

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Theodore Dreiser wrote a novel *Sister Carrie* based on his sister Emma's story who has an affair with Hopkins, a married man. This novel was published by the Doubleday company in 1900 and published by Pennsylvania State University in 2005 which has 409 pages and consists of 42 chapters. This novel tells about an urban American girl who tries to find happiness in her life. *Sister Carrie* got ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in 1998 in the modern library.

Theodore Dreiser was born in August 27 1871, Terre Haute, Indiana. He was the ninth of ten surviving children (three others died as infants) of Sarah Schanab and Johann Dreiser. Dreiser's childhood coincided with the family's hard times. Consequently, his earliest memories included the joblessness of his father and older siblings, as well as the constant search for economic stability. In his first sixteen years he lived in five different towns in Indiana (as well as in Chicago for a few months), at times relocating only with his mother and the two other younger children, Ed and Claire. As a result, his youth was emotionally unstable, and he had few educational opportunities, which was a special hardship for such a bookish boy (Riggio: 2000).

Although Dreiser was a serious student, he never finished high school. The conduct of his siblings, especially the sexual adventures of his sisters, made him decide to leave school. Depressed over his family's poor social standing in the

small northern Indiana town of Warsaw, he decided at age sixteen to seek work in Chicago. In 1898 Dreiser married Sara Osborne White, a schoolteacher from Missouri, whom he had met when he covered the 1893 Columbian Exposition as a reporter for the *St. Louis Republic*. With her encouragement and that of his friend Arthur Henry, a novelist and former editor of the *Toledo Blade*, Dreiser began writing his historic first novel, *Sister Carrie* (Riggio: 2000).

The story began when an eighteen years old young girl, Carrie arrived at Chicago to find job and met Dreout in the train. Dreout was interested in Carrie's beauty and then they had conversation. They exchanged their address and promised to meet each other in Monday. Here Carrie lived in her sister's flat so she thought that her relations with Drouet would not be tolerate. Carrie informed Dreout not to come to Minnie's place and waited until she contacted him.

Finally, after many days she searched job she got job although with low wage. But unfortunately the job was too hard for her, so she was sick and lost her job. Then, she tried to find new job for several days but she could not find it because she had not any experience in work. One day she met Drouet who invited her to have lunch and lent her some money to buy clothes. The following day, she planned to return Drouet money that she could not buy clothes. When Drouet ordered lunch, Carrie said that she could not take the money and she wanted to back home.

Drouet offered a room to Carrie when she went out from Minnie's flat, then they lived together. Someday Drouet said to Carrie that he was invited his friend Mr. Hurstwood a manager of of Fitzgerald and Moy's to come home. In the

first sight Carrie felt that Mr. Hurstwood was cleverer than Drouet. Mr. Hurstwood asked Drouet and Carrie to the theatre before Drouet went out the city because here Drouet was a traveling salesman.

When Drouet was out of the city, Mr. Hurstwood came to visit Carrie and the affair both them began. Finally, Drouet and Mr. Hurstwood's wife knew their affair. Carrie did not know that Mr. Hurstwood was a married man and had children. One day Mr. Hurstwood ran away with Carrie to New York and married illegally. For the first year they lived happy, but the next year they found difficulties. New York was different from Chicago, in New York lived was hard it was very difficult to find job and so to pay apartment.

Carrie found job as a player at theater and started the career from it. This is the second time she played at theater, in Chicago she ever played at the theater and now she tried to develop her ability in theater. Unlike Carrie who got job, Wheeler or Hurstwood did not have any job. Finally Carrie decided to separate with Hurstwood and leave him some money. For a short time she became famous as a player and she got much money. The ending of the story is Hurstwood lived in poverty, bad luck and dead finally. Carrie lived in luxury but she did not feel happy and her life is so empty.

The first time Theodore wanted to publish *Sister Carrie*, he found difficulties to publish it because the book was "immoral" because it told a fallen woman (Carrie) as a success story. The Doubleday accepted this novel, and printed it 1,008 copies but only 456 which was sold (Madison, Charles: 1974: 97).

Lewis said in 1930 that “Dreiser's great first novel, *Sister Carrie*, which he dared to publish thirty long years ago and which I read twenty-five years ago, came to housebound and airless America like a great free Western wind, and to our stuffy domesticity gave us the first fresh air since Mark Twain and Whitman”. There are some responses from the reader, the first response was Kristin who posts in June 8, 2008. She said that it was a good novel which brought the reader to the story and felt it. She read *Sister Carrie* twice, for her this novel spoke deeply about dream and happiness.

The second response was Stuart who posts in December 17, 2012. He said that he loved the novel because it told the American dream, urban America and the reality of the story in society. *Sister Carrie* theme was easy to understand and to identify. So, he liked this novel.

*Sister Carrie* is an interesting novel. There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing the novel. The first reason is the character and characterization in the *Sister Carrie* novel. The researcher finds the major character of this novel is interesting to study, Carrie is a young lady who is eighteen years old comes to Chicago to find a good life and has a good physics she is beautiful and has pretty face. Mr. Dreout has good physic he is handsome, clean and neat. Mr. Hurstwood is clever, charming and elegance.

The second is setting, this novel was written by drawing the time in 1889 the late nineteenth century which background by urbanization. Here the main character Carrie moved from Colombia to Chicago to find job to make good life

and move from Chicago to New York with Mr. Hurstwood to live peacefully. Either Chicago or New York, Carrie tries to get her happiness.

The third is the plot of the novel. It tells about a young girl who moved to Chicago to find job and good life. She got job with low wage and lost it because she was sick. She met Dreout and lived happily together. Then, Carrie met Hurstwood and had affair with him. They went to New York and married, they lived happily together for a few moments but they lived separated when Carrie find job to play in theater. She got much money from it and became a famous actress but she lived lonely.

The fourth reason is the theme of the novel. In *Sister Carrie* it describes love, money and life. Theodore tells life is not about money but also friend. Some people believe that money is everything, but when they have much money but they have no friends to share feelings, life will be so empty. Carrie found love and broke, found love again and broke again and the ending of the story she got much money but her life was so empty. It creates pleasure-seeking in Carrie's personality. So, the researcher is interesting to study this novel.

Considering the explanation above, the researcher believes that it is necessary to conduct an analysis related with this problem. To conduct this analysis the researcher uses Psychoanalytic approach and constructs the title **“PLEASURE -SEEKING PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN THEODORE DREISER’S *SISTER CARRIE* (2005): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”**

## **B. Literature Review**

The researcher presents some literary review. The first is “**DESIRE FOR WEALTH IN THEODORE DREISER’S NOVEL *SISTER CARRIE* (1900): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH**” conducted by Andamruci Nonika Nusagam, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student. He used psychoanalytic approach in analyzing the desire for wealth in theodore dreiser’s novel *Sister Carrie*.

The second was conducted by Laelatul Ardiati a student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta “**AMERICAN DREAM IN THEODORE DREISER’S *SISTER CARRIE*: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**”. She elaborated the portraits of American Dream in Theodore Dreiser’s novel *Sister Carrie* that were analyzed through sociological approach. The objectives of the research were to analyze the novel based on its structural elements and to analyze the novel based on the sociological approach, by identifying the relation between the novels, the social background of the late nineteenth century American society. Having analyzed the novel, the researcher came to the conclusion as follows: The portraits of American dream in *Sister Carrie* were mostly found in the characters drawn by Theodore Dreiser. The novel dealt with the pursuit of success and happiness and there was correlation between the story with the social reality in American society in the late nineteenth century.

The third was conducted by Umu Habibah, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2010), entitled “***PORTRAIT OF CARRIE’S MISERY LIVING IN POVERTY IN THEODORE DREISER’S NOVEL SISTER CARRIE (1900): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH***”. The major problem of this study was to elucidate the portrait of Carrie’s misery living in poverty reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s novel *Sister Carrie*. Then she got conclusion based on the sociological approach, there was close relation between the literary work and the social reality underlying it, such as a portrait of a man who lived in poverty. These approaches applied in order to get the appropriate analysis and answer the problem. She found that living in poverty was full of struggle to survive.

The fourth was conducted by Rosalyn, Olivia (2006) “***A STUDY OF THE CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF CARRIE’S OBSESSION WITH MATERIAL WEALTH AS SEEN IN THEODORE DREISER’S SISTER CARRIE***”. To fulfilled the bachelor thesis, Petra Christian University. She focuses in Carrie Meeber portrayed as a materialistic girl who saw material wealth and luxurious life were the important part in her life. For that matter, to fulfill her obsession she got involved with two men and her purposed was for the money. Concerning the topic that was brought up in *Sister Carrie* that was about the causes and effects of Carrie’s obsession with material wealth, she was curious to know the causes with Carrie became obsessed with material wealth and the effects of her obsession.

The fifth was conducted by Irawati (1999) “***A COMPARATIVE STUDY ON THE EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THE TWO MAIN MALE CHARACTERS IN DETERMINING THEIR FINAL***

*DECISION IN THEODORE DREISER'S SISTER CARRIE AND JENNIE GERHARDT*”, to fulfill the bachelor thesis in Petra Christian University. By the thesis the writer wanted to show as well as to prove that indeed, there were some kinds of both external and internal forces which were used as considerations for the two main male characters before determining their final decision. She also wanted to describe and to classify the forces that work in the two main male characters' life due to their final decision. In doing her analysis, the thesis writer would apply the theory of comparative study in order to see the similarities and the differences of the forces.

Besides that, literary theories of characterization and conflict were also used in helping her to understand what sorts of characters actually Hurstwood and Lester were, and what conflicts they had before they determined their final decision. Hurstwood's loved affair with Carrie had been a disaster for him that caused him to commit suicide. Meanwhile, Lester's loved affair with Jennie has also made him to face the external and internal forced which lead him to leave Jennie as his final decision. Thus, the thesis writer would scrutinize first all of the kinds of external forced in the two main male characters' life since they appeared as the first sign in determining their decision. Finally, after doing her analysis, the thesis writer could conclude that both Hurstwood and Lester, indeed, have similarities and differences in their external and internal forces which are used as their consideration before they determined their final decision.

The sixth was conducted by Rong, Jin a lecturer at a School Of International Studies Of Xi'an Jiaotong University in 2007 “*SISTER CARRIE IN*



***CONSUMER SOCIETY AS SEEN FROM DECEPTION WITHIN NON-VERBAL AND VERBAL FRAMEWORK AND THE FULFILLMENT OF DESIRES***". This essay attempted to analyze the theme of deception which was presented by two forms, one was silence, the other was lie, which were known as the deception within the non-verbal and verbal framework respectively. Widely employed in *Sister Carrie*, the theme of deception revealed the conflicts between feminine and masculine power through the utterances. In addition, the materialization in the relationship between man and woman especially Carrier and her two lovers was presented in the consumer society. And the protagonists in the novel were tragic products of the inability to communicate with each other and the victims of their desires and consumer society.

The seventh was conducted by *Chengcheng Zhang and Hui Zhang (2009)* "***FROM AMERICAN DREAMS TO AMERICAN TRAGEDIES — THEODORE DREISER'S PONDERATION ON AMERICAN SOCIETY AND RUINATION OF MORALITY***". They elaborated that Theodore Herman Albert Dreiser was one of America's greatest naturalist writers. He believed that human beings were helpless in the grip of instincts and social forces beyond their control, and he judged human society as an unequal contest between the strong and the weak. Both of his masterpieces *Sister Carrie* (1900) and *An American Tragedy* (1925), which were mostly based on his personal experience, expanded and clarified those themes. By comparing Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* and *An American Tragedy*, this thesis analyzed the author's exploration of the

possibilities of 20th century American life with its material profusion and spiritual doubt of the life value.

The last is submitted by Miamial in 2010 which titled “***SISTER CARRIE’S PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS AS AN ACTRESS***”. She elaborated that this paper made an attempt to explore how Sister Carrie’s pursuit of happiness was associated with her career as an actress. The goal of it was to find out what a role did her occupation played in her mental state. It takes a close look at her rise from an innocent country girl to a professional performer. By analyzing her first stage experience in the play “Under the Gaslight”, this paper would reveal to the readers that it was her closest moment to happiness in her whole acting profession. By bringing up Carrie’s endless longing after she had acquired worldly success, this paper also tried to associate one’s spiritual condition with his education. Carrie was no doubt rich in feeling but dull in understanding, for she could not tell exactly what was on her mind and how to control it. As it turned out, Carrie’s discontent was largely due to her lack of education in her early life.

This study is different from the previous study because the theme is different. This reasearch focuses on Pleasure -Seeking Personality Reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* (2005): A Psychoanalytic Approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the previous background of study, the researcher proposes the problem “How is pleasure - seeking personality portrayed in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*?”

#### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research on analyzing pleasure- seeking personality in Carrie, a major character in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* (2005) based on psychoanalytic approach.

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows are:

1. To describe *Sister Carrie* novel based on structural elements of novel.
2. To analyze pleasure- seeking personality which is reflected in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* (2005) based on psychoanalytic approach.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The writer hopes that her research at *Sister Carrie* (2005) has benefits. The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give an information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary at *Sister Carrie* (2005) novel.

##### **2. Practical Benefits**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest with literary study on the novel from a psychoanalytic approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It aims at analyzing novel using psychoanalytic approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is the novel *Sister Carrie* (2005) written by Theodore Dreiser.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research namely:

- a. The primary source is Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* novel.
- b. The secondary sources are from other sources related the study, such as: author's biography, dictionary, personality books and other books that support the analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The methods of collecting data in this study are library research and documentation. The process of writing this thesis uses the procedures as follow:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly and underlying the important data which consist of sentences, phrases and words.
- b. Exploring the main data of character that will be analyzed
- c. Identifying a particular part that is important and relevant for the analysis.
- d. Making note both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying the data into some categories

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive analysis.

It means that the writer interprets the analysis text and content relating to the psychoanalytic approach in *Sister Carrie* novel.

## **H. Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* (2005) is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter two is the underlying theory of psychoanalytic approach. Chapter three is structural elements of the novel. Chapter four is psychoanalytic analysis and the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.