

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Background of the Study**

Having disappointed feeling is common to every human being. It happens because wrong statement or behavior done by another party. People have different way to respond it. They may ignore it or avenge the other party. Osgood (2017), stated that hurting or injure someone with the intention to give punishment or avenge the action done before define as revenge. Revenge is an action of responding the wrong behavior done by another party in a way discomfort, damage or injure as responsibility. An individual motivated to do resistance when they faced with form of negative treatment such as injustice, oppression betrayal and bullying, taking revenge is form of resistance. Resistance is form of self- defense, it means decline the form of negative treatment (Antika, 2019).

Negative treatment triggered an individual to do revenge. Revenge intention is to gain personal satisfaction without caring about other people. According to McKee (as cited in Price, 2009), people who do revenge motivated to seek for status, power, authority, and want to be dominant. Person who taking revenge is the characteristic of people that less of strength, status and acknowledgment. They want to show that they are stronger than others. Satisfaction will arise when revenge successfully realized. Through revenge people expect to eliminate pain and gain the justice. According to Antika (2019), an individual is able to remove pain and get equal treatment effectively through revenge. Revenge is a way to restore power and self-esteem which have been humiliate by another party. So, revenge help people to feel strong and have superiority in society.

Revenge is a common thing in society, often used as a theme in literary work. One of the literary works depicts an act of revenge is *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi. Nawal El Saadawi was a feminist writer, born in 1931, Cairo. Graduated from University of Cairo Medical School in 1955. His works are often controversial among others; *Memoirs of a Woman Doctor* (1958); *Woman at Point Zero* (1973); *God Dies by the Nile* and *The Hidden Face of Eve* (1977). She has gained a lot of international award. She gets honorary doctorates from the University of York, Illinois at Chicago, St Andrews and Tromso. She also has prizes and awards such as the Great Minds of Twentieth Century Prize, awarded by the American Biographical Institute in 2003, the North- South Prize from the Council of Europe and the Premi International Catalunya in 2004.

*Woman at Point Zero* novel by Nawal El Saadawi firstly publish in 1975 in Arabic language, Lebanon. In 1983, English language translation was published by Zed Books Ltd. London and Room 400 in New York. *Woman at Point Zero* novel tells about a girl named Firdaus. She has been abused all her life. Experiencing sexual harassment, violence and marital rape. Sharifa is a woman who come in her life and show her a new world. Being a prostitute change Firdaus's life completely. Her life become more secure, full of luxury and she becomes more confident. Self-confidence that she did not have before. A pimp named Marzouk come to her forced and threatened Firdaus to work for him. Firdaus refused him and causing a conflict. Marzouk killed by Firdaus. Firdaus receives a death sentence because of the incident, but she refused to get leniency. Firdaus think that the hanging sentence can end all suffering and bring it to free life without any restriction.

There are three reason why the writer is interested analyzing the novel. First, the writer is interested in the characterization of the main character. The main character struggle to live in patriarchal society whereas women do not have equality. The main character wants to change the fact by proving that women also have power. Firdaus as the main character can be seen as a strong woman. Second, the novel is written by Nawal El Saadawi who is the famous author from Egypt. Many of her

books are popular and full of controversy. *Woman at Point Zero* is one her popular novel which translated in twenty- two languages. It shows that the novel is much interesting. Three, the writer is attracted in the decision taken by the main character become a prostitute to gain power. The main character decides to become a prostitute to avoid harassment by men. Being a prostitute encourages the main character become more confident. The main character chooses to become a prostitute as a compensation for actions taken by men against her. It makes the writer to raise the revenge as the issue to analyze the novel. The researcher uses the individual psychology by Alfred Adler as approach to analyze about taking revenge issue reflected in the novel. Therefore, researcher conduct the research with the tittle “***TAKING REVENGE AS A WAY OF STRIVING FOR SUPERIORITY REFLECTED ON NAWAL EL SAADAWI’S NOVEL WOMAN AT POINT ZERO***”

## **1.2. Research Question**

Based on the background of the study, the research formulates the problem statement as follows:

1. What are the indicators of taking revenge in the novel based on Alfred Adler’s theory?
2. How is taking revenge illustrated in the novel?

## **1.3. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement, the research proposed the objective of the study as follows:

1. To analyze the indicators of taking revenge in the novel based on Alfred Adler’s theory.
2. To explain how revenge illustrated in the novel.

## **1.4. Benefit of the Study**

### **a. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is expected to give additional information that can be used by the other literature researchers who are interested in analyzing this novel, particularly by Individual Psychology Approach.

**b. Practical Benefit**

The researcher wants to give some contributions to the development of literary study and expected to enrich the knowledge of the other writer about literary work.