

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of Research

Novel an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience. According to Taylor (1981:46) says “Novel is a normally a prose work with a quite length complexity which attempts to reflect an express something of the quality of value of human experience”. In other words, novel is long prose works with a great amount of detail on every page. The effect of this detail is that the readers can recognize the complex reality of a character or event in the story. In this case the writer takes prose in the form of novel as the object of the research because novel is a kind of literary work presenting many kind of view and value.

The researcher is interested to analyze the character and conflict in *Crooked House* novel, because in this novel there are many shows more about the internal and external conflict which means the conflict between characters to another characters or character with self and the novel reflects many various characters that made me interested with the storyline and the characters that are not easy to guess. In this research, I only focus on character and conflict analysis in Agatha Christie’s *Crooked House*. This novel is about detective fiction. Detective fiction was begun 1840 by Edgar Allan Poe who in later known as “the father” detective

fiction and continued by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his Sherlock Holmes as detective character in his novel in the end of the nineteenth century and it becomes famous in that age. Cawelti (1976: 89) argues that:

The classical or ratiocinative detective story was first clearly articulated by Edgar Allan Poe in the 1840s, but it did not become a widely popular genre until the end of the nineteenth century. Its period of greatest popularity was initiated by the enormous success of Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes stories, and it flourished in the first four decades of the twentieth century.

The popularity of detective fiction by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle with his Sherlock Holmes was continued when Agatha Christie created Hercule Poirot as detective in her novels and it was remarkable reward and also it was a golden age for detective fiction. Agatha Christie had created many popular novels such as *The Mystery of Blue Train*, *Death on the Nile*, *Cards on the Table*, *Sad Cypress*, and *Crooked House*.

The novel entitled *Crooked House* written by Agatha Christie is chosen. This novel was written in 1949. The story of the novel *Crooked House* describes about a wealthy family in America who has been killed. The main character of this novel is Sophia Leonides. Sophia is a granddaughter of Leonides. Her parents are Philip and Magda who have three children. They are Sophia, Eustace and the youngest sister, Josephine. Sophia is the eldest sister in her family. She works in Egypt as a fairly high administrative post in the foreign office department toward the end of the war. She comes back to London because she gets information that her grandfather had been killed whereas at that time, she does not know who the killer of her grandfather, Mr Leonides murderer was. This situation makes her

anxious because she always thinks that the killer of her grandfather is still inside of her house.

There are many writers did analysis of character in the literary works, such as Rohimah (2016) entitled *Good and Evil Characters in Charles Dickens's Oliver Twist*. This research has analyzed the character, characterization, and ethic of the characters in *Oliver Twist* novel. The writer used the qualitative method to explore the research. The writer took 34 data consisting of 14 data of the good characters and 20 data of the evil characters. The results of this research showed there were 6 good characters; Oliver Twist, Mr. Brownlow, and Rose Meylie (major character), then Mrs. Bedwin, Mr. Losberne, and The Man of Book Stall (minor character). They are good characters because they have good behaviour, do something right, have good education, and knowledge. Meanwhile, the evil characters found are 8 characters; Fagin, Bill Sikes, and Nancy (major character). Then Mr. Bumble, Noah Claypole, Charlotte, Mrs. Sowerberry, and The Master of Workhous (minor character). They are evil characters because they have bad behaviour, do something wrong such as criminal, pick pocket, rob, violence, and bully.

Then Hasan (2014) entitled *Characterization and Conflict in Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile*. The aims of this research are to analyze the *Characterization and Conflict in Agatha Christie's Death on the Nile*. The writer used the theory of E.M Forster to find the characterization in character which was divided into two flat characters and round character and the theory from Robert Stanton to find the conflict which was divided into two there are external and internal conflict. The results of analysis showed that to know how the characterization in Agtha Christie's *Death on the Nile* which was divided into two

categories, there are flat character and round character. And to know how the conflict in Agatha Christie's *Death on the Nile* novel which was divided into two there were internal and external conflict.

The last is Fitriyani (2005) entitled *Analysis of Characterization and Characters Interrelation In Thomas Hardy's Novel Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. She argued that to analyze character and characterization not only used narrative technique, how they do and speak, but also characters interrelation. In this case she uses triadic system theory. To progress analysis of characterization and character interrelation the writer not only deepened the narrative technique of how character spoke and what they talked as their natural personality but also used the application of Triadic System (David Morse) in characters interrelation.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of research, the problems can be divided into two research questions as stated as follows:

1. What are the character in the novel of *Crooked House*?
2. What kinds of conflict that happen in the novel of *Crooked House*?

1.3 Objective of the Research

The objective of the study is simply answering the problem proposed previously. So it is said:

1. To find out the character in the novel of *Crooked House*.
2. To find out the conflict that happen in the novel of *Crooked House*.

1.4 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to enrich the knowledge of the reader about the analysis, especially analysis character and conflict in Agatha Christie's *Crooked House* and to be useful for the researchers in conducting research on the character with other literary works. This study, is useful for the researcher conduct the similar research about the character and conflict in other novels.

1.5 Organization of paper

The writing of this research is organized into five chapter. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter provides the background of research, research questions, research objective, research significance and organization of paper. The second chapter is Theoretical Foundation. This chapter presents the theories that are relevant based on the theory of flat and round character introduced by E. M Forster and based on the theory of conflict introduced by Robert Stanton. The third chapter is research method which is consists of some steps of doing the research. This chapter also includes research design, data, source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. The fourth chapter

is analysis data. This chapter elaborates the finding data analysis and discussion of this research. The last is chapter five, that consists of conclusions report of this research and the suggestion.

