CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, the research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, clarification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

As novel has become the dominant literary work since the twentieth century, narrative studies and theory play an important role in literary education (Culler, 1997). Following that notion, narrative theorists have been improving narrative related studies rather significantly in the last decades. It has been constantly refined and has gained new developments adopted in the contemporary fiction writing and it also has been improved with new insights into older works (Nieragden, 2002). For instance, he states that the traditional dichotomy of "external" versus "internal" focalization can be replaced by a new system that distinguishes "narratorial" and "figural" focalization because the traditional dichotomy cannot fulfill the wealth of existing possibilities.

There are narrative variations and focalization in narrative. Both narrative variations and focalization have a great role in settling the overall effects of the novels (Culler, 1997). Furthermore, by referencing Genette (1983), he argues that focalization is a major revision of the theory of point of view that leads to its own interesting problem which is the concept of internal and external focalization. Focalization or voice(s) can set up the mood of the story, the feelings or the motivations about how the events flow. Voices, analyzed from focalization, will determine the perspective of the story. Meanwhile, Genette (1983) categorizes

narrative variations into five categories: variation of order, variation of duration, variation of frequency, variation of mood, and variation of voice.

One of the research concerning narrative voices was conducted by Sandefur (2003) who analyzed narrative immediacy and first-person voice in contemporary American novels. The analysis revolves around the first-person fictive narration used in a selection of contemporary American novels in order to understand the immediacy effects or literary effects that emerge in those texts. This study results that the immediacy in the narrations of the works chosen determines the actions performed by the marginalized protagonists.

Regarding focalization and voice in narrative, the novel entitled *The Witch of Portobello* (2007) by Paulo Coelho shows some aspects that make it appropriate to be the corpus of a research based on the topic. In the case of this Coelho's novel, all the voices from different perspectives tell events concerning on the main character named Athena. Narrative structure used in the novel becomes the attraction of the novel itself. Rather than using one or two viewpoints which involve the main character herself, in this novel, Coelho tries to piece together a series of events concerning the main character into a story, while the main character does not share a thing. So, here, Coelho leaves many viewpoints that are possible to be analyzed.

Through these many perspectives in the novel, some issues arise. The perspectives generate feminist issues portrayed by Athena. One of the feminist issues emerged is motherhood. Feminist theory asserts that women's nature is to give love and care to their children. Therefore, besides analyzing the character presentation, this research also takes a lead on analyzing the gender performa which is also based on the descriptions from the focalizers.

Different from Sandefur's research on narrative technique that has been mentioned earlier, this study focuses on analyzing more specifically in the technique

of focalization employed in the novel to define a character that becomes the main topic of the story. It applies a textual analysis to find the answers on how focalizers present the main character.

1.2 Research Questions

This research is conducted based on these following questions:

a. How do the focalizers describe the main character?
b. How do the focalizers describe the main character's portrayal of motherhood?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The research is aimed to analyze the focalization in the novel entitled *The Witch of Portobello* (2007) by Paulo Coelho especially on how the central character is described from different perspectives. In addition, following the narrative technique used by the writer, this research also analyzes how those perspectives view the central character's portrayal of motherhood.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The analysis of this research focuses on describing the central female character in the novel entitled *The Witch of Portobello* (2007) by Paulo Coelho through the excerpts evidenced in the text. The central character is named Athena and her story is told from her family and friends. Therefore, all the actions or events do not come from the central character's perspectives, but from other character's perspectives. These perspectives of other characters are used to analyze how the central character, Athena, performs her actions as a woman and a mother.

1.5 Significance of the Study

As previously stated, this study focuses on describing the presentation of the main female character in the novel which is revealed through the focalizers of the text. This research is expected to enrich and expand the study of narrative theory in literature especially in the context of narrative perspective. This research digs up deeply on narrative perspective which is expected to give a different view on a technique of focalization. Additionally, this research is also expected to enrich the horizon of multiple narrative perspectives for other literary works in the Indonesian context.

1.6 Research Methodology

This research employs a qualitative and descriptive research method in which the data are in the form of textual evidence. Descriptive research is a method to receive information used in 'devising hypothesis and proposing associations' and this method 'often illustrates a relevant but non quantified topic involving a well-focused research question' (Monsen, 2008, p. 5). Qualitative research is a method that 'generates narrative data, that is data described in words instead of numbers' and 'its primary purpose is to explore the phenomenon of interest as a prelude to theory development' (Monsen, 2008).

1.7 Clarification of Terms

These following terms are clarified to avoid misunderstanding:

1. **Feminism** refers to a literary criticism that rejects male superiority over female, that all negative stereotypes of women must be continually challenged (Bressler, 2007). In addition, Bertens (2001) explains that feminism is about the change of power relation between women and men where men have been dominating the

society. However, in this case, the issue of feminism is more to the model of maternity.

2. **Focalization** refers to the perspective of the text, the person who 'sees'. Focalizer may or may not be the same as the author (Culler, 1997).

3. **Narratology** refers to a literary theory that studies narrative structures including notions of plot, different kinds of narrators, and narrative techniques (Culler, 1997). Besides, narratology 'examines the ways that narrative structures our perception of both cultural artifacts and the world around us (Felluga, 2011). In other words, what is happening around us is structured in narrative and this can lead us to a way of constructing meanings in general.

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This research paper is organized as follows:

CHAPTER 1: Introduction

This chapter contains the background of the study, the research questions, the research purposes, the scope of the study, the significance of the study, research method, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER 2: Theoretical Framework

The second chapter focuses on discussing the theoretical frameworks used in the research and some literature reviews related to the topic of the research as the foundations.

CHAPTER 3: Research Methodology

The third chapter discusses the method of the research including the procedures of the research and the steps to collecting and analyzing the data.

CHAPTER 4: Findings and Discussion

The fourth chapter focuses on the findings of the research which contain the elaboration of the analysis of the text.

CHAPTER 5: Conclusion and Suggestions

This last chapter concludes the whole research and gives some suggestions for further research.