

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the research

The horror genre is a genre where the writer or artist shows their work as something unusual and will give the audience some emotional response to that work. The emotions of the audience mostly will be fear and feeling sick only by seeing, reading, or hearing about that work. There are many famous stories and films that using horror genres such as *Shining* (1980), *Psycho* (1960), *Frankenstein* (1818), and many more, and from many horror story writers there is one famous writer among the other writers, his name is Howard Phillip Lovecraft or well known as H.P Lovecraft (Augustus 20, 1890 – March 15, 1937). His works bring a new type of horror into the horror genre, it is called “cosmic horror”.

Based on an article entitle *The Genre of Horror* by Mgr. Viktória Prohászková, Cosmic horror is a horror story that tells about civilization coming from outer space and conquered the Earth before humankind. Cosmic horror implies elements of science fiction and shows emotions when a person finds out something they do not know about. H.P. Lovecraft became famous for introducing this new type of horror, and also with his work in the story “The Call of Cthulhu”, people do not call horror for H.P.

Lovecraft's works, but they call it a myth “Cthulhu mythos” or “Lovecraft mythos” or “Lovecraft’s weird tales”. In this thesis writer only analyzes three of H.P Lovecraft's works, are “Dagon” (1917), “The Call of Cthulhu” (1926), and “The Dunwich Horror” (1928).

“Dagon” was written by H.P Lovecraft in 1917, this story is the second story he writes and also the beginning of his career as a horror writer. This story tells about an unnamed main character who stays in a hospital because of what happens to him several days ago and drives him nearly crazy. In the beginning, he was captured by Germany and escaped to the sea alone on a boat, after several days on the sea, he gets faint. When he wakes he finds himself on an unknown island, and after examines it, he begins to explore the island and finds a strange monolith and strange creature, after seeing those unnatural things he runs back to his boat and begins to run away. When he gains consciousness, he is already in the hospital, he tells his story to people, but no one believes him and tells he is only dreaming about the war, but at the end of the story he sees that creature again and commits suicide.

“The Call of Cthulhu” written in 1926 and this story is the beginning of the Cthulhu mythos. In this story our unnamed main character begins his weird tales after he gets some items from his dead grand uncle as a legacy, he finds a strange box which contains some letters and an idol of a creature that looks like a dragon, a human with an octopus head, and from the letters pack he also find a strange document entitled “Cthulhu Cult”. This document is divided into two parts the first one “1925-Dream and

Dream Work of H.A. Wilcox, 7 Thomas St., Providence, R.I.”, and the second “Narrative of Inspector John R. Legrasse, 121 Bienville St., New Orleans, La., At 1908 A. A. S. Mtg.- Notes on Same, & Prof. Webb’s Acct.”. After doing some research on this document he finds something strange about the story in the document and all the story is related to the strange looking idol that he just gets, and also he finds that his life is in danger because he already knows too much about it like other people who also about it, about the Cthulhu and its cult. At the end of the story his mind strain and begin to stress thinking about what will come and he thinks he needs to pass this letter to warn people what will come to them.

The third is “The Dunwich Horror” written in 1928, this story tells about a place named Dunwich where many strange things from two centuries ago such as witch-blood, satan worshipper, old legends speak of unhallowed rites and conclaves of the Indian, in now day time there are still many strange things happen such as foul odours near the hill-crowning circle of the stone pillar and rushing airy presences to be heard faintly at certain hours. The most strange thing in this place is a farmhouse at the outskirts of the village where the Whateley family lives, it was Sunday, February 2, 1913, at 5 A.M. born a child who is named Wilbur Whateley. His mother is Lavinia Whateley and without father, the most strange person and phenomena in the Dunwich such as young Wilbur can walk while he is 4 months old, can speak at 1 year old, in sort he can grow so fast, and when he walks in the village dogs will bark at him, and also he has appearances like a goat but he has good intelligence. Whateley's family

always does a ritual on the hill every Halloween and May Eve with cattle sacrifice, while leads by the old Whateley his grandfather. After old Whateley's death, he asks Wilbur to keep doing the ritual and complete the research that he doing for years. After Wilbur studies his grandfather's work he knows that he needs another book to complete it and he begins to journey along many universities to find that book. Finally, he finds it in the Miskatonic library of Arkham, the book of the mad Arab Abdul Alhazred entitle *Necronomicon*. He insists to take the book out of the library, but the keeper does not allow it and he tries to steal the book. However, he gets caught by a dog that guarding the library after he died many strange things happen again in Dunwich, where a strange entity comes and destroys the village. The scientist from the library tries to stop it by reversing the ritual that The Whateley does.

From many stories that H.P. Lovecraft writes these stories are the popular stories. Writer chose this three stories because writer argue that, this three stories is the important key to understand H.P. Lovecraft's story. First "Dagon", this is the first story H.P. Lovecraft write where he put the thing in his story, second "The Call of Cthulhu" is a story where he become famous, and the story tells about his most famous creature he ever created named Cthulhu, and third "The Dunwich Horror" is the story that defying his horror story different from other horror story, and also where many famous thing and artefact from his story mentioned. These stories take place in one universe where the stories mentioned some famous entity from the H.P. Lovecraft universe. These three stories also introduce the wicked god, creature, and things from H.P.

Lovecraft's horror story. This story makes H.P. Lovecraft is known for his cosmic horror story and the Cthulhu, and the starts of the Cthulhu mythos and what makes it known by people around the world.

With this writer will be able to know what makes H.P. Lovecraft horror story or the Cthulhu mythos or the “weird tale” of H.P. Lovecraft can survive this long and why people still think this story is kind of masterpiece. There are many followers of H.P. Lovecraft who also write cosmic horror and follow the Cthulhu mythos, where their characters are related to the elder god that was invented by H.P. Lovecraft, some names who imitate or follow H.P. Lovecraft kind of horror are, Clark Ashton Smith, Carl Jacobi, and August Derleth. Not just that H.P. Lovecraft stories are also imitated and followed in other kinds of works, such as the Davy Jones in the movie “the Pirates of the Caribbean”, this character looks like Cthulhu because they are kind of human with squid heads. In the DC universe where Batman arrests all his nemesis are references to H.P. Lovecraft because they share the same name Arkham if in Batman story Arkham is an asylum, but in H.P. Lovecraft story, it is a University where a strange book rests, the Necronomicon a dread book for conjuring demon and calling the elder god to this earth.

From this story and several factors that have already been shown before, it will be interesting to discuss about the narrative structure of this story, because this story is still followed by people until this day. From the narrative structure, we can see what makes H.P. Lovecraft's works different from other horror stories and what makes it still

relevant. And also in writer will discuss about the binary opposition in this story. Because in his works, H.P. Lovecraft always puts several elements that make his works iconic. The popular binary opposition we can find in H.P. Lovecraft's works is known vs. unknown. This research tries to find the main idea of H.P. Lovecraft's story from the narrative structure of the story and the binary opposition that appear in the story.

1.2 Identification of Problem

“Dagon”, “The Call of Cthulhu”, and “The Dunwich Horror” are famous horror stories written by H.P. Lovecraft. Where all horror written by H.P. Lovecraft is categorized as cosmic horror. People call the series of the story that's written by H.P. Lovecraft by Lovecraft mythos or the Cthulhu mythos or Lovecraft's weird tales because in that story H.P. Lovecraft shows an entity as god and one of them called Cthulhu. Where the entity is described as some kind of creature that lives outside earth and comes to earth to conquer it.

Writer argues that the stories written by H.P. Lovecraft have their own type of narrative structure and binary opposition. Writer also argues that H.P. Lovecraft's horror story has differences and similarities in narrative structure and binary opposition for each story, “Dagon”, “The Call of Cthulhu”, and” The Dunwich Horror”. Writer also believes that H.P. Lovecraft constructs his story quite differently from other writers on the narrative structure side. H.P. Lovecraft's story has interesting binary opposition to discuss because it is resolved around knowledge and imaginary god or

monster. Therefore, this study reveals how H.P. Lovecraft constructs his story in order to help readers to understand what H.P. Lovecraft trying to tell in his story.

1.3 Scope of Research

As mentioned above, this research focuses on analyzing the narrative structure and binary opposition of H.P. Lovecraft's story. The stories that writer will use are “Dagon”, “The Call of Cthulhu”, and “The Dunwich Horror”. Writer chose to discuss about narrative structure because writer wants to find the similarity and how H.P. Lovecraft construct his story. Writer also discuss about the binary opposition in the H.P. Lovecraft’s story to finds what is the main idea of H.P. Lovecraft story.

1.4 Research Question

In order to focus on the analysis, writer will create some questions to guide the writer while doing the research, the questions are:

1. What is the narrative structure of H.P Lovecraft horror stories?
2. How does binary opposition construct H.P. Lovecraft horror stories?

1.5 Objective of the research

The aim of this research is to find the narrative structure and binary opposition of H.P. Lovecraft's horror story. By doing this research, we may know how H.P. Lovecraft construct his horror story and to find the main idea his story. This research

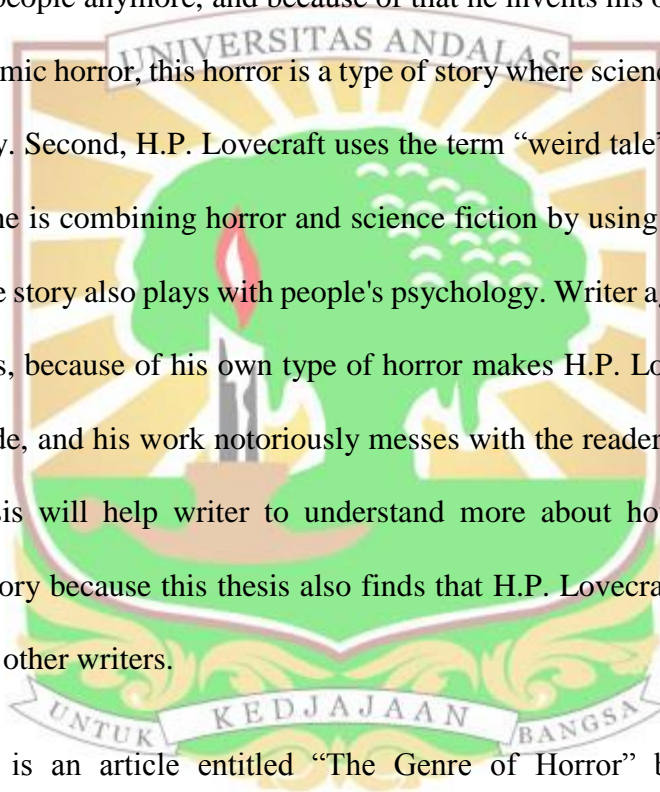
will help readers to understand H.P. Lovecraft's story because he usually writes the story in a different way other than other writers. Because H.P. Lovecraft's story is a quite weird and confusing story when a reader read it without knowing what it is about. Additionally, this research is to enrich the analysis of H.P. Lovecraft's story in the literary work study.

1.6 Review of Previous Studies

While conducting this research writer found previous studies in the form of thesis and journal articles that also analyze H.P. Lovecraft's stories and narrative structure. Writer uses these thesis and journal articles as support for the research that writer does.

The first previous study, Carolina Nuñez and Felipe Real (2008), in their discussion with the title "*Evaluation in Horror Narrative: The Case of Lovecraft's 'Dagon'*". They said that the cooperative between the narrator and the reader of a text is an important thing, because in this type of story where the narrator of the story is also the main character. This makes the story more realistic and makes the reader feels the tension of the story. Writer quite disagree with the research because in H.P. Lovecraft's stories, most of the narrator is not the main character, especially in "The Dunwich Horror", the narrator only narrating the story. In the other hand, writer believe this research will help writer to understand H.P. Lovecraft's story more, especially "Dagon", where it is the main discussion in the research from Carolina Nuñez and Felipe Real.

Next is “Out of the Shadows: A Structuralist Approach to Understanding Out of the Shadows: A Structuralist Approach to Understanding the Fiction of H. P. Lovecraft” by James A. Anderson (1992). In his thesis, he tells why H.P. Lovecraft's horror story becomes famous horror story, the reasons are first, in his story H.P. Lovecraft did not use the traditional gothic horror anymore because that type of horror did not interest people anymore, and because of that he invents his own type of horror what we call cosmic horror, this horror is a type of story where science fiction combine with horror story. Second, H.P. Lovecraft uses the term “weird tale” for his story, not horror because he is combining horror and science fiction by using fantasy to deliver the story, and the story also plays with people's psychology. Writer agrees with James's idea in his thesis, because of his own type of horror makes H.P. Lovecraft known by people worldwide, and his work notoriously messes with the reader's psychology and mind. This thesis will help writer to understand more about how H.P. Lovecraft constructs his story because this thesis also finds that H.P. Lovecraft writes his story differently from other writers.



Then, there is an article entitled “The Genre of Horror” by Mgr. Viktória Prohászková (2012), in her article she argues that horror genre is a paradox genre, it attracts its follower with the image that they show in the story. She also says in the H.P. Lovecraft story sacred horror can evoke sacred dread, where a sacred type of horror can be related to religion. This article shows how can H.P. Lovecraft's story still lives and grow until this time, and why his works influenced many things now a day. This

article is quite different from what writer discusses in this research, but this article also explains about the type of horror and the idea that is used by H.P. Lovecraft in his story. This article can help writer to find the main idea of H.P. Lovecraft's story, based on the binary opposition of the story.

Another previous study is an article entitled "Traditional Narrative Structure" – not traditional so why the norm?" By Krystina S. Madej, Ph.D. (2008). She argues that in the narrative of a story the climax point is the important one and puts the other stage of the narrative structure behind. Writer quite not agree with Krystina's point in her article because in H.P. Lovecraft's story the actual and interesting point is when the main character solves the problem. However, this article will help writer in conducting the research, especially about the narrative structure, because this article focus about narrative structure and how narrative structure impact the story. Even Krystina did not do research about H.P. Lovecraft, her explanation about how narrative can be different and what the impact is really helpful in this research.

In addition, writer also found a thesis with the title "H.P. Lovecraft and The Creation of Horror" by Saijamari Mannikko (2002). From this research, Saijimari found that in H.P, Lovecraft and his text humans are not enough to create a monstrous fear, for H.P. Lovecraft he calls it "the worst human fear", and also he argues that, opinion, mood, and atmosphere are more important than the plot in the H.P. Lovecraft's text. Writer quite agrees with this research because, in his story, H.P. Lovecraft rarely uses humans as "the thing" that fear by another human, and also the plot in the story is

so weak, not so intense for a horror story. This thesis by Saijamari Mannikko help writer to do the research in binary opposition because he discusses the idea and concept of horror in H.P. Lovecraft's story.

Another previous study that writer found is a thesis by Olivia Fernández Ozores, with the title "The Gothic Tradition in H.P. Lovecraft: An Analysis of "The Call of Cthulhu" (2016). In this thesis, Olivia explains about gothic literature and the differences between the British and American gothic, Olivia states that in his work H.P. Lovecraft uses both British and American gothic because in H.P. Lovecraft's story he shares some elements from other horror stories. With this thesis writer quite agree because writer also found that in H.P. Lovecraft some elements from other horror stories, but in H.P. Lovecraft's story he did not use ghost, monster, or ghoul to create horror but different things that no human ever encounter before. This thesis can help writer to better understand H.P. Lovecraft's story especially "The Call of Cthulhu" also can help writer to find the narrative structure and binary opposition in the story.

With combining the information that writer gets from the previous study above will help writer do research. Those studies before did not only focus on H.P. Lovecraft's story, but also on narrative structure and binary opposition study. Some of the studies help writer to understand how narrative structure can impact a story. Some of it helps writer to find the idea in H.P. Lovecraft's story where it can be discussed in binary opposition.