

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study, consisting of background, statement of the problems, aims of the study, significance of the study, subject of the study, scope of the study, methodology, data source, data collection, data analysis, clarification of terms, and paper organization.

### 1.1 Background

Every human being changes during his or her life-time. In other words, they experience a journey and continuously develop to be a better entity. There are events in a person's life that change his or her perspective towards life. The events help them undergo a significant development in their life journey. A life journey is often adapted as story to tell in novels. One example of the novels is *A Walk to Remember*. It is a novel written by Nicholas Sparks, which tells about the maturation process of Landon Carter. He went through certain conditions in his daily life and eventually reached maturity.

The main character in a novel experiences profound changes. Novels that tell about character development are often referred to a Bildungsroman (Kershner, 1997). Bildungsroman novels address psychological and moral growth of their main character. There have been studies investigating the character development

of main character towards maturity, for example Hader (1996) who investigated the main characters in Charles Dicken's *Great Expectations*. Hader (1996) denotes Pip character's develops into a man through experiences from his early childhood until adulthood. Pip has a profound desire to improve himself and accomplishes any possible improvement, whether educational, moral, or social. He longes to marry Estella and joins the upper classes stems from the same idealistic desire as his longing to learn to read and his fear of being punished for bad behavior.

In *A Walk to Remember*, the presentation of the narrative events and the main character development could be seen and investigated through the main character's statements and thoughts. In fiction, when we notice character and events from the presentation of a character's thought, it is called focalization (Bal, 1991). In addition, Genette (1972) adds that when the presentation of character and events are based on character's thought and never presented by other character classify as an internal focalization. Thus, character's focalization will also be analyzed in this study.

Related to the detail mentioned above, the study investigates the way the main character and the narrative events of *A Walk to Remember* are developed. The study chooses to use '*A Walk to Remember*' because the study believed it is a good example of Bildungsroman novel. It depicts a round and dynamic main character. It also reveals the main character's traits, which makes the readers aware of the changes in the main character, and the reasons for the changes.

In line with that concept, the study analyzes the text in the perspective of characterization and focalization. Characterization as stated by Jones (1968) is a description of a clear image of a character in a story that could help reader to understand the character's personalities. It is used to describe the ways how the main character developed. In addition, focalization is also used to notice the presentation of the main character's statements and thoughts in revealing his character and narrative events that he had gone through in the novel (Genette, 1972).

To sum up, investigating the main character in the perspective of characterization and focalization, it is expected that the ways of the main character is developed could be comprehended as they are evident in the text and narrative events that indicate the development of the main character to his maturation as Bildungsroman could be established.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

The study is geared towards answering the following questions:

1. In what ways is the male main character developed in the novel?
2. What are the narrative events that indicate the development of the main character to his maturation?

### **1.3 Aims of the Study**

The study is aimed at:

1. Describing the ways in which the main character developed.
2. Describing the narrative events that indicate the development of the main character to his maturation.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

Firstly, this study is meant to encourage students to study more about literature. This study also provides information concerning character development in a novel, the information to study novel, as one of literary works. This study is also expected to help learners understand better how the main character develop. Most of all is that this study is meant to provide a model for those who are conducting literary study in regard to Bildungsroman novel.

### **1.5 Subject of the Study**

The subject of the study is the novel which is written by Nicholas Sparks entitled *A Walk to Remember*. The novel has been selected because the story reflects the writer's interest in analyzing character development in fiction. The events that the main character experienced in the novel, in addition, describe the main character development to his maturation as well.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

The study focuses on the excerpts such as words, utterances, expressions, and thoughts that describe the process of the main character development, Landon Carter. As a result, the writer limits the study only on Landon Carter character. The other characters are discussed only in their relation with Landon Carter.

## **1.7 Methodology**

The study employs descriptive methodology. The study describes and analyzes the character development of the main character and the events toward his maturation. The study also conducts library research in order to provide references that are relevant to the study.

### **1.7.1 Data Resources**

The data of the study are obtained from the novel *A Walk to Remember* written by Nicholas Sparks and published in 2005 by Gramedia Pustaka Utama. The novel is translated in Bahasa Indonesia and it consists of 13 chapters and 256 pages. The data are obtained from the whole chapters of the novel.

### 1.7.2 Data Collection

The data were collected from textual evidences in the novel *A Walk to Remember* that are purposively selected and directed to answer the study questions; the character development and the events in the form of words, utterances, expressions, thoughts.

### 1.7.3 Data Analysis

In analyzing the male main character's development, the study employs two devices, characterization and focalization. The collected data are categorized into table and analyzed using the certain framework that has been determined. The study employed some stages in analyzing the data:

1. Select the subject of the study
2. Formulate the statement of the problems
3. Read the novel carefully and thoroughly in order to get better understanding particularly towards the events that signify maturation in the novel
4. Execute library research related to the problems that help the study obtained relevant references in relation to the problems

5. Investigate the data appropriately with an approach and certain framework that has been determined
6. Analyze and interpret the findings
7. Conclude the findings

### **1.8 Clarification of Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding, the following is the clarification of the terms used in the study.

- 1) A novel is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity.
- 2) Character development is the way in which a character changes over time or throughout the course of a fictional story.
- 3) Focalization is a means of selecting and restricting information, of seeing events and states of affairs from somebody's point of view.
- 4) Bildungsroman is a literary genre that focuses on the personal development and maturation of a main character.
- 5) Maturity is the state of adulthood when someone is changed into a mature person, who awares and understands of his or her life.

## **1.9 Paper Organization**

### **Chapter 1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the introduction of the study, consisting of background, statement of the problems, aims of the study, significance of the study, subject of the study, scope of the study, methodology, data source, data collection, data analysis, steps of the study, clarification of terms, and paper organization.

### **Chapter 2 Theoretical Foundation**

The chapter presents the theoretical foundations of the study. The chapter discusses novel, Bildungsroman, characterization, character, focalization, and narrative events.

### **Chapter 3 Methodology**

This chapter discusses the methodology used in the study. It deals with the statement of the problems, subject of the study, data collection, data analysis, and data presentation.

### **Chapter 4 Findings and Discussion**

This chapter gives the findings, analysis, and the discussion of the study.

### **Chapter 5 Conclusion and Suggestion**

This chapter presents the conclusions of the study, which are based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter. This chapter also offers the suggestion for further study on character development.