

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of three parts. They are the research background, research problem, the objective of the study.

A. Background of the Study

When we talk about literature, we know very well that literature conveys information through language, and literature is an art that deals with the emotional aspects of humans. One of the most popular forms of literature is fiction. According to **(Boon, 2010)** Literature generally focuses on the relationship between society and individuals, individuals and events that occur within the circle of individuals **(Wellek, 1990)** It is clear that literary works, especially novels, are created by writers, like the work of others, to convey feelings for the reader. Writers communicate with their readers and reveal their character's identities, such as feelings, thoughts, and experiences. Literature is an art form because we can appreciate beauty through language, Halim writes: "Literature is not a science, but an art. Most art activities involve recording the emotional aspects of human type, such as; Feelings, beliefs, spirituality, etc. it is difficult to define. Although difficult to define, literature is basically the art of language" **(Halim, 2003)**.

Novels are literary works is able to arouse the sense of the readers. Through the novel, the reader seems to be involved in every event that occurs in the novel. Like the love, which allows the reader to directly feel a form of love, but It is empty and meaningless when people cannot interact with each other and exist for themselves. The ultimate goal of interaction is to show how a person consciously feels the presence of someone with whom they can communicate and live. One form of this social interaction is the power of love. For the living, the power of love is like the glue that holds the differences together. Through the power of love, humans are able to integrate the meaning of life in the broadest sense. This novel reflects the power of love in the story of this novel. Numbers is a novel that tells the story of the main character, she is the troubled Gemma Marsh, and she sees numbers in her eyes. That number is the date of death. These numbers represent the day, month, and year of the person's death. Date is the date of death of the person she saw. She has a boyfriend named Spider, and she can see the numbers in Spider's eyes. That figure is December 15, 2009, and she's trying to fight to unite with Spider. At the time, Spider was both a drug user and dealer, which made him a target for the police. One day she and Spider went to a city called London. However, when Marsh got there, everyone was shown the same number, and that number was the date of the day.

Romance is a very important part of fiction, because elements in fiction are contributed by people, it is fun to read, and is often linked to real life. Clearly, the power of love is the power of human action that unites or unites humanity against separation, and the power of love is caring, respecting, caring for others. Although these love powers often clash to some degree, three general patterns emerge: (1) the power of love between parents and children, (2) the power of love between husband and wife, (3) the

power between humans and the love between God. The power of love is an important part of human life because love can be used to interact with other people. The power of love is a strong feeling or deep concern for another person. The power of love can be conveyed in many ways. It is expressed through words, for example: acts of admiration and other care (Mifflin, 1987) So 'the power of love is deep affection for another person, caring for fellow human beings and can be communicated.

Swamps and spiders emerge from the crime scene, the crime scene explodes, killing everyone who enters the scene, but before the crime scene explodes, she is suspected of being a terrorist by the police and automatically and Spider are his targets. Police. She gets scared and asks Spider to run away. Basically, not only because he asked Spider to run away, but because she loved him so much that he promised Val's grandmother that he would save Spider. They escape together through mountains, forests, and several rivers, never having had for Spider to live, but the cops end up with Spider and tag him on the anniversary of Spider's death. This comes to accept the fact that Spider is dead, but proves the strength of his love for her, but he still loves her and will not marry anyone else. Not only that, the power of love makes him insistent on raising children (Ward, 2010).

Feminist literature originated a feminist who surveys the works of past female authors and wants to present the image of women in the works of male authors who portray women as oppressed in various ways and belittled by the prevailing patriarchal tradition (Djajanegara, 2000): 27). There two desires give rise to sometimes all kinds of criticism combine. For example, in examining the image of women in the literary works of female writers, attention is focused on the ways in which the stresses of female characters are represented. She adheres to patriarchal values, allowing the author to create stereotypical female characters that fit the needs of patriarchal society, On the other hand, the study of women in men's writings can show strong female characters and indeed support feminist values.

Feminism is a women's movement that seeks to demand full equality of rights between women and men. The feminist movement is a movement for the liberation of women from their dependence on others, especially men. Existentialist feminism was pioneered by Simone de Beauvoir. His thinking was influenced by existentialism philosophy, especially Sartre's thought. To be able to summarize Sartre's thoughts is not an easy thing to do in a brief description. However, the most interesting part of his thinking is about human existence. According to Sartre, man exists as himself with consciousness. This is what causes humans to be different from other objects or things. In other words, for humans, existence is openness, in contrast to other things, namely, being is at once an essence, so for human existence precedes essence. "Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself. Such is the first principle of existentialism". Existence, according to Sartre, in Tong (2006: 256), precedes essence

Existential feminism is a feminism that sees the oppression of women from the reproductive burden borne by women, so they do not have a bargaining position with men. The most basic of oppression is oppression based on the natural differences of reproduction between the sexes which leads to gender discrimination and the construction of biologically based class systems. The advantages of existentialist

feminism from Simone De Beauvoir. Simone de Beauvoir argues that women throughout history have always been subordinate to men. Beauvoir also continues women only become men in their existence in this world (Tong: 2004, 262). Women are objects and men are subjects. one of the literary works is the novel number written by Rachel ward. Novel Number, the uniqueness of Rachel Ward's novel Numbers, which has ever received an award, the award-winning short story, the opening chapter of Numbers, was also presented at the 2010 Sacred Arts Festival (Ward, 2010). contains a story that is able to photograph the harsh reality of the life of a girl who is different from others. The novel describes how bitter the life of a woman who is subjected to harsh treatment and is looked down upon. Based on the above background, the author took the initiative to conduct research on existential feminism contained in the novel number.

B. Questions of This Research

1. How is authentic love reflected in Rachel Ward's novel "Numbers"?
2. What are the implications of authentic love in Rachel Ward's novel "Numbers"?

C. Objective of the Research

The author has several objectives in this research based on the research questions, which are as follows:

1. This study is to analyze how authentic love is reflected in the novel "Numbers" based on feminism theory.
2. To find the implications of authentic love in the novel numbers.