

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of Research

According to Emily Lyle, narrative may be the way to read clearer messages that is implied in a story (2006: 68). The narrative pattern proposed by Tzvetan Todorov is a way to understand the underlying meaning behind a story. In this case, the inside look of the structure of the stories is crucial to understand the meaning. For example, if we want to know the common thread that a couple of short stories have, we have to look at the narrative pattern. Carlos Amador Espinosa Torres in his article states that the theme of loneliness and isolation has been one of the biggest focuses in literature (2013: 4). Therefore, loneliness is the main focus of this research.

*Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* is one of the short stories anthologies. The compilation is written by Alice Munro, a Canadian English writer who was born in Wingham, Ontario, Canada on July 10<sup>th</sup> 1931. Her novels mostly consist of short stories collection. Munro attended University of Western Ontario, studying about journalistic and English from 1949 to 1952, but she moved to Vancouver without finishing it. Her stories commonly set in her native Canada, a small town where she grew up in, and explore human relationships through ordinary everyday events.

Munro's first short story was published in a student literary magazine in 1950, and since then many short stories have been published in respectable newspapers and magazines, such as *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, and *Atlantic Monthly*. She has received Canadian Booksellers Association Award for her novel consists of interlinked stories, *Lives of Girls and Women* in 1973. Munro was the winner of the Man Booker International Prize in 2009. After that, in 2013, she was the first short story writer to

won a Nobel Prize in Literature. Her stories have been adapted into movies, such as *Away from Her* and *Hateship, Loveship*.

*Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* consists of nine short stories, they are 1) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, 2) “Floating Bridge”, 3) “Family Furnishings”, 4) “Comfort”, 5) “Nettles”, 6) “Post and Beam”, 7) “What is Remembered”, 8) “Queenie”, and 9) “The Bear Come Over the Mountain”, which all of the main characters are women. The four of the stories are the focus of the writer’s research. Those are *Queenie* (1998), *Floating Bridge* (2000), *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage* (2001), and *Comfort* (2001). Those four stories were chosen for having similarities in their narrative pattern. It is why Tzvetan Todorov’s Narratology, that consist of propositions and sequences used to explain the similarities. The writer suspects that Munro uses loneliness as the major point. Therefore, the title of this research is, “**Loneliness in Alice Munro’s Selected Short Stories from *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage***”.

## 1.2. Identification of the Problems

The four short stories that the writer intends to analyzed are; (1) “Queenie”, (2) “Floating Bridge”, (3) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and (4) “Comfort”. They are assumed to have similar narrative structure. Observing narrative pattern of those selected stories, it can be seen that loneliness is the main issue. Since loneliness is one of the greatest focuses in literature; it is assumed that the author has put the sense of loneliness in her stories. The loneliness itself is believed to be felt by the main woman characters, and it has the writer supposed as the main idea used by the author in most of her stories. The four main female characters, Johanna, Jinny, Nina,

and Queenie, seem to feel lonely at the beginning of the stories, then throughout the stories they experience similar pattern that will be discussed later on this research.

### **1.3. Scope of the Research**

This research is essentially an intrinsic analysis, since it will deal with the issue of loneliness that leads to eventual happiness and the journey to make it happen as seen in the short stories compilation by Alice Munro entitled *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. (1) “Queenie”, (2) “Floating Bridge”, (3) “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, and (4) “Comfort” are the chosen stories to be analyzed. The narrative pattern, which generally consists of plots and characters, is being studied to find the similarities by the writer.

### **1.4. Research Questions**

In this research, the writer focuses on Alice Munro’s four short stores from her collection *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, they are (1) Queenie, (2) Floating Bridge, (3) Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage, and (4) Comfort by applying structuralism approach, specifically narratology. Each narrative structure has resembling propositions, then sequences that will lead to similar semantic aspect, which is the theme. This research will focus on answering these following questions:

1. How does Munro narrate the loneliness in her stories?
2. What are the similarities in the narrative pattern?

### **1.5. Objective of the Research**

The objective of the research is to recognize the similar narrative pattern that the author uses. The author uses similar focus in the four short stories, in which loneliness that is experienced by the main female characters. The four short stories provide some

proof to show the readers what the writer is talking about. By describing the proposition, the sequences, and the semantic aspect, it will reveal the main focus of the stories. The stories going to reveal that loneliness that the main women characters feel are going to end up in happiness. Therefore, focusing on loneliness that is leading to happiness is essential for this research. The author herself, by linking loneliness and happiness, has proven that even though we are at our lowest point of life, we will find the light at the end of the tunnel.

### 1.6. Review of Related Studies

Alice Munro, as one of the greatest short stories writers, has won many accolades for her works. One of her best collections is *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. It is no wonder that many people have studied it. The writers will reviews some of the studies to support the research.

The first review is from an undergraduate student, Vyola Lovely Permata entitled *Female Voice about Love and Affair in Alice Munro's Three Stories in Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*, in which she assumes that Alice Munro is a feminist writer. Munro prides herself of being a feminist because she thinks that the experience of women is important. Munro devotes her writings to women's social and political standing as well as women's freedom. The same thought as Permata, knowing that according to Tyson (2006: 85) that traditional gender role cast men as strong and superior while women as weak and inferior. Loneliness is something that most people think as a weakness. Coincidentally, the main characters that the writer intends to analyze are all women.

The second review is from the book called *Possibility-Space and Its Imaginative Variations in Alice Munro's Short Stories* by Ulrica Skagert that was published in 2005,



in which she states that Alice Munro's fictions display a deceptively simple surface reality, that usually seen in everyday life, yet reveals unexpected complexity about fundamentals of human experience: love, choice, mortality, faith, and the force of language. This book studies about the exploration of Munro's stories in terms of the complexity of emotions in the face of ordinary events of life and their emerging possibilities (2005: 6). Based on the statements above, the writer believes that Munro is one of the writers that take emotions as a core subject in her stories. Moreover, the writer considers loneliness as one of human emotions that is very complex due to how it happens and how to stop it, yet it is also very simple, since loneliness can happen even when there are other people around.

The third review is from a journal article entitled "Individual and Social Isolation as a Consequence of Human Interaction in Faulkner's *Light in August* and Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*" written by Carlos Amador Espinosa Torres. He claims that, the theme of isolation in literature has been a subject matter that are also concern about social problem that portray the feelings solitude, loneliness or alienation often portrayed in the characters' personality. Hence, isolation, therefore loneliness, has been one of the greatest focuses on literature.

The last review is from Andalas University's undergraduate, Leony Trisna, in the thesis entitled, *The Narrative Pattern of Three Kate Chopin's Selected Short Stories* ("*The Storm*", "*A Respectable Woman*" and "*A Pair of Silk Stockings*"). Trisna states that fiction is made in a proper way to entertain and to be read. To read or to understand it, fiction has structure, where all the elements work together to build a story. From the statement above, the writer understands that in understanding a fiction, one must know the structures that build up the story so that they know the meaning behind it.

### **1.7. Theoretical Framework**

As it has been explained, the narratology is applied to examine the similarities of the narrative structures of the four short stories. According to Charles E. Bressler in the book, *Literary Criticism: an Introduction to Theory and Practice*, when we apply structuralism to a literary work, the principle of finding meaning becomes revolutionary. (1994: 94). The writer is certain that by applying structuralism, the writer does not need to look at other aspects, such as psychology, sociology, etc.

### **The Narrative Theory**

Tzvetan Todorov invented the French term *narratologie* (“narratology”) in the 1969’s book *Grammaire du “Décaméron,”*. Todorov models narratology from linguists, such as Roland Barthes and Saussure’s *parole* and *langue*. Todorov states that narratologists see narrative to their basic structure units such as characters, events, etc (2005: 19).

Hawkes, in the book of *Structuralism and Semiotics*, states that, “Every work, every novel, tells through its fabric of events the story of its own creation, its own history . . . the meaning of a work lies in its telling itself, its speaking of its own existence” (2003: 91). The term Narratology, Todorov defines into two, propositions and sequence.

#### **1.7.1. Propositions**

According to Todorov’s *Grammaire du Décaméron*, as quoted by Hawkes (2003: 77), “Propositions are the basic elements of syntax. They consist of ‘irreducible’ actions which act as the fundamental units of the narrative: e.g. ‘X makes love to Y’. In practice such a unit may appear as a series of related propositions, e.g. ‘X decides to leave home’; ‘X arrives at Y’s house’ and so on”. For example using one of the

character's in the short stories that the writer has chosen, Johanna as X, X is a single woman, X receives string of letter from Y, X meets Y, X marries Y, it means that it has four propositions.

### 1.7.2. Sequence

A sequence is a related collection or string (*'une certaine suite'*) of propositions capable of constituting a complete and independent story. Here, the writer has put the summary of sequence so that the readers would understand easier:

Equilibrium A	The state where the story is as it should be.
Force I s	The disturbance of that order by an event.
Disequilibrium o	An acknowledgement that the chaos has occurred.
Force II r	The attempt to repair the damage caused by the disturbance.
Equilibrium II	The restoration of a new equilibrium.

may contain many sequences: it must contain at least one (2003: 77). Dorothy J. Hale in the book, *An Anthology of Criticism and Theory*, that “an ‘ideal’ narrative plot begins with a stable condition then disturbed by some power of force. The result is the state of disequilibrium; by the action of the force directed in the opposite direction, the equilibrium is re-established; though the second and first equilibrium are never identical” (2012: 11).

### 1.7.3. Semantic Aspects

According to Tzvetan Todorov in his book *Qu'est-ce que le Structuralisme 2. Poetique*, as quoted by Sofia Rangkuti et al, that semantic aspects is used to analyze the meaning of the story (2013:87-88). By knowing the meaning, the readers automatically understand the theme or the main idea in a story. Semantic aspects itself, will be focused solely on the result from propositions and sequences. Therefore, the writer will show loneliness that the writer believes is the major theme, and the journey to fulfill the five stages of sequences.

## **1.8. Method of the Research**

This research is basically a qualitative research, which all the findings will be written in the form of words and paragraphs instead of numbers. In conducting this research, three steps are used. First, collecting the data. Second, analyzing the data. Third, presenting the result.

### **1.8.1. Collecting the Data**

There are two kinds of data used in this research, primary data and secondary data. The primary sources are the four short stories, “Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage”, “Floating Bridge”, “Comfort”, and “Queenie” from Alice Munro’s short stories anthologies, *Hateship, Friendship, Courtship, Loveship, Marriage*. The primary source is supported by the secondary source that is taken from various literary books, article journal, and internet websites that are related to narrative pattern, loneliness, and Alice Munro’s works analysis. The primary and secondary sources are obtained by using the library research.

### **1.8.2. Analyzing the Data**



The second step is analyzing the data. In analyzing the data there are some steps are used. First, the writer read all nine short stories in the compilation to get a better understanding, then chose four out of nine due to the likeness in the issue. Then, the writer underlined the proof to support the topic of the research. Lastly, the writer read the supporting ideas from literary books, article journals, and internet websites to verify the writer suspicion.

### **1.8.3. Presenting the Data**

The last step is presenting the result of the research. Seeing as this research a qualitative one, the method that is used in presenting the result of the research is descriptive method. Therefore, the result will be presented through descriptive form.

