

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Novel is a portrait of reality, manifested through the aesthetic language due to its contact with human life. In this case, the author is tasked with conveying the intent and purpose of telling to the reader through his work. Ratna (2010) argues that novel provides the most extensive media so that the author has the broadest possibility to convey a message to the reader. One of the ways in which the author conveys his intentions is through the appearance of the characters who are the focus of the story.

Interesting phenomenon of recent years is the emergence of a number of authors that are presented through works with psychological themes. Trauma is a very common thing in psychology. It is a psychological problem that always gets special attention among psychologists. It closely related to one's mental and emotional health.

Trauma is not something new in literature. There are many literary works that also use this psychological problem as a theme. *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* is one of the examples. In this study, the researcher discusses the trauma experienced by the character, Grace Brookstein in *Sidney Sheldon's novel After the Darkness*.

This novel tells the story of Grace Brookstein who lives like a princess with a luxurious lifestyle in spite of the fall of economy crisis in the US. One day, her husband who is a billionaire from the Quorum company, Lenny, mysteriously disappeared in a tragic sailing accident. Lenny's death was finally reported as a suicide. After the death of her husband, the \$ 75 billion Quorum protected fund also disappeared. Everyone believes that Grace stole the money.

After that, Grace was sentenced to prison for money laundering accusations that she did not actually commit. She was then betrayed by her family and friends. She had no one to ask for help and tried to kill herself, but she survived. That's when Grace began to experience a change in attitude from what was originally an innocent young woman to a traumatized person living for revenge.

Events or experiences that are frightening or terrifying will become traumatic for a person. This seems to be reflected in Grace's character. Bad experiences that Grace experienced like; betrayal, loss of a loved one, violence, verbal and sexual harassment, and serious losses (both material and non-material) have had a devastating effect on her. It happened spontaneously in succession. These bad experiences made her unable to control her emotions which ultimately damaged her mental endurance. As a result, she turned into a different person.

Grace can no longer function like a normal person in daily life. She was afraid that the traumatic event she had experienced would recur again. She was afraid of the dangers that could come at her anytime and anywhere like when she was a fugitive. The fear that appears on her in the form of terrible flashbacks and nightmares makes her trapped in the realm of paranoia. She no longer lives in the past or in the present because there will always be something that triggers her traumatic experience.

There are several reasons why the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel. First, *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* is a novel that tells the story of someone's struggle against fear and pain for survival and revenge. So, readers can be motivated to appreciate more the meaning of the process in struggle itself. Second, the novel gives the reader an understanding of the importance of one's mental health and the role of the people around them. So, the reader is able to avoid things that cause mental disorders and also help the recovery of people who suffer from mental illness by means of maintaining a good social relationship with them. And finally, *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* has important elements

for this research such as psychology, post-traumatic stress disorders (PTSD), psychological trauma, etc. that are needed in this research.

In connection with all the descriptions of the novels above, the issue will be explored through the approach of psychology of literature using Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory as a research aid for researchers in analyzing. Therefore, researchers propose to conduct research entitled "**GRACE'S TRAUMA; A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY IN TILLY BAGSHAWAY'S NOVEL *SIDNEY SHELDON'S AFTER THE DARKNESS* (2010)**".

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background above the main problem of this paper is about Grace's trauma and the problem was broken down into research question as follows:

1. How is Grace's trauma reflected in the *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* novel?
2. What is the cause of Grace's trauma in the *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Grace's trauma based on the psychoanalytic approach.
2. To analyze the causes of Grace's trauma reflected in the *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in investigating Grace character on *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* novel (2010) on a Psychoanalytic approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

From this study, it is expected that the result of this study can give advantages for the following elements, as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research can give a contribution to English learning and give a new information to other researcher especially study on *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* novel (2010).

2. Practical Benefit

This research gives a deep understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer himself about the analysis this novel based on a Psychoanalytical theory perspective. Generally, to the reader and other students also can be used as reference to study in literature especially in Tilly Bagshawe's novel *Sidney Sheldon's After the Darkness* (2010) based on Psychoanalytical theory perspective.

F. Paper Organization

Paper organization in this research goes as follows: Chapter I is introduction, which consists of the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is literary review that consists of underlying theory and previous study. Chapter III research method. Chapter IV consists of finding and discussion. Chapter V consist of conclusion and suggestion.