

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

Literary work is a work made by prioritizing aspects of beauty. Moody in *Literary Works and Character Education* (1984:5) said that there are four functions in literary works, namely 1) practicing language skills; 2) increased knowledge about human life experiences; 3) feelings and creations develop; 4) as a supporter for character development. Therefore, from the four functions above, it can increase experience in the story with various religions, races, ethnicities, cultures and social statuses through the background of the characters.

In essence, literature is an event faced by humans as outlined by the author through his creative and imaginative power. Greil Marcus and Werner Sollor, 2009 says that not only what is written but literature also means what is expressed, what is voiced, what is created, in any form. In other word, literature is an opinion that can be conveyed through literary works. According to Hanani, 2018 (in Wellek and Warren, 1990: 110) said that society must reflect and express life in other words literature is an expression of people's feelings.

Based on this, literary works can be examined using the sociology of literature. The sociology of literature is clearly the relationship between literature and society. Sociology of literature is a science for understanding social issues in literature. Sociology of literature means studying literary works in terms of social life and society. Analysis of sociology of literature is a form of knowing social equality in real life with life in literary works, especially novels. In life, there are various kinds of social problems that can be described in literary works. Social problems usually occur because of incompatibility between existing behavior and norms.

According to Duhan, 2015 literature always expresses complex social aspects. Through the sociology of literature can reveal aspects

related to human life. Therefore, literature and society have a close relationship. This is because the first is that literature is created by the author, the two is authors themselves are members of the community, and the three is authors make use of the reality that exists in society and the work can be reused by the society.

In this study, the author uses the sociology of literature to study R.J Palacio's *Wonder* novel. Palacio is a great author born on July 13, 1963 in New York City. Her real name is Raquel Jaramillo, while Palacio's name is from mother's name. Now he lives in Brooklyn with her husband and two children's. This *Wonder* novel has been on the bestseller list in New York since March 2012 and has sold more than five million copies.

Palacio uses very beautiful and comfortable language to read. *Wonder* tells of a ten-year-old boy named August Pullman. Auggie is a normal child like most children except in one thing, his face. He suffered from a genetic disorder which resulted in his face not like other normal people. The story of Auggie began when he decided to try to attend regular school. Auggie likes a few things except his face. Of course, this is a very hard thing for a child.

In this novel, not only Auggie tell the story from its perspective, but there are eight parts that each part is told by different characters. Unfamiliarity in a habit is something that R.J Palacio tries to teach through his book, "*Wonder*". What should we do in dealing with people who have "shortcomings." So, the author intends to analyze the characters in the novel *Wonder*, how they respond to the existence of Augie who is physically imperfect through the sociology of literature.

From the story of Auggie's adventure, many things can be learned. Starting from the meaning of a family and this *Wonder* novel is able to amaze the reader with invaluable life learning. This *Wonder* Novel by R.J Palacio has a good storyline, so it is interesting to enjoy and study.

1.2 Problem of the Study

This research will be guided by the following general questions:

- 1.2.1 What kinds of diversity are reflected in the novel *Wonder*?
- 1.2.2 How is diversity reflected in the novel *Wonder*?
- 1.2.3 Why did the author create diversity in the novel *Wonder*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

- 1.3.1 To explain what kind of diversity is reflected in the novel *Wonder*.
- 1.3.2 To describe how diversity is reflected in the novel *Wonder*.
- 1.3.3 To describe why the author created diversity in the novel *Wonder*.

1.4 Benefits of the Study

The benefits of this paper are:

1.4.1 Theoretical Benefit

For the world of literature, hopefully that the results of this study can provide benefits; especially in the research of the *Wonder* novel by R.J. Palacio.

1.4.2 Practical Benefit

This research can be used as a reference for other researchers who will analyze the novel *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio and provide more knowledge about the novel, especially in the aspects of sociology of literature.