CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter is defined by some matters. In this chapter the researcher explain about the background of the problem, statement of the problem, research objective, research significant, and definition of key terms.

1.1 **Background of Problem**

The complicated plot of melodrama refers to formula of melodrama story itself. Cawelti argues that melodramas are rather complicated in plot and characters (45). It means that, melodrama has a lot of different plot line and complex characters in the story. The plot is typically sensational and designed to appeal strongly to the emotions, takes precedence over detail characterization. It is because melodrama show how complex ambiguities and tragedies of the world ultimately reveal the operation of humanly oriented moral order, and benevolent. Therefore, melodrama consists of multiply sub-plots, rather complicated in plot line, and has complex character.

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Melodrama story consists of subplot that supports the main plot in it. It means that melodrama consists of partly stories which develop separately from the main story to increase very much in number of plot. Because of that melodrama has complicated plot and complex characters to involving a lot of part of the story. Then, point of view of melodrama is continually shifted in order to involve us in a complex of destinies.

In addition, Rose argued that “in plot design, character motivation and/or evocation of atmosphere ~ in order to celebrate moments or to plumb depths more extreme than those

tolerated within the boundaries of the purely realistic novel" (18). According the citation above it can be conclude that plot design in melodrama story is important to make the story more realistic and dramatically. This also is the reason which makes the melodrama remove imaginative world and tell something more realistic, it aims to excite emotional the readers.

In the other side melodrama is part of popular literature. According to Cambridge popular is something which liked enjoyed or supported by many people and literature is artistic written, especially those with a high and lasting artistic value. It does mean that, popular literature is literature which is liked, enjoyed, or supported by many people. Because of that popular novel should like and enjoy by many people too. Consequently popular novel must be bestselling novel and translated to many languages.

Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* is one of bestselling novel. It is because this novel translated to many languages. This novel published in London, Canada, England, Ireland, Victoria, Camber well, Australia, New Delhi, New Zealand, and South Africa. In Indonesia this novel was published six times by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama in Jakarta. The first edition was published on February in 2011, then on June in 2011, October in 2011, January in 2012, July in 2012. The last edition was published on February in 2014. Therefore, Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel which was published by PT Gramedia Pustaka Utama in Jakarta has several different covers. *If I Stay* is an American drama film directed by R. J. Cutler, adapted of Gayle Forman**'s 2009 bestseller hinges on the sort of relatable horrific worst-nightmare scenario that naturally invites, and rewards, a certain level of viewer empathy.** It was released on August 22, 2014. The film stars Chloë Grace Moretz, Mireille Enos, Jamie Blackley, Joshua Leonard, and Stacy Keach. (http://variety.com /2014/film /reviews/ film-review-if-i-stay-1201283269/).

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Therefore, the researcher needs theory of popular literature as the theoretical foundation to analyze Gayle Forma's *If I Stay* novel.

Then, to analyze popular literature background the writer of the novel is important to support the research. From Gayle Forman's blog the researcher knows that Gayle Forman was born in 1970 in Los Angeles. She was a journalist who focuses on young people and social justice (http://gayleforman.com/bio/). After that, she started to write some novels until now. At the first, the researcher thinks that, she wrote romance novel. It is because the cover of her novel likes romance such as; *Just One Year* and *Just One Night* novel, from the cover there were man and woman who kissed each other. Then *I Was Here* novel from that cover there were a girl walk alone. Romance fiction has a woman as a main character (Cawelty, 41). Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel has teenager woman character as a main character in the story, but ayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel is including female melodrama story.

Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel build by some formulas that refers to contemporary melodrama formula. Every genre of literature have formula each other, because of that there some genre of literature nowadays. Same with Adi argued that, *Setiap genre sudah memiliki formula-formula atau pakem tertentu yang berbeda dengan genre lain* (Adi, 68). The character of plot on this novel makes the researcher believe that this novel is including to melodrama novel which more realistic and remove the world imagination.

There are some previous studies about Gayle Forman's If I Stay and about melodrama story. First, is graduating paper from University of North Sumatra entitled *The Analysin of The Instinsic Elements of The Novel If I Stay By Gayle Forman* by Oky Auliya Dzikra in 2012. The second is theses submitted to the school of graduate studies in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree doctor of philosophy of McMaster University entitle *The Melodramatic Imaginations: Selected English-Canadian Fiction*

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1925-1932 in 1979. The last, is an essay Juliet Jhon entitle "Melodrama and its Criticism: An Essay in Memory of Sally Ledger" in 2009.

There is consideration about those previous studies which analyze Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* and melodrama and the character of melodrama story. In this research, the researcher has the different view about this novel. This novel is not only has the intrinsic elements of Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel, and melodrama imagination on Canadian fiction. Then, the researcher wants to analyze the melodrama formula in intrinsic element of Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel. Therefore, to analyze the complicated plot of melodrama formula constructed in *If I Stay* novel and how it can support and described melodrama formula in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay.*

1.2 **Statement of Problem**

Based on the research background above, the researcher limits the analysis on Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel into two research questions as follow.

1.2.1 How is melodrama formula constructed in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*?

1.2.2 How complicated plot is described and support melodrama formula in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*?

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1.3 **Research Objective**

Based on the research questions above, the researcher has two purposes of this research as follow.

1.3.1 To understand the melodrama formula in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay*.

1.3.2 To find out complicated plot describe and supported melodrama formula in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel.

1.4 **Research Significance**

In conduct this research, the researcher expect that this research will be has the significance. Practically, this research 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 melodrama formula, description of the complicated plot, and how is the complicated plot supported the melodrama formula in the literary work, especially in this novel.

Furthermore, theoretically this research is expected to reinforce the theory of melodrama formula in the novel, especially in *If I Stay* novel. Besides that, this research also expected to reinforce the character of plot support melodrama formula.

1.5 **Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding about the terms that are used in this research, here I clarify the terms as follows:

Melodrama **:** is a genre of popular literature such as romance, adventure, classical detective, hard boiled, and western. But melodrama is different with classical detective which have special character and western which have special setting. Melodrama story are usually rather complicated in plot.

Formula **:** is a structure or constant form which different with the other genre. Because of formula is a constant structure makes the reader easy to classify what kind of genre is it.

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Complicated plot: is character of plot in melodrama story. Because of melodrama are usually rather complicated in plot makes melodrama have complex characters, and point of view which continually change.

If I Stay **:** is a title of Gayle Forman's novel. This novel first published in America by Dutton Book in 2009.

Popular Literature: is a literature which support and liked by many people. If kind of popular literature is a novel, so that should be bestselling novel.

: This is the symbols of the chapter in Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel.

7:09 A.M. : Is the titles of a few episodes in the Gayle Forman's *If I Stay* novel that have stories which was interconnected.

Complex Character : Involving a lot of different character but related to every story on the novel.

Main Plot : is the heart of the story in the novel is written into seventeen sections, separated by thirteen different storyline.

Sub Plot : is a story that supported main plot.

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