

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Struggle is a process in which people try to do everything the best in their lives. It is important for people to struggle until they get what they want. Similarly, a struggle for life, it is a process where people have to go through a wide range of places to stay alive until now. As well as Sharp says, that “The struggle is also likely to have taught the participants how to struggle effectively against apparently overwhelming forces of administration and violent repression” (18). People can do struggle to live in their own way depends on the situation they face. Sometimes, people confront a huge risk for the sake of their lives or others, and this is the fact in the society.

Related to the real struggle of people’s lives, many novels tell about people’s struggle for their lives. The struggle is caused by many factors both internal and external ones. The internal factors for example are from themselves. While the example of external factors are problems from their office, from relationship, and from society. One of literary works that depicts such of struggle caused by both internal and external factors is *Mockingjay*, written by Suzanne Collins. Therefore the writer chooses the novel *Mockingjay* as the subject of the study to analyze. In *Mockingjay*, the writer finds struggles of a teenage girl who has a determined and strong spirit. She sacrifices everything, including her life, to gain better life for her family and people surrounding her.

Mockingjay is the novel written by Suzanne Collins. She was born on August 10, 1962, in Hartford, Connecticut, United States. Her favorite authors are Margaret Evans Price, Madeleine L'Engle, and Richard Preston. She graduated from Indiana University Bloomington, Alabama School of fine arts. In 1991, she began professional career as a writer for children's television. She worked on the staff of several Nickelodeon shows, including the Emmy-nominated hit *Clarissa Explains it All* and *The Mystery Files of Shelby Woo* (Collins).

As a writer, Suzanne Collins won young adult category award. The first book of her is *Hunger Games* trilogy, it has spent more than 286 consecutive weeks or more than five and a half consecutive years to date on The New York Times bestseller list since publication in September 2008, and appears consistently on USA Today (Collins). The second book of the Hunger Games trilogy is *Catching Fire*. She was awarded in 2010 indie choice award as young adult winner. The third trilogy is *Mockingjay*. This last trilogy won many awards including Locus Award finalist in 2011, Nebula Award in 2011, and The United States nominated for WGA Award in 2013 (Collins).

The definition of better life in this issue is related to politics, social and economics between society and the government is more good stuff. In the story, before Katniss' hard struggle the condition of economic, politics and social life in all districts is very bad. The power of Capitol to miserable to society in all districts that makes Katniss think that it is time for revolution to gain better life. In the fact, that political system can be miserable to the society for the unilateral interests. It is supposed the political system in Indonesia, when Dutch was colonized Indonesia 3.5 centuries. And after that the Indonesian has been very

angry and tired with the colonization of the Dutch, so the society to do rebellion for independence of Indonesia can be realized. It is also the same as the rebellion conducted by Katniss in the story to gain a better life.

The reason why this study is discussing this issue because it has not been discussed before on this novel. This is previous study about *Mockingjay* novel, first is from Riska Cahyaningrum, her issue is about rebellion related to the American story with Sociological criticism. Second is Dita Purwitasari, her study is focuses on social disparity and class struggle with Marxism theory. The last previous study is Jenni Sulkakoski, she is focuses on female heroism and the myth of sacrifice for creation are constructed in the America with feminist theory. This fact motivates the writer to have the novel *Mockingjay* as her object of the study.

The story in this novel *Mockingjay* is begun by Katniss who has to move to district 13, an underground district from her own district, district 12. It is because the Capitol, the capital city of the whole districts, attacks the district 12 by falling huge bombs and ruins the district 12. To rebell Capitol, Katniss is voted as the leader of the district 13's soldiers and given a name as *Mockingjay*. Katniss' struggles to become a warrior in the rebellion to the Capitol with the soldiers from district 13. Katniss struggle bravely to defeat the Capitol and her struggle is narrated through the whole story of the novel.

Supported by the powerful plot, setting and the linguistic devices, the strongest theme in this novel is the struggle of Katniss Everdeen to gain better life is built into an organic unity of a theme. Since the writer finds out that the power of the story about Katniss's struggle comes from the story itself then the writer chooses New Criticism theory as a tool to analyze the novel.

New Criticism is a theory that uses intrinsic elements from the text to find the organic unity of a theme using close reading related for analysis. Culler said that “The New Criticism left as enduring legacies techniques of close reading and the assumption that the test of any critical activity is whether it helps us to produce richer, more insightful interpretations of individual works” (122). Even though there are different interpretations, there is only one basic way to reveal those ideas. The way is through the formal elements of the text. Tyson says that “sometimes it is even more meaningful, rich, and complex than the author realized, and sometimes the text meaning is simply different from the meaning the author wanted it to have” (136). In this study, the writer also discusses about intrinsic elements of the novel, such as character, setting, and plot.

By discussing using intrinsic elements as characterization, setting, plot, and linguistic devices the intended meaning behind the text which is related to this issue can be revealed in this study. Therefore, the writer can more focus to analyze the text from intrinsic elements. Text can be a unity of story that is called organic unity. So, the readers can understand the text better.

B. Statement of the Problems

In order to analyze Katniss Everdeen’s struggle in Suzanne Collins’s *Mockingjay*, the writer would like to analyze the problems as follow

1. How do characterization, plot, and setting of the novel *Mockingjay* describe Katniss’ struggle to gain a better life?

2. How does the meaning of *Mockingjay* as a linguistic devices significantly develop the theme of the novel, *Mockingjay*?

C. Objective of the Study

From the statement of the problem above, the writer finds the objective of the study as follows:

1. To explore the power of characterization, plot, and setting of the novel *Mockingjay* to develop Katniss' struggle to gain better life as the theme of the novel.
2. To reveal the meaning of *Mockingjay* as a linguistic device that significantly develops the theme of the novel *Mockingjay*.

D. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on the issue examined, the formulation of problems and the elements of fiction in the novel *Mockingjay*, written by Suzanne Collins. The topic of this research focuses on characterization of Katniss Everdeen who struggles to gain a better life. Since the analysis of this study focuses on Katniss Everdeen; therefore, the study of characterization is limited only on the main character, Katniss Everdeen. Other characters explained, in this analysis are based on their relationship to Katniss Everdeen for sharpening the analysis. In addition, other elements of fiction such as plot, setting, and linguistic devices are used limited only on their support to analyze Katniss' struggle to gain a better life

E. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to provide additional knowledge and contribution to the academic community. This study aims to enrich the discussion about the New Criticism study, particularly for the students of English Literature in English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Airlangga. This study also provides the close analysis of Suzanne Collins's novel *Mockingjay* and provides how to analyze the novel by applying the New Criticism theory. The writer hopes that this study provides insight about how formal elements, especially the characterizations, plot, and setting work in literary texts supported also by certain linguistic devices. The writer also hopes that the readers can easily find the interesting theme of the novel to motivate them to read the *Mockingjay*.

Based on the previous explanation, the importance of this study is to provide an understanding to the reader that all struggles require a sacrifice, so that the objective of the struggle can be reached. In this study, an analysis of Katniss Everdeen's character is hoped that readers can get an understanding about how people should take a risk in their entire lives to gain a happy life, in accordance with their wishes to come true.

F. Theoretical Background

The writer uses New Criticism theory to analyze the struggle in the novel. New Criticism is a theory used for analysis an issue from the formal elements in the text that support the theme. As it is stated by Leroy Searle, New Criticism is a theory which is used to focus the critical attention on the text itself for shaping the values and meaning of it (691). It is supported by T.S Eliot's explanation, quoted

from Charles E. Bressler in *Literary Criticism*, New Criticism expresses emotion of a literary work by finding a set of objects or a chain of events that can make the readers respond into the work, and all that things can be done by examining each formal element, which will build an organic unity (61).

The formal elements that are very strong in uniting the theme in the novel written by Suzanne Collins are character, plot, and setting completed by linguistic devices. The main objective of the New Criticism theory is to make the reader aware of the meaning of the story from the text itself. The writer can explain an argument that there is a meaning of its own in accordance with the text. As well as Bertens said that New Criticism focused on the individual meaning of individual texts (34). Therefore, the writer applies New Criticism Theory in this study to analyze the hard struggle of the main character of the novel, Katniss Everdeen, to gain a better life in Suzanne Collins *Mockingjay*.

G. Method of the Study

This study uses a qualitative method since the data are collected from a text in the form of meaning that supports the theme of the text. It is supported by Ian Dey who said that qualitative data deals with meaning, meanings are mediated mainly through language and action (11). To conduct this research, the writer collects as many as possible to support this analysis and to answer the research question. For this research, the writer also used some references from both online and offline sources, such as journals, thesis, books, and previous research to help the writer in applying the theory and method for this study appropriately.

First, the writer would like to do close reading as a method in applied New Criticism. Writer read texts again and again to collect the data from the formal elements of the text. Thus, the writer understood more deeply about the theme of the story. Then, the writer needed to identify the theme of the text, related to the main character's hard struggle to gain a better life. Tyson says "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" (141). Thus, the next step take more approached at Katniss Everdeen's struggle to establish a meaningful life in the future. Formal elements of the text including characterization, plot, and setting are analyzed as an organic unity to build story. The writer analyzed characterization is the main character act hard struggle to hard gain a better life in the story. Next, the writer analyzes plot is examined to follow the flow of Katniss Everdeen's struggle from the exposition until the resolution part. The setting that the writer analyzes is place, time, or the atmosphere in the story to support the act of struggle of Katniss. Then, the writer analyzes Linguistic devices from the text are also particularly the ones that are related to the word "Mockingjay".

After those steps, the writer finally succeed to reveal the organic unity of those formal elements, which supported the theme of the story that is the hard struggle to gain the better life of the main character's future. The writer revealed the issue about Katniss Everdeen's struggle to get a better life from the formal elements of the characterization, plot, setting and linguistic devices. The last step is that the writer concluded the finding of the study. The technique of analyzed the

data for this study is based on the theory of New Criticism cited from Lois Tyson's *Critical Theory Today*.

H. Definition of Key Terms

Better Life : of the many people struggling each day, keep in mind that a better life was a purpose for life, isn't always easy, but when we overcome challenges, become stronger and more grateful for opportunities.

Hard Struggle : process in which people try to do everything the best in their lives. It is important for people to struggle until they get what they want

Mockingjay : species bird from the experiment Jabberjay bird marriage with Mocking bird by Capitol