

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of this study, which covers the overview and context of the study. It is divided into several parts, starting with the background of the study and research questions. It is then followed by purposes of the study, scope of the study, and significance of the study. The definition of key terms that are frequently used in the study is also presented. Finally, this chapter is closed with an outline of the organization of the paper.

1.1 Background

Every child in the world is born from the womb of a woman called a mother. The child and the mother eventually interact with each other to create a bond of relationship between them. Compared to the relationship between mothers and sons, mothers and daughters usually have a stronger bond because they share the same gender. Nevertheless, similar to other types of relationships, the relationship between mothers and daughters is also a relationship that is complicated. It is one-of-a-kind, with a strange mutually influencing dynamic in which each individual's creation of a relationship story is invariably shared (Bujold, 2004; Rich, 1976). This most likely happens due to mothers who are commonly the primary caregiver for children that acts as a person for daughters to share secrets with. Mothers are also the one who gives a huge amount of emotional support which make mothers role model for their daughters (Bojczyk, J, McWey, Melson, & Kaufman, 2011; Shrier, Tompsett, & Shrier, 2004). Both in real life and fiction, it is common to see daughters and mothers who hate each other, but on the other hand, they are always longing for each other's presence. They want to receive and give love from and to each other. According to Rich (1976), no matter how complicated their relationship is, mothers and daughters belong to each other and have a strong bond as mothers are the one who gave birth to their daughters. Furthermore, even though mothers and daughters are biologically linked, it is possible for them to face conflicts and relationship loss due to different passion and rapture (Rich, 1976). When the

daughter grows up, the relationship is not simply between mothers and daughters anymore but between mothers and grown-up daughters which means both are two adult females. The relationship becomes more complicated due to different desires and opinions toward the things they do that may provoke conflicts in the mother-daughter relationship. It happens because when they grow up, daughters will explore a new variety of life directions in love, work, and worldview that are possibly distinct from what the mothers have (Arnett, 2000).

Conflict is something that will always appear as a part of a human's life. It is inevitable and can give big impacts on both personal development and social structures (Jeong, 2008). In terms of conflict that happens between two persons or more, the interpersonal conflict will not only affect one's mind and personality but also give impact to the dynamic of the relationship. A close relationship is an interpersonal relationship that happens between two or more people who have a strong bond like partners, best friends, and parents and children. Canary, Cupach, & Messman (1995) state that interpersonal conflict helps people to understand about how social interaction works to enhance individual needs within a close relationship. In parent-child conflict including mother-daughter conflict, even though the appearance of conflict seems negative, in fact, it helps them to develop interpersonal relationships in different social contexts (Pianta, 1997).

Conflict is one of the important elements that must be included in any literary work and can be found in both real life and fictional works. There is at least one conflict in its plot to make an emotional ride that will arise readers' interest to continue reading the work. Without conflict, a narrative will be flat, dull and lifeless. Abbott (2002) mentions that in ancient Greek work, conflict is called as the *agon* or the spine of any Greek tragedy. Corresponding to the term 'the spine', conflict is considered as one of the most powerful elements in a narrative because a narrative will arise when there is a conflict.

Okky Madasari's *Entrok* which is translated into English version with the title *The Years of the Voiceless* tells a story of the struggle that Marni and Rahayu, two women from two different generations, need to face in fighting for women's rights in the male-dominated world in the post-colonial era in Indonesia. In the

novel, both the mother and the daughter have their own ways and perspectives which lead them into conflict and affect their relationship. The conflict in the mother-daughter relationship between Marni and Rahayu starts to appear when Rahayu hears from Mr. Waji, Rahayu's teacher, that her mother does not have a religion and is a sinner. The conflicts in their mother-daughter relationship become broader and appear more often as Rahayu grows up and becomes an adult woman. Both have different opinions on what they do to fight discrimination against women in their society. The discrimination revolves around work opportunities, roles in society, roles in relationship, and opportunity to get education for women. However, corresponding to Rich's theory (1976) that says mother and daughter will always long for each other's presence because of their strong bond, at the end of the novel Rahayu comes back to her mother and wants to atone all of her wrongdoings to Marni. It can be inferred that the conflicts between Marni and Rahayu are mostly about religious and cultural issues.

This novel then becomes feminists' favourite due to its plot that highlights efforts that women make to fight against women's oppression during the New Order period in Indonesia, from around 1966 to 1998. Thus, much research has been conducted to analyse gender roles and discrimination towards women in *The Years of The Voiceless*. By using a feminist approach, research conducted by Tirafiah (2015) and Asmarani (2017) aimed to study how sexism depicted in the novel to analyse gender emancipation fought by the Javanese female, Marni, in the male-dominated world. Another study that has been conducted through the lens of feminism found that there is discrimination toward women in the economic and social sectors in Okky Madasari's *Entrok, Maryam, and Pasung Jiwa* (Suryaningrum, Suwandi, & Waluyo, 2019).

In terms of conflict analysis, there have been several studies that analyse conflicts that happen in the main characters in a literary text. Nearly all of the research proves that there are two types of conflict, internal and external, that may happen to characters in a story. A study by Bulu (2018) aimed to analyse the conflicts that happen to the main characters in three short stories written by Edgar Allan Poe using Miles and Huberman's theory. Using the theory of conflict and

looking into psychological aspects, Dewi, Sutapa, & Suhartono (2019) found out the sources of internal conflict and the external conflicts that happen to Hannah in the movie *Thirteen Reasons Why* by Jay Asher. Another research done by Hanna (2016) found out there are social-psychological conflicts that happened to the main characters in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. There is also research done by Sipayung (2016) that analysed the conflicts that happen in Okky Madasari's *Maryam* from sociological aspects.

Most of the research on Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* focuses on the gender role and discrimination towards women, using a feminist approach. However, to the writer's knowledge, there has not been any research on this novel that focuses on the conflicts in terms of the mother-daughter relationship between Marni and Rahayu. In addition, little is known research that focuses on the conflict that happens in the interpersonal relationship of characters in a novel. Departing from this gap, this research aims to investigate the sources of conflicts and how they are played out in the mother-daughter relationship between Marni and Rahayu in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless*. This research is conducted within the framework of New Criticism by Tyson (2006), which emphasizes analyses based on the text's intrinsic elements. Hopefully, the results will be useful and contribute to the literary world in the field of conflict analysis in the mother-daughter relationship.

1.2 Research Questions

This study attempts to discuss the following problems:

1. What are the sources of conflicts and how are they played out in the mother-daughter relationship in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless*?
2. How are the conflicts resolved?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

This research aims to investigate the sources of conflicts that happen between Marni and Rahayu, mother and daughter, in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* and analyse the way the conflicts are played out and resolved.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study of conflict analysis in Okky Madasari's *The Years of the Voiceless* (2022) explores the conflict sources in a mother-daughter relationship and the way they are resolved in the novel. It focuses on analysing the dialogues, monologues, and narration that contains of conflicts that happen to the main characters in the novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This novel presents mother-daughter conflicts that happen in the middle of their struggle in fighting for women's rights in the patriarchal world. The findings of this research are expected to contribute to the literary world in the field of conflict analysis in the mother-daughter relationship. Moreover, the results obtained from analysing this novel is expected to raise awareness of women's plights and empowerment as a reflection of women's place in society.

1.6 Clarification of Key Terms

1. Conflict

It is a situation where two opposing interests appear in individuals or groups and an interactive process and disagreement happen (Rahim, 2011).

2. Conflict in Narrative

In the narrative, conflict is the core of the plot that will develop the storyline. Conflict does not always be an opposition between the good and the bad (Abott, 2002).

3. Relationship

Relationship is the state of being related or interrelated (Merriam-Webster, 2021) that can happen between human and human or between human and things.

4. Mother-daughter Relationship

A personal and abstract relation between a mother and her daughter (Rich, 1976). It is built from the time the daughter is born, breastfed until she grows up into an adult woman just like her mother.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

This paper is organized into 5 chapters as follows:

1. Introduction

This chapter presents the introductory remarks of the study that includes the rationale and the purpose of pursuing the study, the research questions, clarification of terms, and the significance of the study that explains this study's contribution to the field of cultural studies in general and young adult immigrants specifically.

2. Theoretical Framework

This section explores the fundamental theories as well as other related research that has been conducted on the current topic that is used to help to conduct this research.

3. Research Methodology

This chapter discusses the methods for collecting and analyzing the data of this research.

4. Findings and Discussion

The elaboration of the findings obtained from the data analysis is presented in this chapter. It is then discussed by referring to the research questions as well as the relevant theories.

5. Conclusion

The final chapter of this research presents the conclusion which was drawn from the overall findings. Suggestions for future research on the current topic are also presented.