

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is broadly defined as any written or spoken work that expresses ideas, emotion, and stories through language. It is a form of art uses words as it is medium to explore the human experience, evoke emotions, and thought provoking (Hudson, as cited in Zulviani, 2017). Literature can include a few of the many genres, such as essays, novels, plays, poetry, and short stories, each offering unique ways to communicate meaning. One of the central purposes of literature is to reflect the human condition emotions, struggles, relationships, and moral questions. Complex issues such as love, faith, death, guilt, identity, and justice are often explored in literature, to give readers with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them. Generally, literature is a very independent text that can be explored to enrich every aspect of life without considering any aspect beyond the text itself. Literature can be considered a rich text and has a very deep analysis.

Literature often deals with the themes of love and faith, and these are the most important topics and are often described as the underlying themes of many stories. Speaking of love, since humans were born into the world, humans have been introduced to love and as long as humans exist, love will always exist. When people are involved in love, they are willing to sacrifice everything for their love because love makes everything beautiful, even if it means suffering. It refers to the representation of emotions, behaviors, and attitudes associated with feelings of affection, protectiveness, warmth, tenderness, and respect for others. In general,

love has thousands of meanings, and everyone defines love in a different way. Some people define love as an act of giving, whereas others define it as a form of sacrifice made for the person or thing they love. Love is a set of emotions and experiences related to affection and sexual attraction (Hauck, as cited in Ramadyani, 2019).

Many of us may be familiar with the concept of “Illicit Love”, a romantic idea often portrayed by characters in literature. Illicit love refers to romantic or sexual relationships that are forbidden by social, moral, cultural, religious, or legal standards. This can include adultery, unapproved unions, or secretive affairs. Illicit love may occur due to dissatisfaction with a partner. This can happen in people’s lives based on their experience. According to research conducted by Pace (2024) in her writing, she mentioned that *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925) is an example of a novel that discusses illicit love. The story tells the story of Jay Gatsby, a rich man who is full of mystery, who has fallen in love with Daisy Buchanan. But there is a problem because Daisy is married. But they have been in a secret relationship, and this illicit relationship has ended in tragedy. In the story, it is shown that this illicit love will occur when two people are both in love with each other, but one of them is married or already has a bond with someone else.

In literature, faith can be defined as a complex and diverse concept that includes different types of faith in various forms, such as religious faith, personal confidence, philosophical inquiry, and emotional resilience. This concept often serves as a thematic element that influence the choices of characters, their relationships with one another, and their decision-making processes. Faith also plays a significant role in forming a worldview and influences a person’s relationship with God. A character may have faith in their ability to overcome

challenges, trust their friends in difficult situations, or maintain hope for a better future when difficulties arise. A character often faces internal conflict due to their faith, especially when outside circumstances or personal dilemmas challenge their beliefs. It led them to grow as deep character and explore the topic further.

Literature makes clear connections between the themes of illicit love and faith by analyzing their intricacies and paradoxes. Often, when characters in literary works engage in illicit love, their faith serves as a counterpoint or complicating factor, creating the tension between their desire and their moral or spiritual obligations. It also offers the possibility of redemption, driving internal conflict, reflecting societal expectations, and facilitating the exploration of existential themes. These issues build the core tension of this research, highlighting the complexity of human desire in the context of spiritual beliefs. This theme has appeared a lot in literary work because it is interesting to study more deeply and can show the inner upheavals of human beings, for example, in love, conflict, and the desire to be redeemed. Illicit love itself has a very complicated meaning, and this can take many forms. When this love collides with faith, it will cause the situation to become more difficult because this person must struggle between personal desires and the beliefs they follow. This literature often features struggles and has also illustrated how difficult it is to choose between desire and moral struggle. Therefore, this literature will provide a more understanding of human feelings, inner conflicts, the search for spirituality, and about how love, guilt, and faith can influence each other.

Literature will have a role that is to be used to understand complex human life experiences. In a sense, this literature has described characters in depth,

composes a very interesting storylines, will arouse the reader's feelings, reflect the cultural background, and will also make the readers think about the big questions in life. Literature has also often connected one work with another. Through all these ways, literature will invite readers to be more deeply involved in the reflection of personal experiences, beliefs, and the meaning of love and faith in their lives. This exploration not only enriches the reading experience but also contributes to a broader understanding of what it means to be human.

Graham Greene's *The End of The Affair* is widely regarded as one of his most powerful works, exploring complex themes of love and faith. Graham Greene with full name Henry Graham Greene is a British novelist, journalist, short story writer, essayist, and critic. He was born October 2, 1904, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, England. Greene regarded by many as one of the leading novelists of the 20th century. After studying at the University of Oxford, he converted to Roman Catholicism in 1926. Graham Greene is well known for his exploration of difficult moral and spiritual dilemmas in his novels. He often portrays characters struggling with difficult choices that are often religious themes. His novels are often set in morally ambiguous setting and show characters struggling with their beliefs amidst complex ethical dilemmas. Of all his novels, *The End of The Affair* may be selected as a good example of such a fictional project. It is the fifteenth Greene's novel and one of his best novels. The novel is the fourth and final explicitly Catholic novel by Greene. Edward (1986) explains in his writing that William Golding, the author of "Lord of the Flies", stated, "The best of his novels will be remembered as literary perfection," novelist John Le Carre described Greene as his "guiding star".

The End of The Affair was published in 1951, sets in London during World War II. This novel explores the intricacies of human relationship, specifically focusing on the illicit love affair between the main character, Maurice Bendrix and Sarah Miles in 1939. Bendrix had an affair relationship with a married woman, Sarah Miles without being known by her husband, Henry Miles, a civil servant. The story is told from the perspective of Bendrix, whose obsession with Sarah leads him into a spiral of jealousy, bitterness, and second-guessing after his affair ends. He embarks on an introspective journey that raises profound questions about the nature of human desire, faith, and love. One of the things that is most highlighted in this novel is the spiritual changes that Sarah has experienced. After experiencing this traumatic event that would have a big impact on Sarah and Bendrix's future, Sarah suddenly decided to convert to Christianity. This change is an important point in the story because it has made her relationship with Bendrix fracture and raises questions about the meaning of faith, redemption, and forgiveness. When Sarah is in the dilemma of her love for Bendrix and her commitment to God, this eventual belief will be the path to redemption from a deep inner struggle.

The point of *The End of The Affair* is a novel that explores how inner conflict can impact a relationship between humans. As seen in this provocative quote from Graham Greene, which combines the tension between human desire and spiritual conviction. "The only way to be sure of catching a thief is to think like a thief". Although this quote may not directly address the theme of desire versus spiritual conviction, it illustrates Greene's exploration of the complexity of human nature, including its darker aspects of desire and the moral issues that arise from them. For another quote, it is a more universal statement about the conflict between human

desire and spiritual conviction. “Human desire often leads us down paths of temptation, while spiritual conviction calls us to a higher purpose, creating a constant struggle between our earthly passions and our quest for meaning”. This statement highlights the intrinsic conflict that many people face when they try to reconcile their desire with the moral or spiritual framework that guides their lives. In this statement, Greene’s exploration of the themes is found in his works, such as *The End of The Affair*. Graham Greene, who has been known as a writer who often discusses moral and spiritual issues, has used the love story between Bendrix and Sarah to show the tension between the two types of love, namely, in love that is romantic and earthly, and in love that is more spiritual and fuller of sacrifice. While the novel depicts illicit love, it is also a profound meditation on the role of faith in navigating the complexities of a human heart.

The writer chooses Greene’s novel entitled *The End of The Affair* for analysis because the novel is interesting to be discuss. The novel presents a complex exploration of love, jealousy, faith, and the human struggle with divine will. The researcher chose illicit love and faith as the themes in *The End of The Affair* because the theme is interesting for several reasons such as have intricate character dynamics, moral dilemmas, exploration of faith, providing a rich field for literary analysis.

Through the exploration of illicit love and faith, Sarah’s love for Bendrix is deeply ironic her relationship with him both pulls her away and pushes her towards God. This novel offers in depth literary elements, making it ideal for analysis. Reading *The End of The Affair*, the writer gets an understanding of the life that described in the story. This novel explores in depth and universal themes such as

love, faith, jealousy, and betrayal which are relatable to readers from all backgrounds. The novel explores into the intricate nature of romantic and spiritual love, making it a rich subject for discussion on how Greene portrays the struggle between human desire and divine faith. Thus, researching illicit love and faith in literature is important because it offers new perspectives on literary texts, contributes to broader discussions about love and morality, and reflects on the complexities of human relationships.

Another goal of this research is to find the organic unity through analyzing the formal elements in Greene's work. Through its exploration of illicit love and faith, the novel achieves an organic unity where all elements from the narrative structure to narrative devices work together to create a complex and layered portrayal of human emotion and divine intervention. In conclusion, by focusing on the formal elements of *The End of The Affair*, this study will provide a deeper understanding of how the novel achieves organic unity through its use of symbolism, imagery, irony, paradox, and ambiguity. The novel's emphasis on deep, internal conflicts "illicit love vs. faith" is well-suited for an analysis that focuses on the text's inherent tension and how these are resolved or left unresolved. By analyzing the formal elements, the writer can see how Greene builds the theme of illicit love and faith in the story.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

Although *The End of The Affair* has been studied extensively for its themes, the main problem the writer wants to solve in this research is how the tension between illicit love and faith is developed through literary devices to create a rich and complex exploration of the human condition, particularly situated in the

passionate love affair between the characters and their moral and religious beliefs, as experienced by Sarah Miles, whose faith greatly influences her choices and emotional turmoil.

A detailed textual analysis of how Greene uses the formal elements for instance in this novel, he often uses symbols, imagery, and irony to deepen the themes and messages conveyed in the story. Ambiguity and paradox are also present in this novel, to reveal the deeper layers of meaning within the text. The work's greatest strength is his masterful use of formal elements. Therefore, the writer wants to make known the kinds of formal elements found in the novel.

1.3 The Review of Previous Studies

There are many studies and discussions about *The End of The Affair* which have been written in the form of articles published in some journals. The writer has collected several studies that discuss and analyze the aspects and conflicts in the novel.

Alidou Razakou Ibourahima Boro (2020), in his article entitled “Graham Greene and the Issue of Obsessive Love: The Critical Analysis of the End of the Affair”. This study examines Graham Greene’s novel *The End of The Affair* through the themes of obsessive love and true love, utilizing a psychoanalysis lens to analyze the theme of obsessive love, focusing on the emotional and mental states of the characters, particularly Bendrix. Besides, etymological information about the word “love” from Old English and Middle English origins. The analysis highlights how obsessive love often results in destructive behaviors, jealousy, and moral conflict, ultimately replacing genuine love. This study aims to help readers and scholars grasp the concept of love and understand its underlying degree in human

relationships. It also seeks to provide insights into the etymology of love and clarify concepts of love for a better understanding of human emotional experiences. The result of this research indicate that obsessive love can have a negative impact on individuals and their relationships. Additionally, the study highlights the complex and powerful nature of love, emphasizing its capacity for both positive and destructive outcomes. The study concludes that obsessive love complicates the characters' moral decisions and leads to profound emotional turmoil. Boro emphasizes that Greene portrays obsessive love as a destructive force that challenges ethical boundaries, which complements the exploration of moral dilemmas in my research. In addition, this study helps the writer to understand more about obsessive love and the three-way collision between love of self, love of another, and love of God.

Brittany Hale (2009) entitled "Relentless Love: The Pursuing Love of God in Graham Greene's *The End of The Affair*". The research explores the concept of love as portrayed in the novel. It examines the finite nature of affairs contrasted with boundless love. The study aims to analyze the relentless pursuit of God's love. In this study, Hale argues that love is not confined to a specific timeframe or earthly limitations. This view has invited the reader to think about the spiritual side of love, especially about how God's love exists beyond experience and relationships between people. This research was carried out by reading the work by Greene in detail with aim of seeing how the experience of his character will reflect the theme of love and faith at large. This research also has the aim of a reason behind the actions of the characters and their impact in relation to God's love, so that this will result in a very detailed analysis of the literature. The discussion in this study can

also extend to philosophical questions about the meaning of love and how love can affect human life. The result of this study will emphasize that God's love will never be lost, which can change a person's heart and will also bring true love beyond worldly boundaries.

An article in the research that has been written by Dr. Dhruv Shankar (2014) entitled "Divinity and Spirituality in Graham Greene's *The End of The Affair*" has discussed religious themes in a novel that is mainly related to sin and salvation. This research focuses on a main character, namely Sarah whose journey has shown development towards holiness. Shankar has underlined how Sarah has struggled between her love for Bendrix and her devotion to God. Sarah's spiritual journey has been shown through her decision to ultimately surrender herself to God which has become the essence of the story. This research has also explained how Sarah's love became a source of happiness as well as a burden and ultimately led her to a deeper understanding of God's love and sacrifice. Shankar has also discussed the role of miracles in a story that has been considered as proof of God's presence and will in the lives of these characters. This aspect is important to understand how Greene will combine the themes of love, suffering, and God's love. The result of this research has made it clear that this novel will show the complex relationship between love, faith, and suffering, as well as Greene's ability to create deeply spiritual stories in the setting of modern life.

The next research is from the work of Dr. M. Ravichand and V. V. Parthu (2013) entitled "The Love of God in Graham Greene's *The End of The Affair*". This research has discussed how Graham Greene describes a relationship between love and people, hatred, love of God, and the inner struggle of the characters. This study

highlights how Greene sees suffering as an important part of a person's spiritual growth process. In addition, this research raises existential questions about the nature of faith and human existence and explores profound spiritual truths through stark realism. Bendrix's hatred leads to near insanity and eventual wisdom. Sarah's search for love results in spiritual and physical emptiness. Greene illustrates God's love as a complex, transformative force. Ultimately, this research highlights that Greene's work shows that God's love is the end of all love, even love that is considered illegitimate. This conclusion strengthens the idea that divine love transcends human shortcomings and desire.

The writer also found some researchers who discuss the formal elements, but different object written by Rahmatul Dania (2024) entitled "Formal Elements and Content of Nature in Danny the Champion of the World and The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl: A Critical Analysis". In this study, Dania investigates the intricate relationship between humans and nature as portrayed in Roald Dahl's children's novels. Close reading and new criticism theory guide the research to analyze formal literary elements and their contribution to the themes of human morality and environmental responsibility. The findings reveal how Dahl's storytelling techniques highlight contemporary environmental issues, emphasizing the importance of conservation and critiquing harmful behaviours towards nature, ultimately aiming to provide insights for the writer and readers regarding the moral messages in children's literature. The writer concludes that children's novels have interesting formal elements suitable for analysis, and this research applies Cleanth Brooks' New Critical approach to examine the formal elements and messages in Roald Dahl's works.

The writer used the earlier research that was mentioned above because they have some related issues with this topic. Boro, Hale, Shankar, and Ravichand and Parthu all explore themes of love and morality in *The End of The Affair*, although from different perspectives. Boro focuses on obsessive love, while Hale, Shankar, and Ravichand and Parthu emphasize the role of divine love and faith. Together, they provide a multifaceted understanding of how love, both human and divine intersects with moral dilemmas in the novel. While Boro has highlighted the dark side of obsessive love and how it can be destructive, it has also provided a very useful understanding of how this kind of love will make a moral and ethical decision that will become more complex for the characters. This reinforces that illicit love is most important theme in the novel. Boro has used psychological approaches to analyze the motivations of the characters by completing an emotionally stirring discussion in my research. Hale and the others have seen love from a more positive perspective through faith. Hale's research has supported the focus of the research that has shown how love for God is very different from illicit love and how the characters will face the moral dilemma between the two.

The results of Shankar's research are in line with the research conducted by Hale, which both emphasize that this faith will have an important role in the lives of the characters. This strengthens the discussion of the relationship between love and morality in this study. Shankar uses a philosophical and religious approach that has supported this research's analysis of the relationship between illicit love and faith. Meanwhile, the previous research on Ravichand and Parthu has supported the focus of this research because it has shown how a love for God will affect the moral choices of the characters and has also made this illicit relationship even more

complicated. Meanwhile, the research from Dania does not discuss *The End of The Affair* or the theme of illicit love and faith directly because it focuses more on the work of Roald Dahl. However, this research still provides useful insights, especially those that have shown various ways to approaching a literary analysis and are also important in understanding a context and examining a theme in literary works.

The difference between previous studies and this study can be seen from the limited incorporation or unification of the theme being discussed. While previous studies have explored themes of love, morality, and faith in Greene's work, they often treat these themes in isolation. This research aims to integrate these perspectives, examining how illicit love and faith interact and influence each other within the narrative. Then, existing literature tends to focus on either the psychological aspects of the character or the moral implications of their actions without fully addressing how personal desire and religious convictions coexist and conflict. This research seeks to fill this gap by analyzing the nuanced interplay between illicit love and faith, highlighting how these elements shape character development and narrative progression.

In summary, the first four studies provide valuable insights and supporting evidence for the exploration of illicit love and faith in *The End of The Affair*, employing various theoretical frameworks that complement my research. In contrast, Dania's research, although insightful and different but has similarities to my research question with the diversity of literary analysis. The previous research is helpful to the writer in writing this research, even though there is no research that discusses the same topic as this research topic.

1.4 Research Questions

This research is conducted to answer these the following questions:

1. How do the symbolism and imagery in *The End of The Affair* contribute to the portrayal of the internal conflict between illicit love and faith experienced by the characters?
2. How do the narrative devices such as irony, paradox, and ambiguity contribute to the development of the theme of illicit love and its impact on the character's faith and relationship?

1.5 The Scope of the Research

This research focuses on the organic unity through analyzing the formal elements present in the novel, particularly in relation to themes illicit love and faith. The narrative devices concentrate on the relationship between symbolism, imagery, irony, paradox, and ambiguity in the novel, to builds their organic unity is the basis for these formal elements. On the other hand, the elements that the writer identified have functions as a foundational analysis that gives a clearer understanding of further analysis.

1.6 The Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to explore how the formal elements work together to deliver the organic unity and narrative devices in the theme of illicit love and faith. More precisely, the writer refers to the formal elements of concentrated on the symbolism, imagery, irony, paradox, and ambiguity from *The End of The Affair*. This research is such a helpful reference for those who love Greene's novel and hopefully, this research can have a positive impact for others who are interested

in illicit love and faith related studies. This research will also help us to have a better understanding of the work.

