

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Motivation is something that always sticks in people's actions and decisions because it is one of the important factors that encourages people to give their best effort in reaching the quests and goals in their life (Maslow 1943). Whatever the form of quests people try to find, it leads to be a significant motive urges people to take an action struggle more beyond their limit. Motives are internal factors that lead people to various types of intended behaviours and all internal influences such as needs (Sherif & Sherif 1953). People believe that they have to seek the things that they need and covet because they are intuitively responsible for their happiness and fulfillment in life. It is essential for every soul to undertake an attempt and struggle to make a life or just to get what has been dreamed of. As long as people are motivated to get something, they will struggle to pursuit it.

An effort and struggle in fulfilling all needs in life are the generic actions and even those are the things that people oblige to do to gain satisfaction and felicity in their life. Struggle is an unavoidable part of self-employment because nothing ever comes easy, when people trying to build towards their dream where difficulties and hardship will be the constant companion (Rettig 2018). Based on Rettig's explanation, then the struggle can be considered as an essential part of any growth experience and endeavor. Everything will be done by people to feed the hungry soul of happiness and complacency in life. Struggle is a necessary condition of its progress and that its maximum strength will be reached only as soon as complete victory has been won (Hitler 1924). A good life is a life worth

of struggle. The struggle is a part of everyday life and it is decisive. The one who has struggled to discover what it will take to make their dreams come true. To achieve every pinnacle of dreams, people are indispensable to struggle and sacrifice something, because to gain something need to lose something. Thus, whoever believes in a dream, it will bring the person through rough patches and a long journey in life to get. People need to venture for what they believed and dreamed of.

Speaking of dream, despite depiction and image while sleeping, the dream is also described as a positive and strong desire that defines someone's happiness in life, so that, people tend to struggle beyond their limit to get their dreams. Pursuing and achieving dreams is difficult to get but possible to do (Palomares 2018). To make a dream comes true, people need to have a strong motivation and keep struggling in pursuing their dreams. Yet, not every dream can be pursued and achieved like people wish to, and also not every people who have the same motivation to struggle can reach the dream successfully.

Some people are willing to do anything to make their dreams come true, no matter what will they face forward, they keep focusing on their dreams; because they are motivated to become more happy and successful in life. Many people have a huge dream and willing to do anything to achieve their dream. Some people can make their dreams become a reality and the others who do not will remain their dream being a fantasy or imagination only. Due to every people have different way of thinking and perception to struggle to get what they really want

in life. The characterization and environment also influence people's effort in pursuing their dreams.

In literature, many stories depict and appoint real life, social lifestyle, adventure, and mystery, despite how fictional the story is. Some people also believe that through literature life will be recorded to become a certain history symbol in the future. Many people see literature as a reflective material of human life wherein a story shows a social phenomenon related to human daily life. Bunch of literature works provide this phenomenon. A lot of famous authors who love to portray daily life or social phenomenon into a book. One of the famous authors who write many genres is named Will Hobbs. He is an American writer of twenty novels with various genre who had been receiving many awards for his works and even he had ever been receiving the Edgar Allan Poe Award in 1998. One of his works is a novel entitled *Crossing the Wire* (2006).

*Crossing the Wire* (2006) is a children and young adult novel that describes a lot about the mesmerizing venturing and struggling story which depicts the rough journey of Mexican illegal immigrants who chase their dream to work in the U.S.A. Based on Will Hobbs' explanation, crossing the wire is an expression to portray for illegal entry into the United States from Mexico across the barbed-wire cattle fence that separates two countries along remote swaths of the border. This book tells about a story of fifteen years old young boy named Victor Flores which portrays his journey from Mexico to the north in a desperate attempt to cross the Arizona border and to find work in the United States to support his family financially in central Mexico.

This book is a great example to depict struggle and strong motivation that had been done by people in getting their happiness and fulfillment in life, especially a motivation and struggle to pursue the dream. Through novel *Crossing the Wire* (2006), describes how people struggle beyond their limit to get what they dreamed of upon freedom on many aspects and equity of successes. On another hand, this book also features an enthralling protagonist namely Victor Flores where he is a young teenage boy who struggles to be a hero for his family, due to his father's death he must replace his father's role being the breadwinner at fifteen years old age. Other savory points of Victor Flores are the rough journey that he had been through and the character transformation that he showed in this story. It is quite astonishing to know about a young child like Victor who has a responsibility to protect his family and defy his true feeling in pursuing the dream for the sake of his family.

Based on the explanation above, those points are the deliberation reasons for this book as the object in this study to be analyzed further. The issue of this study is to delineate Victor Flores' motivation and struggle in pursuing his dream. The portrayal of Victor Flores' struggle and motivation explain how people will risk their lives to walk on rough patches to feed their hungry soul of happiness because the unstoppable situation forces people to take a risky decision and influence their path of life to walk on.

There is no previous study that discusses the same object. Yet, there is a previous study from Airlangga University's student who analyzed a literary work with the same theory approaching and similar issue entitled *Antoni's Struggle in*

*We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay! Drama* written by Raden Rizky Narendra. He discussed about the life struggle of Antonia character by using New Criticism approach. His analysis focused on formal elements such as characterization and plot. Besides the different objects of both studies, Narendra 's study and this study also use different focus on formal elements. Narendra focused on characterization and plot of formal elements, meanwhile this study will focus on characterization, character motivation, plot, and setting in analyzing the issue. Beside that, the main gap of these studies is for Narendra's study analyzed a struggle of the main character who is an adult woman where she was struggling for the dignity, justice, and love of his couple that she faced in her own country in Italy. Meanwhile this study will analyze the main character who is a teenage boy deals and struggles from poverty for the shake of his mother and siblings where he has to face and struggle in two different countries namely Mexico and the United States.

Thus, for the analysis, this study uses New Criticism approach that is introduced by John Crowe Ransom (1941) and focuses on the formal elements namely characterization, plot, and setting. The formal elements such as characterization, plot, and setting will be used to disclose Victor Flores' motivation and struggle in the story. The idea to look at the formal elements is to represent the readers an interesting literary interpretation and specific example based on the concrete evidence from the text itself and also to identify the theme of the story by analyzing the formal elements that all bind together as organic unity.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

This research would investigate:

1. How do the plot and characterization portray Victor Flores' dream and motivation?
2. How do the plot, setting, and characterization depict Victor Flores' struggle to make his dream come true?
3. What is the result of Victor Flores' struggle in pursuing his dream by looking at the plot, characterization, and setting?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objectives of this study are

1. To explain the process of shaping the dream and motivation in Victor Flores' mind.
2. To analyze the Victor Flores' struggle to make his dream comes true.
3. To delineate the result of Victor Flores' struggle in pursuing his dream.

## 1.4 Significance of the Study

By looking at the gap of this study, this study is expected to add the useful reference for the students who want to discuss the similar issue by applying New Criticism theory. So many literary criticism theories have been used to look into a literary work, yet this study is carried out on purpose to add the collection of the New Criticism in analyzing prose. This study is also expected to enlarge the New Criticism study collection which focusing and discussing *Crossing the Wire* (2006)

novel by Will Hobbs. This study intends to fulfill an academic regulation required by Airlangga University to its students in completing their study. Besides fulfilling the requirement, this study is aimed to indicate how formal elements analysis such as characterization, character motivation, plot, and setting of New Criticism study can depict the main character's struggle that brings and influences the story flow in the novel. It also can help students who learn literature to understand more how to apply the formal elements in doing literary criticism by using the elements of the text itself such as characterization, character motivation, plot, and setting as an organic unity to identify and shape themes.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- Motivation** : Something that always sticks in people's actions and decisions because it is one of the important factors that encourages people to give their best effort in reaching the quests and goals in their life (Maslow 1943).
- Struggle** : An unavoidable part of self-employment because nothing ever comes easy, when people trying to build towards their dream where difficulties and hardship will be the constant companion (Rettig 2018)
- Illegal Immigrant** : Someoneone who enters, lives, and stays in different country without having official permission (Yoshida 2000).
- Formal elements** : It represents the text's meaning which provided by the language of the text itself which the formal elements form and shape the literary work (Tyson 2015:131).