

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Hoax is news that contains false and fake information so that it can deceive people who get the news without confirming the truth of the news (Juditha 2018, 33). In this era, hoaxes or lies are very easy to spread with various purposes for spreading the news to attract attention, ridicule, incitement, slander, etcetera. The spreaders of hoaxes or lies often do not think about the impacts that can affect the victims, the people around them, even the spreaders of hoaxes or lies themselves. Therefore, everyone must first ensure all news or information circulating in the community, society, and mass media.

The issue of the impacts of spreading fake rumors or hoaxes or lies can be found in many literary works that have interesting main topics to analyze. However, one of the literary works that fall into the category of the Young Adult genre has its charm for the readers. The study uses a novel entitled *Sad Girls* written in 2017 by Lang Leav as an object with the issue of the impacts of spreading fake rumors or hoaxes or lies. This novel is categorized into a Young Adult genre. The young adult literature has a theme that can make young adult readers (around the age of 16-25 years) interested in reading because the author describes the reality of young adult lives and does not represent false hopes and spirits (Too 2006, 42). Young Adult Literature can reflect on the lives of readers. In other words, young adults choose the genre of Young Adult Literature because it is through the choice of books that

they can explore and relate stories to their own lives, such as love life, friendship life, finding identity, etcetera (Too 2006, 42). In other words, it can make the readers see how the depiction of teenagers who change from childhood to adulthood through stories. Lang Leav is a novelist and poet from Australia. She is also an International Bestselling Author, the winner of a Qantas Spirit of Youth Award and a Churchill Fellowship (Leav 2017). And then, Lang Leav was awarded the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Poetry (Leav 2017). The Goodreads Choice Award is a yearbook award program selected by readers.

This novel is chosen because the things that can be learned from the novel is very relevant today. That is the negative impact of spreading fake rumors or hoaxes, or lies. It seems to be normal if it is not seen what will happen when rumors or hoaxes, or lies start to spread out. It turns out that this negative impact might have impacted people who spread fake rumors or hoaxes, or lies. One of the triggers for the hoax phenomenon that is increasingly prevalent and developing in society is the presence of someone or society or parties who are not responsible for spreading something that is not yet clear, and the truth is not yet absolute. The impact that appears for hoax spreaders is causing misunderstanding, division, and conflict to affect a person's character, people, and society (Reski, Hasni and Falihin 2020, 61). Besides, some impacts arise for victims of hoaxes that are spread, which can not only interfere mental health and trigger anxiety but can also damage the life of the victim and its surroundings and unsettle the victim's soul. Some are even desperate to commit suicide. One of the examples there is someone who is depressed because he is slandered. The man was accused of experiencing

depression because he had family problems. Not only was he slandered by doing witchcraft against his family, he also committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree (Putri 2020).

*Sad Girls* tells about a girl named Audrey. She was 18 years old. One day, her friend, named Ana, was found dead. Ana decides to commit suicide because she cannot bear and hear a fake rumor circulating about her. The fake rumor or lie comes from Audrey. Audrey's lie about seeing Ana and her father through the window with their clothes off and do something heinous. Since Ana died, Audrey has had panic attacks, anxiety and always hides the truth about her lie. While at Ana's funeral or reception., Audrey meets Rad, who is Ana's boyfriend. Since then, Audrey has been attracted to Rad because Rad has a lot in common with Audrey that is in contrast to Audrey's boyfriend, Duck. Since then, Audrey and Rad slowly began to fall in love, many impacts, and events that emerged as a result of Audrey's lie, and slowly the mystery of the cause of Ana's death began to reveal. Therefore, the study intends to focus on Audrey, the main character portrayed in Lang Leav's *Sad Girls*.

Literature is not only made to be enjoyed by readers, but it has much connection with humans. Humans' habits can be reflected through literature. Literature has significant meaning for humans in this world; the point, of course, it can affect this world. One of the little things that have had a significant impact on this world is humans, more precisely, the personality or character of each person. Each person's character can be influenced by other people, circumstances, and society. A person's experiences and pasts can play significant roles in shaping that

person's character. Novels as literary works of fiction depict or reflect life. The world of the imagination is formed through intrinsic elements such as themes, plots, characters and characterizations, point of view, settings et cetera. The intrinsic elements as formal elements establish or form a literary work (Tyson 2015, 141).

There are three of the intrinsic elements in this novel: characters, plot, and setting analyzed in this study to support the theme. Character is one crucial element for the formation of a story. The characters in a story can affect the length or bend of the plot. On the other hand, the plot can be useful for bridging the drawer of a character. Because the plot is a collection of events that make up a story, the character and plot are related. Even though the characters presented in a novel are fictional, these characters are like a reflection, mirror, and connection in the real world. Setting in a story helps readers to have an overview of the places, conditions, situations that exist in the novel. A theme is an idea or ideas that underline a message that the author wants to convey in the form of a motive or concept for the reader, implicitly or assertively (Abrams 1999, 170).

The reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing the main character, Audrey, in Lang Leav's *Sad Girls*. First, the plot presented in this novel can give readers a deep impression of the characters in the story. Lang Leav wrote her novel using a chronological plot so that it made young readers understand the story, the plot from the beginning to the middle of the story seems to be slow and detailed enough to build the emotions of the readers; and the plot, at the end of the story, seems to change quickly until the story ended. Second, this study is intended to

find out how events in human life and experiences can affect the formation of a person's character.

The study uses New Criticism to analyze Lang Leav's *Sad Girls*. New Criticism is a theory used to analyze the issue because this study focuses on the object, Lang Leav's *Sad Girls*, through the intrinsic elements: characterization, plot, and setting that finally build the theme of the story. Based on (Tyson 2015, 130), New Criticism uses formal elements in the text to convey, show, or present the meaning of the text based on the text itself as the primary tool. Every formal element in a text must contribute and related to one another. This is used to show the theme of the work and build an organic unity. Organic unity is a complex meaning to create and develop messages in the story (Tyson 2015, 132). Based on New Criticism Theory, the text is autonomous because the work must be analyzed from work itself without relating the author's background.

Several related studies can help and support the writer to doing the analysis. In this case, out of the four studies chosen by the writer as a related study, focused on analyzing intrinsic elements in literary works. The first study was conducted by Oetomo and Saraswati (2015) focusing on plot, characterization, setting and symbolism to build the theme as an organic unity. Then, the second study was conducted by Aditya (2012) also focusing on the analysis of the plot, characterization, and setting in the novel. The third study was conducted by Maurista and Soelistyarini (2016) focusing on the analysis of the plot in the story, and examining the characterization. The last study was conducted by Megansari (2019) also focusing on the setting and characterization of the main character.

Those four studies use New Criticism Theory to help the writer better understand how to apply this theory to analyze literary works properly.

### **1.2. Statement of The Problems**

Based on the Background of the study, the statement of the problem of this study is:

1. How is Audrey's opportunity to change revealed from her characterization and also the plot and setting analysis in Lang Leav's novel *Sad Girls*?

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

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out is Audrey's opportunity to change revealed from her characterization and also the plot and setting analysis in Lang Leav's novel *Sad Girls*.

### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

This study has three significances. First, this study is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the characters and plot portrayed in a text. The writers and readers are more critical in appreciating a text because a text has excellent benefits for the progress of humans and the world. The text can also provide knowledge about beauty and a variety of literary works. Second, this study wants to show values in the text. Two of them are moral values that can be applied in life. The slightest fake rumors or hoaxes or lies that are spread will impact the people who

spread it and those around them, and every hidden lie will one day be revealed. The novel, Lang Leav's *Sad Girls*, shows how Audrey tries to reveal the truth that she has been hiding. Third, by doing this study, for and as the contribution of English Department Students at Universitas Airlangga, especially students who major in literature, it is hoped that this study can become a reference for other English Department Students. Thus, this study provides a broader point of view, knowledge, and insight to readers about analyzing or thinking the literary works critically.

### 1.5. Definition of Key Terms

There are some important terms needed to define in this research:

Change : The ways or efforts made to plan and improve something that has happened towards something new or different or better.

Journey : The events that occur and go through by someone in other words such as a person's life journey.

Mistakes : The attitudes or actions or speech that someone does and it is contrary to goodness or truth.

Opportunity : The process, and facility used to respond to and take advantage of an event, action, and situation.

Self-Maturation : The attitudes or actions taken to shape one's intelligence to become a better person than before, and this is encouraged by experiences and lessons learned from the past.