

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of the Study

Literature, mentioned by Ima, 2013 is an instrument through which a person can express his or her principles or protest against various social standards. Those works that deal with a typical topic are mainly purposed in mind. An author can connect with readers of literature if they comprehend what the author is attempting to convey. Literature depicts and represents numerous facets of life. According to Greil Marcus and Werner Color (2009), literature includes what is written and what is said, articulated, and invented in whatever manner. Roberts (2010) mentioned that literature can help us grow both personally and intellectually.

In addition, literature develops our imagination, stretches our minds, improves our knowledge, and growths our power of sympathy (Roberts, 2010). Beside, Robert (2010) also mentioned that literature enables us to recognize human dreams and struggle in different place and times. It also enables us to see worthiness in the aims of all people.

Prose fiction is one of categories of literature which includes myths, parables, romance, novels, and short stories. Fictional works typically focus on one or a few significant characters who change and grow (in their decision-making ability, awareness or insight, intellect, attitude toward others, sensitivity,

and moral capacity) as a result of how they interact with other characters and attempt to solve their problems.

Literature describes a person's life as experience, concept, motive, and emotion portrayed in words. People can gain a better understanding of what happened to their characters by analyzing literature. Novel is one of the examples of literary work that can be analyzed. In analyzing a novel, we have to consider the elements of the novel and to be aware of its detail as a work of art. The intrinsic element is the foundation of writing a literary work especially novel. Woods (2008) explained the intrinsic elements are plot, point of view, setting, tone, character, characterization and theme.

Character is an essential component of literary works, particularly novels. The author creates characters in a literary work to express his/her thoughts and feelings about anything happening in the world. Characters in a literary work have the ability to dominate the entire plot. The author has the capability to bring the character through a variety of situations. The author can also make their characters feel and express love for other characters. A character plays a major role in bringing the story of a novel to life (Pope, 2005). The character provided a reason for the audience to care about what happened in the narrative. They play a vital role in the novel, especially for the main character. They have a big influence on representing the important thing that a novel wants to deliver to the audience.

Character in literature, according to Roberts (2010), is a comprehensive verbal characterization of humans, particularly in deciding themselves through thought, voice, and behavior. This theory claims clearly that dialogue, action, and

commentary are human linguistic representations in literary works utilized to build character relationships. Each character in a literary work must have his or her own conflict. The conflict of love is one that frequently appears in literary works, particularly novels.

In a story, there might be both external and internal conflicts about love. It relates to how the character deals with the other character or how the relationship is maintained. The success of a relationship is determined by how each character expresses their love for the other characters and how they resolve conflict as the relationship develops (Chapman, 2015). Chapman (2015) highlighted that every human has different ways of expressing their love for others, especially their partners. Chapman (2015) identifies five ways to express our love:

1. Words of affirmation (the act or an instance of affirming for example Thank You for..., I love you, You doing great, I trust you, You make my heart sing, I'm blessed to be with you, Thank You for your time, I need you, I'm proud of you and etc.),
2. Quality time (have a time with spouse or kids, watching movie together, praying together, learn about something together, taking time to talk each other without distraction, have a dinner together, and etc.)
3. Receiving gifts
4. Acts of service (massage, prepare breakfast, take the kids, take out the trash, make bed in the morning, clean their sunglasses, bring them a cup of coffee and etc.)

5. Physical contact (hugging, touching, kissing, sexual act, holding hand, embrace, carrying, rubbing the back, grab arm, rub the arm, shoulder off, hold somebody hands, etc.).

Expressions of love can also be found in novels, especially in the genres of romance and family. The analysis of love expression has been conducted by Egbert and Polk (2014), who examined "Speaking the Language of Relational Maintenance: A Validity Test of Chapman's (1992) Five Love Languages." It was research that tested Gary Chapman's claims regarding five love expressions that he referred to as "love language" with 110 participants using an anonymous survey approach to investigate the factor structure and construct validity of scales assessing Chapman's theories. They focused on making a validity test of love expression for humans. The difference between the previous research with this current research is to investigate the love expressions used by the main characters in the novel. The subject is the novel, not humans. In addition, the author chose this topic because it's a modern phenomenon and there's still no research that has investigated the love expression in the novel. Love expression in the novel *Reminders of Him* can be seen in the content:

1. She's gasping for breath, trying to wipe away the few tears that were beginning to form, and since I have no idea what the fuck to say, **I just hug her.**
2. **I pull her to me**, and for a second, she stiffens, but that's almost immediately followed up by a sigh as she relaxes.

The two data above can be found in chapter six, page thirty-six, lines fifty-seven and fifty-nine. Both data describe a story from Ledger's point of view. At the moment, Ledger hugged and pulled Kenna towards him because he saw Kenna wiping away her tears. In this content based on Chapman (2015), Ledger expresses Physical Touch as his love expression to Kenna.

Based on the preceding explanation, it is interesting to know how the character developed from how they expressed their love. In this current research, the researcher investigated the expression of love that is called "love languages" by Gary Chapman and can be found in this novel. This current research investigated the expression of love by the main characters in the novel, the characterization, and how love can resolve the conflict in the novel. Furthermore, the reason of the researcher used the novel *Coolen Hoover Reminders of Him* because the author was the first New York Times bestselling author (Goodreads, 2023), one of the nominees for best romance in 2022 by the Goodreads Choice Award, the ratings of this book are 4.47 out of 5 (Goodreads, 2023), and there are also many love expressions found in the novel.

B. The Problems of the Study

There are problems of the study that can be formulated in this research as follows:

1. What kind of love expression used by the main characters in the novel *Reminders of Him*?
2. How do love expressions described in the novel *Reminders of Him*?

3. How does love resolve the conflict in the novel *Reminders of Him*?

C. The Objectives of the Study

Related to the problems of the study previously, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To discover the types of love expression used by the main character in the novel *Reminders of Him*.
2. To describe the love expression in the novel *Reminders of Him*.
3. To explain how love resolves the conflict in the novel *Reminders of Him*.

D. The Scopes of the Study

The researcher limited this study to a specified scope to make it easier for the reader to understand. This study is limited to analyzing only the main characters, namely Kenna and Ledger. To identify the types of love expression used by Kenna and Ledger as the main characters and how love is described in the novel, the researcher analyzed by Gary Chapman's theory. When someone falls in love, there are numerous ways to communicate their feelings. The researcher applied Gary Chapman's notion of how to show love (2015). Gary Chapman summarizes it simply. Words of affirmation, quality time, receiving presents, acts of service, and physical touch are the five ways we can communicate our love to others.

Meanwhile, the analysis of the characterization and the conflict were analyzed by Edgar V. Roberts' theory. To prove the characterization of the main characters, the researcher examined what characters do and say, what other characters think about the main character, and what the narrator says about the main character using Edgar V. Roberts' theory.

E. The Significances of the Study

1. Theoretically

Theoretically, the significance of this research is to enrich theories in literary studies through fiction. Based on the effectiveness of this research, the results will provide scientific evidence to support its efficacy as a tool for identifying love expression and conflict.

2. Practically

The study's findings are intended to be valuable for:

a) For students

This study can be used as a reference to help students comprehend how love is expressed by the main characters in the novel and how love can resolve the conflict of the story.

b) For readers

This study can be utilized as a reference to comprehend the main character's love expression in the novel by what they do, say, and think.

c) For researchers

The findings of this study can be used to guide future research and provide further information to other researchers interested in doing similar studies.