

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literary work is a place of art where literary works display beauty (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021). The writer uses literature as a tool that contains ideas for works of art (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021). In other words, literature is imaginative writing that uses a particular form of language that is more evocative and connotative. Literature is neither vague nor subjective, producing excellent writing (Castle, 2007). Literature is sometimes referred to as the totality of written expression, adding additional adjectives such as aesthetic or artistic to distinguish literary works from other texts (Klarer, 2013). Besides having a description as imaginative writing, literature is also known as a creative expression of human imagination or desire, so it is almost impossible to make a precise definition of it.

The visual and oral aspects of literary texts have been pushed into the background throughout history (Klarer, 2013). There is a close relationship between literature and life because the social function of literature is how it involves itself in people's lives. It can be the portrayal of society, politics, or even psychology that become the issue and the topic in literary work and it can give impact and influence the readers' life by looking at the real version of those certain issues (Fithratullah, 2021). Therefore, literary works also provide knowledge about various things the reader may not know (Mandasari & Oktaviani, 2018). The two assumptions also show the value of literary works because literary works come from several cultural contexts in society (Afrianto & Gulö, 2019;

Suprayogi, 2019). The phenomena of life and life experiences are always discussed in the literature because life is part of literature (Wellek & Warren, 1956).

One of the phenomena of life is magic, which has long been in the midst of the reality of people's lives, especially those with traditional beliefs. Magic that emerges together with realism is known as magical realism. Magic realism is one of the writing models that has recently evolved to become popular among writers since it was introduced by the German art critic Franz Roh (Hegerfeld, 2005, p. 12). Magic can convey anything that disregards empiricism, including religious beliefs, superstitions, myths, legends, voodoo, or simply what Todorov terms the uncanny and marvelous fantasy. Realism, seen from the viewpoint of magic, captures reality outside the matrix of what is now disdained conventional realism (Ouyang, 2005, p. 14). Mixing the real with the beyond, magical realism reorients our familiarity with space and time and our sense of identity (Faris, 2004, p. 25).

Presenting a magical world full of wonders and beyond reason but still juxtaposes it in everyday reality, with specific aims and objectives so that writers include it in their literary works. Magical realism in literature can be recognized and identified using elements of magical realism. Trying to see reality magically, *magical realism* in literature is defined as an aesthetic style and model in which these magical elements, magical realism, are blended into a realistic setting to access a deeper understanding of reality (Farris, 2004). Magical realism in literary works exists by not representing the world but instead creating a new world that can

reveal any world still hidden in literary works. Even though magic realism in literature is always made to have a context surrounded by fantasy things by taking characters from reality or vice versa, there is no emphasis or explanation on which connotations have fantastic and which do not.

Clarissa Goenawan's novel *The Perfect World* of Miwako Sumida is one of the novels that contain magic realism. A novel that has a blend of the ordinary and the fantastic. A tale of youth, friendship, sadness, and trauma that invites us through secret doors, ready to reveal more. Miwako Sumida is a beautiful teenager who appears as she is and always gives a peaceful impression to anyone who sees her. Even when the girl was just reading a book in the library, Ryusei Yanagi couldn't take his eyes off Miwako Sumida. However, who would have thought that the girl who looked fine turned out to have various mysterious problems during her life, making Ryusei, like Ryusei's sister named Fumi and also Chie, Miwako's friend, choose to find out the mysteries and messages that have not been conveyed after Miwako's departure. This novel takes us to explore the twists and turns that Miwako Sumida goes through, looking for bits and pieces of the story from three different people's perspectives to uncover a number of secrets that she keeps to herself. Miwako's presence itself provides memories that are never forgotten, so they choose to find out what mystery Miwako is hiding behind her charms.

Based on this background, the writer will conduct research on the novel *The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida* with the focus of research explaining how magic realism is delineated in this novel. This is because things beyond reason

occur in this novel's storyline, which is very contrary to the real world, especially after the departure of Miwako Sumida. The theory that will be used in this research is the theory of magic realism by Wendy B. Faris.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the explanation in the background of the study, the writer formulated the following research question:

How is magic realism delineated in *The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida* novel by Clarissa Goenawan?

1.3 Research Objective

This study finally aims to delineate magic realism in the novel *The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida*.

1.4 Use of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

This research is theoretically expected to achieve optimal research objectives in applying the theory of magical realism to help readers understand how magical realism is depicted in the novel "The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida." Thus, this research aims to analyze and explain how elements of magical realism are used in the work so as to help readers understand the concept in more depth.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the writer hopes that this research can add references to literary studies and also increase readers' knowledge about magical realism in literary works. In other words, it is hoped that this research can provide a valuable contribution to our understanding of the concept of magical realism in literary works and also help complete the literature in this field of literary studies.

1.5 Scope of the Study

Based on the explanation above, the writer limits the focus of this study to the characters and settings of events that experience or describe magical realism that appears or is presented in the novel *The Perfect World of Miwako Sumida* by referring to Wendy B. Faria's theory of magical realism.