

CHAPTER 1. LITERATURE REVIEW

1.1 Background of The Research

Love is a human feeling that has been around for a long time. The feeling of love is one of the emotions that exists and develops. The feeling of love is one of the human feelings that is hard to explain. Simultaneously, feelings of love can make people feel happy, sad, hateful, and spiritfull. Klein (in Deirdre Johnson); claims that the feeling of love has begun to be discussed since the relationship between a mother and a baby (2010: 7). There are many types of love in everyday human life.

The kinds of love can be categorizes based on colors and meanings. First, Eros is the ideal type of love based on a sincere desire and commitment to both feelings and thoughts. The second type of love is Ludos, which interprets love like a game. This type of love is likened to a relationship that is not serious and is just for fun. Storge's last kind of love is referred to as the type of love, which, scientifically, is like the feeling of love between parent and child, sister, or brother. Lee, then combines Ludos and Eros to make Mania. This combination is then known as obsessive love.

This love type is too deep and intimate. Up to a certain point, this type of love can curb the offender's feelings in the relationship. Anything excessive is not good. Obsessive love can change both the offender's behavior and thoughts in the relationship—many cases in the real world lead to harmful obsessive love relationships. This obsessive love behavior can also be found in literary works.

Edgar Allan Poe also one of the writers who pays a special attention on this theme. He makes use of this theme in his works , including *Ligeia* (1823). This short story tells about the love story of a husband and wife. The husband can not let his wife die, whom he loves so much that haunt his life. Trying to get out of his memories with his dead wife, the husband decides to marry another woman. While living this life with his second wife, the husband is still overshadowed by his first wife, his second wife's life did not last long and died like his first wife was. Suddenly, strangeness occurred when the corpse that laid on a mattress, which had been the corpse of his second wife, got up and stood before his husband as the figure of his first wife. This short story tells a story about an intense love for a partner that affects a person's thoughts and behavior. Besides, the ending of the story does not end with an author's stipulation but is an open conclusion so that the conclusion of the story can be different for each reader.

When reading a story, the opinions of readers may vary because of some factors. As put forward by Wolfgang Iser, in his book entitled *The Act of Reading*, the reader's opinion can be influenced by two things, the first is the reader's opinion which is influenced by the text he reads (1978:21). Second, the reader's opinion can be influenced by the experience that the reader has experienced to realize that experience into the value-form of the literary work they read.

Furthermore, Wolfgang Iser assumes that the value of a literary work can be known if the reader has read it. It means that when the author can convey the message to the reader appropriately, and the reader can express the value of the

meaning that the writer wants to convey. However, the reader can also be influenced by the text he reads, and the reader's ability can also affect in understanding the existing text.

Besides, apart from the explanation mentioned above, this research held another critical reason to analyze English department students' analytical skills in understanding an old literary work's values and ideas. This study also analyzes the factors that are the difference in understanding given by students of the English department. The next reason, this research should help both the teaching staff and the writer understand the character of the reader and adjust the intended values

in the literary work with the intended readers. The responses given by readers have many kinds and categorizes as positive responses or negative responses. From the reader's response, future writers of literary works will be able to move following the readers' dynamics and living environment intended by the author.

In addition, the reason for choosing students 2016 of English Department is because students of the 2016 class are considered capable of interpreting and realizing the value of a literary work because they have taken several value studies courses. Students' 2016 batch is a more flexible class because they do not have many classes that must be handled during research.

Through this research, the researcher intends to determine what the readers think about *Ligeia*. Therefore, the researcher gave the title “*Reader’s Reception*

Toward Love Obsession In Edgar Allan Poe's Ligeia: A Case Study Of English Students At Andalas University” for this research.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The relationship between the text and the reader are to discover the meaning of a literary work. A text can only be known to have meaning if the reader has read it. In this process, some factors appear in readers' mind when they understand a literary work and some effects influence the readers feel during understanding and assessing the literary works discussed in this study. These two things are related to each other and help infer opinions that differ from the reader's opinion. This study-further investigates the themes and elements of the story and how the readers adjust them to their understanding.

1.3 Review of Previous Studies

In some studies, scholars analyzed norms, readers-response, and critics of literary works. They include Dian Septiari, Hadi Gustian, Riki Hardian, Nurlaela Sari, and Margit Sutrop. Their studies deal with reader-response toward the literary works, values in society, and the gaps of two different literary works. Meanwhile, this thesis focuses on three ideas. The first idea is the study of love obsession in the short story. The second idea is a response from the reader through the meaning of the story. The last idea focuses on the effect that appears during the reading process of the literary work. This review will not explore the reception reader toward love obsession in the horror short story, but this review will explore

and analyze several related studies about the moral value and reader-response theory applying for the previous researchers.

This review provides information about the study of this research going forward, and also in this study, the researcher will discuss the value of the obsession of love and its acceptance from the side of the reader. The articles and thesis below contain some information that the researcher can use to complete things that are considered lacking in the author's analysis of the article and thesis work.

First, Hadi Gustian and Dian Septiari analyzed literary works through the perspective of Reader-response. Both researchers analyzed the comparison of literary work but on a different object. Hadi Gustian, focuses on the presence of love and conflict from the literary works by famous writer William Shakespeare. In his thesis, entitled *The Reader Response to The Presence of Love and Conflict in William Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream: Reader Response Reading* (2015), the idea of this thesis focus on the relation between two forms of literary work, one of them come from drama script text and the realization in the drama. In conducting research, Gustian collected data from the drama community students and students who already played the drama.

However, this study does not show the results of comparing the two forms of literary work. On the other hand, Hadi's research shows the existence of the value of love that can be felt by drama players and read from the script text of the literary work. The weakness of the analysis results shown in Hadi's study only

shows the data from the respondent's answer and does not analyze his opinion, which is explored through the data he gets.

On the other hand, Dian Septiari in her thesis entitled *Reader's Interpretations of Narrative Gaps from A Song of Ice and Fire and Its TV Adaptation Game of Thrones* (2016) uses a theory of reader-response toward of reader's opinion about the gaps on the TV adaptation movie from the story of novel with a different title. In this research, Septiari successfully collects the data of gaps narrative that appears on the TV adaptation uses the data from the reader's opinion.

Septiari needs the respondent who finished reading the novel as well watched the TV adaptation. This method of collecting data from the respondent has a similarity with this thesis. This research needs a respondent that finishes reading and understand the whole meaning of the story.

Subsequent studies come from the thesis written by Riki Hardian entitled *The Edgar Allan Poe's Tragic Life As Found In His Selected Short Stories: Ligeia, The Black Cat, and The Cask of Amontillado*. This study aimed to discover the portrayed of Edgar Allan Poe's tragic life through three selected short stories written by himself. This study figured out that the author's sad life showed in his three short stories: *Ligeia*, *The Black Cat*, and *The Cask of Amontillado*.

Hardian showed his finding toward the correlation of the short stories with the writer's background life. In *Ligeia*, the portrayed of Edgar Allan Poe as the one who addicted to drugs. This aim proved with the quotation that Hardian found

in one of Poe's book. This study's weakness is that Hardian does not show the accurate data that proven Edgar Allan Poe, who addicted to the drugs.

Next studies come from Nurlaela Sari and Margit Sutrop. In the article written by Nurlaela Sari entitled *The Importance of Teaching Moral Values to the Students* (2013), discusses the importance of teaching moral values from an early stage. Sari says that learning the process of introducing a moral value comes from many aspects. Moral values can be affected by society. This article's data took by interviewing several teachers in a private or public school in Bandung. The data recorded and transformed into the transcription to ease the analyzing data. However, this article helps to figure out how society can affect someone's perception of something. Nevertheless, this analysis's drawbacks do not show the accuracy of analysis data, only reveal the descriptive data without any proven support data. Besides, Sari does not offer a better way to solve her finding in her writing.

On the other hand, the article from Margit Sutrop entitled *Can Value to be a Taught? The Myth of Value-Free Education* (2015) portrayed the pro and contra of values need further discussion towards the teacher's role as a responsible person in delivering the student's value. This research has no relation to the three ideas thesis research, but it helps explain the moral value. Sutrop explains the teacher's critical role as a role model that shows moral values to the students. In the article, there is not any single analysis data that shows in her writing. Besides, Sutrop shows how the teacher can be a valuable educator through the teacher's value game.

1.4 Research Questions

There are a few issues of readers' reception about the theme of love in *Ligeia*. In this research, the key problems deal with two things as follows:–

1. What factors influence the readers in understanding "Love obsession" in Ligeia's story?
2. What effects do the readers receive when reading love obsession in Ligeia's story?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To learn the factors that influence the readers in understanding love obsession when they read Ligeia's story.
2. To look at the effects the readers experience when they read the story.
3. To observe the analytical reading skill from respondents's of the research.

