

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter present the Background of the Study, Formulation of Research Question, and Purpose of the study, The Advantages of the Study, Limitation of Study, and Definition of Key Term.

### **A. Background of the Study**

Literature is a tool to express the feelings or ideas of humans in a form of written or verbal as a medium. People can express their feeling about something that has never imagined before with literary works. In addition, people can create literature from their experiences. According to (Hudson, 2006: 10) in his book entitled An Introduction to The Study of Literature, described that literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us.

Literature is a world of imagination created by the author. Imagination that is created comes from yourself and the environment around you author. Imagination created by oneself is related to psychological condition experienced by the author. It is very influential for the story to be written. The biggest influence of the author's psychic condition namely the character of the story. Most people think that the main character is the same character as the author, especially if that

character have the same gender. Imagination created from the environment around the author can be interpreted that environmental conditions, events, and a place capable of giving a writer the desire to immortalize it in a writing that is a literary work.

Apart from originating from the author's imagination, literary works can also be produced with the author's creative process in describing ideas that thought and felt by the author by using language as a the medium. The ideas the author thinks and feels relate to with humans and the life that surrounds them. Very creative process determine the good and bad of a literary work that will later be presented to readers. As a creative work, literary works must be able to produce a beautiful creation and seeks to channel the human need for two beauty by choosing the right diction, so that readers can interpret what the author wants to convey through literary works.

Literary works that are considered good by readers are works that are capable of three grab the attention of the reader with stories that are able to hypnotize the reader. Readers seem to feel firsthand every event that occurs presented in the story. The reader feels dissolved and carried away in the story so that reluctant to stop reading. Good literary works also have benefits for the reader. Not only the entertainment value is highlighted, but it should be generate positive benefits for the reader. It can said that literary works have the principle of Dulce et utile (Budianta et al. 2002: 19). Which means that a literary work is not only entertaining,

because literature responds to the emotional needs of readers through joy, joy, sadness and tears but also provide benefits in terms of values contained in stories about morals, goodness, badness, and religion.

Literary works, especially novels, must present stories that contains about conflicts, both conflicts with other people, conflicts with environment, conflict with oneself, or conflict with God. Existence Conflict makes a novel more lively and exciting. A close form of conflict relation to the object of research is the conflict that occurs with oneself. The object of this research is a novel entitled *Looking for Alaska*.

Novel is an example of fiction literature that the researcher wants to analyze. Based on the definition in the oxford dictionary, “Novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length, in which character and action representative of real life are portrayed in a ploy more or less complexity”. Novel has a lot of pages, it is about 40.000 words and more complex than a short story. In understanding novel , people can take full comprehend about novel. By having enough knowledge or experience about novel, readers are hopefully able to create a better judgment about what they are observed. Furthermore, it is not enough to give good judgment without understanding the elements of novel. There are several elements in the novel such as character, plot, setting, conflict, moral value, and theme.

In novel, conflict is an element that has a central position in every story. It is because conflict makes the story exciting. Conflict is able in

determining how good literary work is. The conflict builds the plot of the story and provides crucial tension in a story which create the story to be more attractive. As a result, it makes the readers curious and lets them the story up to the end. Besides this, conflict can influence the readers in any situation for instance sad, happy, scared, suspense, etc. The meaning of conflict by (Luken, 2003:99-100) is struggle againts opposing forces, occurs when the protagonist againts an antagonist, or opposing force. In general, a conflict is a 3 relationship between internal and external forces in a literary work. In short, literary works without conflict will be a loss of feeling.

Conflict on literature can be divided into several groups. For instance the explanation by Gordon and Kuehner. They already explained that conflict is an internal or an external struggle between the main character and an opposing force (Gordon and Kuehner, 1975:2). In the internal conflict, man has to against the problem of himself. While the external conflict, can happen between one character with other characters, or external forces.

There are three types of conflicts in literary works by Jones. He stated that, conflict appeals to the emotions of the reader. It maybe Physical, Sociological, Psychological, or it may be combination of these. (Jones, 1986:80). The First type is physical conflict, this conflict happens when there is a struggle between man and nature. The second is sociological conflict, which occurs when one person is against another.

The last type is internal or physiological conflict, it is happen between characters and themselves.

Analyzing a conflict in the story is important for students. The students can find the basic elements of a literary work. As stated by Folt (2000) conflict is important to literature because it provides the basic materials for the construction of the story. Furthermore, if students desire to get good comprehension about a character's personality, they can find out from analyzing the way of characters in overcoming their 4 conflicts. Analyzing the conflict is also essentially needed in discovering the plot. The students can find the plot by understanding the process of conflict.

The researcher has found some previous studies, the first is authorized by Thooyibah, Wasilatut. 2018, entitled *Alaska Young Copes With Grief In John Green's Looking For Alaska*. This study attempts to analyze the main character, Alaska Young in John Green's *Looking for Alaska*. It focuses on Alaska's characterization and the way Alaska copes with her grief through her whole life. New criticism is applied as the supporting theory to find out the characterization of Alaska Young. The characterization then is used to support the main analysis of the research. Coping mechanism is applied as the main theory to find out the way Alaska copes with her grief. The results reveal that Alaska Young has some characteristics: smart, unpredictable, self-blame, hopeless, and impulsive. Alaska's characterization shows that she has problem dealing with trauma when she was a child. The way Alaska copes with grief can be

seen while she used some of strategies that included into emotion-focused coping that are self-control, accepting responsibility, distancing, and escape-avoidance. However, coping is not always effective, thus, some of the strategies that Alaska used has made her failing in facing her problem. It can be said that Alaska has unresolved grief.

The second is entitled: *Miles Struggle to Find a Meaningful Life in John Green's Looking for Alaska: a New Criticism Study* by Marcy Sulisty Putri (2015) from Airlangga University. This research discusses how Miles's struggle to find a meaningful life portrays in plot, characterization, and irony and how Miles' understanding about the meaningful life as well. Here, new criticism is applied as approach and close reading as the method. However, in the research, the result of the research show that the plot of the story can reveal how Miles' struggle to find a meaningful life. Through the plot of the story, Miles characterization and the linguistic device which is irony can be revealed as well. It shows that plot, characterization, and irony actually working together to build the theme.

The third is entitled: *An Analysis of Feminism Elements in Green's Looking for Alaska* by Citra Aulia Johansari (2016) from Pasundan University. In this research, the researcher is describing the main female character who is Alaska Young in order to find the women issue that is related to feminism. Moreover, Johansari as researcher thinks that there is a lot of meaning which still ambiguous in the novel, so therefore, in

analyzing the novel, the researcher using the structural approach. By using structural approach, the writer tries to analyze the intrinsic element that is the conflict of the novel by linking all aspects such as setting, plot, and character. Then, the researcher discusses the state of psychology of Alaska that touched on women's issues closely with feminist view.

Compared with the three previous studies above, this present research has similarities and differences. Similar to the three previous studies is that this current research uses the same novel that is John Green's *Looking for Alaska*. Furthermore, the differences between the three previous research and this present research is that it focuses on Alaska's character and characterization, meanwhile, most of the previous researches are focus on the life of Miles. Moreover, this present research is worth to discuss since it uses Alaska to overcome the Psychological Conflict as the main theory, this is truly something new for the present research in which the three previous researches is focused on the feminist side of Alaska and the life of Miles. The researcher decided to compose the research entitled *An Analysis of Psychological Conflict in Novel Looking for Alaska by John Green*.

## **B. Formulation of Research Question**

According to the background of the study, the researcher decided to make research problems, they are:

1. How was the main character in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green defined?

2. What were the psychological conflict experienced by the main character in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green?
3. How was the main character's effort in solving psychological conflict that happen in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green?

### **C. Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study are:

1. Describe the main character in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.
2. Describe the psychological conflict experienced by the main character in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.
3. Describe the female character's effort in solving psychological conflict in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green.

### **D. The Significances of the Study**

This study has significances as written in the background of study, they are:

1. Significances for Students

Research on "An Analysis of Psychological Conflict in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green" is expected to help readers, both students and the public, especially regarding the factors psychological factors that can affect the development of the human soul and business in solving it. This research is also expected to reveal the values of life contained in the novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green works that can open awareness to love works more literature, especially Indonesian Literature.

2. Significances for the Teacher



Research on "An Analysis of Psychological Conflict in novel *Looking for Alaska* by John Green" is expected to help the teacher in supporting literature materials by its side of intrinsic and extrinsic of this novel. By having more literature study, the students hopes more attracted in literature habit in their process of learning.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation of Study**

In this wondrous novel, there are two main characters; Miles Halter "Pudge" and Alaska Young. However, the researcher focused on one of them both, Alaska Young who had strong characters in this novel. In addition, this novel emphasized on Miles Halter point of view also as a narrator who tell whole of this story.

#### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

1. Literature is a tool to express the feelings or ideas of humans in a form of written or verbal as a medium.
2. Novel: a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life.
3. Characterization: the description of a character's physical traits (how a character looks), point of view, personality, private thoughts, and actions.

4. Character: the most important element in a story because characters have an important role in carrying out the events in the story. The existence of a character in a story is related to the creation of a conflict. In this case, the character has an important role in creating conflict in a story fiction.
5. Main character: a character who often appears in a story and has important role in the storyline.
6. Conflict is part of a story that comes from life. Therefore, the reader can be emotionally involved with what what happens in the story
7. Psychological conflict: a man struggling against himself, his conscience, his guilty, or simply trying to decide what he is going to do.