CHAPTER I

Introduction

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It includes background of the study, research question, aim of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research methodology, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of the Study

Nowadays science fiction is believed to be one of popular genre among authors, filmmakers and scriptwriters. Asimov (1991, as cited in Shihah, 2002) states that science fiction is a branch of literature which is developed by the sophistication of science on human being. The involvement of the ‘science’ element in fiction adds a creation of science and sophisticated technology in the storyline. Science fiction can be defined as literary and narrative approach to the future, and this approach attaches several unique characteristics of science fiction, (Lombard, 2012). As a literary form, science fiction develops several characteristics or themes that are usually used in the story. According to Mahida (2011), science fiction is generally a story of future societies in which the impact of science and technology on humankind becomes its major theme.

In science fiction, there are two kinds of imaginary worlds, which are used as instruments of great philosophic and social significance, namely utopia and
Dystopia (Mahida, 2012). Dystopia is the opposite of utopia, which portrays a highly pessimistic and dark future society, (Orwell, 1984). The theme of dystopia usually illustrates the future as a new world with undesirable and anarchic society. Thus, everything in the future is worse and more unpleasant. Burford (2012) adds that science fiction and dystopian literature have a critical combination in dark landscapes, and they specifically focus on extrapolating social problems.

As dystopian society is believed to be controlled by the government, people there are described as the ones who criticize the overprotective and controlling government (Orwell, 1984). The characters in dystopian fiction use human are weakness to follow the authoritarian rule, (Ramona, 2012). The people in dystopian world tend to obey and follow all of the rules that have been made by the upper/higher class society. Moylan (2000) says that the characters in dystopia are constructed by the automated society. It means that characters in dystopian fiction are characters whose characteristics are constructed by the law, controlled and dictated by totalitarian government. There are no ways that one certain character can freely express or oppose those in power. Generally, a main character fights against the society, especially government’s dictatorial rules in the story.

The description of dystopian characters somehow is adapted as the major theme in science fiction novel, for instance in Delirium novel. Delirium (2011) is a novel written by Lauren Oliver, which tells about a disease called Deliria. Deliria is a disease caused by love, which is considered as a toxic in life. Deliria is believed to be a very dangerous disease that spreads in some states in America. Lena Haloway, who has to keep her away from Deliria symptoms, is the main
character in this novel. After the death of her mother who has been infected by Deliria, Lena Haloway decides to obey her Aunt family’s regulations to stay away from Deliria. Nevertheless, she gets many influences from some constellation characters, Aunt Carol, her mischievous best friend, Hana, Alex; a male character that becomes a challenge in the narrative that leads Lena to Deliria.

There are some previous studies that investigated the characters in dystopian fictions and generic approach study. Navratil (2004) in his research entitled “Two Classic Dystopias: George Orwell’s Nineteen Eighty-Four and Ray Bradbury” discussed main characters in dystopian novels. This thesis compared two different dystopian worlds in which each tells how its main character deals with the totalitarian rule. It also found some similarities of dystopian features in both novels. Another study was conducted by Qadamyari (2012). His study focused on the fantasy as a literary genre and discussed the elements in fantasy. It included the introduction of the first fantasy writers and works that shows the history of the fantasy in the ancient folk tales and mythology.

Due to the issue adapted in the novel, the present study takes a generic approach that utilizes science fiction genre and intersects it with narrative theory focusing on the characters, events, focalization, speech representation, and dystopian transformation. The study was inspired by the previous studies as stated above. However, the previous studies merely talked about characteristics of dystopian worlds and generic approach in fantasy literature. Thus, this study focuses on dystopian transformation in relation to how main character and selected characters in science fiction are constructed. The construction of selected
characters in dystopia can be seen and investigated through characters’ statements, thoughts, speeches, and acts in the form of words. The study chooses Delirium novel because it is a good example of dystopian science fiction for adolescents that reveals how adolescents deal with two different situations and survive with their own choice.

1.2 Research Questions

The research question of the study is designed as follows:

1. In what ways does dystopian science fiction construct its character?

1.3 Aims of the Study

The study was conducted to investigate how characters in science fiction are constructed in the novel Delirium.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study specifically analyzes how dystopian science fiction constructs its characters in Delirium. It includes the main character’s focalization, other characters’ speech representation, and constellation character to investigate the character construction.
1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is aimed to see how dystopian science fiction constructs its characters in *Delirium*. The results of the study are expected to give some useful and positive impacts on English Department’s students and larger society. In addition, the analysis is also expected to provide an alternative way as a response to literary work by critiquing a literary work.

1.6 Research Method

1.6.1 Research Design

The study is descriptive in nature and uses textual analysis framework. The study analyzes Lena’s, the main character, some selected characters and how dystopian science fiction constructs its characters in *Delirium*.

1.6.2 Data Collection

The primary source of this study is *Delirium* novel written by Lauren Oliver. The data were collected from a thorough reading of *Delirium* novel, which resulted textual evidences that were selected from the words, phrases, sentences, and speeches.
1.6.3 Data Analysis

The collected data were analyzed by applying the framework of content analysis. In analyzing the data, the following steps have been taken:

1. Reading the novel carefully in order to understand and to discover the issues presented in Lauren Oliver’s Delirium
2. Highlighting and taking brief notes to the main character and selected characters’ acts, thoughts, and speeches as the textual evidences;
3. Examining the characters in dystopia science fiction used in the novel to see how selected characters in science fiction are constructed,
4. Analyzing and interpreting the data using narrative theory by Rimmon-Kenan (2006) and young adult literature science fiction and dystopia by Clare Bradford, Kerry Mallan, John Stephens & Robyn McCallum (2008),
5. Making conclusions of the study and suggestions for further research in the future.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

To avoid misconception and misunderstanding, the following is the clarification of terms used in the present study:

1. Science Fiction

Science fiction is a branch of fantasy identifiable by the fact that it eases the ‘willing suspension of disbelief’ on the part of its readers by utilizing an atmosphere of scientific credibility for its imaginative speculations in
physical science, space, time, social science, and philosophy (Moskowitz, 1963, as cited in Shihah, 2002).

2. Dystopia

Dystopia is the opposite to utopia, which imagine a highly pessimistic and dark of a future society (Orwell, 1984).

3. Young Adult Dystopia

Children and young adult toward new world order (dystopia), express the tension between individual position and the ideology of a society, which is built on surveillance, conformity, and repression (Bradford, Mallan, Stephens & McCallum, 2008).

4. Characterization

Characterization is form of style of speech where the characters’ language is individuated and distinguished by the narrator (Rimmon-Kenan, 2001, p. 64).

5. Character Constellation

Some characters that will find in helping and providing the figure of protagonist, (Nikolajeva, 2003).

1.8 Organization of the Paper

This study is conducted in five chapters and each chapter is divided into some subtopics.
Chapter I (Introduction)

It provides a general introduction that covers the background of the study, research question, aim of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, research method that consist of research design, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II (Literature Review)

This chapter elaborates the literature review that is relevant to the research. This chapter also covers the theories that are applied in answering research questions.

Chapter III (Research Methodology)

This chapter discusses the research methodology in conducting this research. It includes subject of the study, research question, research methodology, context of the research and data presentation.

Chapter IV (Findings and Discussion)

This chapter presents the findings and the discussions in an attempt to answer the research questions, raising the issues of dystopian science fiction in constructing the characters and intersecting with narrative theory in Lauren Oliver’s Delirium (2011).

Chapter V (Conclusion and suggestion)

The last chapter provides the conclusion that is drawn by the writer and the suggestion for further research.