

## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

There are some parts in reading, especially reading a literary work such as novel that most of people do not know or maybe not even realize. It happens in every literary work. In the literary works, people can feel humorous, affectionate, and romantic. It happens because people can dive into the book and follow the mind of the character that is previously narrated by the narrator. There is also point of view of the author that helps the reader to read and understand the novel also leads the story until it ends well.

That thing is called tone that can make our heart beat and tell our brain to do what is read by our eyes. Sometimes people can feel sad or happy because what they read. In the book by X.J Kennedy and Dana Gioia, tone in literature often conveys an attitude toward the person addressed (15). When it is influenced by whomever persons they are being addressed to, it means every person has the chance to control. Then, it depends on ourselves about how to defend. Tone obliquely has a great influence to the character and person.

In this study, the writer decided to analyze the tone of the narrator. The reason to choose tone as the topic of this study is because the writer thinks that the narrator in this novel does not use the same tone in narrating the story. Sometimes the narrator uses soft tone or regular tone and sometimes high tone. This difference could be an indicator about what is happened in the novel. Some people could expect more about this novel because in the previous novels the author got successful and

won some awards. That is not a wasteful thing to do because the author can get award for this novel. This novel is also called a "novel in stories" because there are some stories taken from the short stories which she had written before.

The tone in every story and also in this story can be guidance to understand what the characters feels also the situation in this story. Tone is an attitude, so people can understand although they do not see by themselves. From the point of view and the character that speaking the writer thinks that it is can be the indicator. Tone can be a tool to understand people although in a story. how the way they speaks, the words that released by them and the body language also how the other people react to the words. From the tone people can understand every sign delivered by the person talks, but in this story the purpose is to understand the other characters reaction.

This story is a novel which contains 13 different stories inside it. The only thing that links them is the main character. People can also get some knowledge about how the characters' trait is from the tone and the things that have been narrated. The narrator narrates the other characters nicely and well with a stable tone, but towards the main character, the narrator does not do so. It could be because there are same personalities between them. The narrator is exactly the extension of the author. The narrator just fills empty places in the novel that the author left empty to make the reader wonder about the story, but then the narrator comes and fills some of the empty places.

The writer realizes the tone of the narrator is very important part in the story, so people who read will know the viewpoint of the narrator. The narrator's point of view is directed so if the narrator says that a character is bad, it means that the

characters really become like that because the narrator explains clearly about the meaning. The difference is only that people cannot know the narrator's voice and opinion through the story because she is not a part from the story. From how the narrator tells about the character, a person can detect what the narrator means. This is one of the ways that everyone can analyze and some other people also can analyze it from the words used by the narrator to explain. The example is when the narrator explains about Kevin Coulson (one of the supporting characters in the story). Kevin was an ex-student of Olive and when he comes back to his past town where he was raised, the narrator says if the man noticed Kevin, he gave no sign, even when he backed up his truck and turned his head in Kevin's direction (30). That sentence explains how Kevin is explained by the narrator and how the narrator uses those words like "he gave no sign" that means that other people does not care about Kevin in explaining Kevin's condition. Some people can understand that the narrator tries to describe Kevin's arrival and how he tries not to make other people know about him. Actually, there are people who still remember him, realizing that the narrator tries a little satirize to him when saying that "If the man noticed Kevin, he gave no sign". (30). It could mean that when the narrator said the words, it becomes a little bit offense to Kevin through the other character.

The main character of the novel has the same name as the title of the novel, but there is still a link that relates the main character's name to the title of the novel because this novel is all about her and how the narrator gives their opinion towards her and the story. Since Strout used to be infamous, but she could win Pulitzer Prize for her novel entitled *Olive Kitteridge*. It means that the story is not only good but

also can be called a masterpiece. Besides that, *Olive Kitteridge* novel is so attractive because we can learn many things and even the thoughts from different character.

Elizabeth Strout wrote *Olive Kitteridge* and some other novels like *Abide with Me* and also *Amy and Isabelle*. She also wrote several short stories and the main character is Olive Kitteridge in little town named Maine, some of them are also included in this novel. In the interview with Robert Birnbaum from The Morning News, Elizabeth Strout was born in Portland, Maine at January 6, 1956 she is also the eight generation of Maine. Besides *Olive Kitteridge* that won the award, the other novels like *Abide with Me* also won National Bestseller and then *Amy and Isabelle* also.

Despite many positive reviews and awards, there are also some people that do not like this novel. This is not only because that her novel consisted short stories gathered in a novel, but also because the story of the novel itself. Some people say that the story is not strong enough to be a novel. It is all about Olive and the people there. However, if the readers could see more about the novel, the setting of the story is in Maine, Crosby. It is the place that could be called a coastal, a small town and not as busy as other big cities like New York or California. The interesting point is that the author can successfully explains that there are also so many conflicts in this small town like what happens in big cities.

Tone actually is not a part of the story where everybody else is being attracted to. Sometimes some people also do not care and forget about the tone, even in a story. Besides, this is a part where people can easily note about the characters. For the writer it is important because in this tone, people could know what the narrator's words are emphasized. In some books, tone itself means attitude, so it is

related to the attitude of the narrator. then from the attitude of the narrator, people could guess what is the other characters do or think that makes the narrator like that.

Tone can be a device for people to know the characters deeply. It is just based on the words that the narrator uses and the impression he makes when saying those words. From what is said by the narrator, people can assume how the character is. Sometimes there are people that feel difficult when deciding characters disposition, but through this analysis the writer also hopes that it can help her to solve this problem.

People know that in real life sometimes a person must be polite or well-mannered through tone to other people that the person talks to. However, the other person could feels more comfortable while talking with a good tone and the tone can also affect their attitude. People can feel the tone in the novel (because in novel the tone cannot be heard) when the character or the narrator speaks; they can relate it through the other characters' response. From the tone, people can understand how the feeling of the other people or characters whether he/she is angry or not.

In the book *A Glossary of Literary Terms (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)* by M.H. Abrams, there is a definition of tone, as the way a person speaks subtly reveals his concept of the social level, intelligence, and sensitivity of his auditor, his personal relation to him, and the stance he adopts towards him ( 131). Abrams also gives another definition in the same book cited from other book that the tone of his utterance reflect his sense of how he stands towards those he is addressing" (131). In another source by Staffordh that the writer found, there is another definition about tone, it is said that the tone in the literature often conveys an attitude toward the person addressed. From those definitions, the point of what Abrams stated is that tone can

show us what the narrator thinks about other characters from opinion that is built in the view of the person that is now talking.

The writer uses New Criticism as the relevant tool to support the discussion about the tone of the novel. The New Criticism was chosen because it can be used to analyze intrinsic elements of the text including the tone. Therefore, the most relevant theory for this analysis is the theory of New Criticism. According to the book by Bressler, he stated that this approach to literary analysis provides readers with a new formula for arriving at the correct interpretation of a text using only the text itself (55). The main point in this sentence is about new criticism. He said that the new criticism is only about the text itself without looking at the things outside the text and must focus on everything in the text. The reason is also needed to give explanation why New Criticism is used as the main theory to discuss the novel and tone. Tyson also mentioned that a literary work is a *timeless, autonomous (self-sufficient) verbal object* (137). It could be seen that every literary work is an eternal work and whatever happened, people could get the work as a gift from that time but still worked until this moment.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

The statement of the problem from the background of the study above is:

1. How is the narrator's tone in the story?
2. How is the narrator's tone toward the main character, Olive?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To identify and explain the person who narrates the story and his attitude towards the characters of the story.

2. To analyze the narrator's tone toward the main character and his opinion about the main character, Olive.

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

The significance of the study in this analysis is based on the purpose to enrich the variety of research in the field of literature, especially in the intrinsic analysis of the novel to the students of English Department and for those who read this thesis. This aim of the study also to make everyone who reads it becomes understand more about tone of the narrator and the meaning of tone. Besides, the novel really teaches the students to be socially understandable. For the English Department students, this study is hoped to improve their knowledge about the tone of the narrator.

#### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This thesis only discuss about the tone or the attitude of the narrator in the story. This study only limits to the point of view of the story and character because the narrator's tone and also tone in general only link to those. Tone is closely related to the point of view, while the narrator is associated with the author. Then the point of view is related to where the author saw the story or from which side the author used his/her perspective. The narrator concerns not only to the tone of the story, but the tone of the main character as well. The main character also plays an important part since the narrator's tones are different from other characters to the main character.

#### **1.6 Theoretical Background**

The theory about tone mostly came from the drama or poetry, while in prose, tone is closely related with the point of view. Tone in drama is expressed through the

voice that comes from the character that could be heard by the viewers. The tone or the sound of the character in drama that comes from the character is typically adapted with the dialogue and the situation of the setting. There is an explanation that tone varies to express the full range of human feeling and thought. For instance, from the web taken from the department of English in university of Victoria the tone may be formal, serious, or passionate (sorrowful, loving, angry); or it might be intimate, light-hearted, or calmly meditative; or can even be witty or ironic. From that quotation, it means that the tone varies and depends on the concept of the conversation written on the script by the author. There is also the explanation inside the sentence said by the narrator that the tone can also be the sign about the characterization of the character he is talking about.

Tone in poetry is different in every stanza; it shows the subject purposed to the text. The tone can mean everything but it always comes to the true meaning of the poem itself. When reading about the passage, it has its own meaning that is described in the passage just like in the web of Robert Frost that the poet's or persona's attitude is in style or expression toward the subject, e.g., loving, ironic, bitter, pitying, fanciful, solemn, etc. Tone can also refer to the overall mood of the poem itself, in the sense of a pervading atmosphere intended to influence the readers' emotional response and foster expectations of the conclusion.

Tone in the novel very rarely to discuss that it is inspiring the writer to use that, because from the tone in the novel, writer can understand the situation in the story. That could be from the words and also the impression of the people. Tone in the novel very important for some people. Because some people might not be



understood the novel if the novel does not include the tone and the narrator. That is why the writer also includes another tone in the above for comparison.

### **1.7 Method of the Study**

Tone studied in this thesis is particularly suitable to be analyzed with New Criticism. In Lois Tyson's book there are few steps to operate New Criticism such as doing Close Reading to the text, organizing through Organic Unity, and analyzing the Formal Elements. In doing close reading, what we need does not only to closely read the story, but also understand the story deeply to find the meaning of the story and something hidden inside the dialogue. Close Reading is not only to understand the story, it should be reading carefully. Close Reading needs to include in this analysis of tone because it is related with the New Criticism, which has a very important step for person who does a New Criticism in the analysis.

Beside Close Reading the writer needs to follow Organic Unity and Formal Elements. Like point of view, setting and character that are part of intrinsic elements and needs for analyzing the tone. All of that will be a unity; it cannot be separated so it has to be done to do the analysis. The intrinsic element in this study is using the step of Close Reading as a step through analyzing the text. Finally, the writer can arrange the analysis by using descriptive analytic method.

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

Attitude : the way a person views something or tends to behave towards it,  
often in an evaluative way

Ironic : Characterized by or constituting irony

**Meditative** : given to, characterized by, or indicative of meditation;  
contemplative.

**Narrator** : a person who tells a story or gives an account of something

**Trait** : a characteristic feature or quality distinguishing a particular person  
or thing

# **CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW**