

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of Study**

In literature there is a study called psychology of literature. Psychology of literature can be used as a way to enjoy literary works. Endaswara in 2011 believed that psychology of literature is defined as a study that is used to view literature as a psychological activity (Endaswara, 2011). In other words, psychology of literature allows the writer to see the psychological existence in literature. Hence, psychology and literature correlates each other.

Literature has a significant part in human life and can provide readers with joy and fulfillment. We can learn fresh perspectives from literary works in addition to being entertained by them. In Introduction to The Study of Literature, Hudson writes that "literature is depiction of what human beings have gone through and experienced in life, or, to put it another way, literature is a mirror of life using language as the media" (Hudson, 2006).

That might be taken to suggest that each literary work has a unique worth that is significant in our daily lives. Literature is constantly evolving as new eras pass. There are many different kinds of literary works, including novels, poems, plays, and short stories. As a literary work, it must embody moral principles and depict human behavior (Wellek and Warren, 1956). Poetry, prose, novels, and plays are only a few examples of the many different literary forms. A literary work is

frequently adapted into a movie in the modern period and is still regarded as a type of literature.

An article that was published in 2009 believed that there are three ways to understand how psychology and literature can relate, which are by studying the psychology of the writer as a writer, psychology of fictional characters, and the psychology of the reader (Ratna, 2009). Moreover, Meiliana in 2020 also believed that the strong connection between psychology and literature allows the reader to deal with human beings, and it includes dealing with the wishes, desires, fears, and conflicts of human beings (Meiliana, 2020).

Considering that, the writer sees that it is possible to understand human beings through the use of psychology of literature, as it deals with the psychological aspects of humans. Therefore, this research uses psychology of literature as a study that focuses on the psychology of characters in a novel. To be more specific, the writer used a theory of personality by Raymond Cattell, that allows the writer to explain the psychological aspects of the main character.

The theory of personality was invented and developed by Raymond Cattell (1950), through a research that writer do, research on personality can analyzed with theories from several experts such as Sigmund Freud, Skinner, and Cattell. According to Cattell's theory of personality, personality is a form of complex structure of traits from various categories. Cattell studied a range of personality types and characteristics. Cattell was particularly interested in personality

assessment, and the methodical gathering of scientific data had a significant impact on his work. This contrasts sharply with many psychodynamic and humanistic theorists who developed their theories based on clinical observation, but it is comparable to learning theorists who likewise place a high priority on rigorous, objective observation and the gathering of empirical data. Since each strategy accomplishes a distinct goal, neither is fundamentally superior. But Cattell's method has significantly changed psychological testing. Psychological types refer to character descriptions that are broader than psychological traits and are often associated with anomalous psychology.

According to Cattell, types can only be understood in terms of personality traits. Cattell's type categories also allow us to use Hippocrates' ancient personality types (sanguine, choleric, melancholic, and phlegmatic), Sigmund Freud's oral-erotic and anal-erotic types, musical vs. mathematical geniuses, unrestrained vs. restrained personalities, and various neurotic and psychotic syndromes as additional examples (Cattell, 1950).

Cattell describes a trait as a response or a collection of responses linked by multiple entities in such a way that a single term covers a response and can be treated the same in most situations. The challenge is to identify the unitary trait, which has been practiced in various ways throughout the history of personality research. Thus, a trait directs behavior in a certain direction by combining all aspects of that trait into a single whole (whether the process is outward, the reaction, or the result of external stimuli). Cattell offers a fairly simple definition

of personality, “Personality is that which permits a prediction of what a person will do in a given situation” because understanding individual traits allows us to predict such responses and the nature of those responses (Cattell, 1950).

To see the personality of the character by using the personality traits theory, the writer uses novel as the object of analysis. Novel is chosen considering the fact that novel and psychology have the same values and ideologies, and thus issue of psychology in a novel can be discussed by using personality trait theory (Aras, 2015). Additionally, both novel and psychology aim to raise the consciousness and awareness of society about the true identity of human beings (Aras, 2015). Hence, the writer believes that raising the discussion of psychology of literature is important to raise the awareness of society towards the psychological issue, especially in novel. Additionally, the writer also believes that the discussion can embrace society to question their true identity by analyzing their psychology. It then urged the writer to bring the discussion of psychology in novel by using the theory of personality.

To discuss the psychology of a character in novel by using the personality theory by Raymond Cattell, the writer of this research focuses on the main character in a novel that has chosen, namely *Before I Fall*. *Before I Fall* is a 2010 novel that was written by an American author, namely Lauren Oliver. *Before I Fall* is a romance novel with original language of English. This young adult novel tells about a teenage girl named Samantha Kingston. Generally, the novel tells about the story of Samantha Kingston, or Sam, who was forced to go through repeated days after

he had a car accident (Goodreads, 2022). From the story, the writer sees the traits of Sam's personality during the repeated days she had to go through. It is seen that the main character, Sam, experienced various types of turmoil in her life ranging from pressure to sadness (Goodreads, 2022). Hence, the writer believes that, the traits of Sam's personality and behavior can be analyzed with theory of personality by Raymond Cattell. Hence, it is expected that this research can give deeper explanation to the readers of how psychological elements take a role in human's personality, especially as seen in the main character of *Before I Fall* novel.

### **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the background of the study that has been stated above, the writer formulates a research question which is:

“How is the personality traits of the main character in *Before I Fall* Novel?”

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

Related to the research question, the writer also formulates the writer objective, which is:

To explain the personality traits of the main character in *Before I Fall* Novel.

### **1.4 Use of Study**

The writer hopes that this study can give benefit for the society and this paper could be the reference and guidance for other future researchers who want to

conduct the similar research under the psychoanalysis topic. Thus, the use of the study of this research is divided into two, as stated below:

#### **1.4.1 Practical Use**

Practically, this research can explain how is the personality traits of the main character, named Sam, in the novel *Before I Fall*. This research explains about Raymond Cattell personality traits theory in the novel. The information written in this study can be used by further researchers to analyze films and or the same topic.

#### **1.4.2 Theoretical Use**

Meanwhile, theoretically, the theories that are used by the writer in this study can be used by other future researchers to conduct a deeper analysis of psychological issues. Moreover, this research also can be guidance for the writers who want to discuss about personality traits in novels, films, and other literary works.

#### **1.5 Scope of study**

To avoid broader discussion on the studies, the writer limits the analysis. This study only focuses on the personality traits on the main character that use personality traits theory by Raymond Cattell, and also based on problem identification, the writer discusses in more detail about Personality traits of the main character which is Samantha in the novel *Before I Fall* by Lauren Oliver.