

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statements of research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

The word memory is often used in everyday language. As people know, memory is described by psychology as collection of systems for the storage and recall of information, such as personal experiences, emotions, facts, procedures, skills and habits (Hedge, 2013: 1). It means that, memory is a collection of system of human's brain that has a function as the place for storing and recalling all of the informations which are felt and experienced by human being during their life, such as personal experiences, emotions, facts, procedures, skills and also habits.

Some psychologists believe that, memory is the present conscious awareness of an event that has happened in the rememberer's own past (James, 1989: 3). Hence, memory means that a person who experienced an event or felt something in the past, he is able to recognize and remember those things at the present time as its function to storing and recalling all of the informations. The person can feel again the thing that ever happened to him as well as he can remember it through his own memory.

Talk about memory and human's experience, of course it also talks about how the memory and experiences themselves give the impact to the personal life whether it is good or bad. A good experience can create a happiness life and

cheerful emotion to the memory's owner which can make his life better than before. While, a bad one or even fatally bad one also bring a great impact to the person in case of its effect to create a traumatic memory which cannot be easily erased by the person.

In relation to trauma, Geddes (2005: 1) says that a trauma is a stressful event or incident of a threatening nature. It shows how trauma becomes a frightening thing that ever felt or experienced by a person and of course will be influenced the journey of his life. Later, traumatic experiences bring intense response into all aspects of life that are physiological, emotional, mental, and spiritual (Langer, 2002: 447). A person who has ever experienced a traumatic event is going to show a change in many aspects of his life which is also bring a change to his behavior and act in his real life, especially when he interacts with people around him. Those aspects are physiological, emotional, mental, and spiritual. The traumatic events can never be erased from someone's memory.

Furthermore, there are so many causes of reliving traumatic memory which makes someone remember to the painful events of his past, such as having hallucination and similar place. Besides that, a person who has a traumatic memory is easier to show the emotions. There many kinds of emotion, such as fear, anger, grief, etc. This person will be disturbed not only psychologically, but also physically.

In fact, traumatic memory not only appears in the real life, but also appears in literary works. Christina Schwarz's *Drowning Ruth* is chosen as source of data of this study because it is selected for Oprah's book club in September

2000. It also achieves #1 New York Times Best Seller novel based on the front cover in the novel. This novel is the most interesting of Christina Schwarz's work therefore, this novel chosen as source of data.

Christina Schwarz is an American novelist and she raised in southern Wisconsin on farmland that has been in her family for generations. She has a B.A. and M.A. in English from Yale. Christina taught high school English while she is working on her first novel is "*Drowning Ruth*" (to gothic drama set in the past) which is published in 2000. Her novels range from modern satire *All Is Vanity* (2002) to the chronicle of a contemporary marriage *So Long At the Fair* (2008). Her latest work, *The Edge of the Earth* (2013) is a return to a historical setting and a mysterious plot line. In addition, *Drowning Ruth* takes the reader along the path to discover the secrets of the past. The story is chilling, compelling, and complex (www.bookbrowse.com).

Drowning Ruth by Christina Schwarz is telling about Amanda Starkey. Amanda is a major character in "*Drowning Ruth*" by Christina Schwarz. Amanda traumatized since her sister, Mathilda is found dead at a lake in the night when Amanda, Mathilda, Ruth, and Imogene fell into the ice lake that cracked. Amanda, at the time, saves Imogene and Ruth. Amanda is also trying to save Mathilda but the circumstances did not allow her wish because the ice lake increasingly fractured, so that Amanda had to let Mathilda sink and leave her. Since the horrified event in that night, Amanda feels very sad because she feels that her sister died because of herself. This novel tells abouts how the past memory influences Amanda's life.

Christina Schwarz's *Drowning Ruth* is going to be analyzed by using Psychology and Literature, especially Trauma and Memory of Lawrence Langer (1991). This theory is chosen by the writer because the theory is appropriate and suitable for analyzing the traumatic memory that experienced by the main character, Amanda Starkey.

As the explanation above, the topic of trauma is very interesting to be analyzed. Therefore, there are many studies which analyze it by using many kinds of source of data. First is Muizzu Nurhadi (2014), a student of English Department from University of Trunojoyo Madura whose thesis is entitled, "*Trauma of War in Collin's Mockingjay*". He analyzed the *Mockingjay* novel by using the theory of trauma of war. Second is Alvita Eka Fatmawati (2012), a student of English Department from University of Trunojoyo Madura whose thesis is entitled, "*Holly Kennedy's Grief in Cecelia Ahern's P.S. I Love You*". She uses the symptoms of main characters grief to analyze the novel entitled *P.S. I Love You*. The last is Fadhliah Anwar (2013), a student of State Islamic University Sunan Kalijaga whose thesis is entitled *The Childhood Trauma Of Prince Albert As Seen In David Seidler's The King's Speech*. He analyses a movie entitled *The King's Speech* by using the psychoanalysis theory which is concerning about trauma, anxiety theory and defense mechanism by Sigmund Freud. It shows that those previous studies have the similarity with this present study in topic and theory which is used that is, trauma. However, they are different in source of data.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

This study emphasizes on the discussion about Amanda Starkey's traumatic memory, cause and emotion related to the traumatic memory in Christina Schwarz's "*Drowning Ruth*". Thus, the research problem formulated as follows:

1. What is the traumatic memory experienced by Amanda Starkey in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*"?
2. What is the cause of reliving Amanda's trauma in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*"?
3. What kind of emotion which is accompanying traumatic memory of Amanda in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*"?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Regarding to the statements of the problem, the aims of the analysis are:

1. To elaborate Amanda's traumatic memory in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*".
2. To elaborate Amanda's cause of reliving trauma in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*".
3. To elaborate the kind of emotion which is accompanying traumatic memory of Amanda in Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*".

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of the study consists of practical and theoritical. Theoretically, this study is hoped to give better understanding about psychology and literature, especially about Langer's Trauma and Memory (1991). This study is practically expected to give information about the traumatic memory and better

understanding about the emotion of trauma. Therefore, the reader knows what is the cause of reliving trauma.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the theory psychology and literature, especially trauma and memory of Lawrence Langer (1991) which is used in the novel of Christina Schwarz "*Drowning Ruth*". Meanwhile, this study is only focused on traumatic memory, the cause of reliving trauma and the emotion of accompanying traumatic memory of the main character. This study limits on utterances of the main character, another characters and the author's narration which is related to traumatic memory, the cause and the emotion of accompanying traumatic memory of the main character, Amanda Starkey.