

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Murder and suicide are as common in life as in fiction. Both have different meanings although both results in the loss of one's life. Murder is an intentional act or not that results in the death of a person, while suicide is an act of intentionally killing oneself. However, what if there is a murder that looks like suicide? This will surely confuse anyone including the police. An act of murder may be driven by multiple reasons so that someone may plan and decide the killing of others. Multiple factors are often becoming the driving force or trigger for someone to commit murder. In cases of planned murder, the killer already knows who the victim that is going to be killed, whereas an unplanned murder is an act when someone kills another person because of an emotional conflict between themselves and the victim (Robinson et al, 2015).

Conflict is a natural thing experienced by each individual in interacting with others. This is due to differences in interests, objectives, views, and so on. However, conflicts can also be understood as a social process in which individuals or groups strive to fulfill their objectives by challenging individuals or groups of others in both positive and negative ways. From the aspect of a person or perpetrator involved in the conflict, usually occurs in a person or individual, group, and community (Galtung, 1973, 46). Galtung divided the conflict into two

namely intrapersonal and interpersonal conflicts. Intrapersonal conflict is a conflict that occurs within an individual. It commonly occurs when someone chooses what they want or what they are supposed to do. When the conflict involved two people and even groups, it is called an interpersonal conflict. Interpersonal conflicts occur when two or more people have differing views or conflicting objectives (1973, 46).

The goal of conflict and struggle is to form human characteristics to adapt in dealing with every problem. It is also a form of competition between people in fulfilling their objectives. Carroll (2012) stated that conflict is precisely due to differences in emotional interest among the people who are related to one another intimately. He saw conflict as a requirement to test the fitness by producing a constant drama in which opposition and intimacy, conflict and cooperation, are closely interrelated. The emotion-driven motives such as love, desire, jealousy, shame, guilt, resentment, frustration, hatred, and rage are the keys that trigger differences in interest to cause conflicts. In other words, the conflict between people actually occurs because of the close relationship between them. For instance, men will compete with others to get a matching pair that is automatically in the process of also causing conflicts with other men or with a partner of the opposite sex.

The existence of the conflict and strategy in dealing with it is also adapted into Paula Hawkins's novel *Into The Water*. The novel depicts several cases of drowning dozens of women in The Drowning Pool in a small area called Beckford. The death of a woman named Danielle Abbott in the Drowning Pool

makes Jules, Nel's sister to uncover the truth story behind it. It was further strengthened by Lena's perspective, Nel Abbott's daughter about the death of her mother as a suicide. However, Jules believes that her sister is not committed suicide but there is another reason for her death that she decides to delve into the case to find out more about the conflict that occurred before her sister's death. The case was later handled by detective Sean Townsend and his partner Erin Morgan. It was later revealed at the end of the story that the death of Nel Abbott was related to Sean Townsend, a detective who was actually investigating the case of her death. Based on the previous explanation, the researcher assumes that the event is likely to occur because of a conflict between the two. This is based on Detective Sergeant Erin Morgan's judgment that both of them have an emotional relationship considering they have had an affair. According to Erin, "... the fact that where there is sex, there is motive. He had a motive to get rid of Nel, and his wife did, too (247)." Carroll (2012) explained that conflicts that occur between men and women are usually associated with pleasurable feelings between them that if a disagreement occurs may lead to violent emotional struggle, rejection, physical abuse, even murder.

The characterization and conflict are the main elements in various novels, dramas, movies, and short stories as a literary work. Carroll (2012) stated that literature describes emotion-driven motives, evoked it, and makes them visible to the reader who then perceived the experience variably. The response of the reader toward literature can be influenced by the author's ability to create a world of

imagination through the subject selection, stance toward the subject, presentation of the subject, and style and tone (3).

Paula Hawkins, the woman behind this beautiful, eerie, and intriguing *Into The Water* novel, is a Zimbabwe-born British novelist/author (Alter 2015) and also a financial journalist for *The Times* (Saner 2015). She was born in Salisbury, Rhode Island which is now called Harare, Zimbabwe on 26th of August 1972 (Alter 2015). She has had her Alma mater at Keble College, University of Oxford where she studied her economics, politics, and philosophy which then become her foundation to write a novel (Godwin 2015). Although, she was known for her previous New York Times Bestselling Author *The Girl on The Train* (2015) which is a psychological thriller novel adapted into a Hollywood movie, *Into The Water* novel is also worth to be analyzed either, because it is also win #1 New York Times Bestseller and Goodreads Choice Award Winner for Mystery/Thriller 2017 achievements. Paula Hawkins' *Into the Water* novel may also contain psychological thriller, but it is a bit different from her previous novel with still contains intriguing woman's life exploration and survival.

There are no single previous studies that discuss Paula Hawkins' *Into the Water* novel, due to the publication date released in May 2017 which means this is a brand-new novel that awaits a researcher to analyze the mysterious event within the novel that causing catastrophic death to the bunch of women. That reason makes this research is worth to conduct. What distinguishes this research from existing research is that it uses the New Criticism theory in analyzing the formal elements consisting of characters, settings, plots, and symbols to determine the

exact theme of the novel *Into The Water* by Paula Hawkins. To achieve that, the writer found several related studies that can be used as a reference for this research. The first research written by Zenda Maurista entitled *The Trusted Become the Traitor: A New Critic Reading of Agatha Christie's Detective Story Black Coffee* (2016). It aimed to identify the plot of the story revolved around the suspense that become the feature in a detective story. This research is similar to the current research as it applies the same theory of new criticism but different in the object of the research. The second research written by Karlana Widyawati entitled *Motives of Murder Reflected in Paula Hawkins' The Girl On The Train Novel (2015): Psychoanalytic Analysis*. This research aimed to reveal the motives of murder in the novel by describing the psychological condition of the three main characters. The difference between this and previous research is the object of research and the theory used to analyze the issue. The fourth research written by Marcello Giovanelli entitled *'Something happened something bad': Blackouts, uncertainties and event construal in The Girl on the Train* (2018). This research focuses on how the author of this novel presents the fictional mind of Rachel by analyzing the text using Cognitive Grammar and Text World Theory. This previous research also has a focus and approach to analysis that is different from current research.

Based on the explanation above, a new criticism theory is applied in this research aims to reveal the formal elements in this novel. New criticism is used to find the theme appropriate for the novel through the description of the characters, plots, settings, and symbols depicted in the text of *Into The Water* novel by Paula

Hawkins. The theme is the core of the story that binds the intrinsic elements or formal elements as a whole. Character and characterization are one of the elements in fiction that has an important role. Character creates behavior and brings ideas that the author wants to convey to the reader. Therefore, the characters in a story need to be described by their characteristics, traits, and inner attitudes so that their characterization is understood by the reader. The plot in this story refers to a series of events that contain causality. In a story, this causal relationship cannot always be seen clearly. These relationships may be represented in random, sequential, or reverse sequence of events. The setting of place refers to the place where events are represented in the fiction. This element can be places with names, initials, or without mentioning the name of the place only its characteristics. While the setting of time relates to the time of occurrence of these events within the fiction. Symbols in a fiction refer to objects, ideas, or actions of a character that symbolizes something or a hidden meaning beyond it.

New criticism can be understood as an attempt to find meaning or a new core in the literature by exploring the formal elements within it as the background. In finding the theme of Townsend's covert motive in killing Nel Abbott, the researcher only focus on the character and characterization of Sean Townsend through the narrator and second-person perspective, setting of time and place, plot, and symbol.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems as follow:

1. How character, plot, setting, and symbol construct the organic unity inside the story to reveal Townsend's covert motive in killing Nel Abbott?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

To answer the statement of the problems, the objectives of this study are as follow:

1. To describe Sean Townsend's motive to murder Nel Abbott.
2. To describe the character, plot, and setting that construct the organic unity within the story to reveal Townsend's covert motive in killing Nel Abbott.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This research tries to explain the readers about what happens in the novel and gives the example to the readers of new critical analysis which consists of plot, characterization, and setting to reveal the killer's motive in the story and give the example based from new critical analysis to form those formal elements and construct the organic unity that supports the theme.

Furthermore, this research will be more useful for the next research and become the references to a next critical study to a literary text. The most vital significance of the study is to provide the example of new criticism in literary works inside a novel by providing further scientific reason of conducting research explaining organic unity and understanding the substance of the story via close reading then interpreting it in plot, character's intention, and appreciating literary works of authors.

This thesis also wishes to become a good reference in revelation of the story *Into the Water* by Paula Hawkins. This thesis is expecting to give understanding about the novel plot story and how the story reveals to the readers and any other researcher, gives further inspiration to other researchers and scholar students in new critical research, especially for the next research on thriller novel that the content is about the revelation of the killer via its memories.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

New criticism: It is a popular literary criticism that developed in between 1920-1960 in the United States. This theory arises as a reaction to the previous literary criticism that is too focused on aspects of life and psychology of the author and literary history, yet the focus of this theory is limited to the text itself (Tyson 2006, 135-136).

Formal elements: "its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so forth, which, because

they form, or shape, the literary work are called its *formal elements*" (Tyson 2006, 137).

Plot: a sequence of events that have fundamental relationship to each other (Forster 1927, 130).