

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Research

Happiness is important in people's life. They will do everything to get happiness. They will try to search for it. There is a lot of way in finding happiness. It depends on how the person defines the happiness itself. If someone thinks that happiness is equal to being rich and then that person will find a way to become a rich person like finding a job with high salary for example. If someone thinks that happiness is more about the feeling of joy, the contentment and then they will try to find a way to feel these emotions like being with the person they loved or doing the activities that they enjoy like traveling, watching dramas, read books, etc.

Pollyanna is one of novel that talks about happiness. *Pollyanna* can be categorized as classic children book. Even though it is not famous as *Charlotte's Webb*, *The Secret Garden*, *Alice's Adventure in Wonderland*, it still has it own reputation. Following the success of the novel, the sequel is up in the next 14 years written by various authors. Not only that, the novel also encourages people to join *The Glad Club*. *The Glad Club* is a club where the members practice *The Glad Game* in their everyday lives.

The novel is written by an American writer named Eleanor H Porter. She was born on Littleton, New Hampshire on 19th December 1868. She studied singing at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and gained a local reputation as singer. Her singing career still going on even after she married a businessman named John L.Porter in 1892. In 1901, she abandoned her singing career and start pursuing writing. There are several works of hers which are *Cross Currents* (1907), *The Turn of the Tide* (1908), *The*

story of Marco (1911), *Miss Billy* (1911), *Pollyanna* (1913), etc. *Pollyanna* is her notorious works among the others. It was adapted into the theater, television and screen production.

The novel itself evolves around the life of an orphan girl named Pollyanna whose father has just passed away at the beginning of the novel. She is in deep sorrow but then she tries to cheer up with the help of a game called *The Glad Game*. The game itself was invented by her father whose purpose is to find anything to be glad about in any kind of situation. She decides to play the game in order to be happy so that she can move on with her life. With the help of the game, she finds a reason to smile even in the worst situation. Soon after that, she also tries to make other people in Beldingsville to play the game. In the end, the game helps in making the citizen's life better than before. Just like Pollyanna, they succeed in finding something to be glad about. The game helps the Beldingsville citizens to have a better and happy life.

The summary above clearly shows how one person can spread happiness and how one simple action can bring happiness and create a better life than before. Therefore, the writer believes that happiness is the most significant issue in this novel. The writer believes that Eleanor H. Porter shows this message through the formal/intrinsic elements of the novel, therefore, the writer uses New Criticism in analyzing this novel.

Many researchers use New Criticism in analyzing heavy works which have political messages or the one which is full of criticism toward society. Many researchers tend to ignore children's literature because the intended readers are children. Therefore, the works are assumed be simple so that the children can catch the message of the novel. However, children's literature is not simple as it looks. Some authors even used ironies

and paradoxes in delivering the message in children's literature. This situation occurs in *Pollyanna*. The novel looks very simple at a glance, but careful reading shows that Eleanor H. Porter uses ironies, paradoxes and ambiguities in delivering the message (the content). Therefore, to see the message of this novel, close reading or explicating the intrinsic elements one by one is highly needed.

1.2. The Identification of the Problem

Each literary work utilizes some formal elements to deliver its content (message), like symbols, elements of fiction and many others. In the novel *Pollyanna*, happiness is the central issue because the story is about Pollyanna, an orphan girl who plays *The Glad Game*. *The Glad Game* is a game which is aimed to find happiness in any condition. Pollyanna does not play the game alone, she also invites other people to play the game. The game has a significant impact in the player's life. It helps them finding their happiness. Happiness which is at the beginning of this novel only a part of the game then transformed into real happiness for each character. It confirms that it is important to make an effort to get happiness and that it is the content of the novel.

1.3. Scope of the Research

This research is an objective research which focuses on analyzing the formal elements and the content of the novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor Hodgman Porter. To analyze the research problems, the writer will use New Criticism particularly the formal elements that support the delivery of the content of this novel.

1.4. The Research Questions

This research is to answer the following questions:

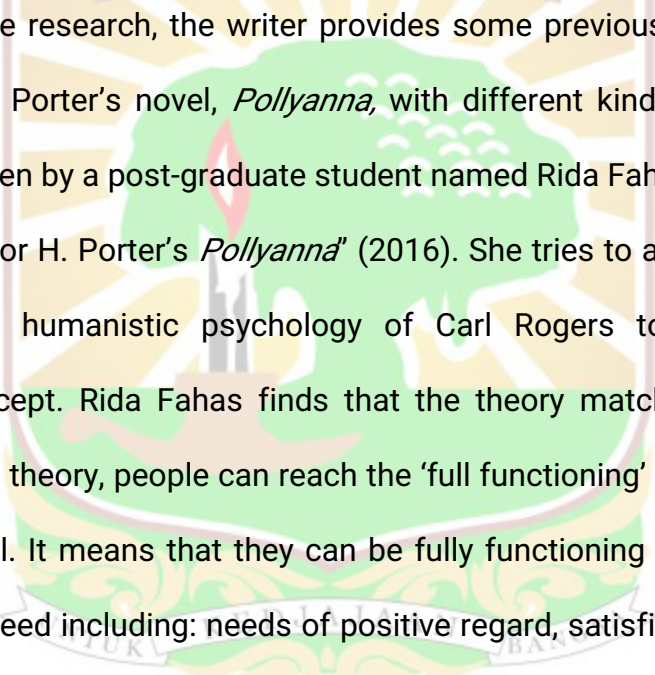
1. What are the formal elements employed in the novel?

2. How do those elements support the content, so that they form organic unity in the novel?

1.5. Objective of The Research

The main objective of this novel is to explicate the novel's formal elements to see how solid the novel is. By doing so, this research can show the strongest elements of the novel.

1.6. Review of Related Studies



In conducting the research, the writer provides some previous studies which have analyzed Eleanor H. Porter's novel, *Pollyanna*, with different kind of issues. First, the research article written by a post-graduate student named Rida Fahas entitle "Optimistic View of Life in Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna*" (2016). She tries to analyze Porter's novel *Pollyanna* by using humanistic psychology of Carl Rogers to analyze the main character's self-concept. Rida Fahas finds that the theory matches with Pollyanna's character. In Roger's theory, people can reach the 'full functioning' level if they pass one level to another level. It means that they can be fully functioning people if their needs are fulfilled. Those need including: needs of positive regard, satisfied with the condition of worth and satisfied with unconditional positive regard. Rida Fahas is able to prove that Pollyanna indeed experienced the three level thus becoming a fully functioning person at the end.

Rida Fahas did a good job in providing the basic information about Eleanor H. Porter's novel, *Pollyanna* but there is some part that she needs to elaborate more to make readers understand more about the issue that she talks about. Nevertheless, the writer still finds this piece of writing useful for her research. It gives the writer more

information about human's psychology and how we analyze it in literary works.

The second is an online article from The Huffington Post entitled "The Perils and Possibilities of *Pollyanna*" written by a psychology professor named Judith Rich in 2010. She analyzes Pollyanna's character based on psychological perspective. Judith Rich discusses the good side and the bad side of Pollyanna attitude. In her analysis, she states that Pollyanna's attitude is a kind of security blanket that she (Pollyanna) puts in order to protect herself from the disappointment in life. With her sunny, happy, bubbly attitude, Pollyanna, according to Judith Rich, makes one-dimensional persona which makes her character seems fake and sometimes bothersome to other people. Judith Rich also continues criticizing Pollyanna's character. She said that Pollyanna is in denial, she believed that life will always have happy ending. This kind of fantasy makes her arrested in child-like state. Aside from the bad things about Pollyanna, Judith Rich also stated the standing point being Pollyanna. It reminds us to look for what is right about life rather than what is wrong. Reading Judith Rich's article gives the writer more understanding about Pollyanna. She does not only talk about the good side about being Pollyanna (which many people suggest and admired) but she also gives us different opinion about staying positive all the time. It makes us living in fantasy rather than reality.

A student from Department of Languages and Communication Studies, Trincomalee Campus, Eastern University, Sri Lanka named Sandamali write an article entitles "Symbolism in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea*" (2015). He analyzes symbol and it's meaning in novel *The Old Man and The Sea* by Ernest Hemingway. Upon analyzing the novel, he finds several symbols in the novel, which are: sea, the mast, the

lost harpoon, and on its character like Marlin, Joe DiMaggio, other fishermen. Each symbol has different meaning which he concludes at the end that it is related to religion in this case is Christian. After analyzing the symbols he comes to conclusion that these symbols represent the main character as a god-like figure who never give up no matter how hard the situation is, instead he always see the things on the brightest side. The other character in this novel called Manolin is the Messiah. He leaves his parents to follow his master's teaching.

Sandamali's article is a good article but the article does not explain the relation between symbols in the novel with Christianity which lead the readers into confusion. It will be better if he explains about Christianity at first and then draws the relation between that religion with the symbols in the novel.

Nevertheless this research still useful to the writer. It gives me an insight on how to analyze the symbols and it also gives me more understanding about symbolism; it's history, its figures, its doctrine, etc.

Zhang Haibing, a student from School of Journalism and Communication, Southwest University, Chongqing, China write an article entitled "Symbolic Meaning of Colors in *The Great Gatsby*" (2015). In this article he analyzes F. Scott Fitzgerald novel through the symbols of color. He found out that there are several colors that is prominent in the novel which are; green, white, red, yellow, blue and grey. These colors have different meaning. It not only tries to define the theme of the novel but also tries to give an insight to the characters of the novel. For example, white is the color of Daisy. It symbolizes purity but it also symbolizes emptiness and selfishness. It is actually the character of Daisy. She might look innocent on the outside but inside she is selfish.

As mentioned above, the analysis of color helps in determining the theme of this novel. After carefully analyzing the novel, Zhang Haibing comes to conclusion that the theme is the disillusionment of American Dream.

Reading Zhang Haibing's article is very entertaining and helpful. Zhang Haibing's article gives me knowledge about the lost generation of American literature and the jazz age which exactly what Fitzgerald wrote in *The Great Gatsby*. It also gives more understanding about symbolism and how to analyze it.

Based on four reviews of related studies above, this research is different from those four from the focus. If the previous researches only talk about *Pollyanna* from psychological perspective, this research will analyze *Pollyanna* from new critical perspective.

1.7. Theoretical Framework

New criticism is a theory which is popular in 1940s-1960s. There are several prominent figures related to this theory which are John Crowe Ransom, Alan Tate, Robert Penn Warren, Cleanth Brooks, etc. This group however popular with the name *fugitive* and published a literary magazine called *The Fugitive* in Nashville from 1922-1925. T.S. Eliot's essay has a significant impact on their ideas regarding literature. These ideas including "literature viewed as an organic tradition the importance of strict attention to form, a conservatism related to classical values, the ideal of a society that encourages order and tradition a preference for ritual, and the rigorous and analytical reading of literary texts" (Guerin 100).

Scholars have purposed some definition of New Criticism. Among those definition

is that: "New criticism involved a way of reading that emphasized form – the importance of considering 'the words on the page' – rather than factors such as the life of the author and his or her intentions, or the historical and ideological context in which the text was produced " (Bennet and Royle 11). It means that New criticism only sees what inside the text, what happens outside the text or in the real world there is nothing to do with new criticism.

New criticism is mostly used in analyzing poetry, but two essays from American scholar named Mark Schorer prove that other genre of fiction can be analyzed with New Criticism as well. In his essay *Technique of Discovery*, Schorer notes that "Modern criticism has shown us that to speak of content as such is not to speak of art at all, but of experience; and that it is only when we speak of the *achieved* content, the form, the work of art as a work of art, that we speak as critics. The difference between content, or experience, and achieved content, or art, is technique.." (qtd. in Selden 21). From the quotation above we can see that the most important thing in analyzing literary works is technique.

In the second essay *Fiction and the Analogical Matrix*, Schorer states that the language of fiction is more than what the author intended and it is reflected in the use of symbol and imagery (qtd. in Selden 22). Imagery and symbolism do not only appear in poetry but also in all forms of fiction. That is the reason why new criticism also can be used in analyzing literary works other than poetry.

Literary works sometimes have more meaning than what the authors intended. Sometimes it is greater than the author expected it to be. The author's intention has

nothing to do with new criticism. Author's intention is not the same as the text meaning which the new critics called *intentional fallacy*. It is the same with the readers respond. As we know, one literary work can have many interpretations and sometimes it depends on the readers. Many readers interpreted the works based on their background, experiences, and feelings. The last factor is because the said work has impact on them so they interpret it based on the feeling that they get after or while reading the work. The impact of the literary work toward the feeling of the reader is called *affective fallacy* (Tyson 136-137). Therefore, new critics excluded these two aspects; author's intention and reader's feeling.

The technique that new critics use is close reading which is a technique to carefully examine the images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot and so forth. These aspects are called formal elements because they give literary work a form (137). Form in literary language is "the word choice and arrangement that create the aesthetics experience" (138). The form is inseparable from its content, its meaning. It is the same as saying that "how literary text mean is inseparable from what it means" (138).

A great literary work is a work which its form and content are compatible with one another. If it really matches with one another it will form an organic unity. Tyson (2006) define organic unity as "the working together of all parts to make an inseparable whole" (138). 'All parts' in this saying refer to the formal elements. If it is works together, if it is really matched with one another then it is helping in build up the most important thing in literary work which is the theme or the meaning of the work as a whole.

There are 4 key elements in new critical reading which are; paradox, ambiguity, irony, and tension. These 4 elements, helping in analyzing the text as an organic unity.

- Paradox

Tyson (2006) describes that “paradox is statement that seems self-contradictory but represents the actual way things are” (138). It means that saying something in a complex way but the meaning of the words is very simple.

- According to Abrams (1999), irony is a way of hiding something but not to deceive but to say something in rhetorical way (135). Irony divided into:

1. Verbal Irony

Verbal irony is the act of saying something but what it means is completely different from how the way the person says it (Abrams 135).

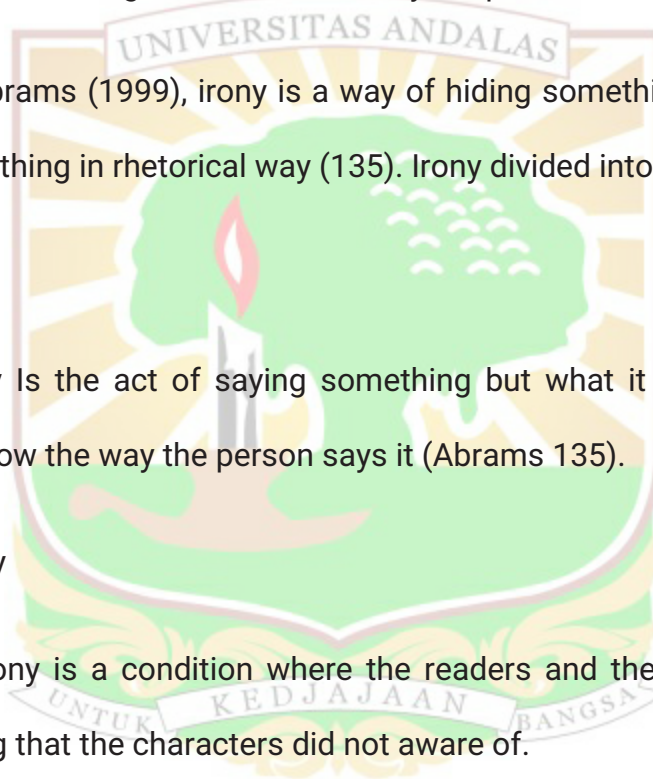
2. Dramatic Irony

Dramatic irony is a condition where the readers and the audience (of a play) know something that the characters did not aware of.

3. Situational Irony

According to literary device.com situational irony occur when the expectation of something that will happen is completely different from what happened later.

- Ambiguity



Ambiguity is when a word, image or event have more than one meaning (Tyson 140).

- Tension

Tyson state that tension is “created by the integration of the abstract and the concrete, of general and ideas embodied in specific images” (140). In short, tension created by two opposite things in the story. Not only that, tension can be reach through the *dynamic interplay* of paradox, irony and ambiguity.

1.8. Method of the Literary Research

This study belong to qualitative research. According to Denzin and Lincoln (2005), qualitative research is:

Qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observer in the world. It consist of a set of interpretive, material practice that make the world visible. These practices transform the world. They turn the world into a series of representations, including field notes, interviews, conversations, photograph, recording, and memos to the self. At this level, qualitative research involves an interpretive, naturalistic approach to the world (3).

The quotation above means that qualitative research is a type of research where the interpretation of the researcher toward the phenomena/object of the research is the most important thing. There are several ways in collecting the data in qualitative research including interviews, field notes, conversations, etc. However, in this research the writer will not apply these techniques, instead, the writer will apply library research.

According to Elmer E.Rasmuson in “*Research, Instruction and Library Research*

Process Outreach Services”

“Library research involves the step-by-step process used to gather information in order to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete a project. As you progress from one step to the next, it is commonly necessary to back up, revise, add additional material or even change your topic completely” (2016).

In conclusion, library research is a kind of method where the researcher gathers all information from any kind of sources. Library research has many purposes such as writing a paper, creating presentation or completing a project.

In this research, the researcher divides the data into two categories which are primary and secondary data. The primary data will be taken from Elanor H. Porter’s novel *Pollyanna* (1913). Secondary data will come from the reading materials related to the novel and the issues that the writer wants to analyze.

The second step is analyzing the data. In analyzing the data, the writer applied new criticism. First, the writer read the novel extensively in order to get the issue of the important to do an effort to get happiness together with its evidence. Secondly, the writer read, browse and collected other information related to the novel and the issue that the writer wants to analyze. After that, the writer applied new criticism to analyze the formal elements and and the other elements in the novel *Pollyanna*, which help in forming an organic unity within the novel..

The third step is presenting the result of the analysis. In presenting the result of the analysis the writer uses descriptive method, since the research is a qualitative one. So, the data are elaborated through words, not in the form of number and picture.