

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with background of research, research question, research objective, research significance, definition of key terms and organization of paper.

1.1 Background

“The Grapes of Wrath” is the story which tells about the struggle of getting plentiful jobs in the fertile valley of California for work during the great depression. Steinbeck portray his novel with everyday life and gives a reflection of life such struggle , unfilled wish and sorrow.

John Steinbeck is one of realist writer. Schulth and Li (2005:224) explained that Steinbeck creates their fictional character in literary work base on his inspiration in the real people and real event. As one of realist writer, he used his imagination to reflect the reality in literary work and it is connect with the real social condition.

Ibn Rushd in Nurrachman (2014: 108) argues that a good and skilled poet should describe and delineate things according to their proper qualities and they true nature. It is agree with realist fiction. According to Abrams (1999: 260) said that “Realism on the other hand is said to represent life as it really is. Realist portrays reality focus on the surfaces of everyday life, they going to detail to the character of everyday life. It is will makes the reader feel as if the real event that which is appears in literary works.

Realist fiction is real life set to fiction and they tends to give a true representation base on the real world. Realist fiction gets inspiration based on facts in everyday life in representing the real world in literary work. It contains no fantasy, no supernatural elements, and it usually depicts ordinary people going about the business of daily living, with all its joys, sorrow, successes, and failures.

Characters are the person presented in works of narrative or drama who convey their personal qualities through dialogue and action. Character in literary work, it is like human in the real life, carried by certain characters, has a personality and an event which weave a story. According to Royle and Bannet (2004: 61) emphasized that characters are the life of literature; they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination.

In realist fiction, characterization of characters are ordinary real people. As one of literary element character used by realist to reflect the reality in literary work. The character in story portrayed like human being and rissing everyday's problem. It is can be said that the lifelikeness of character in the novel realist is a way of technique of realism.

Character as one of realist technique to portray the reflection of life in literary work cannot be separated from the imitation process. The character in realist fiction is a copy of such a person in the real life. As Royle and Bannet (2004: 62) said, "realistic characterization presupposes a 'mimetic' model of literary texts whereby what is primary or originality is a real person, and a character in a book is simply a copy such a person". It has relation with Childs and Fowler (1973: 198) statement that all theories of realism has the assumption that the novel imitates reality, and that reality is more or less stable and commonly accessible. Character in realist fiction imitates the real person in the real life to give effect as if really life, what they do and speak same as a human being, it has likeness and this character called as the lifelikeness of character.

"The Grapes of Wrath" has lifelikeness of character in the story, the problem based on social condition in their enviroment, life was not decent for them as the lower class. So, trough the lifelikeness of character, realist portrays the reflection of reality in literary work. For that reason to fill the avoid, the reseacher is interesting to analyze the lifelikeness of character, and its function as a technique of realism in John Steinbeck's "The Grapes of Wrath".

According to Scharnhorst and Quirk (2010: 58), “third, one may perhaps discern and define realist works by the subject matter- common characters living lives and encountering difficulties that average readers recognize and can identify with”. Based on the quotation, “The Grapes of Wrath” is one of the examples of realist fiction. The dialogue in Steinbeck's “The Grapes of Wrath” is realistic, it is also very purposeful. Not only that, a character who appears in every story also illustrates a figure that is real in their daily lives. It is because the story tells about the family who packed into a ramshackle truck heading west on Route 66, expecting plentiful jobs picking fruit or cotton in the fertile valleys of California.

There are several previous research that is related to the research. It is from Santi Ramdhani (2013). The research is about “*Local Color in Realist Fiction: Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe and John Steinbeck’s The Grapes of Wrath*”. His research is to explore the aspect of local color with some elements such as setting, costum, character and dialect. Furthermore the research that is related to the research is from Amran Saripin (2007), here the research is about “*The Class Struggle of working Class: A Marxist Literary Critisicism on John Steinbeck’s Novel The grapes of the novel*”. In this case the researcher used a marxist theory to explore the class struggle of working class.

The differs from this research is to find out and demonstrate how Steinbeck present the lifelikeness of character in “The Grapes of Wrath” and to know how the lifelikeness of character be functional as a technuque of realism. The last research are related in this research is from Kurnia (2011) entitled “*The Author’s World View Reflected in John Steinbeck’s Of Mice and Men: A Genetic Strukturalism*” his research is to analyze world view of author concerning the social condition in United State dominated by immigrant. In this case the researcher choosing the theory of the character’s lifelikeness in realist fiction. From the description above the researcher chooses Steinbeck’s novel as the object of the research which entitled “**The Lifelikeness of Character in John Steinbeck’s “The Grapes of Wrath”**”.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the explanation above the researcher tries to analyze the character's lifelikeness in several questions:

1. How does Steinbeck present the lifelikeness of character in "The Grapes of Wrath"?
2. What is the function of lifelikeness of character in the novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problem above, the purposes of this research are:

1. To find out Steinbeck present the lifelikeness of character in of "The Grapes of Wrath".
2. To find out the function of the lifelikeness of character as a technique of realism.

1.4 Research Significance

Practically, the significance of this research, for the researcher, is a study for improving the understanding related to the concept of realism and comprehend the lifelikeness of character and its function as a technique of realism in "The Grapes of Wrath". For the other researchers, this research could be a guidance or reading source for their researches related to the concept of realism and comprehend the lifelikeness of character and its function as a technique of realism. For the reader, this research is significant especially for the student of literary faculty for becoming the reference in realist fiction.

Theoretically, this research directed to develop research about realist fiction. Besides for knowing that is it true that in realist fiction there is a spesific explanation about the lifelikeness of character as one realism techniques.

1.5 Definitin of Key Terms

- 1.5.1 The lifelikeness of character: Characters are the person presented in works of narrative or [drama](#) who convey their personal qualities through dialogue and action by which the reader or audience understands their thoughts, feelings, intentions and motives. According Abrams (1999: 32) defines that characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, interpreted by the reader as persons who has particular moral, intellectual and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say, the dialogue and from what they do. Character in literary work, it is like human in the real life. And character who there in the literary works also carried by certain characters and has a personality. Characacter also carry an event, and from this event it can weave a story. The character who there literary works and it is like human life in the real life called as the lifelikeness of character.
- 1.5.2 Technique: Thehnikue is how the way of the author tells and describes the style of realism in literary work and the way how poet makes an illution of objective reality on the stage. From the technique done by the poet, here literary work will makes the reader or audience feeling as if realy life reflected the reality. Childs and Fowler (1973:236) explains that “ style as a deliberate prosedur: literary and artistic craft, connoting formal rather than effective or expressive values. Furthermore, every writer has a more or *less* convetional technique.
- 1.5.3 Realism: Realism in literature emphasizes an objectivity of a reality and tries to portray it into the kind of literature. Realism included one of literary theory to reflect the sense of reality in literature and directly composes literary criticism. It is appears

as an effort of novel to make it as a major literary genre with the works which convinced that human behavior as a product of environment, they portray society in starkly realistic terms. In this case, Habib (2005: 471) explains that the most general aim of realism is the representation of the real world in literary work both the external world and the human self. In the same way Lauter (2010: 486) justifies it that “realism aims to create an illusion of objective reality on the stage.

