CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

A writer's choice to create and develop characters in a story is an important creative decision that has significant impacts on the story. In literature especially in fiction such as novels, there are elements included in one piece of work. All of the elements play important roles to construct a good story. One of them is characters. Characters in fiction are a very crucial element, they make the story possible, and the way in which the characters are built, can help to bring the story to life.

Character in a fiction can just simply mean a figure that is created by the author to be involved in a certain work, a figure that is mixed by several traits, emotion, characteristics, style and many other things which resemble the condition of real people. Diyanni (2000), said that character is *"the imaginary people that writers create, sometimes identifying with them, sometimes judging them"* (p.55). This definition is also supported by another definition which has similar meaning, Kennedy and Gioia (2005), they stated that a character is an imaginative person who rules a story (p.91). Thus, characters are imaginary figures in stories, created by writers and these characters can have different roles and qualities in the narrative. Characters may allow the readers to connect emotionally, so that the readers would invest their time in the story. Motivations, desires, and conflicts that create tension are also distinct by characters. The interactions and decisions of characters determine how the story moves and create narrative intrigue.

Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia

Literature is the entirety of written expression in fiction, which interprets the meaning of nature and life, desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences. Literature was used to portray a realistic life and to guide society in an ideal way of life (Kardiansyah, 2017). Literature serves as both a reflection of reality and a tool for shaping societal norms and ideals. According to (Siswanto, 2008), Literature can be interpreted as an inspiration of life that aims as a form of entertainment that has beauty in it. Literature can be seen as a source of inspiration for life; it means that literary works, such as novels, poems, or plays, are not merely created for entertainment but also serve the purpose of inspiring and enriching our lives. Literature has a strength that is closely tied to the moral values it contains. These values in turn are essential components of literary works, influencing both their intrinsic elements such as, *themes, characters, plots,* and *settings,* and how they are perceived in the extrinsic context of the reader's worldview and societal norms.

Literary works emerge from an author's thoughts and experiences, shaped by their life, challenges, and values, serving as a medium to express the author's emotions (Kardianyah and Salam, 2021). Literary works across different genres that prominently feature characters and characterizations, for example, novels. Novels are the most common form of literature to feature well-developed characters. Since novels are typically longer and more extensive than shorter forms of other fiction like short stories. It provides space to explore complex plots, multiple characters, and intricate themes. Therefore, based on the above explanation, the writer is

Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia

interested in conducting further discussion about character and characterization in the novel entitled *Shutter Island* by Dennis Lahane.

Shutter Island tells the story about the U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels and his partner Chuck Aule investigating the disappearance of a dangerous patient named Rachel Solando from Ashecliffe Hospital on the eerie Shutter Island. The island's remote and mysterious atmosphere adds to the suspense as Teddy and Chuck uncover Ashecliffe's controversial experiments involving mind-altering drugs and lobotomies. Teddy's suspicions focus on Dr. John Cawley and Dr. Jeremiah Naehring, leading him to confront his own traumatic memories from World War II. Haunted by nightmares and hallucinations, Teddy believes in a larger conspiracy involving Ward C, a secret ward for the most unstable patients. The narrative takes unexpected turns as Teddy's mental state deteriorates, blurring the lines between reality and delusion. The climax reveals shocking truths about Rachel Solando, Teddy's past, and the dark secrets of Shutter Island, making the novel known for its mind-bending plot, psychological suspense, and exploration of mental illness, trauma, and the thin boundary between reality and imagination.

Character and characterization are crucial elements in analyzing *Shutter Island,* especially focusing on the main character, Teddy Daniels. Dennis Lehane employs intricate character development to weave a narrative that delves into the depths of Teddy's psyche. The choice of exploring Teddy's character serves to unravel the complexities of his past traumas, notably his experiences as a soldier in World War II and the liberation of the Dachau concentration camp. Lehane employs Teddy as

a lens through which the readers experience the unsettling atmosphere of Shutter Island and the enigmatic Ashecliffe Hospital. The scrutiny of Teddy's character and characterization is pivotal to understanding the novel's thematic depth and narrative complexity. It unveils the author's intention to not only tell a gripping mystery but also to use the character as a vehicle for exploring profound psychological and ethical questions. Finally, the exploration of character is an important thing in this novel.

Analyzing characters and characterization in Dennis Lehane's novel *Shutter Island* plays a crucial role in understanding the complex layers of the story. The urgency of this research not only encompasses a profound understanding of the main characters but also opens a window into the author's techniques in uniquely developing characters and building the world within the novel. This study not only facilitates a deeper understanding of the narrative but also makes a significant contribution to the appreciation of literature and critical analysis of character and characterization in modern literary work. This analysis holds significant urgency in providing readers and literary researchers with profound insight into how character elements shape the core of this mysterious story. Through this study, the characterization of the main character in Shutter Island novel is chosen as this topic has never been examined and delineated by other researchers. Finally, the study entitled *Delineating Character and Characterization in Shutter Island Novel by Dennis Lehane* became the focus of this study.

Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of study above, here is the formulated research questions for this study:

How are character and characterizations delineated in the *Shutter Island* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research question above, the objective of this study is to reveal the main character's characterization in the *Shutter Island* novel.

1.4 Theoretical Use

For theoretical uses, this study is expected as guidance to provide helpful information for the reader in order to have a better understanding about characterization of the main character taken from the novel.

1.4.1 Practical Use

For practical uses, the writer hopes that this research will give more understanding about characterization and it will contribute to the development of literary study. In addition, through this study, hopefully the reader will be reminded of how important the characterization of a person in real life is.

1.4.2 Scope of the Study

To limit the discussion, the writer will only focus on analyzing character and characterization of the main character in *Shutter Island novel.* This study applied a

structuralism approach which focuses on the intrinsic element of character. Burroway's character and characterization theory were chosen to support this analysis.