CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Revenge has long been one of the most common topics in literature. Means of revenge can vary, ranging from spontaneous emotional reactions to well-thought-out and carefully planned plans. It can include direct actions such as punishment or mistreatment of the offender, or indirect actions such as seeking ways to harm or damage their reputation. Typically, revenge is triggered by deep feelings of resentment, where a person feels that only by giving an appropriate response can they feel satisfied or restore compromised self-esteem. The desire for revenge for one's own perceived harm or pain is a basic human instinct that often appears in various forms, both in real life and in fiction. This is also reflected in popular novels, including J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series.

J.K. Rowling authored the renowned fantasy literary saga known as the 'Harry Potter' series. The publication of its seventh installment, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,' occurred on July 14, 2007, with Bloomsbury overseeing its release in the UK, Sholastic in the United States, and Raincoast Books in Canada". It holds the Guinness World Record as the best-selling novel and has been translated into many languages. It was generally well received, and the American Library Association recognized it as a "Best Book for Teens". The first Harry Potter novel entitled Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone was published in 1995. Subsequent series followed, including: The Chamber of Secrets (1998), The Prisoner of Azkaban (1999), The

Goblet of Fire (2000), The Order of the Phoenix (2003), The Half-Blood Prince (2005), The Deathly Hallows (2007).

In the novel Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, J. K. Rowling narrates the revenge of Lord Voldemort, the main antagonist. Since young, Voldemort has felt a deep sense of unhappiness and dissatisfaction due to his tragic background as an unwanted and unloved child. His life at the orphanage and later at Hogwarts has shaped him into an ambitious, ruthless, and power-hungry figure. Voldemort's grudge against Harry Potter in particular stems from events that happened in the past. As a baby, Harry managed to survive a curse cast by Voldemort, which would have destroyed him. This incident made Harry "The Boy Who Lived" and made Voldemort obsessed with finishing him off, as he saw Harry as the biggest threat to his power. Meanwhile, Harry and his friends attempt to destroy Voldemort's final Horcrux to end his evil power.

With the above point in mind, this study aims to explain the analysis of the motives behind the antagonist's desire for revenge in the novel "The Deathly Hallows" and its impact on the storyline. The act of revenge committed by Voldemort in the novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" has caused many conflicts that harm many people. Govier (2002:2) when people seek revenge,they seek satisfaction by attempted to harm the other as a retaliatory measure. This research is interesting because it can provide a deeper understanding of the causes and effects of revenge, which is a theme that many readers are interested in.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background above, there are two problems that will be explored in this study. They are as follows:

1. What are the causes of the antagonist's revenge in the novel?

2. What are the effects of the antagonist's revenge in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the identified problem, two key research objectives emerge as essential for this study:

1. To find out the causes of the antagonist's revenge in the novel.

2. To find out the effects of the antagonist's revenge in the novel

1.4 Scope of the Study

A scope is used to focus on the subject matter specifically. This study focuses on the causes and three effects of antagonist revenge in the novel, and will explore factors such as his troubled upbringing, quest for power, immortality, and the impact of past conflicts in the novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Practically, this research is created to develop additional understanding for English literature students from the novel through the antagonist's revenge. Theoretically, this research is useful for the readers to understand the main problem in the novel "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" as a source of knowledge and also to find out how important it is to educate ourselves about revenge. This study is also to enrich the research in literature, especially to the potential to serve as a cornerstone for future research endeavors, providing a reference point for related studies.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Psychology of Literature

The way to know literary works is by studying the psychology of literature. Ahmadi (2015): Psychology in literature is the study and portrayal of human thoughts, emotions, behaviors, and motivations within the world of storytelling. It is a powerful tool that writers use to delve into the complexities of the human mind, offering readers deeper insights into the characters and the themes that shape their lives. Through this psychological lens, literature becomes not just a reflection of society and culture but a window into the inner workings of the human psyche.

Cherilla & Ekalestari (2024) It reflects the complexities of social interactions, cultural norms, and individual experiences, offering readers a window into the shared and diverse aspects of the human condition. Through stories, poetry, and various forms of expression, literature captures the essence of human struggles, aspirations, and relationships, providing both a mirror to society and a means of understanding broader human experiences.

Meiliana (2020): There is a strong connection between literature and psychology, as both fields are concerned with human beings, including their reactions, perceptions, and how they interpret the world around them. Literature often portrays the psychological states of its characters, while psychology studies the mental and emotional processes that influence human actions. Thus, these two disciplines

complement each other in offering deeper insights into human behavior and experience..

2.2 Character

A character is a figure crafted by the author, embodying the essential traits, values, and personality of an individual within the story. These characters play a critical role in driving the narrative forward, as they engage with the plot and interact with other characters. Characters hold a pivotal role as key instruments in conveying the central messages, morals, or themes that the author intends to communicate to the reader (Nurgiyantoro, 2018). They serve as the vehicles through which the deeper meaning of the story is expressed, whether it be lessons about life, ethical dilemmas, or insights into human nature. Through their actions, decisions, dialogue, and personal development, characters subtly or overtly deliver the author's intended messages, allowing readers to engage with and reflect upon the narrative's core ideas. By embodying specific values, beliefs, or conflicts, characters guide the audience toward a deeper understanding of the story's moral or thematic purpose, making their role essential in shaping the reader's interpretation and emotional connection to the work.

This strategic use of character allows authors to effectively translate abstract concepts into relatable, human experiences that resonate long after the story has ended. Whether as protagonists, antagonists, or supporting figures, characters reflect various human qualities and experiences, making them relatable or symbolic representations of broader themes. In fiction, the depiction of characters is generally accomplished through a blend of analytical and dramatic techniques, employing both direct and

indirect methods to bring them to life. This process involves revealing various aspects of a character's nature, including their physiological traits (such as physical appearance and health), psychological traits (such as thoughts, emotions, and mental states), and sociological traits (such as social background, relationships, and cultural influences) (Al-Ma'ruf & Nugrahani, 2017).

In conclusion, characters are fundamental to the fabric of storytelling, serving as the embodiment of essential traits, values, and personalities that drive the narrative forward. They are not merely participants in the plot but are instrumental in conveying the deeper messages, morals, and themes intended by the author. Through a strategic blend of analytical and dramatic techniques, characters are depicted with a rich array of physiological, psychological, and sociological attributes, which collectively offer readers a comprehensive understanding of their complexities. This nuanced portrayal allows characters to transform abstract concepts into vivid, relatable experiences, engaging readers on a profound level. By reflecting diverse human qualities and experiences, characters enrich the narrative, offering insight into broader themes and resonating with audiences long after the story concludes. In essence, characters are pivotal in shaping how readers interpret and emotionally connect with the narrative, underscoring their indispensable role in the storytelling process.

2.2.1 Antagonist Character

Characters in fiction stories have a lot of differentiation, and that character can be divided into several types based on the point of view and review. Characters in fiction can be classified into several types based on their roles and traits. Main characters are central to the narrative and appear consistently throughout the story,

while peripheral characters are less prominent and may appear only briefly. The protagonist evokes sympathy and emotional engagement from the reader, whereas the antagonist opposes the protagonist, creating conflict either directly or indirectly. Characters can also be flat, displaying a single, unchanging trait, or round, exhibiting complex and evolving personalities. Static characters remain unchanged throughout the story, while developing characters grow and adapt in response to the plot's progression. Additionally, typical characters reflect real-world types or institutions, whereas neutral characters exist solely to advance the plot or fulfill specific roles within the narrative (Nurgiyantoro, 2018).

An antagonist is a character in a story who opposes or creates conflict for the protagonist, or main character (Al-Ma'ruf & Nugrahani, 2017). The antagonist can be an individual, a group, or even a concept or force that stands in the way of the protagonist's goals. Their role is crucial in driving the plot forward by challenging the protagonist and creating obstacles that must be overcome. While the antagonist is often seen as the "villain," this isn't always the case; they can have complex motivations and may even be sympathetic or morally ambiguous. The conflict between the protagonist and the antagonist is a central element in many stories, adding depth and tension to the narrative.

The antagonist is a character who opposes the protagonist, either directly or indirectly. This character often represents forces or values that contrast with those of the protagonist, creating conflict within the story. From the reader's perspective, the antagonist is typically seen as being in opposition to what is considered ideal or morally right. The antagonist's role is crucial in driving the narrative, as they challenge the protagonist's goals, beliefs, and actions, thereby creating tension and propelling

the plot forward. In doing so, the antagonist helps to define the protagonist's character by providing a counterpoint to their virtues, decisions, and struggles (Boimau et al., 2022).

2.3 Revenge

Revenge is described as a universal, automatic, and immediate instinct that arises in response to a perceived wrong or threat. It is deeply rooted in human nature and serves as a way to deter future threats. Despite the often irrational nature of revenge, which may lead to widespread destruction or death, it remains a credible and powerful response due to the emotional satisfaction it brings. The drive for revenge is not always motivated by rational calculations or future deterrence but rather by the intrinsic pleasure expected from striking back (Mcdermott et al., 2017).

Revenge is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that emerges from a fundamental aspect of human nature. It can be understood as a universal instinct that activates in response to perceived injustices or threats, driving individuals to seek retribution. This impulse is deeply embedded in our psychological makeup and serves multiple functions, both practical and emotional (McCullough et al., 2010). From an evolutionary perspective, the drive for revenge can be seen as a mechanism for maintaining social order and deterring potential threats.

By retaliating against those who cause harm, individuals or groups send a clear message that such behavior will have consequences, thereby discouraging future transgressions. This deterrent effect is a key reason why revenge has persisted as a response across various cultures and historical periods (McCullough et al., 2010).

However, the nature of revenge is not always rational or calculated. The pursuit of vengeance is often fueled by intense emotions such as anger, hurt, or a desire for justice. This emotional drive can lead to actions that may not align with logical assessments of the situation or its long-term consequences. As a result, revenge can sometimes escalate conflicts, leading to further harm or even widespread destruction.

2.3.1 Causes of Revenge

The desire for revenge is often driven by several causes, which support the antagonist's motivation to seek retribution (Sunardi et al., 2022). These causes can be explained as follows, as cited by Sunardi et al. (2022) in the *Journal of Language Universitas Islam Sumatera Utara,* which can be seen as below:

1. **Betrayal**: Betrayal is a serious moral offense that can shatter trust between individuals or even within a community. Lifton (1983) suggests that the connection between moral development and betrayal has not been thoroughly explored in literature, particularly in relation to personality. He also notes that long-term relationships do not ensure protection against betrayal, regardless of its scale—betrayal remains betrayal. It depends on how each person reacts to being betrayed. People often place their trust in others, believing they are reliable confidants, only to feel deeply hurt when a disagreement or misunderstanding arises. The fear that a trusted person might reveal their secrets can lead to anxiety. When the betrayal intensifies, it can trigger a desire for revenge, as the betrayed individual seeks to retaliate against the one who wronged them.

2. **Injustice**: The lack of justice is another powerful cause for revenge. While the idea of justice is frequently referenced in media or heroic stories, it often feels elusive in real life. Eisenberger (2004) points out that individuals who feel wronged by others tend to resist situations that threaten their well-being. People are often so focused on their own interests and happiness that they disregard the rights of others. Many individuals are deprived of justice, whether in terms of legal matters, love, or societal standing, simply because they lack the power to claim it. When faced with such situations, people may find it difficult to cope and, as a result, turn to negative actions—revenge being one of them.

3. **Aggression**: Aggressiveness is a communication style and behavior characterized by a disregard for the feelings of others. Aggressive individuals often speak loudly and rudely, using their actions to express their emotions, needs, or demands. Their primary focus is on winning the argument, driven by intense emotions and a lack of empathy. Taylor (2009) notes that aggression is closely linked to anger, a common trait among those prone to hostile behavior. In fictional narratives, antagonists are frequently portrayed with these aggressive tendencies, speaking more harshly and acting more violently than other characters, further fueling their desire for revenge.

2.3.2 Effects of Revenge

Revenge is often seen as a way to cope with pain or injustice, but its effects tend to be harmful for both the avenger and the target. While it may bring a temporary

sense of satisfaction, revenge typically prolongs cycles of violence and deepens conflict. Psychologically, it can amplify feelings of anger, resentment, and anxiety rather than providing peace (Carlsmith et al., 2008).

Moreover, revenge can damage social relationships and trust between individuals, fostering an environment of hostility and suspicion. Carlsmith, Wilson, and Gilbert's (2008) research explains the effects of revenge, which are summarized as follows (Carlsmith et al., 2008):

1. **Negative Emotional Impact**: While people often expect revenge to bring emotional relief or satisfaction, it usually results in prolonged negative emotions. This is because engaging in revenge can lead to continued rumination on the offense and the offender, intensifying negative feelings rather than alleviating them.

2. **Increased Rumination**: Those who exact revenge tend to keep thinking about the offense and the person they punished, which prevents emotional closure. This rumination can maintain or even worsen feelings of anger and resentment.

3. **Misprediction of Satisfaction**: People often mispredict the emotional outcomes of revenge. They believe that punishing someone will make them feel better, but research shows that it often makes them feel worse.

4. **No Catharsis**: Contrary to popular belief, revenge does not provide cathartic release. Instead of relieving pent-up anger, revenge can increase aggression and lead to more negative feelings.

5. **Social and Moral Costs**: Taking revenge can also carry social and moral consequences, making individuals feel guilty or conflicted afterward as it can violate personal or societal norms of morality.