

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

Literature is a human expression in the form of written or oral works originating from thoughts, comments, experiences, to feelings in imaginative forms, reflections of reality or original information that is summarized in aesthetic packaging through language media. The explanation above is reinforced by Sumardjo and Saini (1997: 3) who say that literature is an expression of individual human beings in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and beliefs in the form of concrete images that evoke the attraction of language. But even though a written work is fiction, it can always reflect reality. As Saryono (2009: 18) said that a literary work has the ability to record empirical-natural experiences or non-empirical-supernatural experiences.

According to Nurgiyantoro in Siti Hartini (2020: 10), novel is a work of fiction that offers an idealized world model of life, an imaginative world that is formed through various kinds of intrinsic factors such as events, plots, characters (and characterizations), setting, point of view, and so on, others also imaginative. Based on the explanation above, it can be concluded that the novel is a literary work created by the author from a combination of imagination and a reflection of life near the author who creates a new world that contains the lives of the characters.

"The Time Keeper" is a novel about time by Mitch Albom. There are three main characters in this novel. The first character is Dor, a young man who likes to count until he is addicted and tries to calculate time which ultimately makes him punished in a cave for centuries and forced to listen to the voices of people who ask to be given more time and then must complete a mission to redeem for his mistakes

by reuniting two humans on earth to teach them the meaning of time. Dor is also called the father of time. The second character is Sarah, a girl who comes from a broken home family who has just fall in love and wants time to slow down and even stop when she meets her boyfriend and the third or final character, namely the old businessman Victor who has abundant wealth and power but has a short time remaining and will end because of his illness. In this novel, the author invites us to value time, not to count time.

Researcher interest to analyzing this novel because curious about how the story between Dor, Sarah, and Victor can be related which is full of challenges and the secret of the truth has not been revealed. The researcher analyzes this novel according to its title by using a structuralism approach which will be explained in the theoretical basis.

## **1.2. Statements of Problem**

Based on the background that has been described above, there are two main problems that Will be focused in the research, namely :

1.2.1 How does the author depict the main characters in the novel "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom ?

1.2.2 What are the main characters' conflict in the novel "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom?

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

Basically on the description of the problem statement, this study focuses on the main characters in the novel "The Time Keeper". The researcher analyzing how the author depict the main characters in the novel and what are the main characters conflict in the novel The Time Keeper.

## **1.4. Objectives of Research**

Relating to the problem statement mentioned and the scope, the objective of this study :

1.4.1 To explain how the author depict the main characters in the novel "The Time keeper" by Mitch Albom.

1.4.2 To describe the conflict of the main characters in the novel "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom.

### **1.5 Significances of the Study**

The researcher hopes that this research can be beneficial for those who seek the references for upcoming research whether for the theoretical beneficial of the research as follow:

#### **1.5.1 Theoretical Significance**

The purpose of this study is to become a reference for future readers in general information about analyzing novels and more specifically about main characters and conflict in the novel.

#### **1.5.2 Practical Significance**

The purpose of this study is to encourage readers to gain a better understanding of the characters and conflict in the story of this novel.

### **1.6. Review of Related Literature**

In this section, the researcher tries to find out several previous studies or researches that related with this research they are as follows :

First with the title ***A Description of The Main Characters' Conflicts in Mitch Albom's Novel "The Timekeeper" by Manik, A. W. (2017).*** A student at the University of North Sumatra. The results of her research discuss about describing the conflicts that occur in the main character in the novel The Timekeeper by Mitch Albom using qualitative research method. The researcher have same focus like a

title is main characters and conflict with her analysis discusses describing the conflict that occurs of the main characters in Mitch Albom's *The Time keeper* novel using qualitative research methods. The researcher also analyzes the conflicts that occur of the main characters but uses descriptive analysis methods and uses a structuralism approach. The content of the analysis of the two is also different.

Secondly is, **Ramli, Y. K. (2018)**. As a student of Khairun University, the title is ***The Portrayal of Female Character in Sidney Sheldon's "Rage of Angel"***. She focuses on analyzing the Female character that presented in the novel and she uses the Structuralism Approach. Yuni Kurniawaty Ramly, her analysis Female Character in the novel *Rage of Angel* by Sidney Sheldon and use Structuralism Approach, in this analysis have same with the researcher analyze the character and use Structuralism Approach also but different because her focus analysis just the Female Character in another Novel that different with the researcher.

Third is, **Widodo, B. C. (2014)**. As a student of Diponegoro University, with the title ***"The Strengths and the Weakness Points of Mitch Albom's The Time Keeper "***. He focuses on analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the novel. Widodo his analysis the Strengths and the Weakness Points in the Novel *The Time Keeper* by Mitch Albom. In this analysis use the same Novel *The Time Keeper* but different the title, his focus to analysis the Strengths and the Weakness Points and the researcher focus to analyze the main characters conflict.

## **1.7. Theoretical Basis**

Referring to the statement of the problems in the previous chapter, the researcher considers that it is important to provide concepts and theories related to the problems in order to help the process of analysis. In order to achieve the

objective of this study, depict characters and conflict in the novel *The Time Keeper*, this theoretical base describes.

### **1.7.1 Structuralism Approach**

According to Satoto in Ramli, Y. K. (2018:12) said that the structuralism approach is an intrinsic approach, which examines works about the elements of building literary works from within. This approach examines literary works as autonomous and independent from social, historical, author biographies, and everything outside of literary works.

Wellek and Werren in Ramli, Y. K. (2018:13) provide a limitation that structuralism is incorporated into content and form, while both are aimed at achieving aesthetic purpose. The structure of literary works (fiction) consists of content and form. Content is the idea expressed by the author in his writing, while form is the author's method of writing. The researcher uses the structuralism approach because this approach views literature as a stand-alone reading. Literature is studied based on its structure not seen from the background of the author. The history influences the readers. The researcher uses this approach because it only examines the intrinsic elements or characters and conflicts in a novel.

### **1.7.2 Intrinsic Elements**

The Intrinsic element is an element that constitutes a work of literature from within.

#### **1.7.2.1 Character and Characterization**

Character is the nature, character or personality of a person that distinguishes himself from others. Character is also one of the most important elements in literary works such as novels, dramas, or even poetry.

According to Roberts and Jacobs in Sirait, S. J. (2017:15) said that character can be interpreted as a verbal depiction of a person through action. Character is a person who is responsible for thoughts and actions in a story. Characters are actors in developing events in a story so that the event becomes a unique story and is full of conflict. Each character has their own personality, this is used by the author to help shape the storyline to create a mood.

Characterization in literary works is a way that writers use to develop character. According to Aminuddin in Amidong, H. H. (2018:2) say that characterization is the way the author presents the characters in the story and how the characters are. This states that there are two important things, the first is a close relationship and appearance, the second is that the depiction of the character must support the character's character. If the depiction of the character is not in line with the character it has or even does not support the character of the character described, it will clearly reduce the content of the story.

a. The Main Character

According to Richard Gill in Ramli, Y. K (2018: 7) Say that the main character is the most dominant character discussed or who plays an important role in a story. It is the main idea in the story, develops the story, and becomes the center of attention in it. The main character can consist of one person or more than one person. As in Mitch Albom's novel entitled "The Time Keeper" which has three main characters, namely Dor, Sarah, and Victor.

b. Method of Description Character.

According to Sayuti in Wijayanto, W. (2012:14) divides the depiction of characters into several ways, namely the discourse method, the dramatic method, and the conceptual method.

1. Analytical method or direct method

This method is the method used by the author to describe the character directly. The author describes the condition of the characters directly with a detailed picture.

2. Dramatic method or indirect method

Indirect method is the method used by the author to describe the character indirectly. The author describes the character's character through the character's thinking techniques, conversation, character's attitude, depiction of the character's feelings, character's actions and views of one or many characters towards other characters.

3. Contextual method

Contextual method is a way of describing characters through the context of language, lessons or discourses used by writers to describe characters.

### **1.7.2.2 Conflict**

Conflict is an important part of the story. Conflict and character are closely related because without conflict there will be no progress in character. Conflict occurs because of the form of disagreement or dispute that arises in one character with another character. Conflict can also affect the reader because emotions will arise when reading the story.

According to Perrine in Anggriani (2017: 23) conflict occurs between the main character and other characters and the environment, nature, society or destiny, and between the character and him/herself which can be in the form of physical, mental, emotional, or physical moral resistance.

According to Tillett and French in Anggriani (2017:23) "conflict is manifested in the behavior of individuals and groups of individuals".

Other experts such as Nurgiyantoro in Anggriani (2017:23) stated that "conflict is the most important element in plot development". In a story, there are some conflicts as something that cannot be separated from our life. Conflict arises as a result of something unpleasant in our interactions with other people. Therefore, we can see that conflict is one of the important things that determine a story in a novel that is interesting for readers.

In literature, conflict is a central issue in the movement of a story. Short stories have one conflict, while novels have many conflicts. Literary conflicts include internal conflicts and external conflicts. Internal conflicts are usually called conflicts between humans and themselves, while external conflicts are conflicts that occur between humans versus humans, humans versus nature, humans versus society, and humans versus fate. The way conflict is used and how it is resolved are all determined by the type of story being told.

#### a. Type of Conflict

Sayuti in Arina, (2012:11-12) divides conflict into three types, namely psychological conflict, social conflict, and physical conflict.

##### 1. Psychological conflict

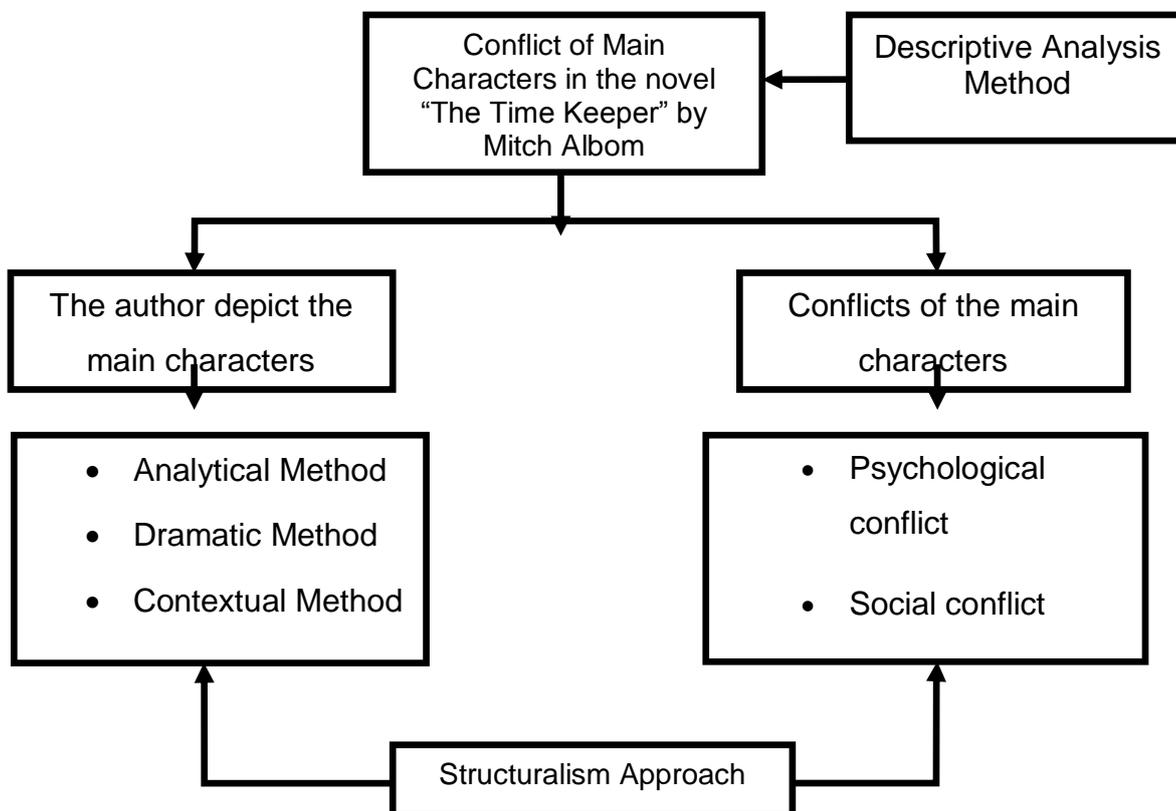
Psychological conflict is a conflict that occurs within a person (character). This type of conflict usually occurs in the form of how a character fights a problem that occurs in him/herself, so that he can overcome and determine what the problem is.

##### 2. Social conflict

Social conflict or so-called conflict between humans or a person with society. This conflict usually occurs between characters and their environment. This conflict arises from the individual's attitude towards the social environment regarding various problems that occur in society.

The two types of conflict above can be grouped into two types of conflict, namely internal conflict and external conflict. Internal conflict is a conflict that occurs within a character in the story. This kind of conflict is usually experienced by a person with himself. While external conflict is a conflict that occurs between a character and something outside of himself.

### 1.8 Conceptual Scheme



In this section, the researcher shows the conceptual scheme of this research proposal. The conceptual scheme helps the researcher in terms of conducting the research based on the limitation that the researcher has already stated

## **1.9 Methods and Technique**

Methods are ways of understanding reality, systematic steps to analyze. In this study, to collect data which later can be explained the facts in the research objectives of the researcher writing only used one method, namely the descriptive analysis method, which will be explained below:

### **1.9.1 Descriptive Analysis Method**

Descriptive method can be interpreted as a problem-solving procedure that is investigated by describing the condition of the subject or object in the study which can be people, institutions, society and others who are currently based on visible or what they are.

According to Nazir in Ayuningrum, P. F. (2020:47) states that descriptive method is a method of examining the status of a group of people, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought or a class of events in the present. The purpose of this descriptive research is to make descriptions, descriptions or paintings systematically, factually and accurately regarding the facts, characteristics and relationships between the phenomena being investigated.

According to Sugiyono in Ayuningrum, P. F. (2020:47) states that the descriptive method is a method used to describe or analyze a research result but is not used to make broader conclusions.

It can be said that descriptive research is research that tries to describe a symptom, an event that is happening now or an actual problem.

### **1.10 Data Sources**

In this study, researchers used two types of data sources, namely primary data and secondary data.

### **1.10.1 Primary Data**

Primary data is the novel "The Time Keeper" by Mitch Albom published in the United States, 224 pages. Researcher order a book from an online shop based in Jakarta. Then read it several times and collect data that will later be analyzed and interpreted.

### **1.10.2 Secondary Data**

Secondary Data Researchers use the literature study method used in literature studies where in the data collection process that refers to articles, journals, lecture materials and textbooks or theses from libraries, internet media related to a structural approach that can assist researchers in conducting research.

## **1.11 Techniques of Collecting Data**

In this research, the researcher uses four data collection techniques. First, the researcher collected data related to the title. Second, literature technique, researcher use written sources to obtain data. The third technique is for the researcher to make notes related to the novel title "The Time Keeper". The last technique is for the researcher to study the contents of the novel by reading as much primary and secondary data as possible.

### **1.11.1 Reading Comprehension**

To analyze a novel, the researcher reads the novel and understands what the novel is talking about. The researcher reads the entire novel and is interested in analyzing the characters shown by the three main characters in this novel.

### **1.11.2 Library Research**

The process by researcher obtains information relating to the theoretical of this novel which analysis, Library is place to search many reference that supporting the research for analyzing.

### **1.11.3 Internet Browsing**

Researcher also using the internet as a tool to complement the data and information that researcher need if not find some reference in the library.

## **1.12 Technique of Analyzing Data**

The researcher used several techniques of analyzing the data, such as classification, interpretation, and the last is explanation, each techniques explained bellow:

### **1.12.1 Classification**

After reading, the researcher tries to classify the contents of the novel The Time Keeper related to its title, Characters.

### **1.12.2 Interpretation**

The researcher interprets about the character in the novel and expression used by the author that related to the title taken.

### **1.12.3 Explanation**

In this last technique of analyzing data, the researcher describe the data, give the clearer explanation and also put the evident.