

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Research

Mother is essentially part of the important elements in children's life. The relationship between mother and children can not be replaced by any other relationships. Although many relationships in society such as friendship, acquaintance, and romantic relationship appear in human's life, mother-child relationship would be the closest relation because it is linked by blood. Mother will help children in knowing the world and reflect the condition of the world. Therefore, the relation between mother and children should be in a good relation.

Unfortunately, not all of the children and their mothers have good relation. There are various reasons why the relationship may become pathetic. It can be from internal or external problem. Internal problem can be from their emotional regulation, they do not know how to regulate their emotion well in communication. External problem can be from society, finance, and other situations. In general, internal factor appears when someone can not handle external factor. However, some of mothers can handle all those problems with the power of love. They are willing to do everything for children because of love and bonding that they have since pregnancy. These situations can be seen in novel *Room* by Emma Donoghue.

*Room* is a novel written by Emma Donoghue, an Irish-Canadian writer in 2010. The story is about a single mother raising her children in a distinctive

situation. Old Nick, the antagonist character in the novel kidnapped Ma for seven years. She is a victim of abduction, violence, and sexual assault. Although Old Nick suffices Ma's necessities, he still has taken her freedom as a human being. Two years earlier, she had tried to escape, but she failed. When Jack was born and needed to be cared, she gave up and focused on raising her precious son in that room. As described above, it is hard to raise children in Ma's condition because she has limited ways to teach and nurture Jack in the room and faced with her traumatic experience. Surprisingly, Jack becomes a smart boy and endowed with a lot of knowledge on his limited experience. With Ma's patience and understanding about her son's personality, she can make Jack feel loved and secured. In general, it is supposed that parent should utilize their surrounding and understand their children's interest to teach them well like Ma did.

Ma has many struggles to make Jack understand and recognize her explanation. The use of imagery in knowing the world reflected in Room by Emma Donoghue reveals that imagery can help children to acknowledge something difficult to understand and understand the outside of the world. This research is made to find imagery used by Ma in the novel and analyse them meticulously.

## 1.2 Identification of Problem

*Room* by Emma Donoghue tells the tragic story of a mother and her son looking for their right as humans. For seven years in distinctive situations, they do some repetitive activities like cooking for dinner, stretching, taking a bathtub together, and cleaning. They have limited objects in exploring the world because they are trapped in the room. The repetitions in everyday activities make Jack's knowledge different with other kids. Jack does not believe in the objects outside the room and tells everything is just TV. In that case, Ma finds some difficulties in explaining their situation. Ma uses imagery in explaining something that unfamiliar for Jack. She mentions the objects that familiar for Jack to explain something by imagining the object/circumstance. I want to explore the use of imagery in mothering to show children's understanding when they are faced with unfamiliar situations.

## 1.3 Review of Related Literature

In completing this study, I have received several journal, articles, thesis and other related studies from some experts and graduated students related to this topic. These reviews of related studies will be the guide for this research and enrich my analysis.

The first related study is a thesis by Putri S. Ikhtiarina, entitled *The Struggles of The Female Protagonist Against The Oppression in Room A Novel By Emma Donoghue* (2018) from Diponegoro University. This thesis analyses the struggle of Ma facing her traumatic experience and oppression for seven years trapped in the room. The writer uses Feminist and Patriarchal theory to analyse

the struggle of Ma facing her problems. This thesis will help me to supply the information about Ma's problems. These are the basis of her mothering and how she nurturing Jack, looking for her psychology and her treatment.

The second related study is an article by Nirwana Nirwana and Nurul Khaswar in 2020, entitled "The Factors Affecting Human Understanding of the Perceived World in the Novel Room by Emma Donoghue: An Analysis of the Lead Character." This article reviews the factors affecting human understanding of the perceived world in Room novel. This article uses John Locke's theory about human understanding in reviewing the problem. The writers believe that people have different senses of the aspects of life such as smell, sight, hearing, touch and other. These will be the result of different perceptions in life, like Jack has different sense of experiences, he has limited space in exploring his potential. This article will help me to search about mothering in Jack's condition because he has no chance to get more perceptions from other kids. Therefore, Ma should give him an extra explanation about life.

The third related study is an article by Homa Nath Sharma Paudyal in 2020, entitled "The Use of Imagery and Its Significance in Literary Studies." This article talks about the various techniques of imagery that particularly used in poetry. It also encourages readers to create the perception of literary text. The writer uses Naresh Chandra's idea about types of imagery (perceptual imagery, conceptual imagery, emotional imagery, compound imagery and artistic imagery). The result of the article reveals the use of imagery help student in creativity and critical thinking. They focus on finding the meaning and interpret their ideas in literary

works. This article will help me to dig more about imagery by seeing some examples related to imagery in literary works and its explanation and interpretation from the writer.

The fourth related study is an article by Stishin K. Paul in 2015, entitled “Demonic World of Imagery in Sherlock Holmes Novels: An Archetypal Reading”. This essay examines on these Doyle novels through a perspective of archetypal criticism to examine how the imagery in the books connect with the Northrop Frye-suggested realm of ironic fiction. The result of this article is detective fiction novel like Sherlock Holmes belongs to ironic comedy and the image constructed by demonic word in realistic circumstances. This article helps me to construct the concept of imagery by seeing the symbolism in the novel. Although this article does not use the same novel as I applied on the proposal, the discussion in the article helps me in analysing the imagery.

#### **1.4 Research Question**

This research aims to answer these following questions:

1. The novel presents a lot of simile and metaphor as form of imagery. What are they and what are their meanings?
2. How does the use of imagery strengthen the content in the nove

### 1.5 Scope of Research

The scope of this research is on the use of imagery in exploring the world in the *Room* novel by Emma Donoghue. Therefore, this research will analyse intrinsic elements that support the theory and topic used in the research.

### 1.6 Objective of Study

This research aims to investigate the use of imagery in *Room* by Emma Donoghue and its relation to the understanding the world from the main character. To be more specific, I use new criticism elements from Cleanth Brooks, which focused on the close reading approach in examining the pattern and symbolism of imagery within the text in the novel.

