

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Throughout time reading books has been considered as a hobby for many people around the world. In literature, reading books is one of the important things as it is useful to make people understand about people and nature. Literary works include poems, and novels, reflected and inspired in the social community. The Novel has narrative forms which contain characters, plot, theme, and setting. Generally, the novel's storyline appears where the main character has a problem and will find a solution to solve the problem. Compared to real life, Problem lives side by side in human life which causes humans genuinely to adapt and find solutions. Furthermore, the literature defines as a problem simulator in human life. Literary works especially novel is a tool to inspire and motivate readers to find solutions in their life. It is also to encourage them to take action and avoid bad things. As Carroll says Literary works might be viewed as output to understand the world in the sense of emotion and imagination (Carroll, *Literary Darwinism: Evolution, Human Nature, and Literature* 162). Reading novels is considered for enjoyment however, at the same time it is designed reader's mind to think more carefully in a critical way as they live like the main character in the novel and to find the solutions in real life.

Novel is one of the most popular literary works in the entire world. Novel serves many genres including mystery, romance, fiction, contemporary and many else. One of the famous contemporary of novel known as *Gone Girl* written by Gillian Flynn. *Gone Girl* was published in 2012 and categorized as #1 in the New York Times magazine's best seller. The novel is so much popular that the movie

adaptation was made in 2014 just 2 years apart from its first publication. The novel has restricted age as it has triggered contents which makes the novel is not allowed for reader under 18 years old. In a simple way, the story is about a married couple struggling in their 5 years of marriage. Strategies and actions have been taken in order to save the marriage including deception. The struggle of marriage reflects the human life cycle in *Gone Girl*. The novel shows the reader how the couple adapt to people in the middle of their marriage problem. Additionally, the novel would like to show readers what marriage life looks like. Besides the story, humans also retain their marriage relationship to each other in real life.

Gone Girl explores marriage problem between the spouses of Amy and Nick Dunne. The husband and wife, Nick and Amy are depicted as spouses who can't handle their marriage problems. Readers will argue that Nick as the husband the one who can be blamed for this marriage. Nick cheated and abandoned his wife while he was jobless. Moreover, the fact that Amy deceived people, manipulated and even killed an innocent man to get what she wanted is seemingly extreme. Apart from all of those things, the question such "why Amy wants re-unite with Nick again?" might appear. Genuinely saying that some readers miss the details things as how Amy really wants Nick even though Nick has cheated on her. This will be as the mystery for their marriage, as how at the end both of them chose to stay together. Furthermore, this research will discuss about human motive and their mate-keeping strategies to be together again.

Marriage is an adaptive problem which learned in the Evolutionary Psychology of Literary Darwinism. Literary Darwinism is a literary theory influenced by the evolution theory of Charles Darwin. According to Darwin, evolution is a process of how creatures develop by time. ("The Weekend University"). The influence of

evolution created a new theory called Evolutionary Psychology. David M. Buss invented the theory with his colleague. Evolutionary Psychology study on human behaviour to analyse that human mind is evolve and to study how human mind is design for adaptive problem (Buss, *Evolutionary Psychology: The New Science of the Mind* 45). In literary works, Evolutionary Psychology is needed to analyse the character's personality. Literary Darwinism believes that literature is a mirror of human life. Darwinists believe that human nature is formed by natural selection which is reflected in literature including human mating, relationships, and social hierarchies (Whitfield, *Textual Selection* 388). In conclusion, Literary Darwinism will create a new perspective of *Gone Girl* which many people haven't realize before.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Marriage is considered a complex thing in the life of a human being. In marriage, there will be many problems that could rise tension between both spouses. The conflict between sexes is the most knowing problem that appear in the marriage relationship. For example, a spouse has adultery or cheating causes betrayal towards others. *Gone Girl* presents those problems in the marriage relationship between Nick and Amy Dunne. The novel identifies that their imperfect marriage relationship was caused by cheating, economic factors, and might be a non-existent child. Therefore, these spouses realize they have to use such mate-keeping strategies to save their marriage. In this research, the writer will discover what kind of mate-keeping strategies to sustain their marriage. Following up to discover the motives between spouses that pushed them to act. Therefore, this research, the writer will analyse the

mate-keeping strategies in Amy and Nick Dunne's marriage followed by motives and the effectiveness as well as the impact that influences their marriage relationship.

1.3 Review of Related Studies

Previously, a lot of research studies in *Gone Girl* discussed the psychological issue in the fictional character of Amy Dunne. The theme of *Gone Girl* is mystery and psychology. Thus, many researchers focusing on the character of Amy Dunne claimed that she has psychological issues. As one example, the thesis discussed psycho behaviour in Amy Dunne entitled *Psychopathic Behaviour of The Main Character in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl Novel* was published in 2021. It takes several data to prove that Amy had these signs to refer to herself as a psychopath or safe to say the first step she already has. According to the author, she wrote that signs of psychopathy behaviour include manipulation which refers to Amy Dunne as she arranged the storyline consumed by the public. The next is when she plans to accuse her husband of becoming a murderer, next is a lack of empathy as Amy made up a story to teach Nick a lesson, and then several lies, cheating, and low anxiety.

The next journal article *Household Problem in Gone Girl* was published in 2022. This research discussed the household problem in Amy and Nick Dunne's marriage, and it shows that the factors as miscommunication, harsh words, sexual relations, child problems and parental intervention. Interestingly, this problem could be counted as the reason of action what Amy Dunne has done. Moreover, their marriage is very complicated to understand also then to realize how Nick cheated with the younger girl made it worse. Thus, some of reader might feel pity to see in Amy's perspective and will blame Nick totally. And it will be worse if someone believes that revenge with violence would be the better way solution.

The journal article *An Exploration of Manipulation and Rejection Into the Mind of the Female Narcissistic Sociopath: Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl* by Akansya Handique and published by the *Journal of Vilnius Gediminas Technical University* in 2021. The journal has talked about the behaviour of the female character Amy Dunne. The author said Amy has narcissistic character since she was a kid. Her character was shaped by her own parents. It started when her parents created a perfect life and gave a big hope to Amy. Furthermore, this situation somehow made Amy have Narcissistic behaviour which means excessive self-love to oneself. This narcissism led her behaviour to the next level. Such as the potency of the character sociopath or psychopath in herself. The beginning is with how Amy has manipulated the public and her parents to seek attention in regard to do revenge on her own husband.

Next, the journal article *Psychological Conflict of the Main Character in Gone Girl Novel by Gillian* was published in year 2022. This journal used Sigmund Freud's theory to analyse the character of Amy Dunne. The author discussed the psychological conflict in Amy Dunne. Additionally, the author uses the psychological approach that analyses the personality of one's person such as ego, superego, and ID. Based on the conclusion it said that Amy Dunne often following her ID desire to do kind of things. The example of how she murdered people without feeling guilty, the act of revenge, manipulation, deception, all of these are Amy's ID personality. All of this action has made her personality ID dominant. Therefore, the ID dominancy leads to the character of psychopathy behaviour as in Amy Dunne.

The next journal article *Amy's Psychopathy in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl* written by Dyah Ayu Mergawati that published in 2022. The differentiation to other journal research discusses the psychological side of the character of Amy Dunne including

psychopathy behaviour this one is that this journal discussed the impact and the list of psychopathy behaviour in Amy Dunne. This journal used the psychological approach by Sigmund Freud to analyse the character of Amy Dunne. The important thing that can be learned from this journal is the psychopathy behaviour of Amy related to Amy's Husband Nick Dunne. The author said that the Husband manipulated Amy Dunne to deal with her psychopathy behaviour. The way Nick manipulated Amy when he had an interview and admitted all of the mistakes he had as well as expressed his love for Amy to go back home. Then, Amy was melted by Nick's words and she went home. The author concluded on two things in analysing Amy's behaviour, the first one is there are five signs of psychopathy behaviour in Amy Dunne such as manipulation, lack of empathy, self-harm, lying, and the desire to imprison her husband. Therefore, the impact is to give a bad name on her former partner Tommy including Desi's family on her mother, public deception, and others.

Next on, the journal article *Analysis of Dysfunctional Marriage Through Conflicts in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl (2012)* was published in 2022 by Nimas Arum Suryaning Tyas and her friend Ali Mustofa. This one analyses the marriage problem in Amy and Nick Dunne. The author argues that the cause of their marriage is the dysfunctional. A dysfunctional marriage is a marriage life condition that is not working well or functioning appropriately. This journal research analysed the data using the literary research method of narratives from the novel such as the monologue both person of Amy and Nick Dunne. The author found out from their monologue both Amy and Nick Dunne had a lack of communication, dishonesty, and others that makes their marriage is dysfunctional. From this behaviour has rose up conflict between them that cause their marriage unhappy. Even though Nick and Amy were happy on their marriage but because of the conflict such as they moved to

Missouri, and both of them lost their job. They didn't finish the problem quickly so each day both of them were not satisfied with each other which made the marriage dysfunctional.

Another journal article *Patriarchal Potency in Gillian Flynn's Gone Girl* was published in 2020 by Dr Ahmed Hussein. In the article it contains about the potency of patriarchy in the book that led the character of Amy Dunne drew her own path in beyond mind. Added by the collapse of marriage and the problem with her husband turned her into something else. The writer indirectly mentions the possibility patriarchal environment in the novel. He thought Amy's action was reasonable because of the existence of patriarchy. According to the author, a dysfunctional marriage culminates in a betrayal so profound that it leads her on a path that subverts the whole system of patriarchy that has oppressed her in the first place. He also stated that society's patriarchy will look down on women who run away from their husbands, so in order to keep her image she made her escape look like a kidnapping. The author interpreted that the reason behind Amy's obsession is that through patriarchal ideals she has suffered under the identities imposed on her by public opinion, beginning with the identity of 'Amazing Amy' she was coerced by her parents to the image of the 'Wife' that Nick attempts to force on her. To sum up, the article gives the reader another perspective on *Gone Girl* that the behind motives of Amy Dunne's action seem caused by the possibility of patriarchy that exist in the novel.

The journal article *In Search of The Real Amy: An Analysis of Gone Girl* was published in 2016. The article presents the topic of gender stereotypes and the kinds of effects that have caused the character of Amy Dunne. The author stated that the character of Amy Dunne is changed caused of the stereotype. This article describes

how stereotype creates a negative impact on women. The stereotype is unable to make women move freely. Instead, stereotypes force women can't be themselves. But after being cheated by her husband Amy framed her escape into kidnapping. In the article, it is said that Infidelity is the quickest and the most painful way to break someone's trust. Amy took revenge and she considers her action as punishment for her husband. Amy gave up on the idea of "cool girl" and the "unconditional love" between men and women. Amy wanted equality in her marriage both her and Nick to make the relationship work. Then the author describes that only Amy is held accountable for her actions and she is expected to do all the work in the relationship while Nick is off the hook for not doing his part. Amy Dunne is one of the women that want to unleash the stereotype that makes her identity is created by the stereotype. According to the author, each of the men in her life had controlled her, expected her to be perfect, and abused her in different ways, just because she was a woman.

Another previous related study which is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Love as Darwinian Survival Mechanism in John Green's The Fault In Our Stars* analysed by Muhammad Iqbal in 2022. He applied the Darwinian Theory of Joseph Carroll which Human Basic Motives in life. Through the analysis, he explained how the mechanism of love and the role of imagination function to increase the chance of survival in the female characters of Hazel Grace. This research aims to analyse the human nature of mate selection's influence on adaptive survival. Therefore, this research result of Hazel Grace as the female character who struggles with physical illness survives through the mate selection with the male character Augustus Waters who also suffers in the physical condition. The love's present between them created the chance of life for Hazel Grace. In other words, the feeling of love pushed Hazel

to live willingly even though she suffered from a physical illness. Therefore, this research sums up the love present as a mechanism to increase the chance of life in human life.

The Previous related theory is an undergraduate thesis entitled *Sibling Rivalry in Literary Darwinism's Perspective as Seen in John Shor's Beneath a Marble Sky* written by Siti Maulana in 2021. This research aims to discover the human motive and the desire to survive in the sibling rivalry case. Accordingly, this research uses Joseph Carroll's Human Motives theory and Herbert Spencer's survival of the fittest in the approach of Literary Darwinism. From the research, the author discovers the human motives of siblings against their own is because they must compete to get the life resources around them which are limited. the discovery also includes sibling's motives in competition against each other, siblings who can balance their motives to survive, and also siblings who avoid human motives for humanity.

1.4 Questions of the Research

Through this research, the writer presents questions for the topic to discuss.

1. What are Nick and Amy Dunne's motives as well as the kinds of mate-keeping strategies to sustain their marriage?
2. How effectiveness of the mate-keeping strategies influence Nick and Amy's marriage relationship?

1.5 Scope of the Research

This research will focus on the mate-keeping strategies in the marriage relationship of Nick and Amy Dunne. It is showing to reader how problematic marriage life would be that many people have might not realize. The most common

problem that appears during the marriage is conflict between the sexes. This research will be as continued reading for readers to increase their understanding into marriage. *Gone Girl* may help reader to learn the situation between spouses and be thinking critically on how to solve problems. This research will acknowledge reader that marriage is not always filled by joy between spouses. Humans are created with survival instincts on how to survive in every aspect of life including marriage. *Gone Girl* by Gillian Flynn tells a story about mate-keeping strategies in marriage relationship including deception and adaptation. Furthermore, *Gone Girl* presents a conflict between sexes that inquires an extremely strategies to save marriage relationship between spouses.

1.6 Objective of the Research

This research will focus on mate-keeping strategies following by adaptation and deception between spouses. Furthermore, this research will explain how the spouses save their marriage in using strategies and then how the effect will influence their relationship further on. Moreover, this research aims to acknowledge readers that spouses have their own instinct to keep their mate which is also applied by humans in real life. According to Evolutionary Psychology, keeping a mate is part of strategies for human mating. Therefore, Evolutionary Psychology presents strategies for human mating to understand relationship between them. In Literary Darwinism, they argue which human mind is designed to deal with adaptive problems to survive.