

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with five components, they are the background of the research, statement of the problem, research objective, research significance, and the definition of the key term.

1.1 Background of The Research

Popular is a word related to modern society. In any context, it will continue to follow the tastes of the public, as one fulfilling the needs of modern society, no exception in literature. Popular literature is a literature categorized as an entertaining and commercial literature (Nurgiyanto, 1998, p. 1). The entertainment and commercial are connected to the reader. The reader will be amused by the story in popular literature and commercial aspects will arise from the sale of the literary work. The more readers who like and buy a popular literary work, the more commercial benefits will be gained by authors and publishers of literary works. This makes literature popular not only as a literary work but also as an industrial activity in literature.

Since 1960 the American popular literature began to grow rapidly, various methods and theories arose to analyze the existence of popular literature. The study of popular literature is in line with the development of popular culture studies (Adi, 2011, p.20). Popular literature first appeared in America, then developed throughout the world. Popular literature is easy to develop because the idea contained within popular literature is a manifestation of popular culture. Popular

literature is a manifestation of the culture that can be a barometer of social, cultural and economic development of a society.

A work can be called a popular literary work because the theme, manner of presentation and writing follow a general pattern (Adi, 2011, p.20). The genre is formed by applying the elements of popular fiction such as themes, ways of presenting and writing should follow public taste. The elements of popular fiction are referred to as formulas. In general, the popular literary genre is divided into several types of adventure, mystery, and romance. Genres have different formulas because the themes in the genre are also different. A formula that will be used to analyze the popular literary works in a genre, will not be used as an analysis of other genres.

In the mystery, there are two different formulas: classic detective and hard-boiled detective. Though different, both are developed by role of main characters: (a). the detective, a characters which is tasked to investigate the truth about criminal events; (b). the criminal, a criminal is a major conflict or case in a story that must be investigated; (c). the victim or victims, there will be a victim who is a friend of the detective; and (d). those involved in the crime, people involved in crimes come from the respectable and police (Cawelti, 1976, p. 147).

Hard-boiled formulas have differences from classic formulas that are the action pattern. The action pattern consists of detective as hero, suspense and threat, modern city as back ground, the role of woman and the changing meaning. In hard-boiled formula, the detective as hero arises from a narrative situation (Adi, 2011,

p.147). To resolve the criminal, the detective has to face conflict with another male character encountered in a popular fiction. Detective character in the story of the hard-boiled must face opposition with antagonist involved in crime. Sometimes in such conflict, often the safety of the detective threatened by the attack from the antagonist. However, in the classical formula the detective is not considered a hero and is not directly involved in the conflict. Detectives only appear when criminal events have occurred, then search for clues by prioritizing the logical ability to reveal the truth at the end of the story.

According to Adi the main formula of the hard-boiled detective story is the suspense. Some examples of suspense as being accused of being criminals, detectives being fugitives of the police, experiencing fascism when solving cases and running out of time to settle cases (Adi, p. 90). In hard-boiled detective formula, the main character as a hero often gets threats to violence by people involved in crime cases. This makes the character hard-boiled, always in tranquility as it continues to be given a series of threats that lead to it.

A modern city as background is very important in hard-boiled formula. Setting or place background becomes the most important character of the hardboiled formula. The large city is symbolic of modernity, corruption, and death, a moral wasteland in which crime pre dominants (Howard, 2010, p.9). Setting on hard-boiled formula is a metropolitan city. The metropolitan city will make criminal development and investigation more complicated. However, the setting applied in the classic detective is set in an isolated like in a carriage, a house, or a remote

village. This will make the development of criminal cases or investigations will be simpler.

This no less important that woman has her own rule in hard-boiled detective story. The detective in hard-boiled story usually meets an attractive woman but they never an affair with her (Jalova, 2007, p. 16). Unlike the classic detective, usually they have a serious relationship with a woman, such as dating or married. Last is everything changing meaning. This formula will make the detective story has an unexpected plot. Someone who looks good can turn out to be dangerous, thus triggering a more complicated plot.

Hard-boiled formulas are much more complex in terms of plot, case, investigation, and characteristics. For that, this research will focus on hard-boiled formula analysis. There are some previous studies about hard-boiled detective fiction. Those previous studies are as follow *Classic and Hard-boiled Detective Fiction* by John M. Reilly (1975), *The Hard-Boiled Detective: Personal Relationship and The Pursuit of Redemption* by David George Howard (2010), and *Masculinity in Hard-Boiled Detective: An Analysis on Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code* by Diny Siti Hardianty (2016).

In, *Classic and Hard-boiled Detective Fiction* by John M. Reilly (1975). Reilly explains the differences between intrinsic elements in classic and hard-boiled detective genres. In addition to explaining that there are differences in both genres, there is also an intrinsic similarity in all genres of the mystery story. All detective

stories, after all, must be about the same thing, that in any fiction of crime solving there is a tendency to closure inherent in the narrative.

The second, *The Hard-Boiled Detective: Personal Relationship and The Pursuit of Redemption* by David George Howard (2010). In this paper from David George, an analysis of the Black Mask detective story with hard-boiled aspects personally must be possessed by the detective such as character, daily and thinking and then act. The detective is the center of the story with the task of reestablishing a certain degree of order or redemption. (Howard, 2010, p. 6). Detective characters must have a strong personality because the person who determines as an important characters for salvation, liberation, and redemption.

And the last, *Masculinity in Hard-Boiled Detective: An Analysis of Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code* by Diny Siti Hardianty (2016). In this paper from Hardianty, one of the studies on the hard-boiled detective and masculinity on the main character of the novel Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code. The hero character of Robert Langdon in addition to having characteristics as a hero character in a hard-boiled story is a representation of aspects of masculinity.

Those previous studies provide a reference analysis of the pattern of the detective formula and the hard-boiled formula itself. This research will focus to discuss the the role of main characters and the action pattern that becomes the specialty in the hard-boiled formula. The object of the analysis is the movie. Although the formula is no different in novels or movies, the movie is the most

popular type of literary work, and its commercial value is higher. These are the things that distinguish this research from previous studies.

There are lots of hard-boiled detective movies, one of them is *A Game of Shadows* movie. *A Game of Shadows* movie is a 2011 British-American period action mystery movie. *A Game of Shadow* movie gets great benefits with some of the rewards earned. This movie is one of the popular literary works of hard-boiled detective which is the most successful movie. By analyzing hard-boiled formulas in this movie, it becomes important to find out how each of the popular fiction elements in this movie is applied.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the research background above, the research limits the analysis on the the role of main characters and the action pattern on *A Game of Shadows* movie. The discussion will be elaborated, into two research questions as follows.

1. How are the role of main characters applied in *A Game of Shadows* movie?
2. How is the action pattern constructed in the movie *A Game of Shadows* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research question above, the research has two purposes for this research as follow.

- 1.1 To understand how the role of main characters are applied to the *A Game of Shadows*.
- 1.2 To analyze how the action pattern constructed in the *A Game of Shadows*.

1.4 Significance of Research

Practically, this research is expected to be a reference for the reader who wants to analyze the similar problem. Then, this research also expected to provide the knowledge to the reader in understanding the hard-boiled detective formula.

Furthermore, theoretically, this research is expected to reinforce the theory of hard-boiled detective formula in the movie, especially in the *A Game of Shadows* movie.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

1. Popular Literature: Popular literature is a literature categorized as an entertaining and commercial literature. The entertainment and commercial are connected to the reader. The reader will be amused by the story in popular literature and commercial aspects will arise from the sale of the literary work.
2. Mystery Genre: The fundamental principle of the mystery story is the investigation and discovery of hidden identities. In general, the popular literary genre is divided into several types such as adventure, mystery, and romance.
3. Detective fiction: Detective fiction belongs to the mystery genre. In every detective story, there is a mystery or secret that a detective must tackle and solve through investigation. In the mystery genre, there are two different formulas: classic detective and hard-boiled detective.

4. Classical Formula: The classical detective tells of a traditional detective who handles problems by means of investigation using rational thinking to get the truth and the solution.
5. Hard-boiled Formula: In the hard-boiled detective story, the hero usually surrounded by the threats, and there is always the suspense that constructed. This genre does not only show the clues solving, but also the pattern of action.
6. The role of main characters: Detective stories are developed by four main characters, such as the victim or victims, the criminal, the detective, and those involved in the crime.
7. The action pattern: The action pattern consists of detective as hero, suspense and threat, modern city as back ground, the role of woman and the changing meaning.

