

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Science fiction is a genre that explores the speculative impact of technology and science on society and the wider world (Indahningrum et al., 2020). Science fiction typically takes place in a future with rapid technology advancements and has a background that is more subtly futuristic. In a summary, science fiction is defined as a genre with a distinctive element of imagination relating to scientific or technological advancement based on natural principles, rules of biology, chemistry, physics, and other factors. The science fiction genre focuses on providing the imagination with elements of science or technology by providing a unique overview. (Tjipto R, 2016) emphasises that science fiction stories stimulate readers' curiosity about things that are still a mystery or even that modern science and technology have not yet accomplished. The author of science fiction frequently illustrates the complicated issues that modern earth faces by creating imaginary worlds or fictitious events. The futuristic scenario encourages the reader to use more of their imagination to investigate the more difficult ideas that science fiction authors frequently provide in their works.

Novel is a type of prose literary work with intrinsic and extrinsic aspects which are often in the form of books with fiction or non-fiction stories in them. Amelia & Gulö (2022) argues that an accurate representation of reality can be found in novels. Novels can depict the growth of a single character, challenging societal settings, character

interactions, and numerous events that happen in detail. Novels deal with numerous real-world situations as literary works that may represent realities (Setri & Setiawan, 2020). The events that the author has weaved into the story or the characters have the potential to fully depict the scenario within the limits of the novel. Amelia & Dintasi (2017) argues that they portray images of actual characters and have the capability of communicating conversational discourse that might attract readers' interest. Samanik (2018) explains the writer's perceptions regarding how their understanding of the reality affected the novel that was expressed. The author's conception is where the novel's imagery comes from (Dharlie & Samanik, 2021).

Science fiction novels come in a variety of forms. Since science fiction novels are more enticing to readers, many authors prefer to write in this genre. *The Martian* by Andy Weir is an illustration of a science fiction novel. This novel called as a science fiction novel because the content of the novel involves scientific elements such as physics, chemistry, biology and there is also mathematical knowledge. A botanist named Watney took part in the NASA program called Ares. Ares is attempting to reach Mars in order to conduct humanitarian endeavors, transfer people to other planets for the first time, and broaden the frontiers of science. Using a spacecraft called Hermes to take multiple humans (astronauts) to Mars is only one example of how technology is used in missions. The MAV, which was utilized to go to and from Mars, was then provided to the astronauts. Following the completion of the planet's surface operations, this vehicle will also transport them back to Hermes.

James Dashner is an American writer and he is well-known for his futuristic fiction. He was born in Austell, Georgia, United States on November 26, 1972. Most of his writings are particularly intended towards young readers. James Dashner finds joy in writing science fiction, adventure, and survival novels. He has 2 famous series, including *The Maze Runner* series and the young adult fantasy series *The 13th Reality*. Since childhood he has dreamed of becoming a writer. Dashner published *A Door in the Woods*, which became his debut novel, in 2003. This novel is aimed for teenagers because it tells a fantasy story. In becoming a writer, Dashner received three awards including the Whitney Award as the Best Youth Fiction category (*The 13th Reality* in 2008), ALA Best Fiction for Young Adults (*The Maze Runner* in 2011), and the Young Reader's Choice Award as the intermediate grades category (*The Maze Runner* in 2012). He won many awards in the fiction category due to his works that successfully captivate readers, especially teenagers, by containing elements of science fiction.

The Maze Runner novel was published on October 6, 2009 by Delacorte Press and this novel completes *The Maze Runner* trilogy, which also includes *The Scorch Trials* (2010) and *The Death Cure* (2011). This novel has genres of young adults, science fiction and post-apocalyptic. This novel also got a nomination of Kids Choice Award for Favorite Book. This novel tells about a group of teenagers that refer as the "Gladers" are left behind in a mysterious location they call "Glade." Four doors surround the Glade and lead to the Maze, which shuts down each evening at dusk and reopens in the morning. An ever-changing maze outside the Glade's borders is habitat to terrifying biomechanical creatures known as Grievers. A newcomer known as

"Greenie" joins the Gladers each month and is taken on a ride they refer to as the Box. All old memories, with the exception of language and other generic information, are deleted for every newcomer. Their name is the only thing they can recall. They are protected by artificial insects known as "blade beetles" that belong to their "creators." The word "WICKED" is inscribed on the back of every beetle blade. The Gladers' ultimate purpose is to escape the Maze. To accomplish this, certain Gladers known as "Runners" enter the Maze every day to map it out in an effort to search for patterns that will help them escape.

The only thing Thomas recalls when he is placed into the maze while suffering from memory loss is his name. He felt frustrated after being trapped for a long time in an old mine shaft elevator and then entering a room. Thomas has no memories of how or why he arrived there. A few minutes passed and he arrived. At that time, he was immediately surrounded by a group of teenage boys.

At first, Thomas was still perplexed and terrified, but with time, he was able to adjust to the circumstances. While in the Glade, he faced numerous challenges as he made his way through the maze to escape. They must survive attacks from a Griever, a robot with claws that can stab them and beetle-like features. The results of a Griever's bite can change the victim's character to become vengeful and have the power to control the human brain itself. They came to the realization that they had to all pass through the Maze in order to leave the Glade or else they would all perish in vain. They must be able to survive from the attacks of the Grievers. They are all collected up, kept apart,

and imprisoned inside the Glade as part of their investigation into who is to blame for what occurred there.

When Thomas and his friends enter the maze, they cooperate to battle the Grievers in order to stay alive and make it out of the maze together. They eventually succeeded in killing the Grievers after their fight. They kept going till they came to an area with an iron doorstop that was secured with a code. They succeeded in breaking the code. They entered the place full of confusion. They came to understand that the Grievers and the creators of the maze were hidden behind this construction.

The story of *The Maze Runner* novel by James Dashner above encourages the writer to analyze the novel based on intrinsic elements that contains of science fiction genre with the used of structural theory. Therefore, in order to get deep understanding about science fiction genre, the writer is interested to conduct more discussion about the intrinsic elements as it is depicted inside the novel of *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner and it is important to discuss because *The Maze Runner* novel contains a unique science fiction quality in the terms of technology that set it apart from other science fiction works, which is the writer desires to examine it.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the research question as follows:

What genre is described in *The Maze Runner* Novel by James Dashner?

1.3 Research Objective

The objective of this study is to answer the formulated research question, which is focused on the science fiction genre of the novel. The objective of this study is to reveal characteristics of science fiction genre through intrinsic elements in *The Maze Runner* Novel by James Dashner using the structuralism theory.

1.4 Uses of the Study

Each researcher must make a contribution to academic scope that will be beneficial in the future. The goal of this study is to share information and knowledge with the public, particularly in the area of science fiction genre study. The uses of the study are divided into two parts such as theoretical use and practical use:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this study is intended to give contribution to literary study in the fields of genre especially in science fiction genre and intrinsic elements through the *The Maze Runner* Novel by James Dashner. Other researchers which are interested in this topic and desire to apply a related theory may use this study as a reference. As a result, the writer expects that this study will significantly advance public understanding of the subjects covered in this study.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the writer hopes that this study will give some knowledge for the readers who are interested in genre studies. The readers of literary works can also learn about structuralism theory. The writer reveals the science fiction genre through analyzing

from the intrinsic elements which containing the elements of science fiction that are depicted from the novel of *The Maze Runner* by James Dashner.

1.5 Scope of Study

In order to answer the question correctly, the scope of study on this study, the writer is focuses to provide the result of portrayal intrinsic elements of science fiction genre using structuralism theory to analyze from the intrinsic elements which containing the elements of science fiction in *The Maze Runner* Novel by James Dashner.