

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In this study, the writer used topics that are closely related to everyday life. The writer takes the topic of someone's struggle to get a better life. In everyday life, we often find cases like this, where someone who has to fight for a better life, we know that life is not always filled with beautiful things but also difficulties will always come at any time. We are just human beings who can only accept every problem that comes. There will be some problems that come into our lives, all we can do is struggle to face them and convince ourselves that we can face them and get the best results from our struggles. Such a condition can also be found in a work of literature such as a novel.

Novels are extended works of fiction having a realistic component. It was frequently written in prose and released as a single book. The term "novel" is derived from the Italian word "novella," which meaning "new." Character representation, dialogue, setting, plot, climax, conflict, and resolution are all features in a novel, just as they are in a short story. However, a good novel does not require all of the elements. The title of the novel used by the researcher is *Eleven Minutes*. The author of this novel is Paulo Coelho, The type book is Teen & Young Adult Death & Dying Fiction. The publisher of this novel is Rocco Publishing, published in 2003. The number of pages is 360 pages and the book size is 5.5 x 8.2 inches.

Literature represents a variety of ordinary events, ideas, passions, and people in many forms and types of literary works. Literature may expand our understanding

and experience of human concerns, such as values, morals, culture, and human interests, because it is derived directly from human life. Literature, according to Wellek and Warren (1956: 15), is a creative activity, and art without the value of literary arts will simply become a sort of writing, similar to scientific works, reports, and so on. It also deepens human understanding or insight, enriches their zeal, and makes them more civilized, according to Millar (1970: 18). Therefore, literature helps humans to develop, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective basis for knowledge and understanding. It connects them to the wider culture, a philosophical and religious world from which they come.

Maria is a Brazilian girl who has simple goals: meet the ideal man (rich, handsome, smart), get married (wear a wedding dress), have two children (who as adults become famous people), and stay at home. which is beautiful (with views of the sea). However, life leads Maria away from what she aspires to be. Maria was born in a rural area of Brazil with only one cinema, one nightclub, and one bank. His father was just a traveling salesman and his mother a tailor.

Her first love is a boy who walks to school every day with her, which unfortunately she doesn't have time to share her feelings with the boy because she is moving out of town. One only memory of her first love is when the child finally scold Maria, asking if it is okay to borrow a pencil. However stupid Maria, who was surprised and unprepared for such questions, actually accelerated her steps and left the child. A regret for him, and he awaits the next opportunity with the pencil he carries. But unfortunately, there was no second chance for him. Maria's teenage life went on like most teenagers in her place. But Maria grew up to be a beautiful, charming, and flirty girl. Because she is well aware of the influence of her beauty. She works in a fabric shop. Even the owner of the cloth fell in love with her and intended to propose

to her. One day, Maria goes to the city for a vacation, where she meets a Swiss man who offers her a job to make her life better, as a model. Maria, since the incident with her first love, realized that there was no second chance for her to make a decision. After he came home and talked to his parents, he agreed to the offer and he went to Switzerland, a name that had always been known only from school lessons and had never imagined how or where it would be. However, it turns out that in Geneva, Maria was not used as a model, but as a nightclub dancer, with a salary that did not match, not even up to one-tenth of the contract promised. In her diary, Maria wrote:

"I can choose: a victim of this world or an adventurer in search of treasure. It remains how I view my life."

Maria decided to take a French course. There she fell in love with a man. Their relationship lasted three weeks, until one night Maria decided to take a vacation and take a trip to the mountains outside Geneva. As a result, Maria was fired because she was considered an unkind role model for other girls in her place of work. Her lover somewhere, maybe he has returned to his hometown. And a few months after her severance pay ran out, that's where she started working as a prostitute. Maria has the principle that she will only be in this profession for a year. After the money is collected, she will return to his village and start a new life there. To his parents, she announced that her job was fun and that he was getting enough money.

Then a painter named Ralf Hart appeared in Maria's life. Starting when he was sitting in a cafe, Ralf was painting a famous chemist. He asked Maria to wait a moment because he was going to paint Maria, he said. Ralf was very interested in Maria because he admitted to seeing the light from inside her. As soon as introductions began between the two, Maria confessed that her job was a prostitute.

Their meeting didn't just stop at that moment. Several times they met, it made Maria realize that she was in love with him. There too, Maria's emotional shields were tested. For how long she was doing her job, Maria only considered sex as an obligation of work, not something sacred, or even the union of two souls. And also whether his commitment to return home will be fulfilled, or will he follow his true love.

The novel by Paulo Coelho entitled *Eleven Minutes* tells about something taboo namely sex. The story tells of Maria a young girl from the interior of Brazil who dreams of getting true love and the man is very rich and then looks like a prince charming. At the beginning of this story is she comes from a low-cost family so that she wants to show her mother if she was a success. The problem is she failed to get the dream. She is desperate and decided to become a prostitute because she wanna got a lot of money. Her adolescence, on the other hand, has given her negative experiences with love and sexual relationships. However, she views love as the most painful thing in the world, one that only produces grief. She does everything she can to make her life better. As a result, she suffers in her mission to discover a better life that meets her requirements. I chose to analyze this novel because (1) the story is very interesting because it tells about the life journey of a person who is looking for his identity (2) this story is also very related to today's life and also I can see Maria's problems in her life (3) the story in This novel can motivate young people, especially women, to keep fighting for a better life and don't give up easily. In this study, the author chose the title "MARIA'S STRUGGLE TO GET A BETTER LIFE IN THE NOVEL *ELEVEN MINUTES* BY PAULO COELHO (2003): A FEMINIST ANALYSIS"

B. Objectives of the Research

The objectives of this research:

1. To identify the method of characterization and the type of character by the author to describe the main character itself in this book
2. To explain the main character, to analyze his behavior/personality in general and how Maria faced the problem
3. To analyze and explain the relationship between the theory of developing feminism needs of the main character in dealing with life's problems and looking for true love conditions using Virginia Wolf theory to determine the stage of sadness experienced by the main character throughout the story in correlation with it behavior/personality.

C. Problem Statement

In this study, the writer used the novel *Eleven Minutes* from Paulo Coelho. In this novel, the author tells the main character Maria who is a young girl who has a dream that one day she will have a better life. The writer took three questions, as follows:

1. How Maria struggles to get a better life?
2. What are the problem faced by Maria in the novel *Eleven Minutes* by Paulo Coelho?
3. Why is the relationship between the most character's needs and her mental condition is influencing her behavior and personality along of the story?

D. Benefit Of The Research

The researcher expected a lot that the research which investigates the issue of "struggle" toward the character Maria in this *Eleven Minutes* novel bears many benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this ponder is anticipated to be able to grant data and commitment of information to the scholarly reference. It can be moreover a reference for the other analysts who need to conduct assist the investigation and especially the scholarly to think about this *Eleven Minutes*.

2. Practical Benefits

The ponder is anticipated to enhance information and involvement for the author in numerous things and other understudies of the Muhammadiyah College of Surakarta or for the other colleges where have the same interest in scholarly think about within the writing from a Feminist Approach.

E. Scope Of The Research

This research only focuses on the struggle of a woman used by Maria's character in the *Eleven Minutes* novel. The researcher analyzes the various struggles of women using Virginia Woolf's theory and how the main character struggles to get her love in Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes* novel.