

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is any creation that is written. It was created not only to get a detailed information while reading it, but also to make the readers interested and enjoy the work then think about how to give appreciation about the work. (Barnet, Burto, & Cain, 2008). Literature is a manifestation of one's ideas through a view of the social environment with using a beautiful language. Literature comes as a writer's contemplation of the existing phenomenon. As a result, the researcher concluded that literature is a fiction that has a deep understanding, not only a fantasy or imagination of the author, but also of the manifestations of the author's creativity in exploring and processing the ideas that exist in his mind.

The literary work is closely related to the reader, because the literary works devoted to the interest of the reader as a connoisseur of works. Readers also determine the meaning and value of literary works, so that the literary works has value if there are readers who provide value. A literary works can be more valuable if there are people who appreciate it. Therefore, it is necessary for readers to revive literary works by giving their responses and feedback.

One of literary works that commonly read and responded by young teenagers is *The 5th Wave* novel. According to data taken from Goodreads website in May 2018, since the novel was published in 2013, the novel has been rated by more than 300 thousands people worldwide with an accumulated rating of 4.09 out of 5. *The 5th Wave* novel also has been reviewed by more than 27 thousands people around the world. It is written by a native floridian author, Richard Yancey, known as Rick Yancey. With *The 5th Wave*, Rick Yancey more than 13 literary awards. It indicates that the novel is popular in societies with targeting the young teenagers as the readers. Goodreads is a social networking website specifically for cataloging books. Like other social networking sites, the Goodreads site contains profile content, friends, groups, discussions, comments, reading challenges, payment accounts, favorite genres, friend recommendations, and quotes. The

difference is, Goodreads allows its web visitors to become a members. To become a member, they must register first by entering their e-mail address and password. Then, they will automatically log in to the website. By becoming a member of goodreads, it will be useful to search for various genres of books by typing in titles or authors of books, giving reviews of books that have been read, displaying profiles of reviewers, fellow friends can mutually recommend books, and others. (“The 5th Wave”, 2013).

*The 5th Wave* novel is a Young-Adult novel with a girl as the main character. The novel includes of science fiction novel with lifting the genre of dystopia that discusses the topic in the future. Commonly, this type of novel is in demand by teenagers because it reflects on the change experienced by adolescents. They try to test the adult world and learn to accept the consequences of their acts. Therefore, the young-adult novel describes the experiences of the young character of the novel in dealing with his problem. It also focuses on the themes that interested by adolescents and uses the language that adolescents use with presenting an interesting plots and characters. In the world of literacy, the novel that takes the theme of dystopia means the future world with characterizing the social system is bad, restrained, and often futuristic. A world in the future whose the social environment is not free where usually the social life ruled by the political system and technology, but it is led by authoritarian powers. In other words the novel of dystopia is made to criticize the present trends and technologies, social norms, and political systems (Abrams, 1999).

*The 5th Wave* novel lifted the story of a teenage girl who has survived the four great waves that the alien has launched into the earth. She survived from the danger of the EMP, tsunami, plague, and silencer. The novel told about a girl 16-year-olds named Cassie Sullivan who had a family that consisting of a mother, father, and brother named Sammie. In this novel Cassie described as strong and resilient woman. She had to survive on her own because aliean’s invasion. Cassie named the alien by called it The Other. The Other attacked her city in Ohio, United State by presenting five kinds of waves.

After her father and mother died in the invasion, she had gone to look for her brother who was brought by Alien at Camp Haven. Cassie could be ignored her brother and left him there. But she had promised to her parents and brother to always protect and look after his brother. When facing alien's invasion, Cassie transformed into a strong girl. She was willing to fight the aliens in order to save her brother Sammy. In the journey, she met an handsome man named Evan Walker. Evan doubted Cassie could go to Camp Haven. Nevertheless, Cassie still confident could meet her brother there. Her meeting with Evan reminded Cassie with her classmate named Ben Parish. He was the boy that she liked in her school. However, Cassie was not so concerned with her love triangle. She just focused on looking for her brother. Through Cassie's courage, hope and patience, we know how the girl also has importance role in the world.

Nowadays, there are many novels with a girl as the main character. One of the novels is *The 5th Wave* novel. Through *The 5th Wave*, the main character of the novel named Cassie Sullivan depicted as the main female character who is far from the stereotype of most people. The main character is usually portrayed with a male figure dashing, a superhero and so forth. However, through character of Cassie, we can learn that a girl can also be a superhero.

Talking about girl as a superhero cannot be separated from the term of Girl's Power. According to Cambridge Dictionary ("Girl's Power," n.d.), Girl's Power is a concept of thinking that a female, especially girls have to live independently of men. They should believe in themselves to achieve their dream in many aspects. It can be in social, economical, and political aspects. After the term of Girl's Power became worldwide, it comes with many giving influence on the lives of women in the world. Through this research, the researcher wants to show that women are not second-class citizen and have the same right just like men to change the world for the better.

By the explanation above, the researcher decided to use *The 5th Wave* novel as the object of the research. There are several reasons why the researcher is interested to take the Girl's Power issue and choose *The 5th Wave* novel in her research. The first reason is the Girl's Power issue becomes the existing issue of

the research. It becomes exciting for the researcher, because it is a phenomenon that is still a major topic in terms of equality both men and women. Thus, this study is expected to enrich discussion on the women's representation in literary works.

The second reason is about the study of reader-response that used to analyze the issue. Studying reader-response theory is more interesting to be talked about. According to Iser (1978), with the interaction between the text of the literary work and the readers. It evidenced that the study of literary work is not only related to the physical text, but also how the readers give their responses that related to the text itself. *The 5th Wave novel* raises various responses from readers. As it is known that one with another person might be different in responding a literary work such as a novel. The responses can be either positive or negative, depending on the the reader's perception. To know various responses that arise on the issue of Girl's Power and other dominant issues, it is necessary to conduct a research by using reader's-response theory. The last reason is because the novel has potential to inspire the readers through the deep meaning of the story. The story of Cassie's struggles conveys the message that there is no word to surrender in fighting for getting something. Since it requires the hard and maximum sacrifice.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher decides to examine Girl's Power issue on *The 5th Wave* novel. Reader's-response theory is chosen to understand how is the perspective of the readers in the novel that will be studied. Furthermore, the research focuses only on Girl's Power and other dominant issues responded by the readers in *The 5th Wave* novel. So, the researcher entitled the research "GIRL'S POWER REFLECTED IN RICK YANCEY'S *THE 5TH WAVE* NOVEL (2013): A READER'S-RESPONSE THEORY".

## **1.2 Limitation of the Study**

This study only concerns on the readers' review of *The 5th Wave* novel taken from Goodreads website. The reviews sorted by the issue of Girl's Power and other dominant issues. The researcher examines that issues by applying the theory of reader's-response in her research paper.

### 1.3 Research Questions

In accordance with the background of the study, the questions to be examined are formulated as follows:

1. What kind of dominant issues responded by the readers of *The 5th Wave* novel?
2. How the readers reveal Girl's Power issue of *The 5th Wave* novel?

### 1.4 Objectives of the Study

This study aims to formulate and interpret reader reviews about the Girl's Power issue and other dominant issues in *The 5th Wave* novel written by Rick Yancey, detailed as follows:

1. To describe the dominant issues responded by the readers of *The 5th Wave* novel.
2. To interpret the readers reveal Girl's Power issue of *The 5th Wave* novel.

### 1.5 Benefits of the Study

This research has two benefits of the Study. namely:

#### 1. Practically

Pratically, this research is expected to the reading community, especially in providing awareness of gender equality and women's representation contained in literary works, novels. In addition, it also provides the importance of awareness campaigns and gender equality in societies that are still patriarchal. So that the research results are known to the wider community, the research will be written and published to publication article.

#### 2. Theoretically

Theoretically, the results of the research are expected to contribute to the development of literary world, particularly the study of reader's-response theory in understanding the reviews of the readers as a connaisseur of literary works.