

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Saragih, Manik, & Samosir. (2021) describe literary works as imaginative creations that use language to express social, cultural, and psychological reality. This viewpoint is consistent with Baleiro's (2009) argument that literacy entails not only interpreting written material, but also a thorough awareness of cultural surroundings. Barton (2009) highlights the social component of literacy, claiming that it is anchored in specific settings and influenced by cultural norms. Literary appreciation thus serves as a type of higher-order literacy that necessitates critical analysis, interpretation, and attractive analysis.

In this study, literacy is defined as the continuous and creative processing of the written word in specific situations and contexts. This continuous and creative engagement can be observed, for example, when reading a literary text or writing a job application letter, both aiming to produce something meaningful by considering the conventions of the context in which these literacy skills are applied (Baleiro, 2011: 17).

Novel is a type of prose genre in literary work. According to Wellek and Warren (1984:282) The novel is a picture of a real life and manners and of the time in which it is written,". Burgess (2018) says that the novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction may additionally be described as the artwork or craft of contriving, thru the written word, representations of human life that educate or divert or both.

Love is a feeling that can be felt by everyone, from children to adults. The presence of literary works as a reflection of human attitudes and behavior often tells the story of the love experienced by the characters in them (Baumard, Huillery, Hyafil, & Safra. 2022). Whenever someone has love in their life, they will give their love to everyone regardless of what they get in return. According to Kochar & Sharma (2015) Love is a combination of emotions, cognitions, and behaviors that often plays a crucial role in intimate romantic relationships. The concept of love is explained easily through a novel. One of them is the novel by Priyanka Taslim in 2023 entitled *The Love Match* which will be the object of this research. The research carried out will provide an overview of a girl's love triangle in her life through a novel.

Priyanka Taslim's *The Love Match* tells the story of Zahra Khan, a Bangladeshi American teenager whose meddling mother arranges arranged marriages to ensure the family's financial security. Zahra Khan must accept an arranged marriage with Harun Emon, a handsome and wealthy man, but a loner. Unfortunately there was no love between Zahra and Harun. Zahra Khan fell in love with a dishwasher named Nayim Aktar. As Zahra and Harun's parents insisted on marrying them off, since neither of them were interested in being married, they hatched a plan to thwart their parents' intentions by pretending to date.

For the first time in Zahra's life, she can have her *rossomalai* and eat it too: “date” Harun and make Amma happy while feeling her true feelings for Nayim. But her love life with Nayim is more complicated than Zahra realizes. Because

she has mixed feelings, Zahra realizes that sometimes being a good Bengali child can be very difficult. The love that happened to Zahra was not ordinary love and could be called a love triangle. So this is of interest to researchers to study it more deeply.

This research studied using Sternberg's (1986) theory. This theory of love focuses on the state of the relationship itself and can be interpreted in real life which can happen to anyone who is in a relationship. This is the target of research focus on the novel *The Love Match* by Priyanka Taslim which can be understood through the reality of her love life using a literary psychology approach with its love components. In accordance with the focus of the problem studied, this novel is connected to the Love Triangle concept theory by Sternberg in which Zahra Khan is involved in Nayim and Harun's difficult love triangle.

According to Sternberg (1986), love has 3 components, namely intimacy, passion, and decision/commitment. The results of the three components will produce a concept of the type of love that exists in the relationship. Sternberg (2006:6) holds the view that the components of intimacy, passion and commitment play an important role in love compared to other characteristics. These aspects include, firstly, the component as a builder of a love relationship in the form of manifestation of the three components. Second, these three components are general across time and place. Third, the components are different but interconnected with each other. Fourth, discuss behavior and feelings between individuals. These four components are the building blocks for love or relationships (Coleman, 2019).

Similar research has been conducted by Mahmud (2019) who analyzed love using Sternberg's triangular theory in Stephenie Meyer's novel *Breaking Dawn*. Maharani (2022) also explored love through the portrayal of Elizabeth Bennet in the movie adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*. While Larassati & Suyudi (2022) focused on code-mixing in Hara Hope's novel *Summer Triangle*, there is a lack of research analyzing love using Sternberg's triangular theory specifically in *The Love Match* by Taslim (2023). This novel presents a unique opportunity to explore love within the context of a Bangladeshi-American family and the cultural expectations surrounding relationships. My research aims to go beyond simply identifying the presence of intimacy, passion, and commitment in Zahra's relationships. Instead, the research delved deeper into how these elements interact and evolve throughout the novel, particularly in her connections with Harun and Nayim. Triangular theory of love in the novel can be seen in the content:

"My **pulse thumps** in the **clammy flat of my palm**, but he doesn't let on if he notices." (Taslim,2023)

The physical reaction of a thumping pulse and clammy palm indicates a high state of Passion. This condition is usually associated with feelings of physical attraction and nervousness that arise when being close to someone one finds attractive. This physiological and emotional tension is a sign of passion in their relationship. Even though there is no explicit description of sexual attraction, this physical response is strong enough to suggest that there is an element of passion in their interaction.

By examining dialog, text and interactions between characters, the research will explore how the components of love manifest and interact in the relationships depicted in the novel. “The Love Match” offers a unique perspective on love in different cultural and social contexts, making it an interesting subject to analyze. The novel received positive reviews, with a rating of 4.5 out of 5 on Goodreads 2023, for its authentic depiction of love and relationships. Taslim's engaging storytelling and cultural insights add depth to this study. The rich expressions of love in this novel provide a valuable resource for exploring the component of intimacy, passion, and commitment, and how the component influence relationship development.

Based on the background above, this research was given the title, “An Analysis of Triangular Love in Priyanka Taslim’s *The Love Match 2023* Using Sternberg’s Theory“

B. The Problem of The Study

Based on the background above, the research problem formulation are as follows:

1. What are the components of love depicted in *The Love Match* by using the Love Triangular Theory?
2. How is love triangular theory described in the novel *The Love Match*?

C. Objectives of The Study

The researcher formulates study objectives based on the research question as follows:

1. To identify the components of love depicted in "The Love Match" using the Love Triangle Theory.
2. To describe the development and interaction of intimacy, passion, and commitment in the relationships in the novel.

D. Scope of The Study

Based on the identification of the problems that have been described, this research focuses on analyzing love through the Love Triangle Theory in the novel "The Love Match" by Priyanka Taslim (2023). The study examines the sensory representation system, specifically the components of intimacy, passion, and commitment as outlined by Sternberg's theory, and how these elements are reflected in the characters' relationships and interactions.

E. Significances of The Study

This study is expected to have significances in two areas:

1. Theoretical Significances

To obtain empirical data evidence regarding the analysis of love using the love triangle theory in the novel *The Love Match* by Priyanka Taslim 2023, which will be useful for developing students' knowledge and academics in the field of education, especially in the field of English.

2. Managerial Significances

This research can be used as information material and as an additional reference related to the variables in the research, namely the analysis of love using the love triangle theory in the novel *The Love Match* by Priyanka Taslim 2023. Apart from that, it is hoped that the results of this research can be used as a basis for further research.

