

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

In our lives, we sometimes need to take risk in order to reach the goal that we want. We will also face with danger that will cause fear to appear in ourselves. Thus, we need to have the courage to take the risk, face the danger, and overcomes the fear. Courage is inseparable in our lives, we need courage in every action or activity that we do. However, not every people are courageous enough to take the risk and to achieve their dreams by taking the risk. They think that their security is more important than having their dream achieved by them. We often getting told by our parent to not take unnecessary risk and to be safe all times. As we think that our security is more important than our dream, we will not be able to achieve greater result. We will only satisfied with our current condition. It is right to say that there are real dangers in our lives that we should avoid. But there is a difference between being reckless and courage. In other word, courage can be mean the ability to face down our fears and to achieve something that we have been dreamt of.

Soldiers have been closely related of having courage to leave their family behind, then go to the war field to fight for their country. We often hears stories about unsung heroes who died in battlefield. The biggest war that we ever know are the first

and the second World War. The World War I lasted for 4 years from 1914 until 1918. The World War II lasted for six years from 1939 until 1945.

The World War II occurred as the result of Germany led by Adolf Hitler attempt to dominate Europe by asking Japan, Italy, and china to join forces in order to fulfill their goals. Adolf Hitler as the leader of Nazi Germany during the World War II which lasted from 1939 to 1945 also attempted to do the holocaust, a term used to describe a mass murder of Jewish people all around the world. The Nazi German said that the victims of the holocaust are having no right to life to justify their right to do the holocaust. The World War II undoubtedly cause many damages in every country that was involved with. One of the country that involved with the World War II is Denmark. During the time of war, Denmark was occupied by Germany on 9 April 1940 and lasted for five years until 5 May 1945 when German finally surrender to the alliation. Under German occupation, most Danish institution still function normally until 1943.

*Number The Stars* is a novel that will be analyzed in this thesis. The novel tells us a story about a ten-year-old Danish girl named Annemarie whose childhood surrounded with the German soldier that occupied Denmark during the World War II. The story takes place in Denmark especially in Copenhagen in 1943 when the German colonized Denmark. Lois Lowry's *Number The Stars* shows how the struggle done by the Jews people with the help of some Danish people who cared for them in order to escape from German soldiers. The setting of the story become an important part of the story because its plot mainly focused on how their struggle to escape from German soldiers during the time of war.

At her age, Annemarie has to help her Jew friend, Ellen, and her family to get free from the German soldier chase until the war is ended and everything goes back to normal. The title of the novel could refer to the number of the Jewish people because the Jewish people use the Star of David as their identity. The whole story is about how Annemarie reacts and adapts to the situation and to help people around her, especially the Rosens, to escape from the German soldier.

The writer of this novel named Lois Lowry, is an American author of literature for children. Although she specializes in children's literature, she always uses a difficult subject matter in her works as in this novel entitled *Number The Star* that uses the war as the main problem in the story. Furthermore, this novel has won a Newberry medal as the most distinguished contribution to most American literature for children in 1990. The other example of her novel is the one entitled *A Summer to Die* which is her first children's novel, and the one entitled *The Giver*. The definition of children novel is a novel that is intended for and used for children or young people. One thing that differentiates children's novel from the other is the difficulty of the grammar which is not too difficult to be read by children.

The thesis writer is interested in the setting of the story and the characterization of the character in this novel, because it is really interesting to see how the setting of this novel which is the war situation is able to affect the main character's courage throughout the story. The definition of setting is the circumstances of the environment in the story which includes the time (especially the historical moment of the story), and place (the geographical condition in the story).

This thesis analyzes the novel on how the theme of the novel which is courage built by the relation between the setting and the characterization of Annemarie. Characterization is the process of development or change that character's trait in the story that usually caused by many factors such as the other character influence, self-reflect, and circumstances. The main character of this novel is a ten-year-old girl who facing the situation of war and may undergo a change on her trait in the story because of the setting of the story. The time setting of this novel is when the German Soldier occupied Denmark in 1943 to eliminate all of the Jew's people in Denmark. It is really interesting to see the war from a 10-year-old girl's perspective, she is always thinking straightforwardly when the German soldiers do their actions and when she realize that everything has changed after the German soldier arrived. The most interesting part of the story is the fact that Annemarie has a friend named Ellen Rosens who is a Jew.

In this thesis, the thesis writer would like to give the reader more information about the Annemarie's characterization and its relation with the story's setting by using new criticism literary theory. The goal of this thesis is to find its organic unity where those two parts element of fiction mix to formulates the unity or we can called it as theme. This theory is relevant to be applied in the analysis because in order to know the data, we can only get it from the story itself.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems that will be stated next contains an analysis idea that will be examined closely from the text. A clear focus on the analysis is the purpose for statement to be created:

1. How Annemarie's courage is portrayed through setting and characterization in Lois Lowry's *Number The Stars*?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study:

1. To analyze how Annemarie's courage is portrayed through setting and characterization in the novel.

## 1.4 Significance of the Study

It is hoped that this thesis will give a deeper knowledge about the Annemarie's characterization toward the situation of war that she faced on, and how she manage with that by having a courage to do so. The result of the analysis is dedicated to enrich the reader's knowledge about English literary works, especially a children literature since *Number The Stars* is a children literature work. This study also gives us a better view about courage that experienced by children. By knowing the relation of Annemarie characterization and the setting of the story, this study hopes to contribute to the academic community of Airlangga University especially for

the student who interested in English literature. This study aims to provide insights to Lois Lowry's *Number the Stars* for everyone that wanted to know more about the story and also to provides the necessary idea on how to analyze a novel as a supporting material and guidelines in order to study it. The study hopes to give the comprehension about the Characterization, the setting, and courage.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation**

This thesis will focus only on formal elements which portrayed in the novel, especially in the character of Annemarie and the setting of the story. The thesis writer finds it interesting to see how Annemarie coped with the situation of war and then how she manages to overcome her fear to do something that a children usually uninvolved with. The other characters such as Ellen, who is at the same age with Annemarie, and Kristi, Annemarie's younger sister, are only mentioned for their interaction with Annemarie. The journey of Annemarie in helping her friend escapes from the German soldier gives her a value of courage which finally change her personality. Annemarie character will be analyzed through her actions and dialogues between her and the other character which may contains some informations to help the writer to accomplish the purpose of the study.

## 1.6 Theoretical Background

The thesis writer applies the New criticism theory in order to support the analysis inside this work. According to Charles E. Bressler in his book entitled *Literary Criticism: An Introduction and Practice*, New Criticism literary theory is a theory of literary criticism that has been dominated American literary criticism in 1930's to 1960's, the theory is based on the view that a work of art or a text is a concrete object that can, like any other concrete object, be analyzed to discover its meaning independent of its author intention or the emotional state or values of either its author or reader (Bressler 350).

Charles E. Bressler also stated about the definition of New Criticism, "New Criticism is an approach to literary analysis provides readers with a formula for arriving at the correct interpretation of a text using – for the most part – only the text itself" (55). Pointing to that definition about New Criticism theory, the thesis writer will analyze Lois Lowry's *Number The Stars* using New Criticism theory in term of the setting and characterization. Those two formal elements will be analyzed in order to define the concept of courage shown throughout the novel by the main character.

The thesis writer uses the book by Lois Tyson entitled *Critical Theory Today* and a book entitled *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice* by Charles E. Bressler as supplemental books as those two books are compilation of many literary theory and it makes it easier for me to gather information needed in this thesis. Those books also possess the description about new criticism and how to do the close reading in order to initiate the analysis in the atmosphere of new criticism

theory. Because for the most of new critics that play the role in the aspects of literary criticism, close reading will be the main tools to analyze any kinds of elements in the literary works before interpret it. As an additional reference in analyzing the text in this study, the writer also uses the book Richard Gill entitled *Mastering English Literature*. This book can be really useful for helping this thesis in the field of literary study especially in New Criticism. The thesis writer also uses a book by Rushworth Kidder entitled *Moral Courage* and an journal article by Woodard C. entitled *Hardiness and The Concept of Courage* taken from journal entitled *Consulting Psychology Journal: Practice And Research*. Those two sources will be used to analyze the definition of courage and to analyze the courage shown by Annemarie throughout the story.

### **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 thesis writer divided the method of the study into two steps. The first step in qualitative method of the study is close reading method, which is done by reading the text more than once to get a more comprehensive understanding of the text in order to find the theme that is courage. The second step of this thesis is collecting data. The text of the novel is the primary source of the thesis, the action and dialogue of the main character with other supporting character is the most essential part in which the data for this study comes from. The secondary sources, such as printed book, both in the form of printed books



and pdf files, journals, and articles, are also necessary in order to support the analysis of this thesis. The thesis writer also browse in the internet for more relevant and supportive data in order to provides more informations and more source to strengthen the thesis writer's argument to the analysis.

The process of data analysis in this thesis is to determines the important setting in the novel that may relevant to the analysis. Then, the thesis writer observes the character of Annemarie and to decide whether she is a flat or round character. Those two formal elements are used and examined in order to analyze the theme of courage in the novel. The thesis writer will also determine the concept of courage in the novel through the use of setting and characterization. The technique that is necessary for analyzing the setting and the characterization of the main character will be based on New Criticism theory in Lois Tyson's *Critical Theory Today*.

### 1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Courage	The ability to act for a meaningful (noble, good, or practical) cause, despite experiencing the fear associated with perceived threat exceeding the available resources (woodard 174)
Characterization	the representation and development of character that made by the author (Griffith 33)

Setting

The physical, the time in which the action of a literary work takes place, the social environment of the character, and atmosphere that can be describe as the effect of setting (Griffith 40)

