

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works are products of human creativity that are intimately linked to language. Humans and literature are related because human and environmental issues are essentially the origin of literature. Literary works that depict human existence are the product of the author's imagination. The author combines his idealized of life with the realities of it (Rahayu, 2022).

Novel is narrative work of literature or prose fiction that typically tell the story of the characters the author would like to portray, including their actions and daily lives. As a work of prose fiction, the novel presents a number of issues related to humans. People can enjoy and get a great deal of insight into human characters by reading a novel (Hanisa, 2016).

A literary work and the real world are closely related. Social connections, culture, religion, education, and the psychological aspects of people's personalities are all part of daily life. Literature and Psychology have a significant relationship because both deal with humans, their behaviors, reactions, wishes, miseries, fears, desires, culture, individual differences, and social issues (Ayesha Dar, 2022). Psychology teaches us about human actions and their reasons, whereas literature depicts human behavior through fiction.

The novel *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie is the most famous novel that retains the suspenseful and mysterious core of the story. The story begins with an invitation for ten strangers to spend time on a deserted island. When they arrive at the island, they realize that the host is not there in the first place. The fear increases

when they see a nursery rhyme called *Ten Little Soldiers*, which tells of how each of them will die. The rhyme visualizes how each character is killed, and they believe that the killer is one of them. Distrust and paranoia arise in an attempt to survive, and eventually each character reveals his or her dark secret.

Judge Lawrence Wargrave is the novel's primary character and the mastermind behind the murders. He is a former judge with intelligence, power, and a strong belief in justice. Wargrave believes that his cruel acts are the best way to ensure justice. He sees himself as a law enforcer, charged with punishing those who have avoided justice. This self-justification is what allows him to kill and perform terrible actions, since he believes he has the right to decide who should live or die.

By looking at the psychological and literary context, this research will provide an understanding of human nature and behavior, where humans can lose their minds and morals when they feel they have the right to determine someone's life and death. Judge Wargrave abuses his position as a judge to punish others, even though he feels his actions are the right thing to judge the wrong, it is still unethical to kill in his own way. Thus, this study is expected to provide an understanding of justice and morality in literature, and encourage researchers and readers to think critically about the motivations behind the actions of the characters in the story.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Statement of the study based on the background above are as follows:

1. What are the protagonist's actions to justify his own cruel acts?
2. What are the protagonist's reasons to commit the cruel acts as self-justification?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problems above, there are two objectives to achieve in this study.

They are as follows:

1. To find out the protagonist's actions to justify his own cruel acts.
2. To analyze the protagonist's reasons to commit the cruel acts as self-justification.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This study focuses only on the character of Judge Wargrave in Agatha Christie's novel *And Then There Were None*, particularly in relation to his self-justification of his cruel actions. This research also refers to the analyzing of the psychological and literary context of Judge Wargrave's character, such as his motivations and mindset that he uses to justify the murders he commits against other characters. This research uses the novel *And Then There Were None* as the main source to provide a deep insight into the psychological complexity of Judge Wargrave's character, regarding how he justifies his cruel actions as a form of doing justice, as well as its implications for the development of the plot and the theme of justice in the whole story. In all, there are two main topics that are discussed in this study. The topics include the protagonist's actions and his reasons to do the cruel acts.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study can be understood from two main perspectives. Theoretically, this research aims to contribute to the field of literary studies by providing understanding by exploring the concept of self-justification in the context of cruelty portrayed by the character of Judge Wargrave. By conducting a psychological

analysis, this research will provide our understanding of how the character rationalizes his immoral actions about morality and justice that he considers that he is doing the right thing. This analysis not only deepens the discourse on the themes of justice and morality in a literary context, but also encourages readers to explore the reasons behind Judge Wargrave's character's actions more deeply.

Practically, this study provides researchers to encourage critical thinking about how Judge Wargrave's character rationalizes his actions in an immoral situation. This research also aims to encourage further exploration of the justice of self-justification. Through this analysis, this study hopes to further explore the complicated relationship between character psychology and the complexity of human behavioral dilemmas depicted in Agatha Christie's narratives.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Psychology of Literature

According to Carl Jung (1912), enlightens that the human mind is the root of all sciences and arts. It should be evident that psychology, which is the study of psychic processes, may be used to study literature. A character is a person that appears in a narrative prose or novel and is perceived by readers as having moral qualities and particular tendencies, which are expressed in what they say and do (Abrams, 1981). Literature on its own provides a general insight into human life, as long as humanity has issues, social life, and intellectual life in its own distinct way. An author develops a living piece of literature from the character they create, and the character has a distinct personality that was purposefully designed to make the author's work more alive.

Wellek & Warren (1977: 81) describe in Theory of Literature that there are several definitions of literary psychology based on the subject of research, which are:

1. The psychology of literature is the study of the author's psychology as an individual. It signifies that a writer is a human being who is intimately connected to nature, which includes desire and passion. Based on his enthusiasm and emotional basis, he can develop an outstanding work of literature.
2. The psychology of literature is the study of the creative process. It signifies that this research examines how the process of a work might be transformed into an entire literary work.

3. The psychology of literature is the study of the various forms and concepts of psychology as they apply to literary works. This means that the study examines how psychological subjects and instances are used in the context of literary works.
4. The psychology of literature is the study of how literary works affect the reader. It indicates that this study examines the impact of literary work on the reader, whether it influences the reader's way of thinking and life or not.

Psychology in literature is the study of psychological phenomena experienced and how the protagonist overcomes them. According to Siswanto and cited by Setianingrum (2008: 14), this study is a study of the psychological phenomena experienced by the main character in a literary work when responding or reacting to himself and his environment, with the goal of revealing these psychological symptoms through the behavior of the characters in the work. Psychology in literary works is based more on the ability to understand and rebuild psychologically, therefore literary psychology is a study of characters' inner world.

According to Meiliana cited by Putri and Wulan (2024), psychology can help understand the message, characterization, and other elements of the novel as well as the basis of the characters' behavior, motivations, and conduct. Literary psychology is a field that investigates and studies how the human brain and behavior work. This perspective focuses on common elements found in literary works that are used to describe the psychology of authors, characters, and readers (Sulistiyana & Widiarti, 2019).

2.2 Behavior

Behavior is how people act towards what they do, make things happen and maintain what they want. From a biological perspective, behavior consists of all human activities or activities, both directly and indirectly observed. In other words, human behavior includes all human activities or activities, both directly and indirectly observed (Notoatmodjo, 2003).

According to Rogers quoted by Notoatmodjo (2012), the behavioral process is all human activities that can be observed or cannot be observed directly. There is a process of adopting new behavior in the person, namely:

1. Awareness, that is, the person realizes or knows the stimulus (object) first.
2. Interest, that is, people begin to be interested in the stimulus (object).
3. Evaluation (consideration), namely weighing whether or not the stimulus is good for him.
4. Trial, people have started trying new behaviors. In this stage, the subject previously sought support from others regarding decisions made on the new idea or object in question.
5. Adoption, the subject has behaved to accept his attitude towards the stimulus.

2.3 Cognitive Dissonance

Cognitive dissonance theory provides an understanding of the mechanisms that may underlie the drive to self-justify. Cognitive dissonance refers to the mental discomfort a person feels when they have two or more conflicting beliefs, ideas or values, or when they are confronted with new information that does not align with their existing beliefs. There are often exceptions where these things are inconsistent. When such inconsistencies are found, they attract our attention mainly because they contrast

strongly with the background of consistency (Festinger, 1957). In other words, we notice more easily when something does not fit in the way we think or act.

Interacting beliefs, attitudes, and values form a cognitive system, which is influenced and affected by behavior (Littlejohn & Foss, 2009). Cognitive dissonance occurs when a person is faced with opposing thoughts or arguments and cannot choose which one is correct. Most people are aware of their belief system. However, when people realize that other people's perspectives and ideas may have a bit of truth, it conflicts with their cognitive beliefs. As a result, some of the emotions we can experience as a result of cognitive dissonance are fear, guilt, anger, frustration, anxiety, stress, and other psychosomatic conditions (Fontanari et al., 2012). It is possible that cognitive dissonance causes many people to experience problematic behaviors. Vaughan and Hogg (2005) explain that people always want to act in a way that matches their beliefs to ensure that their beliefs and values are always correct. In other words, dissonance occurs when a person's beliefs conflict with their beliefs or when their behavior does not match their beliefs.

One example of this theory can be seen in the case when someone knows that smoking is harmful (first cognition) while there is an opinion that there are those who have smoked from their youth but are still in good health (second cognition). The two cognitions conflict with each other, and they know as cognitive dissonance.

2.4 Defense Mechanism

Everyone has experienced something unpleasant in their lives. The problems that arise usually cause trauma and psychological impact, which takes time to recover from, and appears as an unconscious way to protect oneself. Everyone has a way of coping psychologically to make the pain subside, according to psychological processes

(Cramer, 1987). Here, defensive actions refer to psychological defenses, also known as Defense Mechanisms. The response used to protect a person or object from attack is called a Defense Mechanism (Rezeki, Alamsyah & Setyowati, 2023).

Zulfaisya and Hasra (2020) state that defense mechanisms are techniques that are unconsciously used to protect a person from anxiety that comes from unacceptable feelings or thoughts. Humans usually reduce tension to reduce anxiety and use defense mechanisms to protect themselves from anxiety. Likewise, we fear when the ego's defense mechanisms fail. According to Tyson in Sarijaloo and Kiaei (2016), anxiety represents our basic problems such as fear of intimacy, fear of abandonment, fear of betrayal, and low self-esteem. Defense mechanisms function below the unconscious level and help fend off bad feelings (McLeod, 2020).

According to Shelah and Marsih (2022), defense mechanisms arise when humans experience conflict for various reasons and are unable to resolve them. In other words, some people behave in other ways to avoid unacceptable feelings by hiding from anxiety, fear, and various negative thoughts.

2.5 Self-Justification

According to Said (2024), self-justification is defined as rationalizing one's thoughts, feelings, or behaviors to align with personal beliefs, usually to protect self-image or avoid guilt. It is a defense mechanism that helps us maintain our self-esteem and honesty even when we act contrary to our principles. While it can provide some relief, it often causes long-term problems, such as creating conflict. Self-justification can cloud our judgment, making it difficult to know what we are doing. It hinders our spiritual and personal growth by preventing us from admitting our mistakes.

Said (2024) states that there are several factors that contribute to self-justification:

1. Fear of Judgment: We justify our wrong actions in order to avoid criticism from people.
2. Cognitive Dissonance: We justify our actions with our beliefs to reduce our mental discomfort.
3. Pride and Ego: Pride keeps us from admitting mistakes, which leads to self-justification.

Manifestations of self-justification can be done in various ways. These can include shifting blame, reducing the impact of our actions, or rationalizing unethical behavior. While protective in the short term, these actions can lead to long-term effects, such as the destruction of relationships and the cessation of personal growth.

The concept of self-justification is closely related to the phenomenon of cognitive dissonance, which was introduced by Leon Festinger in 1957. However, Aronson has expanded and transformed this theory into self-justification theory. Aronson's experiments show that although dissonance is disruptive in any situation, it is most painful for people when an important element of their self-concept is threatened - usually when they do something that is incompatible with their view of themselves (Aronson, 1968). Since most people have a fairly positive self-concept by believing they are competent, moral, intelligent and good, their efforts to reduce dissonance will be designed to maintain a positive self-image - even when it perpetuates incompetent, unethical, stupid or cruel behavior.

2.6 Cruel Act

Cruelty is defined as behaviors performed by one individual against another that result in physically and mental illnesses (Mangangawuhi, Moge & Mamentu 2022). Cruelty involves intentionally causing physical or psychological pain to other living beings, typically with pleasure (Nell, 2006).

According to Victor Nell in Mayes (2009: 14), cruelty is any deliberate action that is particularly motivated by the desire to cause physical or psychological suffering, or that causes one or more beings to enjoy or be indifferent to the suffering caused by that action. Cruelty is defined as conduct that endangers life, limb, or health (physical or mental) or creates a reasonable fear of such risk.

Cruelty is the intentional infliction of suffering. Kemp, Brodsky and Caputo (1997: 22) explains that for an act to constitute cruelty, there are two elements that must be demonstrated: 1) There is unintentional suffering and the act is not considered cruel. 2) There is intentional suffering and the pleasure felt by the perpetrator is highly correlated, so it is generally considered that when the perpetrator intends to be cruel, he also derives pleasure from the act.

Cruelty is defined as unethical action or mistreatment. Cruelty can be defined as an act that injures or kills others while also causing physical harm to them. The cruelty that caused the collapse was against the law and cruelty can be described as a crime (Wadong, 2000).

Cruelty is described as illegal behavior or misconduct; it can also be understood as an act that causes or causes injury, other than death, and causes physical harm to the person receiving cruelty. Cruelty that leads in physically harm to others must be held accountable and punished, as it is a crime. Cruelty is one of the social issues that

exist in modern society. Cruelty is described as behaviors performed by persons against others that cause physically or mental illnesses (Martono, 2012).

2.7 Protagonist

Every story must have a main character. Protagonists usually solve problems or are involved in conflicts, and they also determine the course of the story. According to Nurgiyantoro (1998: 176–194), protagonists make readers feel sympathetic and empathetic, while antagonists do the opposite. The protagonist, also referred to as the main character, hero, or heroine, is the character who is the center of the story and does something that moves the plot along. Most stories have an audience or reader who really connects with the main character and supports them.

Nurgiyantoro (2009: 178–179) mentions that protagonists show some traits that match our beliefs. These characters are similar to us, have problems similar to us, and overcome these problems in ways similar to us. Characters in a literary work are usually creations of the author's imagination, yet they play an important role in the plot.

Protagonists often face difficulties, conflicts, or other obstacles to achieve their goals or resolve the main conflict of the story. Their character growth and development are crucial to the story, and their decisions and actions greatly affect the plot and resolution of the novel as a whole. Protagonists are often portrayed as good or moral people, but this is not always true. Protagonists are sometimes complex or flawed, which gives nuance and authenticity to their portrayal. The main characteristic that distinguishes protagonists is their pivotal role in the plot and the role they play in developing the story.