

## **Chapter 1: Introduction**

The aim of this chapter is to explain the background of this research; it consists of basic consideration, research question, the research objective, the scope of study, and research significant. Basic consideration gives an explanation about the literature, character, and characterization and reader response as the basic theory of this research. The problem of this research is in the form of research question. Research question is related to the objective of research because it explains the aim of the research question. The scope of study is explaining the limitation of this study which based on the research question. The last part of this chapter is significance of research which explains the benefit of this study itself.

### **Basic Consideration**

Literature is a wide term that covers many kinds of literary works. Works on prose such as novel and short story, as well as poem even some pages of narration or dialogue of drama are include in it. Those literary works are insight by the author's mind. Literature must contain the elements which able to relate the story to the readers, such as plot, setting, dialogue, audience, character and characterization. Characters are people, animal, plant or other imaginary creature that has responsible for the thoughts, plot and actions within a story. Character is important since it is the intermediary of literary work. Every character has his or her own personality which depends on author's creation.

Characterization is the way a writer creates and develops character and makes character come to life. There are two terms associated with characterization such as direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization is the characterization which is directly explained by the author about the personality of the character within the story. While indirect characterization is when the author shows the reader something that is related to the character's personality without explaining it directly. Sometimes, the good or bad of the characterization could be based on the reader's perception. Although the author describes the characters with perfect descriptions, it will be imperfect if the reader sees from another side. Every character and its characterization within the literary work will be explained differently depending on the reader's perception. This phenomenon will appear since literary work is the elaboration of the text and the reader who reads the text. The reader's role in literary work is important because literary work itself has been made by the author special for the reader in order to entertain, to give some knowledge, to share experience, to give the reader a chance to play their imagination and to deliver a message that the reader can learn from the literary work itself.

Reader response theory is one of the proper theories which explain the variation of human's perception in deciding things. This theory focuses on the reader's reaction after reading a text or a literary work. There are many theorists who examine the theory of reader response itself. One of the theorists is Wolfgang Iser, he wrote the influential book; *The Act of Reading*, which details his theories about *Aesthetic Reader Response* in 1978. His theory focuses on explaining the interaction between

text, reader and reader's interaction. He believes that there are blanks or gaps in every literary work and reader has a chance to fill it based on the reader's way. Iser (as cited in Selden, 1993, p. 57) state that reading gives the readers the chance to formulate the unformulated. Sometimes when making literary work, the author makes gap or blank in consciousness or unconsciousness in order he let the reader to fill it by they own way or it means that reader take a part in the making of the literary work that previous has been made by the author.

Utari (2010) is one of the researchers who apply the theory of aesthetic response gap by Wolfgang Iser. The participants are students of Letter faculty. The aim of her research is to find out the intrinsic elements and finding the morality value from the three short stories all at once, in short story by O'Henry. The result shows that the participants have ability to fill the gaps with the evidence that the participant can classify the morality values of the stories. Different with Utari's study which focuses on the intrinsic element and the morality value in short story by O'Henry, this study focuses on analyzing the way of male and female's readers responding the characterization of Juan Villegas in the Maria Concepcion short story by using the aesthetic response theory from Wolfgang Iser.

The data which collected by University of Maryland's libraries (2015) confirmed that *Maria Concepcion* is a short story created by Katherine Anne Porter which first published on 1922 in Century Magazine, and first published in book of stories; *Flowering Judas* in 1930 and enlarged in 1935 with other stories. This story tells about Maria Concepcion, a kind of woman who is religious, hard worker and full of

pride in her life. But one time, she decides to kill a girl who falls in love with her husband; Juan Villegas is a man who works as an assistant of archeologist. Maria Concepcion does it because her husband leaves her for a year and decides to live with the girl named Maria Rose until they have a baby. When Juan Villegas and Maria Rose return to the village, Maria Concepcion kills Maria Rose, and no one knows about the murder incident except her husband Juan Villegas. He tries to hide the murder incident and defends his wife from the investigator and finally reverts to Maria Concepcion's life. The reason to choose Maria Concepcion short story by Katherine Anne Porter is because this story can fulfill the requirement of Wolfgang Iser theory. Ward (2006, p.12) explains that the text that Iser has in his mind when describing his aesthetic response theory is work of fiction that do not "spell everything out" for the reader, requiring the reader of the text to decide their own meaning of it. The explanation of Ward shows that Maria Concepcion can be appropriate since this study focuses to the characterization of Juan which does not spell everything out by the author. Then, this study want to see how readers responses the characterization of Juan Villegas by their own perception.

The study focuses on how are male and female readers' responses to the gap of Juan Villegas' characterization in Maria Concepcion short story by Katherine Anne Porter. Gap itself is a hole or space where something is missing or said as a missing part (Merriam Dict, n.d). This study believes that there are some gaps which stick with

Juan Villegas' characterization that invites the reader to take a part to re-build the characterization since there are still many gaps which related to his characterization.

As an example of Juan Villegas' characterization are "*Juan Villegas ran after her, also laughing strangely, his teeth set, both rows gleaming behind the small soft black beard growing sparsely on his lips, his chin, leaving his brown cheeks girl smooth..... Maria Concepcion did not stir nor breathe for some seconds... (p.5)*"

this is one of evidence that Juan Villegas has a relationship with Maria Rose whom broke Maria Concepcion's heart. In the other hand, Juan Villegas helps Maria Concepcion from the murder incident; the evidence is "*Juan told his story patiently, several times over. He had returned to his wife that day..... (p.9)*" this part shows that Juan Villegas protects his wife from the investigator and acts like nothing happen before. Whereas, he knows that his wife is the suspect of Maria Rose's death, but he denies it. Those are some examples of Juan Villegas' characterization within the story which makes this study want to find out how male and female readers fill to the gap of Juan Villegas' characterization by the perception of the participants either Juan Villegas has a good characterization or bad characterization. Beside that, these are some of questions which is not explain in the written text, but invite the reader to find out the reason by they own perception such as; what is on the readers' mind about the real characterization of Juan Villegas which already drew by the author, also what is the reason of Juan Villegas wants to defend Maria Concepcion who murdered Maria

Rose? And then what is on the reader's mind about the relationship between Juan Villegas and Maria Rose?, does Juan Villegas love Maria Concepcion or not?.

Based on the case above, it can be seen that the characterization of Juan Villegas in Maria Concepcion short story can be analyze by using the theory of aesthetic response by Wolfgang Iser. He states that reading gives the readers the chance to formulate the unformulated (Selden, 1993, p. 57). It means that the male and female reader has a chance to fill the the gap in the characterization of Juan Villegas based on the male and female reader's perception after read the story. The purpose of this research is to find out how the way of male and female readers in responses to the gap of Juan Villegas' characterization in Maria Concepcion short story by Katherine Anne Porter.

### **Research question**

This study focuses on the following one research question:

“How are male and female readers' respond to the gaps of Juan Villegas' characterization in *Maria Concepcion* short story by Katherine Anne Porter?”

### **Research Objective**

Based on the problem statement, the study intends to find out how are male and female readers responses to the gap of Juan Villegas' characterization in Maria

Concepcion short story by using Reader-response approach theory from Wolfgang Iser. He states that reading gives the readers chance to formulate the unformulated. What Iser means is to give the readers chance to fill the gap. In this case is to fill the gap on the characterization of Juan Villegas.

### **Scope of study**

This study only focuses on how are male and female as reader responses to the gaps of Juan Vilegas' characterization in Maria Concepcion short story by using reader-response; aesthetic response theory from Wolfgang Iser. The participant of the study is the students of 2014 in English Department UNG; 10 females and 10 males that have already passed the prose subject and have read "Maria Concepcion" short story by Katherine Anne Porter more than once times. Choosing Maria Concepcion short story as the object of this study is because it talks about the complicated relationship of Maria Concepcion as the main character who has a husband who betrayed her because of another girl. It becomes interesting since this study wants to see the responses of male reader and female reader after reading the story but only focuses on the male character in the story names Juan Villegas. This study want to see how are male and female reader response to the gap of Juan Villegas' characterization then how can they fill the gap by their own perception.

## **Significance of Research**

A study on “An analysis of reader-response on Juan Villegas characterization in Maria Concepcion short story by Katherine Anne Porter” is expect to gain information about how important the reader’s role in literary work. Knowing how male and female reader respond to the characterization on short story will indicate that the participants can interact with the text. The way of readers to respond the missing parts of the story indicate their ability to response the gap. It also provides an opportunity to the readers to propose their idea, imagination, knowledge and even their background when filling the gap. Divide the readers into male and female reader is to see is gender and biological factors; the differences of male and female’s brain will affect the way of the readers to response the literary works differently or not. The result of this study can help the lecturer to see the ability of the readers in response the literary work especially prose. It also asks the reader to be more critical in response meaning especially in filling the gap in literary work.