CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Harry Potter is probably the most phenomenal fantasy novel for all time, as Philip Martin says in his article *10 Secrets to Writing Fantasy*. Its first series, *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, was very successful in enchanting its audience, thus made them loyal enough to wait for the next series. Edmund M. Kern states in his book *The Wisdom of Harry Potter* that the reason of its phenomenon probably lays on its power to make the readers engaged with the fantastic imagination it offer. The vivid descriptions of magical world and Hogwarts as the school of witchcraft and wizardry are very attractive that it can make the audience get involved all the time. The other reason is rather ironic: as Kern states in his book, it is phenomenal because of the controversy that it brings. Some critiques said that the magical elements in *Harry Potter* carry demonic aspects that can lead the readers to learn about real witchcraft. Therefore, there have been various analyses about *Harry Potter* to prove whether it is a demonic fantasy literature or not. Some said yes, but some said that *Harry Potter* only serves the imaginative world of the author, hence it does not have any connection with the real witchcraft.

This work of course can never be separated from the existence of the author, Joanne Kathleen Rowling. From the scrap written in Indonesian translation of *Harry Potter*, entitled *Harry Potter dan Piala Api*, the woman who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, on July 31st 1966, started working on this series after inspired by the

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stopping of her train in front of a farm. When she looked at a group of cows throughout the window, the image of Harry Potter and Hogwarts suddenly came in her mind. She wrote *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* in the most difficult time in her life. It was also very difficult to offer her writings to publishing house. However, Rowling's life changed forever the year after. Bloomsbury decided to publish her novel, and as we have known, almost nobody in this world does not know about this phenomenal work.

In this thesis, I will use all the series of *Harry Potter*, starting from *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* until *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, as the core of the analysis. I choose *Harry Potter* because its descriptions of the characters. The characters there are very strong; each of them has unforgettable quality and abilities, and each is also the mimetic of the people in the genuine world. As what Kern says, "this series unify fantasy world and daily life" (12). However, only Severus Snape who will become the central part of my analysis, because he is the only character whose nature was always argued by *Harry Potter* fans. Kern states that Snape is "inviting a lot of questions" (13), while Elizabeth Musselman, the PhD candidate in theology at the University of Chicago Divinity School says that "Snape is the only character whose moral status has remained unknown through the series" ("Transparency"). She adds that "[t]he moral status of Snape has turned into an extravagant marketing campaign, and helped launch Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows to the top of bestseller lists moths before its publication" (Transparancy").

Severus Snape is the Hogwarts (the school of witchcraft and wizardry) teacher whom J.K. Rowling called as 'the gift of a character' ("Severus Snape"). He is about 30 or 31 years old in the first *Harry Potter* series entitled *Harry Potter and*

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the Sorcerer's Stone, so he turns to be 37 or 38 years old in the seventh book ("Severus Snape"). In the series, he is described as the one with shoulder-length greasy black hair, cold and empty black eyes, black robes, sallow skin-colour, and hooked-nose. He is mainly famous because of his cynical, perfectionist, and sly character. He dislikes almost all Hogwarts students, especially Harry. Towards Harry Potter he is not only showing dislike, but also hatred and disgust. He hates Harry the same as he hates James Potter, Harry's father. Nevertheless, aside from those qualities, Snape is a powerful wizard who has rich of abilities.

There is still more to Snape than meet the eye, though. In the series, from the beginning until the end, he is fully described as an extremely complex and unpredictable character. He desperately hates Harry, but in several incidents, it is Snape who has big roles in helping Harry. The readers' fuzziness about whose side he really is gets stronger starting from the fourth series. Snape is revealed to be double agent of both good and evil organizations—the good organization, The Order of the Phoenix, is led by the wisest wizard Dumbledore, while the evil one, Death Eater, is led by the darkest wizard Voldemort. His role as double agent enriches his complexities then, because Dumbledore thinks that Snape works in Death Eaters as a spy for The Order of the Phoenix, and so is the opposite— Voldemort thinks that Snape works in The Order of the Phoenix as a spy for Death Eaters.

Harry Potter's fans feel no doubt again about Snape's allegiance after reading the last series, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,* because Snape's true nature is finally discovered here ("Deathly Hallows"). It is said that Snape is loyal to the good side, that is, to Dumbledore's side.

The fact that character's nature can be very complicated leads the writer to make it the main point of this analysis. The writer finds that it needs huge strategies to present Snape as the most complicated character, and the strategies are related to the way his character is arranged by using certain intrinsic elements of literature.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

1. How is Severus Snape's complex character in *Harry Potter* series arranged in terms of the intrinsic elements in the novel?

2. What are the effects of the arrangements?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze how Severus Snape's complex character in *Harry Potter* series is arranged in terms of the intrinsic elements in the novel

2. To analyze the effects of the arrangements

1.4. Significance of the Study

This study has two significances. The first is to give deeper understanding about the arrangements of fictional character's complex character in novel, so that the people, especially those who are interested to learn or write about complex character, can get some views from this tudy. The second is to give contribution to

the students of Airlangga University, especially those who take literature as their major study.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

Seven series of *Harry Potter* series, entitled *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Half-blood Prince*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* will be used in doing this analysis, but this study will only focus on its most mysterious character. In this case, Severus Snape, the character whose true allegiance is confusing until the last series of *Harry Potter*, is chosen as the center of the analysis. The writer will concentrate on how this character's complexities are shaped and the effects that are produced by the arrangements.

1.6. Theoretical Background

In this study, the writer will apply intrinsic theory. Intrinsic theory draws merely to the existence of the text, so it does not see the matter outside the text such as sociology, philosophy, psychology, and so on. Three major intrinsic aspects that can be analyzed in the novel are *Plot, Characters, and Setting*. The writer finds that the arrangements of Snape's complex character are very much related to the organization of those elements. I will also rely on some aspects which formerly used

in the study of poetry, that is tone, for I believe that they contribute in stressing Snape's complicated manner.

1.7. Method of the Study

The writer will apply library and internet research in working on the thesis. In this case, the writer will concern on J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series as the primary data. The writer will do a closer reading to collect the data about Severus Snape's complex character by using intrinsic theory. Next, the writer will examine the relation of the arrangements of plot, characterization, setting, and tone with the shaping of Snape's complex character. To support the analysis, the writer will include some other sources, including the other studies which deal with similar problem, such as Peter Dudink's thesis *Hoax, Parody, and Conservatism in Harry Potter*, Philip Martin's article *10 Secrets to Writing Fantasy*, Hal Blythe and Charlie Sweet's *Multi-Dimensional Character*, and Elizabeth Musselman's essay *Severus Snape and the Transparency of Evil.* At last, the writer will examine about the effects that are produced by the arrangements.

1.8. Definition of Key-Terms

The key-terms that are strongly related with this study are:

Complicated character : A character that does not have single role, thus it is difficult to define what role that he/she really belongs to

Strategies : The ways to do something in order it will obtain successful and convincing effects

Plot : The arrangements of the stories in fictions

Characterization : The mold of fictional characters

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW