

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of The Study

The novel “*Hujan*” is written by Tere Liye, a famous Indonesian author. Tere Liye is famous for his heartfelt writing and often incorporates morality, social reflection, and life lessons into his work. January 28, 2016 was the first day of the book's publication. With elements of science fiction, the book explores themes of sacrifice, friendship, and love in a future setting. Lail and Esok are the two main characters in this story, they live in a post-disaster world where they have a lot of hard life experiences. Set in a catastrophic future, the book conveys profound lessons about life, love and sacrifice.

In this thesis, the writer focuses on the life and loss of the protagonist. This research will explore how the themes of life and loss affect the protagonist's life journey. The genre of Tere Liye's novel ‘Rain’ is science fiction (sci-fi). The novel explores a futuristic world filled with advanced technology, set against a backdrop of significant global challenges and human conflicts. In addition, the novel also combines elements of drama and romance, loss, and friendship. The story revolves around the life stories of two main characters, Lail and Esok, against a backdrop of significant global changes and personal struggles.

In 2042, a violent volcanic eruption and earthquake occurred, killing both of Lail's parents, who were only 13 years old at the time. This catastrophic event left her orphaned and alone. Amidst this chaos, she meets Esok, a 15-year-old boy who rescues her. Although, Esok himself was injured-his mother lost her leg to amputation-they forged a strong bond over the next few months spent in a refugee camp.

Over time, they were eventually separated when the refugee camp closed. Lail moved to a foster home, while Esok was adopted by another family. They kept in touch through occasional visits until circumstances forced them apart again. Both characters grow significantly during their journey. Lail engages in humanitarian

work with her friend Maryam, participating in heroic acts such as rescuing towns threatened by burst dams. These actions bring her recognition and keep her busy despite missing Esok terribly.

Later in the story, Lail decides to undergo memory modification therapy aimed at erasing painful memories related to Esok and the traumatic events surrounding him. However, complications arise as Esok has undergone a simultaneous data transfer procedure, leaving no chance to communicate before things go awry.

The writer chose this topic because it touches on a subject that is very relevant to the human condition that experiences life and loss. therefore by choosing this title the writer can provide experience for readers related to inner conflict and psychological aspects in the literary view of this novel.

## **1.2 Statement of the Study**

Based on the above background, there are three problems that will be discussed in this study, namely:

1. What are the main aspects of life are reflected in the novel?
2. How do the protagonist's experiences of loss contribute to their character development throughout the novel?

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

Based on the above problems, there are three objectives to be achieved in this study, namely as follows:

1. To analyze the main aspects of life are reflected in the novel.
2. To reveal the protagonist's experiences of loss contribute to their character development throughout the novel.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The scope of this research focuses on the main aspects of life and loss in the novel "*Hujan*" by Tere Liye. There are several important factors of life in this novel that will be analysed in this study, namely struggle, happiness, suffering, love, death, growth, or the search for life goals. So the writer will discuss 4 (four) aspects of life, namely, struggle of life, happiness of life, love, and death. These four aspects will be the scope for life.

For the scope of research in loss, the writer focuses on two aspects, namely, sadness and fear. All the main aspects of life and loss reflected by the protagonist in this novel will be analysed in depth in chapter IV of this study.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study has significance for everyone, especially for people who study in school and college not only in English Department but also in other departments. This study is intended to encourage students to know more about literature and the theme of life and loss. However, there might be two significances can be taken, theoretically and practically. Theoretically, they can take this study as one of their reference in their thesis. Practically, this study may give moral lessons about the life and loss in daily life.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Protagonist**

A protagonist is the main character in a story. Usually, this character is the opponent of the antagonist. Usually the protagonist gets a lot of support and sympathy from the audience or readers. As stated by Beckson and Ganz (1990: 217), the protagonist is the first actor who plays the main role. This opinion is in accordance with the opinion expressed by Baldick (2001: 157). Initially in ancient Greek theater, the protagonist was the main actor in the play, and this character played an important role in running the plot. This definition is in line with Cuddon's (2013: 565) definition that the protagonist is the first actor in a play who is the main actor or character.

(Nurgiyantoro 2002) states that the protagonist is the main character who supports the main idea in the story and usually has a specific plan and goal. The protagonist represents kindness and is commendable for being able to attract the sympathy of the reader. (Nurgiyantoro 2002) also said that the protagonist is a character whose story takes precedence in the novel in question. He is the most prominent character, both as the perpetrator of the incident and as the one affected by it. He also added that the protagonist's character shows some things that are in line with our views. Abrams (1999: 224) also says that the protagonist (or vice versa, the hero or heroine) is the head of the character in a plot, which is the center of our attention.

Based on some of the opinions above, the protagonist can be concluded to be the main character in a story where he greatly influences the plot of the story, which is commonly found in some literary works such as novels, dramas, films, or other literary works. The protagonist usually gets a lot of sympathy or support from readers or viewers. The protagonist is not always played by a man; a woman can also take on the role of the protagonist. This character is considered very important in the story.

## **2.2 Life Theme**

Life is about shaping our own existence (Ventegodt, Andersen, and Merrick 2003b). In addition, life is a common theme in literature, art, and philosophical discourse. It refers to a topic or main idea that focuses on many aspects of human life, such as struggle, happiness, suffering, love, death, growth, or the search for life's purpose. Life themes usually include observations about the universal human experience, as well as how individuals or societies view and deal with the dynamics of life.

Same with (Ventegodt, Andersen, and Merrick 2003a), with Life is about connection and growth. Because Life is about sharing, whether through friendship, family, community or professional connections. These relationships provide meaning, support and a sense of belonging. Life always presents problems, and it is through these challenges that we become stronger, wiser and better.

### **2.2.1 Struggle of Life**

People can fight for a better environment, implying that the environment is important to them (Kaptein 2017). Because, Struggle is a concept that is often associated with the effort to achieve something desired. Where the achievement is towards goodness and success at a higher level. Moreover, struggle is an essential component of human life, reflecting the relentless pursuit of decency and justice. Struggle in history and everyday life teaches perseverance, sacrifice, and never giving up in the face of obstacles. As (Satink et al. 2013), Regaining or establishing a valued position and new identity has been defined as an ongoing struggle. And (Spicer, A and Fleming, 2006) Each of these common uses of the idea of struggle reveals intimate, existential, and broad elements of struggle.

#### **2.2.1.1 Intimate**

Humans are highly social creatures. When they lose their closeness with others, inner pain often arises, because at the core of our social nature is a strong drive for intimate relationships. Relationships with others are a major part of our lives. Because these relationships are so important and essential, understanding how they form, operate and grow is crucial (Miller, R., S., Perlman, D. 2007). And also

(Fletcher et al. 1999) In important studies, several traits have been found to increase closeness and intimacy in relationships, such as kindness, a sense of responsibility, and loyalty. Meanwhile, other factors include attributes related to a partner's attractiveness and social appearance, such as physical attractiveness, financial wealth, and level of social status.

Therefore, intimacy is an important part of an attachment relationship between two or more people. Intimacy is an emotional closeness and bond that includes mutual openness, sharing of thoughts and feelings, and mutual trust. Not just emotional, intimacy is more than just an ordinary relationship. It involves a psychological closeness that makes individuals feel close and connected to each other in a deep bond. And intimacy also plays a major role in the overall human experience.

### **2.2.1.2 Existential**

'Existence' refers to reality as it is directly experienced, emphasising the inner and intimate aspects of people's direct encounters (Press 2013). As research on post-traumatic development suggests, people can grow existentially when faced with life-limiting situations (Tedeschi and Calhoun 2004). Existential feelings are an emotional state that arises from a person's awareness of his or her existence as a unique individual, has freedom, and responsibility in living his or her life. This feeling is often associated with the experience of existential anxiety or anxiety that arises when individuals face uncertainty, questions about the meaning of life, death, freedom in making choices, and the consequences of each choice made.

### **2.2.1.3 Broad**

According to Merriam-Webster (2024) spacious is something that has a wide range, extends over a certain area or scope, and must be fully open. Extent is a term that refers to something that has a large or wide size, scope, space, or range. The concept of breadth is not only limited to physical measures such as length, width, or area, but can also refer to more abstract and symbolic meanings, such as breadth of thought, experience, knowledge, and feeling. Breadth describes the capacity or space to hold things. For example, a broad outlook means one's ability to understand things and have deep and diverse knowledge. Breadth of heart indicates the attitude of someone who is open, tolerant, and able to accept differences with an open heart. Broad experience indicates the many events and lessons experienced throughout one's life.

### **2.2.2 Happiness of Life**

The most robust association between happiness and feelings, moods, or sentiments (Gustafsson, B., Johansson, M., & Palmer 2009). And also, the internal experience of a generally favorable mental state is known as happiness (Lu, L. &

Shih 1997). On the otherhand, contentment, tranquility, and positive emotions are the hallmarks of a happy state of mind or emotion. Happiness is generally understood to be a state in which people are content and free from all problems, both mental and physical. According (Hamdan 2016) Happiness is seen as an abstract term, although it is at the core of positive psychology. Happiness consists of three main components: good feelings, engagement, and purpose in life.

Happiness is an emotional and psychological state in which a person experiences satisfaction, joy, peace, and overall well-being in their life. Happiness is not just a fleeting feeling of pleasure, but rather a holistic state that involves a sense of fulfillment, goal achievement, harmonious relationships with others, and the ability to cope with stress and life's challenges. Happiness can be seen as the result of a balance between various aspects of life, including physical and mental health, good social relationships, personal accomplishment, and a sense of meaning and purpose in life. Happy individuals tend to have a positive mindset, are able to be grateful, and enjoy everyday moments despite difficulties.

#### **2.2.2.1 Good Feelings**

Feeling good refers to a positive, comfortable, and pleasant emotional state or mood. Positive emotions can create a sense of happiness and calmness within a person, making them feel lighter and more optimistic about life. (Cloninger 2004) Even when they are happy, they want to know how to maintain and increase their satisfaction. (Kahneman, D., Diener, E.,&Schwarz 1999) Optimising emotional experiences is an important component of improving overall well-being. Pleasure and the absence of pain over time are often associated with well-being or feeling good. Positive emotions help one to neutralise the effects of negative feelings or stress. By having a positive emotional foundation, individuals are more likely to face challenges, as well as bounce back after experiencing failure or trauma. Positive feelings are also an important part of overall happiness and life satisfaction. People who often feel good feelings tend to have meaningful and grateful lives.

#### **2.2.2.2 Engagement**

Engagement is the good life which involves pleasant and positive experiences. One has a good life when one is truly engaged in activities, they are living the good life (Csikszentminalyi, M. & Csikzentmihaly 1991). More,

engagement is a condition in which a person is actively and deeply connected emotionally, cognitively, and personally with an object, activity, or experience, resulting in a sense of intense attachment, attention, and participation. In a literary context, engagement refers to how readers mentally and emotionally interact with literary works so that they feel a personal bond with the characters, plot, or themes presented. This involves the reader's ability to delve into the feelings, attitudes, and thoughts of the characters, thus fostering empathy and deep understanding.

### **2.2.2.3 Life Purpose**

The meaning of one's life cannot only be understood from external conditions or visible objective facts. The meaning of life is very personal and subjective, a quality that is rooted in the inner life of the individual. This meaning is felt and experienced both through one's thoughts and emotional feelings (King and Hicks 2021). Same like (Frankl et al. 1992) The meaning of life can be summarised as a mystery that is difficult to express in words, while simultaneously encompassing the absence and existence of everything. A person's life purpose is the direction or goal they want to achieve in life, which gives meaning and inspiration to all their choices and actions. This purpose can be self-actualisation, self-improvement, forming deep relationships, or making a positive impact on the environment and others. A person can feel their life is more meaningful and purposeful, and become more driven and focused if they have a clear life mission. The pursuit of meaning and the realisation of one's potential during one's life journey are closely linked to life purpose. By having a life purpose, a person gains a clear direction in living daily life, so that every step taken becomes meaningful and focused. This goal also encourages self-development through a process of learning and adjustment in order to achieve what is desired. In addition, life purpose plays an important role in improving mental and emotional health by reducing the sense of emptiness and providing positive hope for a better future.

### **2.2.3 Love**

Positive social interactions involve complex emotional and behavioural experiences sometimes referred to as 'love'. (Carter 2022). Because love is a deep and multifaceted emotion that involves emotional attachment, fondness, and affection towards someone or something. Love can take many forms, such as self-love, family love, romantic love, and friendship love. According to (Dantzer 2021) & (Carter 2022), The term 'love' has several meanings, but the formation of a chosen relationship and the subsequent perception of security or trust is at the core of most biobehavioral definitions of love. Biological mechanisms that support social

and reproductive relationships increase the capacity to withstand anxiety, stress and illness. On the other hand, Love is usually a source of great pleasure and fulfilment (Rokach and Chan 2023). Because the effects of significant love improve mental and physical health in addition to providing emotional fulfilment. Therefore, general well-being depends on healthy love.

#### **2.2.4 Death**

Death, like birth, is an essential part of human life, development, and advancement. Death is neither an adversary to be overcome nor a prison to be escaped. It is a fundamental part of our lives, giving meaning to our existence. It limits our time in this world, prompting us to make the most of it while we still can (Kubler-Ross 1975). All things considered, death is a complicated event that affects on many facets of human life in addition to biological ones.

#### **2.3 Loss**

According to (Bowlby 2008), Loss is the loss of an intimate or important bond through death. The loss of a loved one is one of the most painful experiences a human being can go through. therefore, the feelings that arise are not only painful to experience but also painful to witness, if only because we are powerless to help. the magnitude of the loss is usually very distressing and disabling, and causes a long period of distress or grief. So, from the following statement, loss is a moment of devastation for someone who has faced loss, especially of a loved one. The impact is also not small, where the negative impact of loss can trigger complex emotional reactions, such as sadness, anger, depression, and fear. sadness and pessimism often arise when people begin to realise the depth of their loss. many people are trapped in their grief at this point.

##### **2.3.1 Sadness**

Sadness is an emotional part of being human. Usually sadness brings a sense of loneliness, longing and disappointment. Sadness is also part of one's life experience, which goes through many bitter twists and turns in one's life (Herawan 2021). Similarly, sadness is an emotion or feeling that is present as a result of a

person's bad mood, and also a sense of sadness arises due to a mismatch of desired outcomes.

### **2.3.2 Fear**

Fear is an emotional response to a threat. It is a basic survival mechanism that is triggered by certain stimuli, such pain or the possibility of harm. Bitter memories of the past are among the causes of dread. A previous traumatic experience or loss might produce this fear. According to (Craske 1997) fear is an emotional state that occurs when a harmful or unpleasant stimuli is present or anticipated is called fear. It is typically typified by a range of sympathetic reactions, an internal, subjective feeling of intense agitation, and a desire to attack or run.