

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. The Background of the Study

Literature is part of language usage of human artwork. Literature combines human thought, ideas and experiences and creates a new map of experience which closely used to communicate and elaborate human social life. Furthermore, it represents life in measure a social reality, eventhough natural world and inner of subjective world of individual also has been the subject of literary imitation.

In general, literary works are divided into three parts literary works namely prose, poetry and drama. As Klarer (2004: 1) says that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. Prose is the expression in a direct style, in other words we can say straight forward speech. Poetry is extraordinary because it's precious, polish, and the way in which it charges words with force and suggestion. While drama or plays is different from other literary works. Drama is treated as literature to be read privately, or as the other, to be seen in public performance.

Prose can be divided into some parts: they are novel, short story, novella, etc. Scott (1980: 196) states that a novel is a fictious prose narrative dealing with human beings and their actions over a period of time, displaying varieties of human character in relation to life. A short story is a piece of prose fiction marked

by relative shortness and density. A novella is a written, fictional, prose narrative normally longer than a short story but shorter than a novel.

Novel is one kind of literary works beside poem, poetry, drama, and others. According to The World Book Encyclopedia (2014: 642), novel is a long fictional story written in prose. It is one of the most popular forms of literature. Novels differ from histories, biographies, and other long prose narratives that tells about real events and people. The subject matter of novels covers the whole range of human experience and imagination. Some novels portray the true life of the characters and events.

Many researchers have conducted studies on analyzing characters in novels. It can be analyzed from its types (round and flat characters), representation (explanatory and dramatic), and also its psychology. As stated by Klarer (1999), psychological approach can be used to analyze characters psychologically. It can be seen in *The Fault In Our Stars* novel that written by John Green, published in January 2012.

*The Fault In Our Stars* is one of the most famous novels in Indonesia and also in another country. It is a fabulous book about young teenage girl who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and a boy who has osteosarcoma, a rare form of born cancer, but has recently had the all clear. From the story in this novel, there are the optimism and pessimism that happen in the main characters.

Abdel Khaleq (2000) defines optimism by that it is a rejoicing view of the future, making the person expects better, anticipates occurrence of goodness, and looks forward for success. While pessimism is a negative anticipation of the

events to come, making the person expects worst things to happen, and anticipates badness, failure and disappointment.

Seligman further defined optimism and pessimism as “how people interpret themselves in cases of successes and failures” (Seligman, 1990). Optimistic people see that failure is due to some changeable thing, so as to be able to succeed in the next time. On the other hand, pessimistic people burden themselves with blame.

Scheier and Carver (1985: 260-261) have defined optimism as a generalized expectancy that good as opposed to bad outcomes will generally occur when confronted with problems across important life domains. It is a strong expectation that despite the inevitable setbacks and frustrations, events and experiences will eventually turn out all right. The example which shows the optimism from the novel:

“Don’t worry, worry is useless.” (*Chapter 5, page 28, line 52*).

The sentence above shows that Hazel thinks about the PET scan and tries not to worry about it. Eventhough she knows that it will be hurt, she keeps calm and tells to herself that there is no need to worry about the PET scan.

Pessimism is an entrenched habit of mind that has swept and disastrous consequences: depression mood, resignation, underachievement and even unexpectedly poor physical health.” Seligman states in his 1995 book *The Optimistic Child*. The example which shows the optimism from the novel:

“I’m a grenade. I just want to stay away from people and read books and think and be with you guys because there’s nothing I can do about hurting you; you’re too invested, so just please let me do that, okay? I’m not depressed. I don’t need to get out more. And I can’t be a regular teenager, because I’m a grenade.” (*Chapter 6, page 31, line 61-63*).

The sentence above shows pessimism that happened in Hazel Grace. She says that she is a grenade because she thinks when she died, her parents and people around her will be hurt. So, she decides to stay away from people and only reads the books until she dies and she also think that every single thing that she did is just hurt her parents.

Optimism and pessimism in prior literature have been consistently associated with generalized expectancies of positive and negative future outcomes (Scheier and Carver, 1985). Simply stated, people view the world in different ways. Some people see the world through rose colored glasses, they tend to have a favorable outlook on life. These optimistic individuals expect good things rather than bad things to happen to them (Scheier and Carver, 1985). On the other hand, some people see the world through dark colored glasses and have unfavorable outlook on life. These pessimistic individuals expect bad outcomes (Scheier and Carver, 1985). In general, optimism and pessimism is considered a personality characteristics.

According to P. Chelladurai (2006: 66), personality characteristics create the parameters for people’s behaviour, they give us a framework for predicting behaviour. For instance, individuals who are shy, introverted, and uncomfortable

in social situations would probably be submissive and conforming might not be effective as advertising “idea” people.

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

Based on the background of the study, the writer identifies the following problems, they are:

- a. What is the dominant type of optimism and pessimism in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault In Our Stars* novel?
- b. How the optimism and pessimism effect in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault In Our Stars* novel?

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

Based on the problem of the study above, the purposes of this study are :

- a. To find out what is the dominant type of optimism in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault In Our Stars* novel.
- b. To describe how the optimism and pessimism effect in Hazel Grace as the main character of *The Fault In Our Stars* novel.

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

This study is limited to the main character as found in *The Fault In Our Stars* novel, namely Hazel Grace.

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

This study is expected to bring the benefit and the advantages for the readers. This study has theoretical and practical significance as follows:

- a. Theoretically, to give some contribution to those who are interested in the field of literature.
- b. Practically, to be come references of other researcher in learning optimism and pessimism.

