

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Literature is one of the subjects in English. English is an important language in the world, because not only British and American people speak English, but also Australians, Singaporeans and many more. One of the literary studies is the novel.

A novel is a long, fictional narrative that describes human experiences. The novel in the modern era usually makes use of a literary prose style, and the development of the prose novel at this time was encouraged by innovations in printing, and the introduction of cheap paper.

**Novel**, an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting. Within its broad framework, the genre of the novel has encompassed an extensive range of types and styles: picaresque, epistolary, gothic, romantic, realist, historical to name only some of the more important ones. According to *Oxford dictionaries* (2015), Novel is a fictitious prose narrative of book length, typically representing character and action with some degree of realism.

Many good English novels are famous among people. The researcher chooses the novel "*Sputnik Sweetheart*" by Haruki Murakami. Because the novel is very interesting. Haruki constructs the story with his style. Since his debut in 1979, Haruki Murakami has persistently pursued the twin themes of alienation and loneliness in postmodern life. *Sputnik Sweetheart* (orig. *Sputoniku no koibito*, 1999) is no exception. Like the *Sputnik* lost in outer space, the characters in this story are lost souls incapable of meaningful relationships with others.

The novel tells about the main female character, Sumire is a struggling writer who survives on a hard and discipline family and her only friend known in the text only as 'K'. K is an elementary school teacher, 25 years old, and in love with Sumire. At a wedding party, Sumire meets an ethnic Korean woman, Miu, who is seventeen years older than her. Then they have a conversation, and Sumire finds

herself attracted to the older woman. This is the first time she has ever been sexually drawn to anybody. Miu soon asks Sumire to come work for her. This meeting and the ensuing relationship between the women leads to Sumire changing: she starts wearing nicer clothes, gets a better apartment, and quits smoking; however, she also develops a writer's block.

The protagonist K, for instance, is sexually attracted to Sumire, but Sumire is deeply in love with Miu. Incapable of responding sexually to Sumire, Miu hires her as her sputnik, or traveling companion, for her business trip abroad. While on a Greek island, Sumire disappears. K hurries to the island to search for her, but nothing. He finds her computer disks and finds a clue. K suspects that Sumire has gone to "the other side" to pursue her love for Miu.

The researcher focused on the issue of the novel, about *the depression* of Sumire. According to oxford dictionaries, the meaning of depression are a mental condition characterized by feelings of severe despondency and dejection, typically also with feelings of inadequacy and guilt, often accompanied by lack of energy and disturbance of appetite and sleep.

## 1.2.Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is Depression is reflected in the work. In order to depict how depression is reflected in the work, the problem statement is further dissected into the following research questions:

- What are the indicators of depression in the novel?
- How is depression depicted in the novel?
- Why is depression specifically addressed by the author in the novel?

## 1.3.Objectives

Objectives of the study are in accordance with the research question.

- To identify the indicators of depression in the novel.
- To describe how is depression depicted in the novel.
- To reveal the underlying reasons depression is specifically addressed by the author in the novel.

#### 1.4. Benefits / Advantages

After analyzing the problem, this research is expected to give some benefits of the study as follows:

##### 1.4.1. Theoretical Benefit

By using this theory, the researcher gets the information knowledge and experience about the literary of Haruki Murakami's "*Sputnik Sweetheart*"(1999).

##### 1.4.2. Practical Benefit

The researcher expects that this research will give significant benefits in form of information, especially for Teacher Training and Education Students, and the other can to learn this literary research in analyzing in *Sputnik Sweetheart* (1999) using historical approach.

#### 1.5. Paper Organization

This research paper organization is divided into five chapters.

In the chapter one, Introduction consists of background of background of the study, problem statement, objectives, benefits of the study and paper organization. In chapter two, Literature Review consists of previous studies, underlying theory, and novelty. In chapter three, Research Method consists of type of the study, object of the study, type of data and data resource, method of collecting data and technique of analyzing data. In chapter four, Finding and Discussion. In this chapter researcher The researcher wants to analyze the data that has been collected so that it can answer all research questions that have been presented in chapter one. In chapter five, Conclusion and Suggestion. It present some conclusion and suggestion according to the research. In the final there is references.