

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

"About You" (Darwis. 2016) is a story that tells about a woman named Sri Ningsih who, in her life, has had many struggles to survive. After her father died, her stepmother frequently tortured and beat her. She also gave her no food. She married and had two children, but both died. Then, her husband also died because of his disease (rhesus). She was then abandoned by her best friend due to several conflicts that caused misunderstandings. Here he worked as a teacher, opened a car rental business, and built a soap factory until he finally decided to move to London. Feist (2017: 6) says that struggle is a motivation that can be used as a driving force for someone to achieve success and superiority that replaces inferior feelings, or what is commonly referred to as weakness, in undergoing a life.

This novel tells the story of a young Indonesian lawyer named Zaman Zulkarnaen who gets a call from Sir Thompson, a senior at the Thompson & CO law firm, to fill the senior lawyer chair. But to get the senior lawyer chair, Thompson gives a task statement to the times to complete the distribution of the inheritance of a woman named Sri Ningsih, who came from Indonesia with a British passport and died in a nursing home in Paris. Sri Ningsih has an inheritance of 19 trillion rupiah, which is kept by a 1% stake in one of the world's companies.

The problem started when he was looking for Sri Ningsih's heir, but he couldn't find it, so he had to look for Sri Ningsih's personal data. He started searching in Sri Ningsih's diary, then traveled to Bungin Island (Sri Ningsih's

birthplace). Zaman received information on Sri Ningsih's childhood life from his elders. According to the elder's information, Sri Ningsih was abandoned by her birth mother when she gave birth to her. After his mother died, his father remarried. His father is a fisherman.

One day, his father went out to sea and never came back. Sri Ningsih was raised by her stepmother, who beat her cruelly and did not give her food. Shortly thereafter, his stepmother died in a fire. Leave Sri Ningsih alone; this is where Sri Ningsih's struggle begins. He started working to survive. Sri Ningsih did many things, from being a teacher, a trader, and the owner of a car rental business to opening a soap factory. The soap factory she founded was successful, but for some reason, Sri had to sell the factory. The factory was exchanged by Sri for a 1% stake. He decided to move to London and start a new life there. Sri Ningsih found her life partner, and they were in love until Sri Ningsih's husband died. Finally, Sri Ningsih decided to stay in a nursing home in Paris until her death took her. He had written a will whose recipient was unknown. That is what made the era trace the life journey of Sri Ningsih.

Sri Ningsih is the protagonist in the novel. This novel reflects the struggle of a woman living an independent life because her family died and she had to start a new life alone. The protagonist's struggle in life is full of irony, but he also finds his purpose in life. What the protagonist experiences in life is just complicated. This thesis analyses the protagonist's struggle to lead an independent life. Independent means being able to act according to circumstances without asking or depending on others. Independence is where a person is willing and able to realize his will, which is seen in real actions to produce something to fulfil his life needs (Anthony, 2002).

There are two reasons why this topic is important to discuss. First, it is considered important to reveal and describe the struggle that the protagonist faced in Tere Liye's novel "About You". Second, it is also important to know how the protagonist attempts to face the struggle by herself in Tere Liye's novel About You. Therefore, it is hoped that this research can contribute to future research.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The protagonist of the novel struggles in her life. However, there are some kinds of struggles made by the protagonist, and some factors make her struggle in her life. These become the subject matter of this research, which is then formalized in questions such as the following:

1. What kinds of struggles are found in Tere Liye's novel "About You"?
2. What factors of struggles are found in Tere Liye's novel "About You"?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this study is to get the answers of the questions problems above. There are two research objectives related to research problems namely:

1. To find out the kinds of struggles found in Tere Liye's novel "About You."
2. To find out the factors of struggles found in Tere Liye's novel "About You."

1.4 Scope of the Study

In conducting this research, the researcher must limit the areas to be analyzed to stay on track. This thesis will be limited to kinds of struggles and factors of carried in the Tere Liye's novel "About You". In this research there are sub- chapters being analyzed related to the subject matter of this research.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This thesis is intended to be helpful in understanding more about the novel "About You" written by Tere Liye. Having read this thesis, the readers would be expected to find out the struggles experienced by the protagonist in the novel. The writer hopes this analysis will be useful to readers to enlarge their knowledge about struggle, especially for literature students who have an interest in this analysis.

There are two kinds of significance to the study: practical and theoretical. In the research, practically, it is hoped that the readers can learn how to face the struggles in life. In this case, the protagonist attempts to live by herself. It is also hoped that the readers will become conscious that any kind of problem will not last forever.

Meanwhile, theoretically, it is hoped that this research can be used as a source of references for other research anytime information related to the protagonist's struggle can be obtained.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Protagonist

The protagonist is the main character of a plot. His existence is considered important because the story will not run smoothly without him. The protagonist will experience many events, including conflicts. Altenberg and Lewis (in Karmini, 2011: 24) argue that the protagonists are admired figures, figures who prioritize norms, ideal values, characters who give sympathy and empathy, and characters who display something that fits our views and expectations as readers.

The protagonist is one of the intrinsic elements of a literary work. Baldick (2001: 157) states that the protagonist has an important role in carrying out the plot. The protagonist is the central figure in the story (Sembodo, 2010: 5). Meanwhile, according to Aminuddin (2013: 80), protagonists are actors who have good character so that readers like them. Nurgiyantoro (2013: 259) argues that the protagonist is the character whose story is prioritized in the novel in question. Because the main character is mostly told and is always in contact with other characters, he greatly determines the development of the overall plot of the story. Based on some of the definitions of the protagonist above, it can be said that the protagonist is very influential in a literary work, both in plays, novels, and other literary works. Without a protagonist, plays, novels, or other literary works are incomplete.

2.2 Struggle

Struggle in one's life is needed to achieve the desires or goals you want to achieve. "Life is a struggle," as the English say. This means that in this life, there

must be an effort from us to be able to move forward. When someone doesn't have the enthusiasm to move forward, it's certain that person will be a loser for the rest of their life. That person can only blame circumstances, themselves, and others. For that, whoever we are, if we want to be successful, then there must be a struggle in this life. In this life, one must choose to fight and keep fighting until the end of one's life (Setiawan, 2015: 124).

In this novel, the struggle of the protagonist is quite complicated; everyone inevitably has to face life's struggles. According to Chollins (1978: 1451), struggle is not easy, and sometimes it also requires sacrifice to achieve goals. Many people struggle in life, even though happy endings don't always come from struggle. McKechnie (1989: 367) said struggle is something that requires a lot of effort to achieve.

According to Nugroho (1996: 141), the struggle is hard work to make dreams come true. Some human lives contain effort or endeavor. In this study, the struggle refers to a woman's efforts to survive and face all the difficult conditions necessary to get a better life. If someone has the desire to be rich, he must work hard, because effort alone is not enough if it is not accompanied by hard work. Hard work can be done using knowledge, strength, or even both. So whatever a person does to make his dream come true is called a struggle. Often, people just want to be rich or successful without fighting. As stated by Manson (2016: 40), I want the prize and not the struggle. I want results, not processes. I feel in love—not with the fight but only with victory. And life doesn't work that way. Merriem (2014: 2) defines struggle as "a long effort to do, achieve, or face something that is difficult or that creates problems". It takes courage and perseverance to carry out a struggle in life, even though everyone has to face many conflicts.

According to Sanusi (2015: 17), struggle is a system based on components that interact with each other and are interconnected. Through this understanding, values are things that refer to good and bad and that function to control people to act according to the rules, whether in religion, morality, or a social context, and that reflect beauty. The various values of struggle are the value of unity, the value of self- sacrifice, the value of nationalism, and the value of tolerance.

Finding and describing how the protagonist struggles in the novel *About You* by Tere Liye, this study will discuss matters of struggle based on the theory put forward by Soekanto (2009: 213), which includes matters of struggle as follows:

1. struggle, which includes the norms associated with a person's position or place in society. In this sense, struggle is a series of rules that guide a person in social life.
2. Struggle is a concept about what is done by individuals in society as an organization.
3. Struggle can also be described as individual behavior important for the social structure of society.

2.2.1 Kinds of Struggle

According to Maizler (2012: 67), struggle is divided into four kinds. They are negative, positive, inevitable, and chosen struggles. The theory is used to be able to solve the research problems. In completing this research, the writer uses qualitative methods to describe the protagonist's struggle for survival.

1. Negative Struggle

Negative struggle is goal achievement that involves eliminating a deficit state. This occurs when you are attempting to get back to the norm, such as by mastering a life-limiting phobia.

2. Positive Struggle

Positive struggle is goal achievement involving a transformation from a steady state into a more evolved, grown, or developed state. Positive struggle, in contrast to negative struggle, does not involve overcoming pathology. Examples of positive struggles are going to graduate school or writing a book. The positive struggle may still involve overcoming resistance and discomfort.

3. Inevitable Struggle

Inevitable struggle deals with the necessary losses and attendant discomfort that you struggle with as you adjust to a new and less comforting world. During your life, you will struggle with sadness and loss when your friends, parents, or partners die or go elsewhere. These struggles are an automatic condition of your life.

4. Chosen Struggle

Chosen struggles are the product of personal choice and are not automatic conditions of life. Simple examples of chosen struggles are climbing a mountain, going to graduate school, or becoming a bodybuilder.

2.2.2 Factors of Struggle

According to Ahmadi (2003: 111), struggle has factors which are divided into four factors:

a. Will

Will is one of the functions of human psychological life. Willpower is also a capable factor that encourages someone to do or achieve something in his life. In the absence of a will, everything that is planned and well run would be futile and of no use.

b. Sympathy

Sympathy is a psychological process that occurs in a person when he feels attracted to something that makes him feel like helping, giving, and other things. A feeling of sympathy can also give a sense of approval and a sense of love towards whatever is done with the meaning of what has been given, which can raise enthusiasm and give hope for a better life.

c. Encouragement

One that can make a person rise again because of the encouragement from the people around him who made him feel excited to live again. This situation also arises because of the need to have something delivered and realized.

d. Desire

Every human being in his life must have a desire to be achieved as well as targets to be planned. Desires are not obtained for free; they require a long process to achieve. Desire is a form of strong desire from someone to make your desired dreams come true. Willing to sacrifice everything you can do to make your wish come true. It is passion that makes people successful because passion is more than just a desire. In the absence of desire, something to be achieved will not work as it should.