

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Literature, as defined by Hudson (2006:10) 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, it is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

Literature in a broad classification can be expressed in three kinds of form; Drama, Poetry, and Prose. Furthermore, Hudson defines these three forms of literature in a brief definition. According to him, Drama is the recreating of written work into a stage play which requires theatrical aspects. Poetry is a particular kind of art; that it arises only when the poetic qualities of imagination and feeling are embodied in certain form of expression. That form is, of course, regularly rhythmical language, or metre. Then he defines Prose as the writing of expression of our common interest in human life, which established the principal form of our complex and many-sided modern world.

Prose, in its classification, can be parted into two kinds, Fiction, and Non-fiction. Prose fiction, as defined by Nurgiyantoro (2007:2) is a writing about something unreal, which cannot be found in the real world. While Non-fiction prose is a writing which has basic of truth, either historical, biographical, or scientific. Both kinds of prose can be found in a novel. Although novel has

nothing difference with short story in its contents, but it has difference in length. Novel is much longer than short story.

In a novel, there are elements that cannot be omitted, which then we know as the elements of fiction. Two of those elements are Character and Plot, which in here will be discussed intensely. Character and plot become two things that cannot be separated. Practically, they are always united. In every novel, plot and characters must be combined well. Events that are experienced by the character move the plot to be interesting.

The character is always in a constant state of flux. From beginning to end, there is a constant cycle of conflict, decision making, actions, consequences, and development. Conflict adds an incredible amount of depth to characters. Without conflict, a character falls flat.

Conflict, which drives the story to be interesting, can be happen on or beneath the surface of the story. Conflicts that come on the surface, which are usually happened between the character and something out of him (another person, society, environment, nature, the universe, God), called as ***External conflict***. There has to be something beneath the surface, something that compels a character to do what he does, something to give the reader a reason to care, which is ***Internal conflict***. This internal conflict drives the character to be involved in a conflict, consciously or unconsciously. Here, we will then find the true relationship between the conflict and the role of the characters in a novel.

This internal conflict is something that is driven by desire; an internal motivation, as Maslow (1970) called as *basic psychological needs*. These needs

include psychological survival needs, needs for a safe and stable environment, needs for love and belonging, needs for esteem, and the need for a calling or vocation in which we can use our native capacities in an intrinsically satisfying way.

When all those needs are not fulfilled, we (human) usually try to find a way to fulfill. According to Horney (1945:202), we try to overcome feelings of being unsafe, unloved, and unvalued in a potentially hostile world by moving toward, against, or away from other people. Each solution involves its own constellation of behavior patterns and personality traits, its own conception of justice, and its own set of beliefs about human nature, human values, and human condition. All these internal motivations can be expressed to be the external conflict which is then build the whole plot in a story.

*Mary Theresa Eleanor Higgins*, or mostly known as *Mary Higgins Clark* (1927- present) is American author who is able to take those kinds of internal conflict successfully in her novels. She specialized herself in writing suspenseful mystery and psychological thriller. Although she had ever experienced a tough life while she was a child, but she did not suffered by psychological trouble as she always shows in her novel. Some of the masterpieces of her are *The Cradle will Fall*, *I'll be Seeing You*, and *A Cry in the Night* which become International bestseller, at the year it was released. She is a feminist, which always put her main characters, who is usually tough women into a horrible situation.

The writer chooses those three novels above to be analyzed is not only because of its reputation as international bestseller novels, but also because they

have a good plot and the conflicts are built coherently each other. Those novels do not let us to be out of the main conflict, because we find it from the beginning up to the end of the novel. Besides, Mary Higgins Clark is also a feminist as Horney, which makes these issues to be more related each other. The writer is interested in how the conflict in this novel be built, and what the roles of the main characters in building the conflicts (problems).

### **B. The Problem of the Study**

This research aimed to answer some questions which are related to the topic, they are:

1. What kinds of conflict is experienced main characters in Mary Higgins Clark's novels (*The Cradle will Fall, I'll be Seeing You, and A Cry in the Night*)?
2. What is the dominant conflict appears in the novels?
3. How do the main characters solve their conflicts?

### **C. The Scope of the Study**

The analysis of this research only focused on the main characters that have important roles in moving the plot. The writer only focused on the motivation which drives the characters to do their action which then build the conflict in Mary Higgins Clark's novel (*The Cradle will Fall, I'll be Seeing You, A Cry in the Night*).

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

This research aims to:

1. To find out the kinds of conflict which is experienced by the main characters in Mary Higgins Clark's novels (*The Cradle will Fall, I'll be Seeing You, A Cry in the Night*);
2. Find out the dominant conflict appears in the novels;
3. Reveal how the main characters solve their conflicts.

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

This research is expected to give contribution to:

1. The students of English Department who are interested in finding out the conflict in a novel;
2. The readers who want to study Psychoanalysis;
3. Researchers who are interested in analyzing the conflict of a novel.

Practically, it can help the reader for further understanding about how someone's motivation can eagerly drive them to do something, even a crime.

Theoretically, this study hopefully, can be a reference for readers who want to study about Psychoanalysis.