

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background

Literature is a form of creative and productive activities in producing works that have aesthetic values and reflect social reality. When viewed from the word literature in Indonesian comes from Sanskrit, namely the root word *śas* in the derivative verb means directing, teaching, giving instructions or instructions. Suffix *-kāra* usually denotes tools, means. Therefore, literature can be a teaching tool, manuals, textbooks or teaching (Teeuw, 2013: 20).

Literature according to Wellek and Warren is a creative activity of a work of art (2013: 3) This is reinforced by the semi-opinion that literature is a form and result of creative art work whose objects are humans and their lives using language as the medium (1993: 8).

Researcher argue that literature is the result of human creative art that displays life in it, which is not only imagination but also social reality. The process of literary works has several types, such as certificates, novels and novels.

A novel is a long essay in the form of prose and contains a series of stories about a person's life with other people around him by highlighting the characters and characteristics of each actor. Novel is a form of literary

work in which there are cultural, social, moral and educational values. Researchers argue that novels are true or fictional stories that discuss problems in a person's life or various characters in a story.

In John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska*, it tells the story of teenage friends who are very unstable and have promiscuity. It started when a teenager named Miles Halter moved to Birmingham, Alabama, at Culver Creek prep school where he met new friends at the dorm where he lived. Their early acquaintances looked so close that they shared stories with each other that there was no more awkwardness between them, they slowly became close like old friends reuniting, until a few days later became a bad day for Miles. Because he saw all the behavior of his roommates that made him trapped like them too.

The focus of this research is to examine the plot setting and characters in the novel *John Green Looking For Alaska* because the researcher sees the plot setting and characters in this story are very interesting to discuss and very provide learning for the reader. The initial events to the peak of the story to the setting that discusses the background of events and the atmosphere in the story to the main characters who make the story more interesting.

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Based on the explanation above the writer would like to state the problem as follows.

1.2.1 how does the author explain the plot and setting in the novel "Looking for Alaska" by John Green?

1.2.2 how the character in the novel "Looking For Alaska" by John Green?

## **1.3. Scope of the Research**

The scope of this research is made so that the discussion is clear and systematic, therefore the scope of this research is focused on the construction of the plot and setting described in the novel. So that the research focuses on the specific discussion chosen by the researcher. So this study uses structuralism theory to describe the plot and setting in the novel Looking for Alaska by John Green.

## **1.4. Objective of Research**

The objective of the research are formulated as follows:

1. To explain the Plot and setting in the novel "Looking for Alaska" by John Green.
2. To describe the Character in the novel "Looking for Alaska" by John Green.

## 1.5 Significances of the Study

This research can be contribute to the develop for those who seek the references for upcoming research whether for the theoretical significance and practical significance of the research as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance, the meaning of the study is that the reader understands about conflict in John Green's novel *Looking for Alaska*, especially in the novel's main character and enhances literary understanding of conflict in a character or novel.

1.5.2 Practical Significance, this research can be used as a reference for learning and understanding about conflict in a novel in addition to contributing to some literature studies to readers through this paper. This paper can also be used as a reference for further study for those who are interested in undertaking the same topic.

## 1.6 Review of Related literature

In supporting this research, the researcher find out about previous research that has a relationship with this research. Some of the previous researches are as follows, first with the title "***The Friendship Reflected by Oktaviani Pangestika(2018)in the novel looking for Alaska by John Green.***" The researcher analyzed using a sociological approach for indicators related to the theory and describing the meaning of friendship,

the researcher concluded as follows: the sociological approach deals with friendship. Sociology includes both individuals and society. Society contains the interactions of individuals and they have a relationship.

The friendship made by John Green in the novel *Looking for Alaska* (2005) is an interesting issue to discuss. Friendship here can change a person's character, such as changing the character of Miles. After befriending the Colonel, Alaska, Takumi and Lara, Miles' character changes such as 1). Trying to smoke, 2) drinking alcohol, and 3) breaking school rules.

Secondly, the research ***“Character Changing Of Miles” by Alinda Diah Yualita Hatmoko (2019) in the novel looking for Alaska.*** The focus of this research is the Miles Halter's character changing, because Miles Halter's character is described in many characters. The researcher also sees the influencing factors of Miles's characters changing. This research aims at: (1) describing how the Miles Halter's characters changing is described and (2) explaining how the Miles Halter's characters changing and factor influence Miles Halter's character changing described by using behaviour theory. The technique of collecting data is using note-taking technique. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses the theory of behaviourism. The result of the study shows that the characteristic of Miles Halter's change in the middle of story. Miles' changes because he meets Alaska Young. After Alaska Young died, Miles' character changes again. Especially, when Miles find fact about Alaska's suicide. However, the main

character's change is described by Lein's Theory and it corresponds with the theory.

Recent research **Akhorin Nur Awaliyah, NIM: 1011109400, Thesis: Analysis of the Intrinsic Elements of the Novel "Cinta Putih di Bumi Papua" by Dzikry el Han**, Indonesian Language and Literature Education Study Program, Department of Language and Arts, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Widya Dharma University Klaten. This study aims to describe the intrinsic elements of the novel Cinta Putih di Bumi Papua by Dzikry el Han. The object of this research is the intrinsic elements of the novel. The research data source is the novel Cinta Putih di Bumi Papua by Dzikry el Han. The data of this research are in the form of quotations in the novel. Data collection techniques with library techniques. The data analysis technique used in this research is descriptive qualitative, which is trying to provide and explain the results of the analysis in detail and coherently in accordance with the concepts and theories that have been set so that they do not deviate from the original purpose

The focus of this study is to analyze the plot and setting in the novel Looking for Alaska which will discuss several factors such as those in the formulation of the problem, namely how the author explains the plot and setting in the novel Looking for Alaska by using structuralism theory.

## **1.7 Theoretical Bases**

### **1.7.1 Structuralism Theory**

Basically, structure is a set of elements in which one relationship is made between elements or a set of elements. According to Pradopo (1987:188), the structure is a system of building elements; between each of these elements there is a mutually defining reciprocal relationship. Structuralism is a way of working an approach, namely an approach in which there is an attitude of not being involved (Wellek, 1989: 43). Structuralism and structuralism as approaches in literature emphasize the literary work itself autonomously, and constitute a round unity consisting of parts that are coherently interconnected. This approach by M.H. Abrams is called an objective approach, namely an approach that emphasizes literary works as a structure that is independent or autonomous.

The principles of the structuralism approach are; structural analysis as carefully, in detail, and as deeply as possible the linkages and interconnections of all aspects and elements of literary works together to produce and form a comprehensive and complete meaning.

In analyzing this novel, the researcher will use an intrinsic approach and an extrinsic approach. According to Wellek and Warren (1963) in their book *Literary Theory*, there are two approaches to analyzing literary works; namely the intrinsic approach and extrinsic approach. The intrinsic approach is a type of approach that analyzes literary works based on the

text and structural points of the literary work. The intrinsic approach discusses the characters, plots, settings, styles, themes and other elements contained in literary works. Meanwhile, the extrinsic approach is a type of approach that analyzes literary works and their relationship with other knowledge as well as external factors such as biography, history, society, religion, and psychology.

Structuralism is one of the literary approaches that emphasizes the study of the relationship between the building blocks of the work concerned. Structuralism (equated with the objective shortening) can be contradicted by other approaches, such as mimetic, expressive, and paradigm approaches. Basically, structural analysis aims to describe as accurately as possible and the linkages between various elements of literary works which as a whole produce a whole (Nurgiyantoro, 2010: 37).

### **1.7.2 Plot**

Plot is an important element of fiction. Stanto (1965:14) suggests that the plot is a story that contains a sequence of events, but each event is only connected by cause and effect, one event is caused by the occurrence of another event. The events of the story are shown through the actions, behavior, and attitudes of the main characters of the story.

Tasrif (in Nugriyantoro, 2002:149-150) distinguishes the stages of the plot into five parts, namely:

a. Situation stage (adjustment)

This stage contains the description and introduction of the situation and the characters of the story.

b. Generating cycles stage (conflict emergence)

This stage contains the problems and events that sparked the conflict began to emerge

c. Rising action stage

This stage means that the conflict that arose in the previous stage is growing.

d. Climax stage (climax)

This stage contains conflicts or contradictions that occur in story characters when they reach the peak point

e. Denouement stage (adjustment)

This stage contains adjustments to the current conflict.

The course of events that make up a story occurs in a chronological order. According to Nurgiantoro (2007: 153-156), in time sequence there are three types of plots, namely, forward flow, backward flow, and mixed or combined flow.

a. Straight groove (forward groove)

Forward flow is when the author in ordering the events uses a forward and straight time sequence. It is marked beginning with problem recognition and ending with problem solving.

b. Flow backwards (flow back flash)

The plot backwards, that is, if the author sequences the events, it does not start from the initial event. It is marked at the beginning of the middle or end event.

c. Mixed Flow

Mixed plot, that is, when the story runs chronologically but often there are back-highlight scenes.

Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that this plot is a sequence of events that occur so that it can form an interesting story.

### **1.7.3 Setting**

Background according to Abrams (1981: 175 via Nurgiantoro, 2009: 216) is a foundation or foundation that has the meaning of the place, the relationship of time, and the social environment in which the events that are told occur. Siswandarti (2009: 44) also emphasizes that the setting is a description of the place, time, and situation or atmosphere of an event. Based on this understanding, the setting can be concluded as a description of the place, time, and atmosphere of an event in a fictional story.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009: 220), the background can be divided into two, neutral and typical backgrounds. Neutral background is a background that does not describe uniquely and has no functional properties. Neutral setting does not explain exactly where the story happened, when, and in what kind of social environment. Examples of neutral settings such as in villages, cities, forests, a time, and so on. It is different with a typical setting, a typical setting describes concretely the characteristics of a particular setting. The clarity of a typical setting makes it easier for the reader to imagine, because in a typical setting there is a close relationship with reality in real life.

#### 1) Background Elements

According to Nurgiyantoro (2009: 227), the elements of background can be divided into three, namely place, time, and social. The following is an overview of these background elements.

##### a) Setting

The setting of the place is a background element that points to the location and explains where the event took place. If the setting is a typical setting, the name of the place will be stated. It can be a bright name like Yogyakarta, Jakarta, Madiun, or an initial name like, Y, J, M.

##### b) Time Background

Time setting is a background element that leads to the occurrence of events in a fictional story (Nurgiyantoro: 2009: 230). Time in the background can be in the form of the time when the event is narrated, time in seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years, and so on. Understanding the setting of time must be related to other background elements, because it is the main requirement for a work of fiction to have a coherent nature.

#### c) Social Background

Social background is the background that explains the procedures for the social life of the community which includes the problems and habits of the community. Social background can be in the form of life habits, customs, traditions, beliefs, ways of thinking, and so on (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 233). The use of language and the names of characters can also be identified as social settings.

### **1.7.4 Characterization**

Characteristics in the novel are as important as the other elements. Characterization is a technique in which the author presents the characters in the story so that the character or character of the characters can be known (Siswandarti, 2009: 44). Characterization elements include character, characterization, and how they are placed and portrayed in the story (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 166). The following is an overview of the elements of characterization.

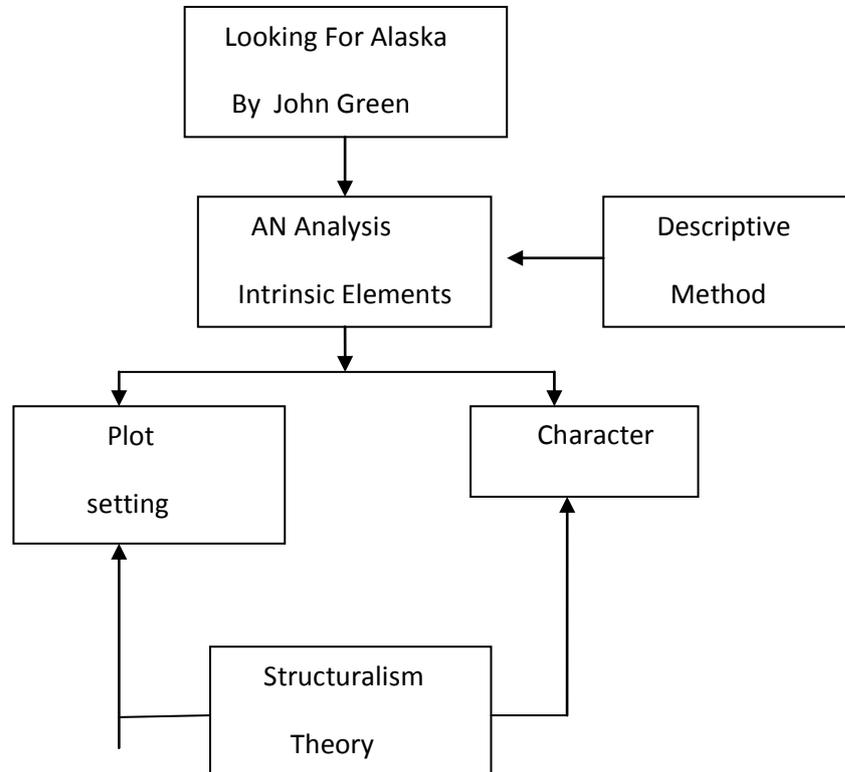
## 1) Character

Fictional characters in a work of fiction can be divided into several types. This distinction is based on viewpoints and views such as the main character, protagonist, developing character, and typical character.

### a) Main Figures and Additional Figures

The main character is a character whose storytelling is prioritized in the novel. The character who is told the most, is often present in every event, and is closely related to other characters. There may be more than one main character in a novel. The level of virtue is determined by the dominance of storytelling and the development of the plot as a whole. Meanwhile, the additional character is the opponent of the main character. Additional characters appear less in the story and their presence only has problems related to the main character (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 177).

## 1.7 Copncept Scheme



Based on the conceptual scheme above, it illustrates that the researcher wants to analyze plot construction, setting construction and character analysis in the novel. As seen in the conceptual schematic above, there are three things that will be discussed referring to the main research topic. especially the first discussion discusses the explanation of plot construction based on structuralism theory such as dynamics and descriptive analysis methods. The second subject is the construction of the setting in the novel and character analysis of the main character in the

novel. The researcher uses descriptive analysis method to analyze these objects and based on the theory used by the researcher, namely the theory of structuralism.

## **1.8 Method of The Research**

A method is the way to understanding the reality, the systematically steps to analyze this research, the systematically steps to researcher only using one method, that method is descriptive analysis method, that will be explain bellow:

### **1.9.1 Descriptive Analysis Method**

The researcher chooses Descriptive analytic method to describe the data that contain in the novel and then doing the analysis of the data that finally found by researcher. According to Nyoan Kutha Ratna ( 2015).

"The research method can be obtained through a combination of two methods, provided that the two methods are not contradictory. The analytical descriptive method is carried out by describing the facts which is then followed by the analysis. (Ratna: 2004: 53)

An object as long as the method is related to one another. This method is relevant to do the research of the primary data which the

researcher needs to analyze about the result that be found from the data itself.

### **1.9.2 Kinds of Data**

In this research, the researcher uses there are two kinds of data. There are primary data and secondary data. Those two kinds of data explain bellow

### **1.9.3 Primary Data**

Primary data or the main data is the type of data acquired in the form of words, phrases, clauses, sentences, as well paragraphs in the novel "Looking for Alaska" by John Green.

### **1.9.4 Secondary Data**

The researcher uses the literature method which is used in a study of literature where in the process that collect data which refers to books, article, journal ,the material from lecture, the material from lecture and dictates or thesis from the library,internet media that related to characters.

### **1.10 Techniques of Collecting Data**

In this research, the researcher of collecting data by collect the data related to the title. First technique is literature technique, the researcher uses written source to aquire data.Second technique is the researcher make some notes related to the title based by the novel " Looking for

Alaska” .The last technique is the researcher studies the content of the novel by reading and separated the data that related to tthe title.

### **1.10.1 Technique of Analyzing Data**

In this part, the researcher used several techniques of analysing the data,such as reading comprehension, classification, interpretation, and the last is explanation, each techniques explained bellow:

### **1.10.2 Reading Comprehension**

In this section, the researcher reads the novel “ Looking for Alaska” by John green repeatedly. In this case, to analyze the novel, the researcher tries to comprehend the content of the novel.

### **1.10.3 Classification**

In this part, the researcher needs to classify the content which one is include to the characterristic which expression or sentences that could be the evidence to analysis the existentialism in the novel that relatedd to the title.

### **1.10.4 Interpretation**

The researcher interprets about the content in the novel and such as the dialog or expression used by the author that related to the title and then related to the researcher expain about the evidence.