

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human life is full of drive, desire and urges to do something. We can find all of that in literature because people have many ways to express human emotion in the form of literature works. Wellek and Warren (1956:90) state that the processes of the author's creation are the objects of the psychologist investigate curiosity. Also, the experience of life can give inspiration for author to produce a literary work (Wellek and Warren, 1984:91). It means that the works of literature are based on psychological mind of the writer.

Literature has a tight relationship with psychology because both of them study the human's life. Literature is a work that expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes toward life and the world (Stigler 1965:16). Meanwhile, psychology is the scientific study of behavior and the mind (Passer and Smith, 2004:3). It can be concluded that both object in literature and psychology is human mind. Besides that, according to Jatman (Endraswara, 2003:97) there is a tight correlation between literature and psychology indirectly as well as functionally; in fact, psychology and literature have the same object that is human being.

Greed is one of human nature caused by people desire to own something for their own. The desire itself can cause a major change of people

life because desire is a means for people to improve their own life and have a fulfilled life. According to Webster (1961:73), greed is extreme or voracious desire with reprehensible acquisitiveness for other's belonging. It means that to improve their own life, people will do anything and everything for their desire, even if it means to take over someone's belonging, whether they are right or wrong.

Greed is a strong emotion in human mind. The desire within it usually is very high and makes people do anything for it. So it is common that greed becomes the source of conflict to the people who experience it, either mentality or physically. The conflict that occurs can be in the form of desire for power, desire for money, battle of interest or battle for love. Sometimes conflict will lead to violence. Violence is the excessive excitement that reaches the psychic apparel, coming from the external world or from the pulsional life and threatening the individual psychic capacity to select, elaborate and discriminate. We can say that sometimes violence is the only way to satisfy people's desire. And usually violence can result to someone death and lead a person to crime.

One of the literary works that describes greed for money is Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan*. *A Simple Plan* is a novel written by Scott Smith. Scott Smith was born on July 13, 1965 in New Jersey. Smith is the son of Linda and Doug Smith. When he was a child, he moved to Toledo, Ohio. After studying at Dartmouth College and graduating from Columbia University, he took up writing full-time. Up until now he has published 2

novels, *A Simple Plan* and *The Ruins*. *A Simple Plan* was published in 1993, while *The Ruins* was published in 2006. His screen adaptation of *A Simple Plan* earned him an Academy Award nomination.

A Simple Plan is a thriller novel. The story is set in a small town in northern Ohio when snow covered the town throughout the winter. The main character is Hank Mitchell, an accountant and man with a family. On New Year's Eve, Hank and his elder brother Jacob set out to visit their parents' graves, accompanied by Lou, Jacob's only friend. When a fox runs in front of Jacob's truck, he swerves and crashes into a ditch. Jacob's dog chases the fleeing fox into a nature preserve. The three men go after the dog and find a crashed plane. Inside the plane, they found a dead pilot and a gym bag with \$4.4 million in \$100 bills.

Hank wants to turn the money they found to the authorities. But both Jacob and Lou are unemployed, so they want to keep the money for their life. Hank's compromise with their wishes with one exception that he will hold onto the money until after the plane is discovered in the spring. If there is any mention of the missing money in the plane, he will burn it. Otherwise, after six months, if there is no rumor regarding the money in the plane, they will split it equally and separately leave town and enjoy the simple plan that they make.

After that Hank told his wife, Sarah about the plan to hide the money they found. At first she reluctantly opposed Hank's plan. But after a

little discussion with Hank, she accepts the idea and enthusiastically joins with Hank's plan. The following day, at Sarah's suggestion, Hank and Jacob return to the plane and plant five hundred thousand dollars in the cockpit. Unfortunately, Dwight Pederson sees the tracks in the snow and tried to see what is going on. Jacob, in a panic with the sudden development, he hits him and apparently kills Dwight. When Hank returns to confirm Jacob's story, he saw Dwight still alive and breathing. In order to silence him, he suffocates him and kills that man. Thus, the simple plan that they thought an easy job turn into a bloody drama that they never thought of.

There are four reasons why this novel is very interesting for research. The first reason is this novel reflects a human nature called greed. The desire to have and own something is really reflected in this novel. It shows that each character has their own needs and desire for the future they want. Eventually, the desires are too strong and make them do something drastic like murder and betrayal.

The second reason is the Hank's quick thinking to solve his sudden problems with quickly and effectively. It is really interesting how Hank solves his problem by any means, like murdering the person who knows his secret, betraying his own friend and brother, Lou and Jacob by killing both of them and making a convincing lie to the authority in order to hide his misdeeds. All of it in order to protect his normal life and his desire to own the money he found.

The third reason is never ending tragedy befalling Hank one after another. His story is always full of problems. When he thought that he already solved his problem and hoped that there will be no more tragedy, another problem came to his life that caused another tragedy. For his desire he endures all the pains and tragedy by himself and in the end it brings his mentality down and the downfall of his life.

The last reason is the simple trick Hank used in his murder scheme. All of his murders are really simple without any troublesome trick. He only uses necessary equipment in daily life as a murder weapon. He also makes a convincing lie and thanks to his good personality in everyday life, the authority believes his made up story. His plan is never revealed by the authority and he is never arrested by the police.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher tries to observe A *Simple Plan* using individual psychological theory, since this theory is about understanding individual's feeling and social relationship around that individual. It also shows the relation between human behavior and individual's inferiority feeling. There is a relation between the story of this novel and the theory of individual psychology. So, the researcher constructs the title **GREED FOR MONEY IN SCOTT SMITH'S A SIMPLE PLAN (1993): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

As long as the researcher knows, there has been no particular study or writing that analyzes *A Simple Plan* novel with an individual psychological approach. So with this opportunity, the researcher uses individual psychological approach to analyze greed for money in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan*.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is greed for money reflected in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focused to analyze greed for money in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan* based on an individual psychological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan* novel based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To describe greed for money in Scott Smith's novel based on an individual psychological approach.

F. The Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretical benefit of this study is to give information and knowledge to literature research especially in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan*. Hopefully, the result of this study will give some benefits to the other literature works, particularly the literary study on Scott Smith's novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The practical benefit is as a reference to the other researcher in analyzing this novel particularly to the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

To analyze greed for money in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan* the researcher searches for many data related to the topic. Research method is the strategy that the researcher uses in order to find the solution of the problem statement. In this study, the method steps are as follows:

1. Type of the Study

The study is qualitative study, which takes the sources data from word, sentence and any other written texts.

2. Data Source

In this study, the researcher uses two sources of data, namely primary and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel itself, *A Simple Plan* by Scott Smith. It involves the dialogue between characters, idea, thinking direction, perspective, and the whole narration of the novel.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources which relate to the primary data such as the biography of the author, book, internet and website, which are relevant in this novel.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research. The data are collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is to read *A Simple Plan* novel over and over again to identify the problem and find the data needed for this research. Next is by reading the relevant theory with the issue. The final is collecting the supported data. The researcher also collects and reads the script of the novel. Besides that, the researcher also uses internet to find more information about this novel.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher employs descriptive qualitative analysis or content analysis. The analysis is started from the author's autobiography. The next step is the structural analysis of the novel. The final step will be the individual analysis of the novel using individual psychological approach.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper organization of "Greed for money in Scott Smith's *A Simple Plan* in (1993): An Individual Psychological Approach" is as follows: *Chapter I* is Introduction, which consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. *Chapter II* consists of the Underlying theory, which presents the notion of individual psychological theory, basic assumption of individual psychological and theoretical application. *Chapter III* is Structural analysis of the novel, which involves the structural elements of the novel like character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, themes and discussion. *Chapter IV* constitutes individual psychological analysis of the character and discussion. The last is *Chapter V* which contains of conclusion and suggestion.