

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of Study

*A Christmas Carol* novel by Charles Dickens was published on December 18, 1843. This novel tells about the wealthy Ebenezer Scrooge who is very stingy and then advised by the spirits of his business partner Marley and three other spirits, so that Scrooge does not suffer the same fate as Marley, because of his greed and parsimony while living in the world. According to Forster (2000), presenting the plot is a series of events in a fiction "novel and short story" arranged in time and based on the law of cause and effect. The plot is the same as the story framework which is the structure of the story structure. *A Christmas Carol's* novel by Charles Dickens is the right choice for writer to analyze based on the structure of the plot analysis. because the previous research on this novel has never been discussed the topic about structural of plot of this novel. This novel presents a different plot, the elements of plot in this novel has interested the writer in dissecting novel more in this *A Christmas Carol* novel.

Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* during a period when the British is exploring and re-evaluating past Christmas traditions, including carols and newer customs such as Christmas trees (Wikipedia, 2019). He was influenced by the experiences of his own youth and by the Christmas stories of other authors including Washington Irving and Douglas Jerrold. Dickens has written three Christmas stories prior to the novella, and is inspired following a visit to the Field Lane Ragged School, one of several establishments for London's street children. The treatment of the poor and the ability

of a selfish man to redeem himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. There is discussion among academics as to whether this is a fully secular story, or if it is a Christian allegory (Wikipedia, 2019). For those reasons, the writer is increasingly interested in the plot played in the story of *A Christmas Carol*.

The reason the writer chooses *A Christmas Carol* because the plot of this novel shows and describes the situations of the character in the past, present, and future. Besides, there have not been discussions regarding structural analysis of plot on *A Christmas Carol*. Therefore, the writer focuses on the discussion of structural analysis of plot. The plot of *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens undergoes a flow change that makes the reader carried away by the story. This research provides insights about the structural analysis on plot and aims to enrich the theoretical knowledge based on literary studies. Furthermore, it can be the references in analyzing novel for the next series of *A Christmas Carol* novel or other novels and literary works. This research is expected to be useful for many literary researchers especially in the discussion of sociological criticism.

*A Christmas Carol* captures the zeitgeist of the mid-Victorian revival of the Christmas holiday. Dickens has acknowledged the influence of the modern Western observance of Christmas and later inspired several aspects of Christmas, including family gatherings, seasonal food and drink, dancing, games and a festive generosity of spirit (Wikipedia, 2019). In addition, based on the author's perspective, it is also stated that each novel series leads to another plot because the problems in the story are not solved in just one series. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze the plot because the plot is the most important aspect of the story, especially when all the plot elements are present. If one plot element is missing, then the story is incomplete, therefore all plot elements must be present in the story even though the sequence of events is not the same..

In the analysis of this research, the writer uses Greimas structuralism because Greimas introduces the smallest concept called as actan (Greimas in Dani's, 2015). Actan is an instrument that can theoretically be used to analyze real or thermal actions, but especially actions depicted in literary texts or images. The structuralism of Greimas was chosen by the author because in the actual diagram it consists of assigning each element of the described action to one of the actantial classes. These acts build three binary relationships (Martin and Ringham in Dani's 2015). subject and object, sender and receiver as well as helper and opponent.

Several studies have been conducted regarding *A Christmas Carol novel*. Those studies focus on sociological approach and marxist approach. Those previous research are different from the writer's research because this research focuses on the structural of plot analysis. Thus, this research analyzes the scheme of plot using Greimas' actantial diagram. Additionally, the writer elaborates the structure of the plot as well as the kind of plot that is used by Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*.

## **1.2. Research Question**

This research is aimed to answer the following problems which are :

1. How do the elements of plot compose the plot structure of the story?
2. What kind of plot is applied in *A Christmas Carol* novel?

## **1.3. Objective of The Study**

Based on the research question above, the research purpose :

1. To describe the elements of plot that compose the plot structure of the story.
2. To reveal the kind of plot is applied in *A Christmas Carol* novel

#### **1.4. Theoretical Use**

This research provides information and description of structural of plot contained in the novel *A Christmas Carol*. Besides, this research provide a knowledge of structural plot definition, it types and expected to be very useful for future researchers who are interested in conducting the similar research using Greimas' structuralism's theory which focus on structural of plot in literary work.

#### **1.5. Practical Use**

Practically, this research is an additional reference for those who want to conduct the same research and help the readers to know more about about the structure of plot in a story, the elements of plot, and the way to analyze plot. Thus, this research is one of the references for future researches.

#### **1.6. Scope of the Study**

In this research, the writer only focuses on analyzing the structural of plot, elements of plot including; beginning or exposition, problem of the story, conflicts, complication or rising action, climax, suspense, surprise, resolution and ending. In this research also, the writer concerns with the type of plot in *A Christmas Carol*. The writer combines theory of plot and actantial diagrams by A.J Greimes.