

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

Literature is a form of human expression, in connection with ideas of permanent and universal interest. It used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Webster (as cited in Fatkhul. K, 2016) states that People sometimes want to express their ideas, feelings, and messages by writing on their notes. However, this activity may sometimes produce a good work in literature. “Literature is the class of writings in which imaginative expression, aesthetic form, universality of ideas, and permanence are characteristic features, as fiction, poetry, romance and drama.

Literature is a big term that encompasses almost every type of written word, but there are actually two main groups all literature can be categorized under. These two categories are fiction and nonfiction. Fiction includes all written works that are invented or made-up by the author. This includes novels, short stories, and poems. Nonfiction, then, comprises of the written works based on real events, while nonfiction term consists of history, biography, and autobiography. Pradopo (as cited in Puji. R, 2014) states that the literary work is as the picture of the world and human life, the main criteria that putted on the literary work is ‘truth’, or everything that wants to picture by the author.

One of fiction literary work is novel. It is a piece of long narrative in literary prose. Abrams (as cited in Amaliah.D, 2014) states that novel is a fiction that introduces an imagination word that consists of intrinsic element like setting, plot, characteristics, point of view, etc. In addition, plot as on of an intrinsic element of novel can make the readers conceiving about story in literary works. Plot refers to how events arranged to achieve unintended effect. Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story, or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story. Plot known as the foundation of

a novel or story, around which the characters and settings are build. Wolf (as cited in irawan, 2015) states that plot is sequence of events that move narrative from beginning to end. It is means to organize information and events in a logical manner. When writing the plot of a piece of literature, the author has to be careful that it does not dominate the other parts of the story. Plot builds of significant events in a given story significant because they have important consequences. Cleland (2016) states that a plot is one of the most important parts of a story, and has several functions. First, the plot give attention on the important characters and their roles in the story. It motivates the characters to affect the story, and connects the events in an orderly manner. Second, the plot creates a desire for the reader to go on reading by absorbing them in the middle of the story, ensuring they want to know what happens next. Then, the plot leads to the climax, but by gradually releasing the story in order to maintain readers' interest. During the plot of a book, a reader gets emotionally involved, connecting with the book, not allowing himself to put the book down. Eventually, the plot reveals the entire story, giving the reader a sense of completion that he has finished the story and reached a conclusion.

Plot is whatever happens in a story. Plot built of significant events in a given story—significant because they have important consequences (Dibell in Amaliah. D, 2014). The important aspect that build plot is suspense. Suspense is one of human feeling. It is a process when human feels anxiety or fear like when a human in difficult situation. For example, when a human gets a terror, struggle with their conflicts. Suspense can created through almost any element of a story, including the title, characters, plot, time restrictions and word choice.

According to Cheong and Young (2008) suspense is the feeling of excitement or anxiety that both of writer and reader feel when they are waiting for something happen and are uncertain about significant outcome. Because with suspense aspect the writer and reader can feel the condition or conflict, bring the writer and reader into the story. Suspense is a literary device that authors use to keep their readers' interest alive throughout the work. It is a feeling of anticipation that something risky or dangerous is about to happen. The purpose of using this type of anxiety in literature is to make readers more concerned about the characters and to form sympathetic association with them, Suspense ensures the interest of readers by

putting them on the edges of their seats, and waiting for what is next. If an author does this well, suspense continues to increase gradually until the climax, or the turning point, and final confrontation reached. Writers and authors use suspense to create empathy with their readers, by giving their characters internal struggles with which readers can identify. Readers feel apprehension for their beloved characters whenever they are in danger. Jessika E. Moyer (2016) states that the entire purpose of suspense is to build tension and uneasiness. This uneasiness derives not from the events that happen in the story, but instead from the things that might happen. In addition, Saricks (2009) states that most suspense book begin when there is a danger that intersects an individual normal, everyday life. There is a dark atmosphere and the action begin early on, within a narrow time frame, with a strong protagonist. There a tension or uneasiness that pervades the entire story from early on in the book.

This research analyze the suspense feeling of plot in *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner. This novel published in the United States on October 7, 2009 written by American author James Dashner. *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner was a sensational appearance in 2009; this novel is one of Dashedner's popular works since this novel awarded as first New York Times Bestselling Series, USA Today Bestseller, Kirkus Reviews Best Teen Book of the Year, An ALA-YASLA Best Fiction for Young Adults Book and An ALA-YALSA Quick Pick. Dashner in this novel tells about a teenage boy named Thomas who dropped into the middle of a jungle called the Glades. His memory has been wiped by some higher up power, and he soon discovers that he is surrounded by other teenagers with no memory and no knowledge of how they came to be in the Glades. The book runs through the adventures that Thomas goes on with his new friends and his new acquaintances commonly known runners, for running into harm's way to try to learn more about what is going on. Dashner creates pauses, through chapter, section and paragraph breaks, which heighten readers' anticipation.

Based on forum called *goodreads*<sup>1</sup>, which is a forum dedicated to discuss about this novel, this novel stated had a very suspenseful plot, excited is appropriate for the

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<sup>1</sup> *Goodreads* is a social cataloging website that allows individuals to free search its database of books, annotations, and reviews.

book. Since the author had great vivid imagery, James Dashner uses a very excited tone in his book. For example in the book it states, “Thomas couldn’t believe he was still looking upon a human being—the madness in Ben’s eyes, the phlegm flying from his mouth, the pale skin stretched taut across his veins and bones.” James Dashner uses simple diction in his writing. For instance, he uses some slang words like klunk and shuck. These meant usually crap and an idiotic person. The author had a good mixture of simple and complex sentences. He did not rarely used run-on or fragments. There was a satisfying amount of dialogue in the book.

Based on the explanation above, the urgency of the writer to conduct this research is to describe the suspense of plot built in the novel. Since, suspense runs high in this novel, which is suspense, is one of the most important aspect in literary work. Hopefully, this research can inspire the reader, which means there are positive values that can be taken and realized by the reader in their daily lives, especially in terms of literature and education.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on background of research above, the writer formulates the research question as how is suspense of plot built in *The Maze Runner* novel?

## **1.3 Objective of Research**

Regarding to the research question above, the objective of this research is to describe the suspense of plot built in *The Maze Runner* novel.

## **1.4 The Use of the Study**

There are some benefits expected by conducting this study. The benefits of the study are as follows:

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

Theoretically, discussing this topic will gives new knowledge to the readers about how important suspense of plot inside of a novel. Suspense is a component that becomes an important part in plot. Suspense of plot is a feeling of fascination and excitement mixed with apprehension, tension, and anxiety developed by unpredictable, mysterious part of the story. There are so many information that can help readers in finding something related to suspense of the plot.

#### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

This thesis will add a reference for students in English Department in analyzing literature and its relationship which concern about suspense in plot and become the previous study or secondary data for other writers who wants to conduct a research with the same topic. In spite, this research will dedicated in the term of knowledge development. This research makes full use of the academic range with high level of semester in English Literature major.

#### **1.5 Scope of Research**

The researcher needs to limit the study since there are many topics that can be discuss from the novel. In accordance, the researcher focuses on the intrinsic element of the novel, especially plot in *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner. The researcher analyzes about the suspense of plot inside of the story. The researcher applies structural affect theory to get the result about suspense that shows in the plot.