munro is a Canadian short story writer. She has born in Canada in 1931. Alice’s first collection of stories was published in *Dance of the Happy Shades*. The

collection achieved great success in Munro's native country. It includes Alice first Governor General's award for fiction. Three years later, she published *Lives of Girls and Women*. In 2009, she published the short-story collection entitled *Too Much Happiness* and she also won The Man Booker International prize. In addition, in 2013, she got the Nobel Prize in literature. The writer is interested in choosing Alice Munro because she is a good short story writer.

The writer chooses Alice Munro's short story entitled *The Bear Came over the Mountain* because the story contains some messages of life to the readers such as a loyalty, trust and respect to our beloved couple. It can be described that the messages in the short story refers to a positive moral value that people must be respect, love and loyal to their lovely husband or wife. A good relationship creates together and it must be kept. The short story tells about the main characters' affair in their marriage and it is one of the messages for the readers to take the moral value in this story.

The Bear Came over the Mountain published in the New Yorker magazine on December 27, 1999. *The Bear Came over the Mountain* tells about the story of two couples, their meeting and the consequences of their involvement in their life. The main characters named Fiona and Grant are a marriage couple of many years who have experiences both physical and emotional separation with Alzheimer's disease. Grant is forced to take his wife into a medical facility named_Meadowlake. Fiona gets Alzheimer's disease that makes her to forget her husband. In fact, the disease makes Fiona to have another relationship with a man because she does not remember her husband. Grant is Fiona's husband who also has a relationship with other woman. Their marriage relationship is complicated because they have another relationship or affair

with other people. However, Grant and Fiona' marriage relationship still continues although they have an affair. The complicated relationship happens when Fiona loses her memory about her husband because of her Alzheimer disease. However, Grant creates affairs based on his own decision and need. Grant does not seem to feel guilt about his affairs and Grant's affair makes him more confident and appreciative in his life.

The research study, the writer uses Robert's theory of literature in his book *Literature: An Introduction to Reading and Writing* (2012) to analyze elements of fiction. Using this theory, the writer hopes that she can get some proofs to answer the research problem. The research problem shows that elements of fiction will be analyzed by using Robert's theory. The writer chooses Robert's theory to describe the intrinsic element in the short story.

1.2 Research Question

To analyze the topic of discussion, the writer gives the attention to the main problem as follows:

- a. How are character and the plot developed in Alice Munro's short story *The Bear came over the Mountain*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

According to the research problem above, the writer attempts to find the objective of the study. The objective is as follows:

- a. To describe how character and plot developed in Alice Munro's short story *The Bear came over the Mountain*

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The story of *The Bear came over the Mountain* contains some elements of fiction such as character, plot, structure, point of view, symbol, theme, etc. The writer focuses on some intrinsic elements in this research such as character and plot development. In other words, to make the analysis clearer and avoid complicated discussion, the writer limits the scope of research in character and plot development. Besides, the writer uses Robert's theory of literature to analyze the intrinsic elements or elements of fiction.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that her thesis will give some contributions to the readers who are interested in analyzing Alice Munro's work. The writer also hopes that the study can give a contribution to the lecturer to develop the knowledge of the student. According to the story of *The Bear came over the Mountain*, the writer concludes that there are many elements of fiction or narrative which can be analyzed. Some elements of fiction are created to make the story completely. The author arranges the story in a literary work based on those intrinsic elements. The writer believes that those intrinsic elements work together to create a good story and deliver the author's messages through the text.