

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

“Desires move us to action, give us urges, incline us to joy at their satisfaction, and incline us to sorrow at their frustration.” (Schroeder 1) It is pictured from the quotation that desire is like a machine that moves people or acts as the power to do something in order to achieve what we want. The word “want” itself the writer believe is some kind of clue of a desire.

In this research, the pursuit of desire become the main topic that is analyzed. The object of analysis is a fiction, especially in high fantasy where “These fantasies involve adventures with a search, quest, and motif. While this quest could be a pursuit for a higher purpose like justice and love, or for getting a reward like hidden treasure or a magical power, the conflict of heroic fantasies focuses on the struggle between evil and good.” (literary devices editors)

The writer convinces that in order to reveal the pursuit of desire from a novel, analyzing the text itself offers many advantages, such as advantages regarding the understanding of the intrinsic elements of the novel and the advantages regarding the pieces of evidence that shows the pursuit of desire itself. Therefore, the writer chooses to study George R.R. Martin *A Game of Thrones* from intrinsic elements.

The writer considered George R.R. Martin *A Game of Thrones* as Epic/High Fantasy. Besides the presence of imaginary creatures, the story also contains the

struggle and effort that is done toward a certain goal which picturing the pursuit of the desire of the characters. This novel is included in a bestseller series called *A Song of Ice and Fire*. “...one of the most obvious is the titanic success of George R. R. Martin, the present and future king of The New York Times best–seller list” (Orr) The series consist of seven books with five books that already published. This book already adapted to a tv series by HBO. The series is named *Game of Thrones* and enjoyed by people around the world. The first episode of the season one aired on late 2009 and the show still going on with the latest episode of season 6 which aired on June 26, 2016 (Faulkner).

There has not much research have been done using this novel as a subject. Especially the research that focuses only on the structure of the novel itself. Thus, the writer is challenged to analyze *A Game of Thrones* to reveal the hidden theme of the novel using two theories from A.J. Greimas, the writer believes that the structuralism by Greimas is reliable to analyze this work.

As the focus of this study, the writer analyzes the intrinsic structure of *A Game of Thrones* and subsequently analyzes the character’s action in a structure to reveal the hidden theme of this novel that the writer believes is the pursuit of desire. Thus, the writer entitles her study The Pursuit of Desire in George R.R. Martin *A Game of Thrones*.

1.2 The Identification of Problems

The writer argues that the problems which become the issues of this novel are the complicated of the structure seen from the way the structure is formed, the pursuit of desire that is described in the novel, and the evidence that is found in order to to reveal the theme of this novel.

1.3 The Scope of the Research

Based on the problems above, the writer limits the research on several points. First, the structure of the novel that is analyzed is plot and character and each element only focus on four characters that is chosen by the writer. The writer believes that the author presents both elements complicatedly in each character in the story. Second, the analysis focused on how the pursuit of desire is described in the novel using the study of structuralism that later reveals the hidden theme of this novel.

1.4 Research Questions

This research will answer the following questions:

1. How is the complexity of the novel pictured by the author?
2. How does the novel show the pursuit of the desire of the characters?
3. How is the main theme of this novel pictured from the structure analysis?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Firstly, this research is aimed to explain the complexity of the novel that is seen from the structure of the novel itself. Second, this research is aimed to show how the pursuit of desire is shown by the author in the novel. Third, this research

is aimed to see the use of structural analysis to reveal the main theme of this novel. Finally, the writer believes that this research will be a part of a bigger research in literature field.

1.6 Review of Related Studies

In this section, the writer has included five related studies that are related to this research. The studies are divided into three categories. The first two studies are analysis on literary works using the same tools or theory as this research, meanwhile, the following studies are analyzing the same topic as this research which is desire. The last one is a previous study that discusses the same object as this research which is the novel *A Game of Thrones*. The previous study that is included here is very important and very helpful to this research. They have helped the writer to understand more about the elements that are related to this study. In order to show how helpful the studies are, the details of each of them are presented as follows.

Peisa (2008) in his master thesis entitled *The Unable Individual: The Actantial Analyses of Three Chinese Films and Discussion on Their Representation of the Individual's Position in Contemporary Chinese Society* concentrates on to discover the pessimistic criteria of the characters from the three films. Using Greimas' theory, he found out that the character in all movies failed to reach their goal, but the pessimist characteristic still shines out of the plot. All three movies considered have a complex story and dynamic plot, the writer found that Peisa gives proof that Greimas' theory is suitable to analyze a complex story.

Thus, the writer found this thesis is really helpful in order to get the method for analyzing the literary works.

In another hand, Kinanti Resmi Hayati (2013) also has done a research on the character's personality, she focuses on the loyalty of the character in *Wuthering Heights*. Hayati argues that this novel is complex because the character in the story has an inner conflict that leads the character to face many problems. In this research, Hayati shows a complex actant chart where there are two characters that take part in one actant. But with the logical explanation and plot analysis that is done by Hayati, the result of the analysis is clear and the loyalty or the goal of this research is achieved.

Two previous studies explain about the use of Greimas' theory in analyzing literary works. On the other hand, the other two following studies will talk more about the same topic, desire. Tim Schroeder (2006) has given us the general definition of desire and several issues that are related to it. Firstly, in order to gain knowledge about desire, the writer sees Schroeder success in revealing the differentiate between desire, need, and want. He elaborates each point with the example that makes it easy for the reader to understand and avoid the ambiguity that will come if someone misunderstood the three terms. Secondly, in his study, Schroeder makes an explanation differentiate each desire relation with motivation, pleasure, and reward. The study shows that desire is a famous topic to be discussed by researcher and of course, each researcher gets different result. The way Schoeder point out the results is another good point of this study. His study really makes the reader got the information that is needed and the writer believes

that with many researches mention in the study will also help to gain more knowledge from it.

Furthermore, in order to understand about desire deeper, the previous study also included here, a research done by Chuan-hui Hung entitled *Carrie Meeber's Desire and Vanity in Theodore Dreiser's Sister Carrie* (2014). The focus of this research is to see how the author of the novel shows the desire and vanity of the main character that is pictured in Carrie's adventure in the City. In this study, Hung do not divide the content of his study by sub-chapter. The analysis starts with the abstract and continues like a flowing water till the end. The writer does not certain which paragraph that differentiate between the introduction, the analysis, and conclusion. The writer believes that with divided its content in forms of number/subchapter will make it easier for the reader to understand the point and focus of the study.

Additionally, the writer also put a review of a study that discusses the same object that is the novel *A Game of Thrones* itself. In the study entitled *Politics, Hidden Agendas and a Game of Thrones*, Elin Sandqvist (2012) analyzing the power hierarchy especially focuses on women's positions and the way women use their sexuality in access the power. In the study, he does not only focus on the women character but also he uses the men character to compare their social and cultural categories in the society. Sandqvist uses the scheme of hierarchy that he made based on the novel to analyze the characters to find their value in the society. Sandqvist gives us so much information about the novel before he going into the analysis. The writer believes that by presented it in this way, even the reader that

have not read the novel will be able to understand the whole study. He explains the plot without making it like story telling and he gives the important information that he will use for the analysis.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

The study of structuralism concerns with the structural pattern of literary works. The term 'structuralist' comes from the realization that every element in any situation that exists do not stand by itself, it must have relation with another element that take part in the same situation (Hawkes 18), whereas Peter Barry said that "... its essence is the belief that things cannot be understood in isolation – they have to be seen in the context of the larger structures they are part of." (39) Moreover, structuralism ignored all the influences from outside the text like history or biography of the author, it focuses only on the text, like formalism. But there is also the difference between these two approaches, formalism employ form, and composition while structuralism handles the structure and function because it believes that text forms a meaning in it.

A. J. Greimas is one of the theorists that grow structuralism into a different point of view. Greimas developed his idea of Propp's theory of Russian fairy stories. While Propp only sees a single genre, Greimas attempted his theory to be applied in the bigger field. Greimas believes that meaning is produced by human being by looking at opposite pairs, cited from Tyson, "'A is is the opposite of B'" and "-A (the negation of A) is the opposite of -B (the negation of B).'" (224) based on the citation, it can conclude that there are two aspects, the first one is opposite (like ugly and beautiful) and the other is a negation (ugly is the negation

of beautiful). From this idea, Greimas conclude that “... this fundamental structure of binary oppositions, consisting of four components arranged in two pairs, shapes our language, our experience, and the narratives through which we articulate our experience.” (Tyson 224-225) Those opposite express plot formulas like conflict and resolution, struggle and conciliation, and separation and union.

Later, the ideas of plot formula brought by means of actants. Actants are “slots filled by the actual character (surface phenomena) in a given story.” (225)

Louis Hébert describes actant model as:

”The actantial model is a device that can theoretically be used to analyze any real or thematized action, but particularly those depicted in literary texts or images. In the actantial model, an action maybe broke down into six components, called actants. The actantial analysis consists of assigning each element of the action being described to the various actantial classes.” (71)

Based on Greimas’ theory, there are six actants and three pairs of oppositions, they are:

- Subject – object, Stories of Quest/Desire (a subject, or hero, searches for an object: a person, thing, or state of being)
- Sender – receiver, Stories of Communication (a sender - a person, god, or institution - sends the subject in search of the object, which the receiver ultimately receive)

- Helper –opponent, Subplots of Stories of Quest/Desire (a helper aids the subject in the quest; an opponent tries to hinder the subject) (Tyson, 225)

By using Greimas' actant chart, the characters of the story will take part in each actant and by seeing their interaction with each pair, the plot of the story will show up and help the researcher that use this model to reach their goal. Thus, the writer uses this theory to analyze the pursuit of desire in *A Game of Thrones*.

In addition, the writer also use the Canonical Narrative Schema (CNS).

According to Hebert (2011), CNS is:

“a tool used in Greimasian semiotics, can be used to describe an action as a structure consisting of five components.

- (1) The action component can be broken down into two components itself:
- (2) competence, which includes the conditions that are necessary in order to accomplish the action (wanting-to-do, having-to-do, knowing-how-to-do, and being-able-to-do) and
- (3) performance, the actual accomplishment of the action, made possible by the acquisition of competence.
- (4) Manipulation is the component that deals specifically with wanting-to-do and having-to-do.
- (5) The last component, sanction, has to do with evaluating whether the action was in fact accomplished, and the corresponding

retribution (reward or punishment) that the performing subject has incurred.” (Hebert, 68)

The writer believes that by using both actant chart and the canonical narrative schema, the aims of this research will be achieved.

1.8 Methods of the Research

In conducting this research, there are three steps that the writer will follow. The first step is collecting data. In collecting data for this research, the writer will use Library research methods; do a deep close reading with the primary data which is the text George R. R. Martin’s *A Game of Thrones*, and the secondary data which are the supporting data about the related issues of desire, structure, narrative, actant chart, and canonical narrative schema is obtained from the collection of books, journal, article, essay, and other relevant sources that able to find by browsing the internet.

The second step is analyzing the data, the writer reads, understands, and analyzes the primary data using the structuralist point of view, the writer will focus the analysis on character’s action and use Greimas’s actant chart as a tool to guide the analysis. Each character will take part as the subject in each actant chart, while another character acts in a different part. The relationship between each character in actant chart will show the plot of the story. The writer will analyze the main characters’ struggle while facing the problems that shown in the story. After that, by using the canonical narrative schema, the writer will explain each character challenging journey to see their pursuit of desire. The research is going to be a qualitative research. The writer will describe the data descriptively.

The last step is presenting the result of analysis using descriptive analysis, the writer will report the analysis descriptively about the structural analysis of main characters' action in facing the problems in George R. R. Martin's *A Game of Thrones*.

