CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the general description of the study. It consists of the background of the study, research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significant of the research, methodology, classification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature cannot be separated from stories and narratives. The study about narrative itself has been conducted and developed throughout the years. Genette (1980, p.25) in his book defines narrative as “the succession of events, real or fictitious, that are the subject of the discourse and to their several relations of linking, opposition, repetition, etc.” The theory of analyzing and studying narrative is called narratology. According to Barry (2002), narratology can be defined as the study that analyzes how narratives make meaning and the mechanism which is used in the acts of story-telling. Another definition is also offered by Culler (1997) who defines narratology as the study of narrative which “attempts to understand the components of narrative and analyses how particular narrative achieve their effects” (p.83). In sum, narratology is a study which focuses on analyzing and understanding the elements and the nature of the narrative.

The study about narratology began many years ago and it has become an area that is frequently researched in the literary field. Throughout the years, there have been many experts who studied and developed narratology such as Propp (1928), Barthes (1975), and Genette (1980). All of those experts have came up with different focus in exploring narrative; Genette for example, proposes five categories to analyze the structure of a narrative. These categories are order, duration, frequency, mood, and voice. Alongside these categories, Genette also
introduces a new term “focalization” which focuses more on understanding the perspective and ‘point of view’ inside the narrative.

Genette (1980) defines the term ‘focalization’ as a tool to determine ‘who sees’ (who focalizes) and ‘who speaks’ (who narrates) in a story. It also refers to the perspective through which the narrative is presented. Another definition is offered by Abbott (2002) who defines focalization as a lens which allows readers to see the characters and events in narrative. In other words, focalization can be referred to as “the vision” in the narrative. In explaining focalization, Genette distinguishes it into three types: zero focalization, internal focalization and external focalization. Those three types can be used as a tool to analyze a narrative, focusing on the perspective of the narrative itself.

There have been many studies on narratology especially on the topic of focalization and ‘voice’ inside narrative in recent years. For examples, Hacizade (2008) used narratological structure and focalization proposed by Genette in comparing two novels: Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte and A Hero of Our Time by Lermontov to see the similarity between the narrative methods and character traits in both novels. In 2013, Rahman and Hafeez conducted a study on James Joyce’s short story Counterparts focusing on the concept of narrator and focalization in narrative sequences. In the same year Froedge (2013) also conducted an analysis which focuses more on the differences between internal focalization and zero focalization inside the Roman epic poem Bellum Civile by Lucan. The most recent study on focalization is conducted by Clark (2014) where she used concept of focalization to find out how the focalization impacts the construction of the protagonist’s point of view in Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein.

These studies have shown the importance of focalization as a concept in analyzing the narrative’s construction, sequences and elements within the story. Therefore, the present research aims to use the concept of focalization to analyze the effect of focalization itself on the story and characters in a selected novel. By focusing on the character’s point of view and type of focalization inside the narrative, the research tries to see the connection and effect between the use of focalization and the construction of character’s point of view.
As a novel, *The Kite Runner* has many interesting points inside its narrative which can be explored, for example the use of first person view to depict the journey of the characters. Therefore, the analysis of the current research tries to see the narrative from its point of view to see the other issues within the story. To do that, theory of focalization is applied in the research. Unlike many studies on focalization in which the main character and narrator are different, *Kite Runner* gives a different vibe, where the whole story only focuses on view of character which is also doubled as narrator. Also, as the novel *Kite Runner* has not received much attention from the researchers especially on the topic of narrative’s point of view and focalization; the novel therefore has a potential to be a subject of the research. The analysis will focuses on how Amir as the narrator tells the events in the story and focalization inside the story related to the construction of Amir’s point of view as the narrator throughout the story.

1.2 Research Question

The research will be conducted to answer the following question:

- What are the effects of focalization on the story?

1.3 Aims of Research

In accordance to the research questions above, this research aims to discover how the narrator portrayed and presented the events inside the novel. It also includes the understanding of the effect of type of focalization towards the narrative in the novel.

1.4 Scope of Study

This research aims to investigate the narrative perspective and focalization inside *The Kite Runner* (2003), a book written by Khaled Hosseini. The concept used is focalization which is introduced by Genette (1980) and supported by Rimmon-Kenan (2005).
1.5 Significance of the Research

This research is expected to make a contribution to literary theory as the picture of novel analysis. The research is also expected to give new insights on the narratological study particularly in how focalization is used to analyze narrative issues within the novel.

1.6 Methodology

This research analyses the issues within a novel which focuses on how the narrator presented the narrative. In order to conduct the research, a descriptive qualitative method is applied as the research methodology.

According to Patton and Cochran (2007) “Qualitative method relates to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than number, as data for analysis” (p.2). The qualitative method is chosen because it is considered appropriate in dealing with the data description. Also it is considered appropriate to the research which employs a textual analysis towards a literary work.

The data used for the study are textual evidences taken from the narrations and dialogues of The Kite Runner book which show the use of focalization within the novel. The research also examined the narration and dialogues that imply the narrator’s point of view in constructing the story.

The collected data are classified based on the type of focalization suggested by Genette. Then the data are analyzed descriptively using Genette (1980) and Rimmon-Kenan (2005) concept of focalization to find out the effect of selected focalization towards the story and how it affects the narrator’s point of view. The conclusion of the data analysis is derived from the interpretation made towards the findings.

1.7 Clarification of Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the following is the clarification of terms will be used in the study:
1) **Narratology:**
   
   Narratology is term coined by Todorov in 1969 which focuses on analyzing narratives. According to Culler (1997, p.83) narratology is a study of narrative that attempts to understand the components of narrative and analyses how particular narrative achieve their effects”.

2) **Focalization:**
   
   Focalization is defined by Fludernik (2009) as a central constitutive element in narrative. Gennette (1980) adds that focalization refers to the perspective through which a narrative is presented.

3) **Narrator:**
   
   Fludernik (2009) defined narrator as the person who utters the words of the story. In story the narrator is divided into two Homodiegetic (first person narrator) and Heterodiegetic (third person narrator).

4) **Focalizer**
   
   According to Mieke Bal as cited in Fludernik (2009) focalizer can be defined as the person whose perspective focalization is carried out. Focalizer in some cases can be a character.

**1.8 Organization Paper**

This study will be organized into following chapters:

**Chapter 1: Introduction**

This chapter will provide the general information about the study such as the background of the study, research questions, the aims of the study, the scope of the study, the significant of the research, methodology, classification of terms, and the organization of the paper.

**Chapter 2: Theoretical Framework**

This chapter provides explanation of theories which is used in the study in order to answer the research questions.
Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This chapter covered detailed explanation of methodology and procedure used in the study. This chapter also consists of research procedures, research context, and the technique in collecting the data and how the data is analyzed.

Chapter 4: Findings and Discussion

This chapter provides the description, the critical analysis of the main subject, the findings from the analysis and textual evidence in the subject of study.

Chapter 5: Conclusion and Suggestion

This chapter presents the conclusion and suggestion towards the case study as well as making interpretation of the findings in the study.