

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature or literary has many definition, like literature is a culture, literature is language that can be expressed in a sentence and literature is an art. Actually, literature can be defined with something that can be used to express some idea in a literary work.

One kind of literatures is Novel as a literary work has been known in England early 18th century. According to The American college dictionary (Tarigin, 1984: 164), novel is fiction story of prose in certain length, which depicting the actors, movement while the real representative scenes inside of the rule or a mess and complicated situation. (Henry Guntur Tarigan. 1984. Prinsip-prinsip Dasar Sastra :164)

Literature includes both written and spoken material. On a broader level, 'literature' includes anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but most commonly the term refers to works of the creative imagination, i.e. poetry, drama, prose and novel. Literature is almost similar to art, what is true in painting is true in literature. 'A novel is not an imitation or an exact copy of life as we live it; it is rather a selection of characters and events drawn from reading, observation, and experience, and woven into an entirely new story.' (Knowlson, 2006. Edinburgh Companion to Samuel Becket and arts : 20)

A novel as a literary work has been known since eighteenth century in United Kingdom with the result as like novel, poem, and drama. Prose as often as specific terms for all discourage spoken or written which is not patterned into recurrent matrix united that we call verse. Prose has longer meaning, because it covers everything that is written as literary work but it includes some of non-fiction work. Literary works are reflection of human life containing situation, interaction and conflict which happened in the society. Literary works have many function for readers, beside as an

entertainment, they help us to see and give information about the other side of human life in period, because it has reflection of the social reality about norms and others elements that are connected each other that are expressed by human's experiences. Literature represents a language or a people: culture and tradition, but literature introduces us to the new world of experiences.

Novel as a one of literary work plays an important role in giving a view to address the life artistically. This is possible, because the issues discussed in the novel are the questions of mankind and humanity. Novel development in Indonesia is quite fast. It is evidenced by the publication of many new novels. The novels which had a variety of themes and content, among other about social problems, which generally occurs in the community, including those related to women. The female figures are very interesting to talk about. Women in public areas tend to be used by men to satisfy their colonies. Women have been the subject of business and sexual exploitation. In other words, nowadays it has lost a proud feminist nature and lauded not only by women but cases submitted as evidence to undermine the perceptions, among others, not all societies were discovered that they provided balanced gender roles between men and women (Bryson, 1992. *Today's Writers and Their Works* : 140-141)

In the background of history, the oppressions and injustices are suffered by women. In fact, the name is not recognized the right of their rights as human beings who want to align with the male. In the history, feminism movements develop gradually. The use of the theory of literary criticism of feminism has been widely used in the analysis of literary works. Feminist literary criticism as a branch of sociology of literature begins with the desires of the female feminism to analyze the works of woman authors in the past and to show the image of women in the work of the male authors that display women as repressed, misinterpreted, and trivialized by the traditions of patriarchy dominant. In a patriarchal society, women are included in the home camp who is limited to the environment and life in the home, while men are included in the general camp that includes environmental and life

outside the home (Djajanegara, 2003. *Gender and Inferioritas Perempuan* : 30).

Feminism is an ideology of women's liberation, because that is inherent in all of its approach is the belief that women suffer injustice because of their gender (Humm, 2002. *Palgrave Advances in Virginia Studies*). Feminism is a theory on understanding the nature of gender inequality to analyze gender inequality. The themes which are explored in feminism include discrimination, objectification (especially sexual objectification), oppression, patriarchy, stereotyping art history, and contemporary art and aesthetics (Heroepetri & Valentina, 2004. *Perempuan dan Hukum* : 34). One of the causes of feminism is patriarchy, which is the origin of the concept of equality between men and women, and also the concept of woman. It examines women's social roles, experience, interest, chores, and feminist politics in a variety of fields, like: economics, literature, philosophy, and education. (*English Education : jurnal Tadris Bahasa Inggris* vol 9(2), 2016, 429-443)

Paula Hawkins is British novelist born in Salisbury, Rhodesia in 1972, whose first novel, *The Girl on the Train*, grew into a bestseller. She is the daughter of an economics professor. She and her family moved back from Rhodesia to London in 1989 when she was 17 years old. She joined the University of Oxford and graduated with a degree in philosophy, politics and economics. She worked for *The Times* as a business journalist and then worked as a freelance journalist for various different publications. In 2009, Hawkins twisted her attention from reporting factual stories to writing fiction. She used the pen name Amy Silver and wrote four romantic comedy novels; the most memorable of which being *Acknowledgements of a Reluctant Secessionists*. These first novels did not become successful and were not at all critically commended. It was not until she wrote a much darker story, her thriller *The Girl on the Train*, that grows into a bestselling author. Paula Hawkins has informed that the novel took her 6 months of writing full time to complete. It is a much more serious book than her previous four novels and

deals with issues of drug abuse, alcoholism and domestic violence among others. The novel was a bestseller in hardback and the publisher pressed back the publication of the paperback version several times in order to capitalize on its success for as long as possible. Only a year after its original release, *The Girl on the Train* had been printed in more than forty different languages, had been optioned for adaptation for film by DreamWorks and had grown into a bestseller worldwide. (Sucestory.com/people/paula-hawkins)

The summary of the novel “The Girl on the train” can be explained as follow. Rachel lives with her college friend, Cathy, after she broke up with her husband and had nowhere to alive. She has no job but hides it from Cathy. Every day, she takes the same morning and evening trains, seeing the same residential houses by the roads. However, there is one house that she cannot wait to see each day. She names the people in it, Jess and Jason. She loves this house because it reminds her of her past, perfect life, before she and Tom has broken up. (www.gradesever.com/the-girl-on-the-train/study-guide/summary)

One day, she sees Jess kissing a man. Rachel is sure it isn't Jason, because this man was much higher and had a different physique structure. The next day, she catches the news of a woman named Megan Hipwell who went lost. From the address on the newspaper, she identifies that Megan is Jess and recalls the moment she saw her kissing the man. Incapable to keep it to herself, she attempts to get in contact with Jason, or Scott, to tell him what she saw. She also goes to the police station and tells them about what she saw, but they end up declining her proof because she was drunk the night that Megan gone. Scott answers her email and ask her to call him. He asks her to meet him in person. When they meet, she tells him about what she saw. He asks her if she can detect the man based on a photo and she declares yes. When she sees a photo of Kamal Abdic, Megan's therapist, she declares he is the man she saw with Megan. Later, Kamal is held as a suspect, but set free because of inadequate proof. When they checked his house, there was no trace of Megan in Kamal's bedroom. Scott and Rachel still suspect Kamal

though and trust he had a sexual motive. (www.gradesever.com/the-girl-on-the-train/study-guide/summary)

On the day Megan went lost, Rachel think of that she was by where they live, but she doesn't remember what occurred because she was heavily drunk. As time passes, she thinks of tiny details like falling on the stairs and a red-haired man helping her out. She remembers being in the underpass close the train station and her head and hands flow of blood. Rachel agrees to go to the therapist, Kamal, to see if he can get better her memory, and to try to find any information that will make him a suspect once more. Kamal tells her that memories cannot be recovered; however, a person who has lost a memory can often remember glimpses by going back to the scene where everything happened. The announcement news from police that Megan is dead and, days later, that she was pregnant. Scott and Rachel continue to meet and even engage in sexual intercourse, which causes them both to feel confused and angry. Scott determines that Rachel has been untruthful to him all this time - she wasn't a friend of Megan and she had never left to her gallery. He also discovers that she has been going to Kamal Abdi and doesn't believe her when she tells him that she was trying to help. Scott drags Rachel along the stairs and she starts to blood loss. Then, he locks her in a room, where she sees a framed photo of Scott and Megan shattered. She thinks that Scott killed Megan and goes straight to the police the next day. (www.gradesever.com/the-girl-on-the-train/study-guide/summary)

Eventually, Rachel recovers her entire memory of Saturday night when she was in the underpass. She remembers Tom hitting her, causing her head injury, and taking Megan away in his car. Rachel decides that she must talk to Anna about this, despite their relationship. Anna, in the meantime, finds a secret mobile phone and discovers that Tom is having an affair with someone, but she thinks it is Rachel. When Rachel tells her about Tom, she believes her. However, just as they are about to head to the police, Tom arrives and locks them in the house. Rachel tells him about what she saw, and he at first denies it but then admits that he was having an affair with Megan. He says he

was trying to end it; on Saturday night, she kept calling and threatening him. She said that if he didn't meet her somewhere she would come to his house and tell Anna everything. Tom blames Rachel for being so drunk that day and coming to their house because that upset Anna and she decided to not meet with her friends. Tom says that Megan kept shouting and cursing and he had no choice but to kill her. He buried her in the forest and ran away. The reader sees this scene from Megan's point of view; she says she was just trying to be honest with everybody and take care of her baby. Tom now tries to kill or badly hurt Rachel. In self-defense, she kills him by putting the corkscrew in his throat. Anna calls the ambulance and tells everything to the police, clearing Rachel's name. Rachel also sees her talking to Tom before the ambulance arrives and twisting the corkscrew further into his throat. As the book ends, Rachel decides to get away from that area for a while and reclaim her sobriety and her life. (www.gradesever.com/the-girl-on-the-train/study-guide/summary)

The researcher read this novel last year and the researcher just now put up a review. The researcher liked *The Girl on The Train* because of its complex story lines, it was fast paced and super entertaining. The characters really did not have redeemable qualities, they were mostly damaged. Sexual indiscretions, alcoholism, pathological liars and of course murder were topics which kept coming up. The book is led by your typical unreliable narrators. Rachel Watson, a divorced alcoholic, is a victim of circumstance. Her husband Tom had an affair which resulted in pregnancy and married the other woman. Rachel takes the train everyday watching out the Windows when one day she sees something that just does not seem right. This leads to a mystery in which Rachel becomes gripped in. (www.amazon.com/Girl-Train-Paula-Hawkins/product-reviews/1594633665)

Based on the study above, there is an issue that is women's empathy in the novel "The Girl on the Train". Therefore, the researcher is interested to conduct a research entitled "**WOMEN'S EMPATHY REFLECTED IN**

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN BY PAULA HAWKINS (2015): FEMINIST APPROACH

B. Problem Statements

- 1) How does the character of Rachel cope with her women's empathy?
- 2) Why is women's empathy specifically addressed by the author of *The Girl on the Train*?

C. Objectives of the study

1. To describe how the character copes with her women empathy in Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train*.
2. To reveal the underlying reasons why women's empathy is specifically addressed by the author in the Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train* by using Feminist Approach.

D. Limitation of the Study

To make the research is appropriate to the objective of the study, the researcher will make a limitation to the research. The researcher only focuses on analyzing the women's empathy in *The Girl on the Train* novel by Paula Hawkins by using feminist theory or analysis.

E. Significance of the Study

The researcher hopes that this research on *The Girl on the Train* novel by Paula Hawkins (2015) had more benefits for the student, especially the students of Department of English Education (DEE). The benefits of this study are divided into theoretical and practical benefits.

a. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study is expected to give some information and contribution for developing student knowledge in literary study, especially in Paula Hawkins's novel "The Girl on the Train".

b. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another university's students who have interest literary study on the novel of Paula Hawkins "The Girl on the Train" by using feminist theory or analysis.