

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This research focuses on analysing a literary work that explains the characterization of the main character in a novel. The writer analyzed characterization in the novel *Things Fall Apart*. As a general introduction, this chapter describes background of research, statement of problem, purpose of research, significance of research, clarification of key terms, and organization of paper.

### 1.1 Background

Novel is a long narrative normally in prose, which describes fictional character and events, usually in the form of a sequential story. The word novel came from Italian language '*novella*' that means "a story, news". Novel is included into literary work, because novel is a fictional prose works that is written and narrated.

Generally a novel is telling a story and behavior of the figures in daily lives by emphasizing on the unique or interest sides from the narrative. These unique sides often make the reader interested and because of the unique story a novel can be deemed well by the reader. Novel also can on the other hand depict the social, political and personal realities of a place and period with clarity and detail not found in works of history.

In this case the researcher takes prose in the form of novel as the object of the research because novel is a kind of literary work presenting many kinds of view and value. "People sometimes read a novel just enjoy the stories that are served only. They will only get a general impression about the plot in the story that particularly necessary. Every human defines literature from several ways" (Nurgiantoro, 11).

Novel usually includes reference to real place, human, and event, thought, character, and actions. Novel can include many elements; they are character, action, plot, and setting. It includes people who do everything in chronology, and it cause the effect of every action. Studying a novel, therefore is studying intrinsic and extrinsic element of the novel. The kinds of intrinsic elements are plot, character, conflict, setting, and theme. Creating a fiction that seems real for readers, a novelist must use the five main united intrinsic elements. “Intrinsic element in a novel is elements in the direct join to building the story” (Nurgiyantoro, 22).

Character is one of significant terms in novel. A character is the representation of a person in a narrative or dramatic work of art such as a novel, play, or film. There are two types of characters, flat and round character. Flat characters are static characters who do not change from the beginning to the end of the play. Round characters in contrast to the flat characters, are dynamic and they grow and develop with the play. They are usually the main characters of the play. Character is revealed by how a character respond to conflict, by his or her dialogue, and through description.

This research is about main characters in *Things Fall Apart* novel. “Character is a person that is presented in a fiction which has been moral quality and certain tendency through speech action” (Abram in Nurgiyantoro, 165). The description of character in the novel is more complete, especially if it deals with characterization. “Characterization is the way in which an author presents and defines his character in a literary work. The way called as a method of characters description” (Hidayati, 3).

Characters are usually presented through their action, dialect, and thought, as well as by description. “Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in fiction or conversation” (Reader and Wood, 56). Characterization can regard a variety of aspect of a

character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation or occupation, financial status, and so on.

Characterization is one of the elements of fiction, it is a crucial part of making a story compelling. In order to interest and move readers, characters need to seem real. A character have to follow a role of character that have written by writers. A character in the story should demonstrate total accordance with what has been specified in a story in order to make the role of the resulting line with what is expected of a writer, and also a reader or spectator can look like the real scene. And good characterization make a reader strong sense of characters personality.

This research is chosen because the reseacher is interested in studying literature. By reading and analysing literary work automatically it can be develop our knowledge and science. In addition, the researcher can also get feeling or experiences author from object of the study in novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe. After reading and studying this novel, the researcher can give some information concerning the novel through the way of play based on the characters and characterization of the story.

In this analysis the researcher uses *Things Fall Apart* novel written by Chinua Achebe. *Things Fall Apart* is a post-colonial novel written by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe in 1958. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, one of the first to receive global critical acclaim. It was first published in 1958 in UK.

The story about an Igbo man, he is Okonkwo leader and local wrestling champion in the fictional Nigerian village of Umuofia. He is strong, hard worker, and strives to show no weakness. Okonkwo works to build his wealth entirely on his own, but Unoka (his father) died shameful death and left many unpaid debts. Novel *Things Fall Apart* has unique story because this novel narrates the different point of view, activity, principle and also purpose in major character life.

Actually character of Okonkwo is an protagonist but he had any characterization because he obsessed with his masculinity and he want to dispelled background his father Unoka. Okonkwo not all along as a great man in his clan. He also made some mistakes violation of tradition in the clan. In fact, he and his family have to did exile in his motherland as long as seven years. During seven years many Okonkwo's characterization changing, he many got the wisdom from the problem that happened in his life. So with any Okonkwo's characterization, in the story Okonkwo's characterization had been being changing.

At the end of story, after his exile Okonkwo return to his village Umofia. But his clan already become different, there was the missionaries came to Umofia and built the government. Nwoye is Okonkwo's first son joined with the Christians community. At the end of Okonkwo's life he suicide himself and got the evil body title because of his suicide. No one of Umofia's people wanted buried his body.

The character of Okonkwo was presented by author as center of conflict. So, the researcher decide to analyse Okonkwo's characterization changing in *Things Fall Apart* novel. Based on this problem, the researcher would like to analyze the major character characterization. Then the researcher will analyze actant functions of major character characterization at this novel by using structural theory of A.J. Greimas.

In addition, the researcher try to adjust with my education background. In this analyze, the researcher hope can contribute the reader of English values. The researcher think this novel teaches positive values to readers or other, it also as evidence that not all the novel contains injustice, in means that not all condition of people is bad.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on to the background research above, the discourse of the study is about *Things Fall Apart* novel by Chinua Achebe. In this research, the writer will discuss the changing characterization of Okonkwo. The research of questin are:

1. How is Okonkwo characterized in *Things Fall Apart*?
2. How is actant functions of each character which influence the change characterization of Okonkwo in *Things Fall Apart*?

### **1.3 Purpose of Research**

Every discussion has a certain purpose. Based on the research question above, so the purpose of research are:

1. To find the characterization of Okonkwo in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.
2. To find the actant function which influence the changing characterization of Okonkwo in *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe.

### **1.4 Significance of Research**

The result of this research is generally expected to be able to give a valuable contribution theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, the result can be used as a reference on the research of literature itself in educational institutions.
2. Practically, it is expected that the result of this research would be useful for the readers to understand and know deeply how to analyse about Character and characterization.

3. For the researcher, adding our knowledge in literary studies and also it is a very challenging experience in exploring and improving the comprehension of literary studies.

### **1.5 Clarification of Key Terms**

In order to minimize misinterpretation on the key terms used in this research, the researcher clarified some key points:

1. Novel: novel is prose story telling with a great amount of detail on every page, and usually reveals human values (peck and Coyle, 102).
2. Character: character means the actor of the story and also as the characterization of the story. The characters are describes the interest, desire, emotion, and moral principles that owned that figures (Nurgiyantoro, 165).
3. Characterization: characterization is the process of conveying information about character in fiction or conversation (Reader and Woods, 56).
4. Structuralism as literary criticism: structuralist critics, relates literary texts to a larger structure which may be a particular genre a range of intertextual connections a model of a universal narrative structure or a system of recurrent patterns or motifs.