

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the basic of the research. It contains of background of the research, statement research problems, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitations of the research, operational definition and systematic of the paper.

A. Background of the Research

As a student of Department of English Literature, it is only natural that the researcher chose a research topic that is related to Literature. The researcher also have more interest towards literature compared to other subjects. To discuss further about the research's background, the researcher will arrange it systematically, from general to specific. The first to discuss being about literature.

Literature means the body of written works of a culture, language, people, or period of time, or according to Mays (2016, p.1), literature means imaginative or creative writing, especially of recognized artistic value, e.g. fiction, poetry and drama.

Morley (2007, p.7) has a unique explanation regarding literature :

"Literature is a continent that contains many countries, languages, and countless contradictions; it is large, it contains multitudes. Its citizenship used to consist of its writers. Now there is a dual citizenship: writer-as-reader, reader-as-writer."

Novel is one of the three main kinds of literature (poetry, drama, novel), the novel is the last to evolve and the hardest to define, for reasons suggested in the name. 'A fiction in prose of a certain extent'. As Childs and Fowler states in their book:

"The fascination of the novel is that, because of its representational dimension, it raises the problem of the nature of a fiction at a point very near to familiar, unfictionalized versions of reality. The propensity of novels towards 'giving to the imaginary the formal guarantee of the real'". (2005, p.157).

Short stories and novels are fueled by plot or the set of events that propels the work forward. Not many people care to read a story without a plot and it is also difficult to imagine a bestseller wholly lacking in conflict which is the fight or dilemma that characters face (Woods, 2008, p.124).

Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces in the plot of a story, this struggle can occur between a character and an outside force such as another character, society, nature, or fate. It can also take place within a character who is faced with conflicted feelings or indecision about how to act. (The Princeton Review, 2001, p.7)

The researcher chooses the topic "conflict" as the first step to limit and avoid overabundance of material data, while at the same time to gather main and important data from the novel.

A character is any personage in a literary work who acts, appears, or is referred to as playing a part. Though personage usually means a human being, it does not have to. Whole genres or subgenres of fiction are distinguished, in part, by the specific kinds of nonhuman characters they conventionally feature,

whether alien species and intelligent machines (as in science fiction), animals (as in fables), or elves and monsters (as in traditional fairy tales and modern fantasy). All characters must have at least some human qualities, however, such as the ability to think, to feel pain, or to fall in love. (Mays, 2016, p.219).

As to why main characters are the focus of the research it is because that in the novel, most conflicts more or less involved these main characters. Why does not this research focus on one character? There's constant change of perspective throughout the novel, the story perspective is divided/or shared between multiple main characters. From this way the reader could understand what is happening around them every now and then which could be difficult if the story instead only focuses on one character only.

Symbolism or symbol, can mean an object, a person, a place, or an experience, to represent something else. The thing represented is often abstract, but it can be concrete as well. A symbol may have more than one meaning and its meaning may change during the story. (The Princeton Review, 2001, p.31)

If the research focuses only on conflicts and main characters, it is somewhat giving an impression of bland and not eye-catching. Therefore the researcher furthermore adds symbolism as another focus of the research.

Based of the statement above, the researcher is going to analyze the characters' conflicts which result in the advancement of the plot in a novel, so the researcher use the title **SYMBOLIZED MAIN CHARACTERS' CONFLICTS IN STEVEN SAVILE'S NOVEL "STELLARIS: INFINITE FRONTIERS"**.

Several note-worthy moral values of the story points to the process of acceptance, overcoming difficulties or tragedies, and making decisions carefully, while considering the risks and benefits that may occur.

Based on the aforementioned reasons, the researcher chooses to analyze plot and conflicts in Steven Savile's novel "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers". A quick summary of the novel is as follows :

Hayden Quinn is a "listener" from planet Unity, tasked to listen to space signals and analyze them in case there is some sort of alien messages. He eventually found one, a signal that contains a message from distant alien civilization, although he cannot understand the signal at first, he would later figured it out. He wants to go to investigate the source of the signal of course, he was the one who found it after all. However due to complicated political situation of the planet, Hayden would have to wait decades and decades until an expedition team and ship is ready. By then he was already too old for an interstellar journey.

B. Scope and Questions of the Research

The researcher takes the scope on "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers" novel. The scope of the research is the main characters' talk or statement in Novel "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers", in other words analyzing the main characters' conflicts in the dialogue and in the novel's narrative and certain sentences.

The scope are limited to main characters' conflicts only, support or side characters are not analyzed unless involved directly with the main characters.

Then, the important sentences in the story were taken as the context to find out the plots used in the novel and did not analyze all sentences which is used in the story. The scope and limitation are required in order to prevent extensive and broad analysis.

Based on the background study above, the questions that appear in the research are as follows:

1. What kinds of conflict can be found in the main characters in Steven Savile's novel "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers"?
2. How do the conflicts symbolize issues, events, or phenomenon that could or have happened in real life?

C. Objectives and Significance of the Research

The objectives that the researcher hopes to accomplish are :

1. To describe kinds of conflict that are found in main characters in Steven Savile's novel "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers".
2. To describe the symbolization that can be found in the conflicts.

By analyzing the plots and conflicts in a novel, it could help readers to improve the knowledge of literature fiction which could lead to the improvisation of writing capability. Therefore from this research, the researcher hopes that it will give useful contributions and advantages :

1. Learning new vocabularies.
2. Understanding symbolizations found in the novel.

3. This research can be used by other researchers as reference in the future, particularly those of qualitative method of a literature subject.

D. Operational Definition

There are three (x) variable and one (y) variable of the current research, they are as follows :

1. Symbol (x)

An object, a person, a place, or an experience, to represent something else.

The Princeton Review (2001, p.31)

2. Conflict (x)

A fight or dilemma that the characters face in a story. Geraldine Woods (2008, p.124)

3. Main Character (x)

A character that the reader see and learn over time. The Main characters can also grow and change. Kelly J. Mays (2016, p.220)

4. Novel (y)

A work of prose fiction of about forty thousand words or more. Kelly J. Mays (2016, p.30)

E. Systematization of the Paper

The researcher would like to give an outline to describe, so that it's easier for the reader to understand the structure of the paper. The researcher divides the papers by five chapters, they are:

Chapter I : Introduction

The researcher discusses about the background, introduction, question and scope of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition and systematization of the paper.

Chapter II : Theoretical review

The researcher is going to discuss the definition of literature, novel also elements of novel; includes: title, plot, conflicts (external and internal conflicts), character (protagonist and antagonist), characterization and dialogue.

Chapter III : Research method

It will discuss about research design, approaches the statement, subject of data, data source, data collection and data analysis.

Chapter IV : Research finding and discussion

It will discuss the researcher's presentation of a study of the plots and conflicts in Steven Savile's novel "Stellaris: Infinite Frontiers".

Chapter V : Conclusion and suggestion

This chapter will discuss the researcher's conclusion of own study suggestion.