

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

As one of the media to entertain and educate readers, Mahendra and Amelia (2020) state that literature contains physical and psychological experiences. Literary works are presented as the realization of the author but also the environment around the author. Furthermore, Swarniti (2021) argues that literary works are closely related to psychological expressions, such as feelings, enthusiasm, and beliefs, thus creating admiration. It also stated literary work is a tool to convey the author's feelings (Kardiansyah and Salam, 2021). For example, Hosang et al (2019) stated, "Authors express their emotional turmoil, such as feelings of sadness, disappointment, happiness, and so on through literary works such as poetry, short story, and novel".

Character in the novel, for example, is a central aspect since it conveys the author's message, which can bring about many values in human existence such as morals, education, love, ambition, emotion, etc. According to Bennet and Royle (2016), the character is what gives literature life. It has a strong bond with people. It is because they serve as the focus of human interest, adoration, dislike, admiration, and condemnation. This is in line with the statement by Asia and Samanik (2018) said that literature and psychology have a strong relationship. It is because they both deal with people and their responses, perceptions of the world, miseries, wishes, desires, fears, conflicts, and resolutions, as well as individual

and social concerns. As a result, literary works adhere to the principle of *dulce et utile* (Budianta et al. 2002: 19), which demonstrates that a literary work is not only enjoyable because it satisfies the reader's emotional needs through joy and sorrow but also advantageous because of the values it embodies. It has references to morality, goodness, badness, and religion. Readers might identify themselves with the characters, who might be regarded as real people as well: "People may model their lives upon the patterns of fictional heroes and heroines" (Wellek & Warren, 1963:102). As a result, since each character asserts a unique personality and individual differences, the analysis of the characters' attitudes is a psychological treatment.

Many characters in a novel take many types of conflicts from problems based on the realities that occur in this life. It is because literary works come from several cultural contexts in society (Afrianto & Gulö, 2019; Suprayogi, 2019). People who read a story usually want to know how a conflict develops and is resolved because conflict usually adds doubt about the outcome and builds tension and interest in the story.

There are two categories of conflict in human life: internal conflict and external conflict. A character is pitted against an outside force they cannot control in the external conflict, such as other characters, society, or the world of nature. These external powers obstruct the character's motives and create tension as the character strives to achieve their goals. However, conflict can arise within a character. This is referred to as internal conflict. According to Bruno (Goh, 2019),

inner conflict is the battle that takes place within a character's mind. It occurs when a character is conflicted between two or more goals or beliefs. When people are forced to make difficult decisions in their daily lives, they experience inner conflict. This indicates that inner conflict occurs when a character is faced with two or more difficult choices.

Conflict is also closely related to human psychology. According to Lewin (2013), conflict is the ability to push someone in two or more different directions at the same time. Lewin defines conflict as one of the personality dynamics that can be controlled by someone when dealing with a conflict caused by encouragement in one's personality. Psychological conflict in human characters is a type of conflict that is commonly found in literary novels. According to Jones in Damayanti (2016), A psychological conflict occurs when a person is struggling with themselves, their conscience, their feelings, or their guilt, or simply trying to decide what to do. Conflict is a crucial component of character because how a person responds to conflict can reveal a lot about their character.

The understanding about psychology is needed when conducting a psychoanalytical study in literature, since it is known as a familiar technique to use in scrutinizing a literary work (Amelia and Daud, 2020). Although it is in the psychology field, it can also be used in literature because both are concerned with human life.

One of the novels significantly presents the issue of psychology is *Redeeming Love* novel by Francine Rivers. The novel takes place in the 19th century and was first published in 1897. This novel tells about a woman named Sarah who was forced into prostitution at the age of eight and then became a prime sex worker in Pair-a-dice, California. Her life is dark and changes after her mother died. Sarah shuts herself off from everyone. She does not even believe in God. She changed her name to Angel and she becomes a sex worker for a high price in a brothel run by a woman named the Duchess. Not infrequently because of the demands of her job, Sarah hates her environment, especially herself. Then she meets a man named Michael Hosea. Sarah's background in life is different from that of Michael Hosea. He is a good farmer and has a God-fearing personality. Sarah is a stunning, confident, independent, and sarcastic woman. In the novel, Michael depicts Sarah as *"a flawless, blue-eyed porcelain doll with pale skin and golden hair."*(62).

Meanwhile, in the novel, it is described that Sarah consistently makes sarcastic remarks. An example of this is on the line,

"Do you live in this room when you're not working?" "Yes." She tilted his head. Where was I supposed to live? In a little white cottage at the end of your road somewhere? " She smiled to take the bite from her words."

(62).

However, Sarah is a woman who was in hell and returned. This novel deals with human life and the feelings that surround it. These feelings include feelings of affection, inner turmoil, and desires and accomplishments. Things like that make this novel can be studied using literary psychology analysis.

Based on the description above, it can be seen how the relationship between literary works and psychology. This is because the target object is equally related to humans. In this research, the researcher focuses on the psychological conflict experienced by the main character Sarah. The researcher is interested to analyze the *Redeeming Love* novel as research material because the research about this novel is limitedly conducted, no one has discussed this novel yet only novel reviews on the internet.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background that has been written, the researcher will focus on these ideas to formulate the research question problem:

What are the forms of psychological conflict as described in *Redeeming Love* novel by Francine Rivers?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the background and research questions that have been formulated, this study is aims to describe the forms the psychological conflict experienced by the main character in *Redeeming Love* novel by Francine Rivers.

1.4 Use of the Study

1.4.1 Practical Use

This research is expected to be beneficial to many stakeholders, both students, and the general public, particularly in terms of psychological factors that could affect the development of the human soul.

1.4.2 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research is expected to be able to provide new, more varied, and innovative contributions to theory in literary works, especially with a review of psychological conflict which is classified according to Muis (2009) and based on the theory of conflict in psychology by Kurt Lewin. Furthermore, this research can be functional for the development of studies as part of literary works as well as reference material for further research on similar issues.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this section, the researcher explores its scope and constraints by avoiding broad issues. The limitation of the problem in this research is focused on the psychological conflict of the main character Sarah in the novel *Redeeming Love* by Francine Rivers. To analyze the types of the psychological conflict, the writer using types of conflict classified according to Muis (2009) and theory that was put forward by Kurt Lewin.