

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided by some matters that deal with the research including the background about the topics the representation of woman characters, the influence on the main character, and the moral in R. J Palacio *Wonder* (2012). Following these topics are the previous studies related with the topics and the novel. First, the writer explains about the background of the research. Second, statement of problems is about the representation, woman character influences and moral values. Third, research objective is to answer from statement problems. Fourth, research significance is for the development of feminist research especially with gynocritic theory. Fifth, framework is the relation among *Wonder*, gynocritic, the representation, its influence, character and characterization, how character is closed, and moral value. Sixth, the writer mentions about research problems. Seventh, the result of previous studies is related with the topic about gynocritic, the representation, character and characterization, the relation each other character. The last, the research gives the definition of the terms.

1.1 Research Background

The developing of science, those encourage widely many societies to get more knowledge. According to Oxford (Hornby, 2010, p. 1320) science is the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behavior of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. From that definition, one of ways to learn science is reading through literature. It can be a part of science because literature is also practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure. In literature, there is structure of literature which can be studied by human. Then, Plato' thought (In Nurrachman, 2017, p. 14) literature is also like music and gymnastic, it can educate people. Hence, many societies can get knowledge of science through reading a literature work such as prose, poetic, and drama.

Then, a literature work is also related with human life. That is related with Plato's statement (In Nurholis, 2016, p. 7) literature is the result of the representation of real life. As a matter of fact, literature cannot be apart from the daily human life because it looks like reflection with the real life. Plato (In Nurrachman, 2017) argues the most important part of any work, especially in the case of a young and tender thing, for that is the time at which the character is being formed and the desired impression is more readily taken. Therefore, many good values can be learnt in a literature work by the reader.

In the same way, reading a literary work is not only to entertain the reader but also to give learning. In harmony with Horace (In Nurrachman, 2017, p. 75) it is not enough for poems to be beautiful; they must be affecting, and must lead the heart of the hearer as they will. A literary work is related to things representing the real life so the reader can be easier to apprehend. The reader can apply those good values on the daily life. People can get two benefits by reading a literary work, entertainment and new experience.

In addition, with kind of facilities, there is no reason for society to stop learning science and searching much information. They can easily learn many things based on what they are interested in, including a literary work to get new experiences. There are many literary works, one of them is novel. Novel is the representation of daily life of human being. Agree with Abrams (1999, p. 190) novel is now applied to great variety of writings rather than extended written works like prose. Many societies actually read books to spend their time and widen knowledge. They came bring novel and then read whenever they want. They could choose fiction or non-fiction genres. It is appropriated with their needs and interest.

In this research, the writer analyzes R. J Palacio's *Wonder* (2012). In this novel narrates many kindness things. One of them is through characters. Woman characters in *Wonder* are the representation of a good woman which is related with the author's life experience. Then, their representation can influences on the main character through woman action, woman speech and woman love-affection. This novel gives also moral values that the author wants to give the reader about

supporting to do kindness. Hence, the writer chooses this novel because *Wonder* includes a spirit how to encourage bravery, to speak optimistic and positive saying, to increase confidence, to spread affection and tenderness, and to appreciate people through woman characters.

From many references the writer ever read about the author of *Wonder*, R. J Palacio's writing always conveys about the children life. She talks about how children doing in their world. She uses her experiences as a child into her writing including her language, her culture, her body, and her psyche. The differences of R. J Palacio's writing with another woman writer are based on her style to develop imagination of children into her writing. She success to make the new style of woman writing in children story.

Furthermore, *Wonder* talked about August who is a mandibulofacial dysosios. Mandibulofacial dysosis / treacher Collins syndrome (TCS) is a dysostosis of the face and lower jaw inherited as an autosomal dominant trait and characterized by bilateral malformations, deformities of the outer and middle ear, and a usually smaller lower jaw. That description could help imagine how August is appearance. August seems differential looking with another kid, especially on his face. He actually is a normal kid. He is an active person. He can do many things like other kid such as playing the ball, riding the bike, and climbing the tree.

To make his face looks better, August does many surgeries since his childhood. He has to take the homeschooling for still learning many subjects like his friends. He studies with his mother as his private teacher. From that, he rarely meets with many people. That is why he has a few of friends. One a day, he was fifth elementary school, the parents ask him to study in the formal school, Breecher Prep. That big deal makes a change on August life. He was struggling to face the real life out of his comfort zone.

On the other hand, August is a lucky kid. In his life, there are four important woman characters who give the big support to August. They are Isabel as a mother, Via as a sister, Miranda as a sister-friend, Summer and Charlotte as girl friends. Their good manner and positive saying could give the great influence to

August. Each woman characters have their own way to show much attention and much affection for caring children. Then, R. J Palacio, as an author, explains how to learn about empathy, kindness, optimistic, positive and tolerance to August as the main character through those woman characters. From those, this novel is related with R. J Palacio's life. She involves also woman experiences such as her psyche, her body, her language, and her culture in her writing.

In this research, the writer only focuses on the problem about how R. J Palacio, as the woman writer, represents woman characters (Isabel, Via, Miranda, and Summer and Charlotte) through her model of woman writing. From her model of woman writing, the writer can know how great woman characters in *Wonder* based on R. J Palacio's experience. Then, the writer finds out the great influence of woman characters on August as the main character. They give a great supporting for August life through their good manner and supportive saying. That could help to August become new person, especially to be a brave character, a self-confidence character, and an amiable character. The last, the writer analyzes how moral values in *Wonder*.

Next, this research is supported by six theories. The first, gynocritic by Elaine Showalter (2010), the representation by Hall (2013), the theme of character analysis theory (1983) by Edgar V Roberts, characters and characterizing (1999) by Abrams and moral value by Nurgiyantoro (1998) and Palmer (1992). From those theories, the writer will combine theories, quotations from the novel and opinion to analyze all of data. This research is purposed to help the reader understanding that woman characters who have good personality could give the amazing influence for grow-up kid character better and also gives many moral values inside R. J Palacio's *Wonder*.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background above, the writer focuses the problem that can be analyzed in R. J Palacio's *Wonder* (2012). It can be formulated into the three research questions as follow:

1. How are woman characters represented in R.J Palacio' *Wonder* through model of woman writing?
2. How do woman characters influence on the main characters August in R.J Palacio' *Wonder*?
3. How are moral values in R. J Palacio' *Wonder*?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of the research is mentioned as followings:

1. To elaborate how the representation of woman characters in R. J. Palacio' *Wonder* based on models of woman writing.
2. To find out influence of woman characters on the main characters August in R. J Palacio' *Wonder*.
3. To know moral value in R. J Palacio' *Wonder*.

1.4 Research Significant

The writer expects that this research can give much new knowledge to increase the understanding about the representation of woman character, influence on the main character, and moral in R.J Palacio's *Wonder*.

Theoretically, this research is expected to help the other writer to analyze how the representation of women in prose, poem, and drama. Then, to find out how influence women to another characters in prose, poem or drama, and the last to know how moral value in every literary work. The writer expects this research has far-reaching to help the writer to analyze literature.

Practically, this research will add reference about literature to student of English Literature Faculty of Adab and Humaniora, Islamic State University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

In this paper, the writer focuses to the representation, woman characters influences, and moral value in R. J Palacio's *Wonder* (2012). In this novel there

are some the representation of woman characters. That can be analyzed with the representation by Hall (2013) and also Gynocritic by Showalter (2010). The writer analyzes each woman characters based on their character on narration. Then, it is related with the representation theory by Hall (2013) that the representation can be seen through some media including text. To analyze woman characters, it cannot be part of R. J Palacio as the author. Then, this novel is also included as woman writing. That is why this research uses gynocritic theory by Showalter (2010) because this topic can be supported with models of woman writing such as woman's body, woman's language, woman's psyche, and woman's culture to help answering the representation of woman character in *Wonder*.

Next, the representation of woman characters can also influence the main character in novel that August as the main character becomes a brave character, an amiable character and a self-confidence character. Those are caused how great woman characters treat the main character through good saying and love-attention touching. This topic can be analyzed through character and characterization by Abrams (1999), and how character is closed by (1983). These two theories reveal how the new character of the main character can be showed through four ways such as character saying and doing, another saying about the main character, and the author saying.

The last, R. J Palacio gives moral values through *Wonder* about kindness through two point of view, they are adult character point of view and children woman character point of view. This topic uses two moral value theories from Nurgiyantoro (1998) and Palmer (1992). They argue that a literary work has a universal moral value and also one of them can be seen through character in the story.

1.6 Research Problems

R. J Palacio as the author of *Wonder* has the authority to express how woman life in her writing. One of them is through woman characters in her writing. Hence, there are four models to know how R. J Palacio exposes the representation of woman characters through woman's body, woman's psyche,

woman's culture, and woman's language. Besides the representation, this research analyzes how woman character influence on the main character and also moral value in R. J Palacio's writing.

1.7 Previous Studies

There are some previous researches which are related with this research such as methodology, topic, problem, and theory.

The first, the research is titled *Citra Tokoh Hyde dalam Novel The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde karya R. L Stevenson & Terjemahannya* by Vindry Florentin 180410100239 Padjajran University (2015). He used some theories: Writing Themes about Literature (1983) by Edgar V. Roberts, Story and Discourse: Narrative Structure in Fiction and Film (1978) by Seymour Chatman, A Glossary of Literary Terms (2009) by Abrams & Harpham, Theory of Literature (1977) by Rene Wellek & Hustin Warren. She explained that aims to find out and analyze the image used to create both physical image of Hyde in the target text, its changes, and its effect on Hyde's character. This research analyzes both source text and target text and finds that there are addition, deletion, and the usage of different diction on the target text. This undergraduate is related to the research because discussing about the representation of woman character in novel. Afterwards, it linked to character and characterization by Abrams and Writing Theme about Literature by Robert (1983).

The second research is titled *Woman's Writing Models In Kate Chopin's The Awakening* by Cucu Nurjamilah 1125030056 State Islamic University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung in (2016). In his research, she discussed about how style of woman's writing and woman independence in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. She used Gynocritic Theory (2010) by Elaine Showalter to explain how woman's writing with four models difference: biological, linguistic, psychoanalytic, and cultural in Kate Chopin's *The Awakening*. She also used qualitative-descriptive method and objective approach. The result of his research is *The Awakening* contains of some models of woman's writing like Showalter theory and some woman efforts to get the independence in *The Awakening* novel

such as neglecting the children, disregards the marriage, getting the money by her own hands, and moves away from her husband's house. This undergraduate is also related to the research because discussing about model of woman writing by Gynocritics by Showalter (2010) but in the different novel.

The third research is titled *A Child Character's Development in R. J Palacio's Children's Realistic Fiction Novel Wonder: A study of focalization* by Rindra Nuriza (2014). She investigated a child character's development by Bal's narratology and descriptive analysis. The result is the main character through four key narrative events and different focalization. Which mostly revealed the shifts of direct and indirect speech, and the cognitive and perceptual views. In this undergraduate is related with the research because of analysis the same novel and also analyze the same topic in discussing the main character in R. J Palacio' *Wonder* (2012).

The fourth research is titled "*Citra Tokoh Perempuan dalam Novel Jendela-Jendela Karya Fira Basuki dan Terjemahannya*" by Nisha Noor Fadhila 18041010031 Padjajaran University (2017). She focuses on the depiction of the image of the woman character from the source language and analyzes its changes after translated into target language by Norman Ince. There are shifts in the depiction of the images who was shown as having self-confidence, freedom, courage, independence, physical beauty and desire, which either increases or decreases. The same with Nisha's undergraduate, this research discuss also about the representation of woman character in the novel.

The fifth research is titled "*Penokohan dalam Novel The Bliss Bakery Trilogi 31: Bliss Karya Kathryn Littlewood dan Terjemahannya*" by Chindy Fathmulia Diraja 180410110156 Padjajaran University (2015). She indicates characterization in both source text and target text, to show factors leading to characterization shift in the target text, and to figure out the effect of the characterization shift itself to the theme of the story. Some theories that are applied in this research are theories concerning literature in translation by Lefevere (2002), characterization by Chatman (1980) and Hall (2001), and translation methods by Newmark (1988). It is found that the translation process

causes characterization shift in the target text, so that there is a contrast between the theme in the source text and the target text. This undergraduate has the same theory with the research with using characterization on the main character and the representation theory by Hall (2013).

The sixth research is titled “*Relasi antar Tokoh dalam Novel to Kill a Mocking Bird Karya Harper Lee dan Terjemahannya*” by Maya Mutia 180410090068 Padjajaran University (2014). She identifies the various ways by which the relationships between characters are described, and the aspects building those relationships. Theory is used in this study is the theory about characters and characterization elaborated by E.M Forster and Marjorie Boulton to see the function of characters in fiction in general and novel in particular. The result of the study shows that many shifts associated with aspects building relationships between characters, based on the different of race, age, social class, gender, education, and familial. From this undergraduate has the similarity with the research because of using the same theory characterization by Marjorie Boulton. There are five theories characterization to know how character in a literary work.

The seventh research is titled “*Citra Perempuan dalam Tiga Karya Alice Munro*” by Gaby Oksavira 180410100139 (2014). Such images are namely the patriarchal idealization of the image of the woman and the image of women’s body. By using feminist approaches by Simone de Beauvoir and Kate Miller, it will appear on the discussion that the effect of patriarchy law and the interaction with men characters contribute to make the image of woman. The researcher finds out some researches that use the same model of woman writing like in Oksavira’s undergraduate. Overall, in this undergraduate uses all model of woman writing, especially about woman body.

The last research is titled “*Hubungan Orangtua dan Anak dalam Tiga Novel karya Anita Brookner A start in Life (1981), Hotel du Lac (1984) and Latercomers (1988)*” by Lasekar Ghaisani Nadhila 180410140045 Padjajaran University (2018). This research uses theories proposed by Cathy Caruth and Adrienne Rich, while for the narratology and autobiography analysis it refers to the work of Mieke Bal and also Sidonie Smith and Julia Watson. This research

results an explanation on the portrayal of parents-children relationship through trauma experienced by the paternal and maternal parents which then impact on the construction of the children in three novels of Anita Brookner. The same with the same discussing about influence other character on the main character.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

There are some key terms that should be understood related to the research in order to avoid and misunderstanding to the readers.

Gynocritics: Study of woman as writers and its subjects are the history, style themes, genres, and structure of writing by women; the psychodynamic of female creativity; the trajectory is to constructs a female literary tradition (Showalter, 2010).

Characters and Characterization: Characters are the persons 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 person say and their distinctive ways of saying it the dialogue and from what they do the fiction.

Then, characterizing (characterizing is the person in a narrative: showing and telling. In showing (also called “the dramatic method”), the author simply presents the characters talking and acting and leaves the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind what they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character’s inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events, for a highly developed mode of such inner showing, see stream of consciousness. In telling, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters (Abrams, 1999).

How Character is Closed: What character themselves say, what character do, what other characters say about them, what the author says about them (Roberts, 1983).

The Representation: representation is to describe something that in our mind through language to communicate which people can understand (Hall, 2013)

Moral Value: A literary work has a precious moral value. That value is universal. All people convince about that kindness in life. Moral values in a literary work can be accepted by universal however people's background (Nurgiyantoro, 1998).

