

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the general outline of this study. It covers research background, formulation of research question, objective of the research, significant of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of the key terms related to the topic of this study.

A. Research Background

Literature is a reference in the form of written work that is usually used in various activities because it is considered to have a lasting advantage. According to West (2010), literature is an imagination or creative writing, especially of recognized artistic value. She also said that is the art of occupation of literary writer. Rees (in Ade and Okunoye: 2014) concluded that literature is a permanent expression in words of several thoughts or feelings in ideas about word life. There are some literary works which can be categorized as it such as poetry, poem, drama, and novel.

Novel is one of literary works that contain characters, action, and values. A novel also includes many moral values that we can take as the learning process in real life. Besides enjoying story of the novel, the reader can also be aware of the implicit message of the novel. Furthermore, reading a novel can increase students' knowledge and comprehension about the characters, cultures that is described, social conflicts, and also moral values which exist in novel.

In this study, the researcher takes a novel as an object of research because the values contained in the novel reflect social realities and have an influence on society. According to George and Uyanga (2014:41), moral values are taught in moral education as certain acceptable, valuable and preserve qualities which are worthwhile in developing a sound character. In addition, they said that moral value is essential values that determine individuals' perception of morality and moral awareness in society. It includes truthfulness, patience, agreement, honesty, integrity, hard work, responsibility, respect, tolerance, loyalty, public enthusiasm, freedom, respects of human life and the dignity of people. Others include justice, fairness, and equality.

Moral value is important to be discussed because it determines individuals' perception in society. By taking the moral value of a story, the readers can use it as a guide in life as they improve their character in some kinds of environment. They can decide whether something good or bad for them by learned moral values.

In the previous study, Olivia Martha (2019) chose Arthur Golden *Memoirs of a Geisha* novel as the object in her study. In her study, she focused on one character only in the novel she chosen. The previous researcher also mentioned that moral value can influence people attitude in social environment. The second previous study was conducted by Ariyanti (2016) with the title *Moral Values Reflected in "The House on Mango Street" Novel Written by Sandra Cisneros*. She found that all elements of moral values exist in the content of the novel except the point of respect and caring to others exactly in the

element of not hurting others. The next previous study was conducted by Meiliana (2016) with the title “The Analysis of Conflicts Found in the Novel *Looking for Alaska* Written by Jhon Green”. In her study, she found the two types of conflicts in that novel those are the portrayal of internal conflict and external conflict. Both of them can be found in Miles’s and Alaska’s character. The fourth study was conducted by Cahya Tri Atmaja (2018) entitled “Alaska’s Broadline Personality Disorder as Reflected in John Green’s *Looking for Alaska*”. Atmaja stated that Alaska’s personality fulfils three cores of characteristic broadline personality disorder those are affective dysregulation, behavioral dysregulation, and disturbed relatedness. From the previous studies have been mentioned, the researcher wants to analyze moral values reflected by main characters in *Looking for Alaska* novel because from the previous study, this novel is analyzed based on conflict and personality reflected by main characters and the analysis of this novel from the perspective of moral values is hardly to find. Therefore, the researcher wants to complete the analysis of this novel by analyzing the moral values implied by the main characters. In term of story, Miles was actually a nice and quiet boy, but after entering boarding school he did some juvenile delinquency which was the influence of his friends. So, the researcher wants to analyze the moral values implied by this character on the sidelines of the juvenile delinquency he commits.

Moreover, the researcher chooses a novel entitled *Looking for Alaska* by Jhon Green because this novel presents interesting life and life issues among teenagers so Josh Schwartz as executive producer and showrunner and

Stephanie Savage who is also an executive producer were interested in adapting this novel into a mini-series which finally premiered with 8 episodes by Hulu on October 18, 2019. Adolescent story that feature various aspects of life and their problems are conveyed in language that is attractive and easy to understand, this will make it easier for readers to find the intended moral values. Looking for Alaska is famous for the story of the lives of teenagers who do not live with their parents because they attend a boarding school so that sometimes the attitudes of some of them change because they are influenced by their friends. This is very much related to the lives of teenagers or students nowadays.

Obviously, the selection of Looking for Alaska novel as research material is the right thing to convey information about moral because this novel provides a lot of issues of life relating to the teenagers. Miles as a good boy decided to enter in Culver Creek in Alabama where his father studied. There, he met Colonel, Takumi, Lara, and Alaska Young. His friends managed him to be naughty boy in which he never even smoked before but since they were friends with them he dared to drink until he got drunk. He also felt in love with Alaska Young who had had a boyfriend. One day, Alaska went out from the boarding school to visit her mother's grave in a drunk condition. The day after day, Alaska was reported to have died and no one knows the cause of her dead. By knowing the moral values of this novel, the researcher hopes the reader can take the positive moral values and apply it in their life to build their characteristics. Some experts and researchers state that moral values are

important aspects at school that one of them is Ma (2009) who states that educators in Chinese society regards moral values in education as the most important where some essential concept of moral values become major issues and being discussed among educators. Another that, Veugelers (2008) also points out that values are embedded in the curriculum, the school culture and the behavior of the teacher. In particular, the theory indicates that moral values are important to be existed in students' development. As Roy (2013) explores about the importance of moral values in students live that is vital for teacher to apply an appropriate method to teach the students about morality because it is potential for the teacher to be blamed by society if the students misbehave such as telling lies or disrespect to others. That is why investigating the concept of moral values becomes the first step before going to its relationship to education. Based on the reason above, the researcher intends to analyze more about the moral values reflected by Looking for Alaska novel. Therefore, the researcher conducts this study entitled "An Analysis of Moral Values in Looking for Alaska Novel by Jhon Green".

B. Formulation of Research Problem

Related to the research background, the problem to be examined in the present study is formulated as follows:

1. What types of moral values found in “Looking for Alaska” novel by Jhon Green?

C. Research Objective

Based on the aforementioned research problem, the research objective is formulated as follows:

1. To describe moral values in “Looking for Alaska” by Jhon Green.

D. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is Looking for Alaska novel written by Jhon Green. However, limitation is needed in order to make sure that analysis does not go far from the topic of discussion and also to ensure the analysis focuses on what being discussed. In this study, the researcher focused on the utterance that shows moral values from the main characters in Looking for Alaska novel written by Jhon Green, they are Miles Halter and Alaska Young.

E. Research Significance

Theoretically, the researcher expects this study could increase the knowledge of literature especially about novel and moral value. And

practically, this study is expected to help English teachers to find good and suitable English materials for students that is relating to competency standard and basic competence regarding novel. The researcher also hopes that this study can be used as a reference for future researcher who wants to conduct the similar research.

F. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding on certain terms, the researcher would like to give some definition of key terms used in this study. The definitions of key terms are described as follows:

1. Novel is a literary work built by building the elements such as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. A novel is also interpreted as a prose essay that contains a series of stories of someone's life with others around it by highlighting the nature and behavior of the perpetrator (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 10).
2. Moral values are one of values of life that focuses on one's attitude and character (George and Uyanga, 2014: 41).