

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

As a human being, we just do not have a beautiful life and experience happiness through out our entire lives. We have many kinds of feelings such as sadness, happiness, anger, disappointment, hurt, confusion and dilemmas. Everyone experiences all those feelings. People feel happy when they get what they want, but will be sad if they get hurt or do not get their wishes. Everyone will be confused sad, hurt, stressed and depressed when they are faced with many conflicts in their life. Everyone has conflicts in their life which can be internal or external conflicts and they have to think hard to solve the conflicts in order to get the best solution. When people face conflicting and difficult choices, this creates a dilemma. They have to choose one of the choices and sacrifice the other even though they have to choose something that may be contrary to their heart and feelings. It is not an easy thing, it is the reality of human life.

Jodi Picoult is an author who presents real life phenomena in her literary works. She is one of many renowned novelists who has become famous for her literary works. Picoult received the 2003 New England Book as the first her literary award and American Library Association's Margaret

Alexander Edward Award (*Perfect Match*, 2007). According to Picoult's site in 2003, she was also the recipient of several awards, such as the Book Browse Diamond Award for novel of the year; a lifetime achievement award for mainstream fiction from the Romance Writers of America; Cosmopolitan magazine's 'Fearless Fiction' Award 2007, Waterstone's author of the Year in the UK, a Vermont Green Mountain Book Award, a Virginia Reader's Choice Award, the Abraham Lincoln Illinois High School Book Award, and a Maryland Black Eyed Susan Award (online).

*Perfect Match* is one of Picoult's novels and was written in 2002. Picoult is an American author, whose books tend towards family drama and relationships typically set around a court case, though she also did a stint on Wonder Woman at one point. The author provides ironic stories with main character's flaming in high emotion and revenge. She makes the reader feel what the main character is experiencing in her novels.

The Washington Post states that within the heart of *Perfect Match* lies the true emotions of motherhood, with all the contradictions and intensity. It is impossible not be held spellbound by the way she forces us to think hard about right and wrong (online). There are no easy conclusions to the issues in this book because Picoult presents difficult and interesting issue. Picoult creates dramatic tension by bringing the reader into a familiar world. In this case, the writer will focus on Nina Frost as the main character influencing the conflicts which she experiences in her life. Nina is a mother who faces two difficult choices. Due to an emotional final decision, Nina leads herself into big problems. She has moral

conflicts. Conflict is the main case study which analyzes between love and justice in motherhood, presented by the main character in *Perfect Match*.

The writer found many complicated and hard conflicts in this novel such as character versus self, and character versus others. There is a main character named Nina. She experiences many conflicts. She is a district attorney that has a son named Nathaniel. The main character has a dilemma to choose between love and justice, which conflicts with her morals. Commonly, it is not an easy thing when a selfish mother who has bad high temperature has to think hard about the problems to reach the best solution. She is forced to choose something she actually does not want to do which is contrary to her heart and morals. On the other hand, she thinks that she has to do it as the right act and for justice. Nina has to choose whether to protect her son as she loves her son very much or being a murderer by killing a priest and taking the law into her own hands. This is very tragic because Nina as a district attorney should not kill someone without any legal system. It brings big problems from people around her that want to send Nina to jail. Nina is in bad condition. Since Nina kills Father Szyszynski, she has to stay in jail for few days as a murderer and goes free for few days until the date of Nina's trial at the court. After some law judgments, Nina gets out of jail and the law states that she is not the guilty woman and free of the jail. In the court, all things get dilemma whether Nina has to defend herself uses insanity defense because she wants to protect her son or obeys the law system as a justice that a murderer must go to jail. It will be a decision for Nina case. However, a mother can do everything in the name of love for her children. It is not easy to decide

between two difficult choices when any mother finds her child being molested. Nina is a selfish woman and has her principles. Nina's conflicts in this novel are the issues that the writer is going to analyze.

The reason why the writer of this study choose this book is because *Perfect Match* has interesting conflicts, plot, setting which is in a court, complicated point of view, interesting characters and common phenomena which usually happens in today's life. The novel deals with right and wrong in the ideal world between the right and wrong in the character's mind about justice. *Perfect Match* focuses on parent and child relationship, a mother's dilemma, and one of humanities worst crimes. The novel demonstrates how deep a mother's love can go and how far she will prevent her child from further harm with emotion.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background mentioned previously, the writer finds an unique interesting problem. The writer formulates the statement of the problem as follows:

How does Nina's character influence the conflicts in *Perfect Match*?

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

This study aims at reaching an objective that is expected. The following objective will be answered according to the question proposed in the statement of the problem. The objective is as the following;

To elaborate how Nina's character influences and relates to the conflicts.

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

The study will remind all mothers to give more attention and to protect their children from any harm. Mothers must have time for children even though they are busy. Parents have important roles for taking care of children, guiding the right way, and leading them to the right track. Child sexual abuse can happen to anyone. It is a case that often happens in today's life. It is not just in imagination like in this fictional literary work but it happens in real life as well.

Teachers may be motivated to take more care and give more protection to their students at school as second parents, such as to not allowing students to be alone when their parents do not pick them up yet. As we know in today's life, there are many cases of child sexual abuse by kidnap students at school when the teachers get careless to keep their students safely.

For teenagers and young readers, the usefulness of this study may show that mothers would do anything for their children even if they must sacrifice their body and soul. She would protect her children in any way possible. All people can

see how far a mother goes in the name of love. This study provides a lesson for young readers that they have to be good children for their parents. They should not be naughty to their parents. On the other hand, this study may provide insight for all readers to always control themselves and solve problems with no emotion or selfishness. This study gives illustration about the rights and wrongs of justice because making decisions with high emotions can only bring bad impacts for other people in life.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

The study focuses on the conflicts concerning the main character, Nina's dilemmatic conflicts between love and justice experienced in the novel. The narrative will give the facts for the writer of what conflicts are from the main character. The dilemma conflicts and how Nina's character influences and relates to the conflicts will be the main concepts to be analyzed.

This study will only be concentrating on the data and narrative development that is taken within the novel and other sources that can support the arguments on the analysis.

### **1.6 Theoretical Background**

The writer will apply the New Criticism theory to analyze the novel *Perfect Match* Jodi Picoult. "The term "New Criticism" comes from the title of a

book published by John Crowe Ransom in 1941, *The New Criticism* (Norfolk, CT: New Direction)” (Griffith 134). In New Criticism theory, the text had to be considered as an object of literature. It is stated that “The text itself” became the battle cry of the New Critical effort to focus our attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it (Tyson 136). Based on this statement, the writer thinks that the novel is part of literary work. In fact, the New Critics begin to look at novels almost exclusively as the only source. In new criticism approach, the text becomes the attention that is considered as the evidence of new critics. This is why a New Critic will usually abstract one in which to conduct a close reading, and then put it back into the context of the novel to find formal elements.

“For the only way, a given author’s intention or a given reader’s interpretation actually represents the text meaning is to carefully examine, or “closely read”, all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself; its image, 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, 137).

The writer of this study uses New Criticism because it is the appropriate approach to analyze *Perfect Match*. She analyzes the main character and internal conflicts, that is why she applies New criticism. New criticism is just focus on the text itself and all the answers can be found when she does close reading. She must

find all the formal elements in the novel. She finds out the plot, the setting, and the strong character in the novel to reveal the theme in the story as the goal of New Criticism theory. All the formal elements in this novel cannot be separated and it produces an organic unity through establishing the theme. It is the conceptual understanding of the theory.

For the form and meaning of a literary work, at least of a great literary work, develop together, like a complex living organism whose parts cannot be separated from the whole. And indeed, the work's *organic unity*-the working together of all the parts to make an inseparable whole-is the criterion by which New Critics judged the quality of a literary work. If a text has an organic unity, then all of its formal elements work together to establish its theme, or the meaning of the work as a whole (Tyson 138).

It means that the analysis of this novel needs to find the formal elements such as the plot that contains of conflicts of the story itself, setting, and the characterization as the main points that are going to be analyzed. All the formal elements are found from whole of the novel as organic unity. The writer must find all the formal elements and how one formal element relates to the other formal elements that cannot be separated to establish the theme. Thus the theme is an interpretation of human experience, and if the text is a great one, the theme serves as commentary on human values, human nature, or the human condition. The



most important for New Criticism is we can judge whether or not that theme is established by the text's formal elements in a way that produces an organic unity.

Close reading", the scrupulous examination of the complex relationship between a text's formal elements and its theme, is how the text's organic unity was established by the New Critic. Because of New Criticism's belief that the literary text can be understood primarily by understanding its form, a clear understanding of the definitions of specific formal elements is important. (Tyson 141)

The entire question can be answered and the textual details can be known by reading the text itself. All the analysis in this study can be found by understanding and finding the formal elements as the organic unity in the novel.

## **1.7 Method of the Study**

The method of this study is qualitative method and the analysis of this study is based on the theory of New Criticism. The first step in qualitative method of this study is close reading, which is done by reading the text more than once to get more understanding of the text in order to find Nina Frost's dilemmatic conflicts between love and justice. The writer makes small notes of summary of each chapter.

Completing the data can be done by finding the primary source and secondary source. The novel *Perfect Match* is the primary source of the study, it is

taken from the novel itself with the secondary sources are taken from some books and articles which have relation with the research and other materials in order to support analysis for this study. The writer will take notes for the important parts, both primary sources and secondary sources in data. Browsing for more relevant and supportive data is also necessary in order to provide more information and more persuasion in the writer's argument.

The process of data analysis in this study begins by observing Nina's character in the story. By doing this the writer will be able to analyze the conflicts which are influenced by Nina's character which is necessary to support the answers of the problem which becomes the basic idea in the story. The technique necessary for analyzing the character, plot, setting and conflicts that relate one to another that will be based on New Criticism theory in *Critical Theory Today* which is focused on organic unity as the main point of the New Criticism approach.

Elements of fiction in the main character's conflicts is the main object for analysis here. The witer will find the conflicts from the text itself. The analysis will begin on observing Nina's character as the main character by paying attention to the actions, feelings, dialogue, description, thoughts and the sentences that the character and other characters speeches in the text to find and understand Nina's character relates to the conflicts elements that is faced in the novel.

It is necessary for the writer to observe the text more than once in order to get the necessary idea to support the conflicts. The validity of the data in the novel

will require reliable and accurate information concerning the topic, to maintain the analysis of the topic will be added some sources in this study. In general, validity is described as the ability of the instrument to measure what it supposed to measure and reliability the instrument's ability to consistently and accurately measures the concept of the study. In presenting the idea, additional important details are added by quotation and paraphrasing the dialogue of the characters from the main text as the evidence for the ideas presented in this study. As the final step, it is imperative for the writer to formulate a conclusion revealing the organic unity within the text. By doing so, the writer of the study can enrich the understanding of the text based on its formal elements to find the theme as the goal of using New Criticism theory.

### **1.8 Definition of the Key Terms**

Dilemma	: a situation in which a choice must be made  between alternative courses of action or arguments
Conflict	: a struggle that takes place in a character's mind or  a struggle between a character and an outside force  is an external conflict
Sexual abuse	: is a general term for any type of sexual activity

inflicted on a child by someone with whom the

child is acquainted

Justice : to act and treat fairly