

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background, statement of problem, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Background

Wellek and Warren say that literature is a creative activity of literary work. Literature as a fiction might even be said to demonstrate these very processes of representation through indirection at work (413). Literature can be medium of a writer to deliver mind, feeling and reaction about historical event. Imaginative thinks which form of work and called literary work which has contains of different characteristics which influence to a writer, reader, environments, etc. Cuddon states:

“Literature a vague term which usually denotes works which belong to the major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story, ode. If we describe something else, the term carries with it qualitative connotations which imply that the work in question has superior qualities; that is well above the ordinary run of written works. However, there are many works which cannot be classified in the main literary genres which nevertheless maybe regarded as literature by virtue of the excellence of their writing, their originality, and their general aesthetic and artistic merits” (qtd. Minderop, 76).

The kind of genres in literature have characteristic itself which have differentiation each other. Novel especially has more pages than short story. Novel usually has more event and other intrinsic elements although no all novel has many

event, character and so on. The Character in the novel is a soul and gives life element as in the reality life. Minderop (78) argues that novel, drama or short story as a literary form is reality of world which contains event and behavior which has happened by human (character). Everything in the world is the reality which has happened and influence mind and behavior of someone caused created a literary work.

*The Bell Jar* novel is a novel which has contains many characters one of them is Esther Greenwood written by Sylvia Plath. Esther Greenwood is the main character of that novel. She has gets problem of her life. The problem is love and the future. She feels worried her future and what she should do until depression. She filed the relationship with a man. He is her fiancé. Her boyfriend apparently is a fibber and hypocrite man. Then, the author is Sylvia Plath the writer who has psychology disorder. She has depressed and writes a novel based on her life. Although not whole of that novel is telling her. The novel called semi biography of a writer. But on this research is focused to the novel especially psychology disorder of Ester Greenwood as the main character in *The Bell Jar* novel.

One of the psychology disorders of *The Bell Jar* novel is depression which has happened to the Ester Greenwood. In the nineteen years old she has to confront with a serious problem which is worried of her future life. The most crucial of her depression is suicide even she tries it more than twice. In other words, depression is one of psychology disorder which has danger for a sufferer and has changes her personality.

Freud's papers (qtd. Bleichmar, 77ff) "Mourning and Melancholia" that Freud characterized depression as a reaction to the loss of real or an imaginary object, and thus defined depression as an reaction which is not only connected to the "real loss"

of an object, an idea, a self-image, etc. But depends on how the loss is codified by unconscious fantasies and conscious thoughts. Depression can be interpreted as a reaction to loss; the loss of the love one, the love of status, the love of friends etc. The depressed person reacts to it intensely because the current situations bring back all the fears and feelings of an earlier loss that occurred in childhood, the loss of parental affection. In other hand, depression is psychology disorder which has caused by many reasons which influence to the behavior and action direction to declining of the quality. Additionally, depression is the symptom of the behavior disorder which caused disease or mental disorder. The process of becoming depressed start with a real or rejection or disappointment. However in the depressive process, the ego refuses to accept the loss and instead it becomes enraged and regressed to an oral sadistic level.

The writer learning of such topic, here some previous studies about psychoanalysis theories gives a way and an illustration especially about psychoanalysis approach. First, the research by Mochyandi Permana (2010) entitled *Psychoanalysis Concept; Rebellion of Jane Eyre Character for getting Equal Education with a Man in Bronte's Jane Eyre*. The main problem of the research is the analysis of Jane Eyre's characterization phased based on psychoanalysis approach and the concept of rebellion to the other character and situations in the novel. The writer takes the data from narrations with concerning to the analysis of the rebellion character and Oedipus complex of Jane Eyre Charlotte Bronte's novel *Jane Eyre*. The final conclusion of the research, Jane Eyre's psychological phase as a main character in the novel is a struggle and rebel girl. She gets many bad phases in her life but she never gives up for getting a better life and find a happy life with her love.

Second research was conducted by Arian Variansyah (2014) entitled *The Psychopathic Disorder in the Main Character in Robert Burton Robinson's Illusion of Luck*. The writer uses the psychopath theory by Hervey Cleckley and sharpened by the psychopath theory by Robert Hare and Stefan Verstappen. For analyzing the psychopathic disorder of the main character's personality, the writer uses the psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud as the grand theory.

Seeing all two researches above, this previous study has differentiation each other in the grand theory. Likes the research of *Depression of the Main Character in Sylvia Plath's The Bell Jar*. This research focused analyzes the symptoms of depression in Esther Greenwood's main character and causes of depression. The psychoanalysis in method used to analyze psychology disorder or depression in the main character. Thus, depression is correlation with psychoanalysis theory of Sigmund Freud, to analyze a novel entitled *The Bell Jar*.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

The focused problem in this research is the depression of the main character in the novel entitled *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath. The writer analyzes depression of the main character in *The Bell Jar* by Silvia Plath. Esther Greenwood as sufferer in the novel has gets many alterations especially her character and behavior. From the identification of the problem above, the writer submits two research questions below to discuss and to limit the problem.

1. What the symptoms of depression of the main character in *The Bell Jar* novel?

2. What the causes of the depression of the main character in *The Bell Jar* novel?

### 1.3 Research Objective

This research has the purposes for:

1. To know the symptoms of depression of the main character in *The Bell Jar* novel.
2. To know the causes of depression in the main character in *The Bell Jar* novel.

### 1.4 Research Significance

For the writer, the significance of this research are to improves in understanding and applying depression and psychoanalysis theory deeply from Sigmund Freud and to increase the capacity in identifying the character of human especially the depression in the main character of *The Bell Jar* novel written by Sylvia Plath.

For the others, this research is directed for all people who live with the sanity who can understand the words and sentences and the purposed design of the novel by taking some lesson of life experiences. In addition, this research can be a reference directed to those who are interested to this research in depression theory.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misconception in the conceiving the terms in this research, the writer makes clarification of key terms to explain some words:

1. Depression as a feeling of being pressed down by the world, that depression is name for an experience, that, if we want to understand this experience, how it arises, what it means and, since it is an

unpleasant experience, how to avoid it, we need to examine it and allow ourselves to go into its depths (Rowe 1).

2. Character is person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it-and from what they do-the action (Abrams 32).
3. Disorder: an abnormal physical and mental condition.
4. Psychoanalysis is not only a theory of the human mind, but the practice for curing those who are considered mentally ill or disturbed (Eagleton 138)

