

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature can be classified according to a variety of systems, including language, background of the author, the origin of work, historical period, and genre. Through this research, the writer pick up one classification of literature to make the main focus in this research is about genre study. Genre is the term for any category of literature or other forms of art or entertainment or music, whether written or spoken, audio or visual, based on some set of stylistic criteria. Further definition of the genre is historically difficult. There are several classic major genre of literature such as fantasy, horror, folklore, historical, humor, mystery, thriller and many others. However, thriller is one of the most interesting in genre of literary work, especially the plot of the story. The plot is concentrated on quickly moving action, danger, and high stakes. Thriller is a board genre of literature, that the characteristic may be define by the primary mood and giving the reader heightened feeling of excitement and wonder A thriller is a highly sensational and exciting novel, play or film. There are kind of thrillers, such as disaster thriller, psychological thriller, crime thriller, and techno thriller.

As the writer main focuses about genre study, the writer chooses to analyze thriller genre, especially psychological thriller genre. Psychological thriller is a major of sub-genre of thrillers, this subgenre a lot of mental conflict, rather than physical. The protagonist has become involved in a dangerous

situation which literally threatens their sanity. Psychological thriller is exciting because the author designed the story to trick the reader. Psychological thriller drives the tension in unpredictable ways. Psychological thriller also crosses over into the horror genre. The writer get attention to the object of analysis as the best seller novel about thriller entitled *The Girl On The Train*, a novel by Paula Hawkins. The writer analyzes the story from psychological thriller because this sub genre has thriller elements that emphasize the psychological pressure faced by main characters that appears in the story. The story describe complicated stories that try to deliberately confuse the reader, and seemingly nonsensical information that the hero gains. The main characters that appear in the novel are so complicated to be discussed and to be understood.

As seen in the novel, *The Girl On The Train* categorized as thriller genre, the novel is perfectly paced from its arresting beginning to its twist ending. Strong relation between genre and *The Girl On The Train* can be seen in setting, plot, theme, even the characters that appears in the novel. The characters in *The Girl On The Train* are drawn beautifully. The point of view alternates among the main characters they are Rachel, Megan, Anna, and Rachel's ex husband named Tom. Even though in thriller genre provide such a huge literary fast such as mystery thriller, legal thriller, techno-thriller and others, but the writer tries to analyze this novel from genre study especially in the element of psychological thriller as seen in *The Girl on The Train*, because psychological thriller is rare to be analyze and it will give

big contribution to other researchers in doing same analysis or same in the object of analysis.

The author of *The Girl On The Train* is Paula Hawkins, she is British novelist. She was born in Salisbury, Rhodesia in 1972. Whose first novel, *The Girl on the Train* was release in 2015 became a bestseller and it has been translated in many languages. In the story, Rachel as the one of the main characters, she has her own mind to think much about others relationship. After divorcing with her husband, she takes a train to London every day, pretending to be attending work although she was retired from her job. During her daily trip, she looks out the train and examines a couple named Scott and Megan. She has no relationship with these characters, sometime she calls them Jason and Jess, a perfect couple in her mind. The novel switches point of view back and forth between Rachel, Megan, and Anna.

The flow of the story is much about psychological thriller. The story of *The Girl on the Train* such a gripping novel about understanding of the limits of human knowledge, and the degree to which memory and imagination become confused. The emphasis in a thriller is typically on plot of the story, character's action, pace, movement of the story. Thrillers typically deal with life and death situations. As the readers response that state in the novel, according to New York Daily News, "A complex and thoroughly chilling psychological thriller... *The Girl On The Train* is one of those books where you can't wait- yet almost can't bear- to turn the page. It's a stunning novel

of dread” and according to Paula Hawkins in Entertainment weekly in London “Pulls off a thriller’s toughest trick, carefully assembling everything we think, we know, until it reveals the one thing we didn’t see coming”.

Therefore, the writer wants to introduce the elements of psychological thriller. Since the writer is interested in psychological thriller that is not common and important to be discussed. On the other hands, the writer wants to analyze this sub-genre to introduce this kind of sub-genre as the main discussion of the study. As seen in this novel, *The Girl On The Train* is bring new sense of genre study and have a deeper understanding about psychological thriller as subgenre of thriller. Moreover, this sub genre have a strong relation to the mental illness and emotional rather that physical, but the focuses of the research are about genre study with psychological thriller and its elements even the story much describe about mental illness or psychological issue. In addition, the writer wants to know deeper about psychological thriller inside of the story could be from the intrinsic elements such us character, theme, plot, and setting of the story. The writer uses genre study as the concept and theory of genre to analyze this research.

1.2 Research Question

According to the background of the study, the writer wants to analyze the elements of psychological thriller that appear in this novel. The writer considers the problem as follow:

What are the elements of psychological thriller that reflected in *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of the analysis tends to answer the problem of the analysis.

Based on the problem, the objectives of this analysis mainly:

To find out and reveal the elements of psychological thriller that reflected in *The Girl On The Train* by Paula Hawkins.

1.4 The Use of Study

The result of this study is expected to be useful in several ways, theoretically and practically. As the framework of the study, the writer hopes this study can be useful in two uses, theoretical use and practical use.

1.4.1. Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this study gives significance to understand and provides more knowledge about literary genre, kind of genre, kind of sub-genre and explanation about sub-genre especially in psychology thriller. This study may be expected to give a new contribution and information for other researchers who are interested in doing analysis in genre study with the same topic and theory. Beside, this study also may give big contribution for others researcher or reader who wants to understand what the story tells about and wants to analyze this novel also.

1.4.2. Practical Use

This study provides obvious information about genre in literature through genre study and how to analyze kind of genre following with sub-genre in the novel. This study is can give the deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience especially for the writer, generally for other

students of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia and also can be used as reference by other university students who are interested in literary study especially in genre and sub genre study in order to give help for those who intend to conduct the similarity of research.

1.5 Scope of Study

In this research, the scope of the research is limited to the analysis of the novel *The Girl on The Train* By Paula Hawkins. Focuses of this study are analyzing the element of sub genre that reflected in *The Girl On The Train* By Paula Hawkins. Especially in the element of psychological thriller such as suspenseful feeling, hardboiled in character, and cat and mouse in characters also that can be analyze from the intrinsic elements such as, the main characters such as Rachel, Megan, Anna, and Rachel's ex husband named Tom, theme of the story, plot of the story, and setting in the story.