

Chapter I: Introduction

This present chapter illustrates the research's highlight covering the basic consideration, the research question, and the aim of the research and the significances that the research can contribute toward both in theoretical and practical implication as well as the research delimitation.

Basic Consideration

“Fiction is the general term for invented stories, now usually applied to novels, short stories, novellas, romances, fables and other narrative works in prose, even though most plays and narrative poems are also fictional” (Baldick, 2001, p. 98). Fiction is a kind of literary works that is usually written in prose, which has common form of written or spoken language. The commonness of fiction makes it different from poetic and plays language. Altenbernd and Lewis (1966) in Karmini (2015, p. 2) assert “fiction is an imaginary but usually plausible and ultimately truthful prose narrative which dramatizes changes in human relationships”. The imaginary is based on author's experience and observation of life. Instead, the author has the authority to select and to produce purposes of story that contains amusement and revelation of human experience.

In fiction, there are elements that make a story be completed. They cannot separate each other and it must be comprehended as a unity. The story will be perfectly incomplete if one of them not pouring in it. The elements comprise character, plot,

setting, point of view, style, tone, and theme. They are known as intrinsic elements. To capture these aspects of intrinsic element, Nurgiyantoro (2010, p. 23) said in his thinking “intrinsic element is the elements that build up the literary work itself.” From the explanation before, it is clear that these elements are necessary to create a good story.

Reading a story can be a reference to have an activity which is full of joy. Nevertheless, it is also potentially being a challenging task. The readers are not merely enjoy the literary work but also they supposed to be able at analyzing the aspects of the story indeed. In the same way, Wright’s statement “reading literature involves enjoyment, study or analysis, on the one hand, and appreciation, on the other, become dual objectives to be pursued simultaneously” (1968, p. 128). It is expected that beside the readers can take pleasure in reading the literary work, they would rather do some analysis with the intention to understand the story critically through analyzing the intrinsic elements of literature, especially fiction.

Analyzing the intrinsic elements of fiction might be done within four elements. More so, it is better to analyze all elements so that we can obtain a deep understanding of a certain story. It is rely on our preference to know the elements that we interest to analyze in that story. After reading the story, it possibly for readers to analyze the plot as the object of analysis which they would like to know. For instance, the readers prefer to choose the conflict to be analyzed. It is believed that conflict is a stakeholder for developing the plot. Those also may want to know whether its

development or the role of each character in the story. Moreover, other elements of fiction such as setting and theme are interesting to be analyzed. To analyze the setting, the readers are not simply as just recognize the place and time or guess them through the questions *when* and *where*. In so doing, the readers need to understand that setting determines characters' development in a story. Theme, in analyzing this element, the readers should be aware of the right way in analyzing it. Thus, to decide the theme of story, the readers have to represent it as a whole. It means that analyzing the theme is not only making a conclusion or finding moral value of a story, but also how it can be portrayed the story as a totality. Equally important, to accomplish this case, the readers require to learn about how to analyze the elements of fiction properly because it has its own study since many stories have been existed to be read.

The activity of analyzing elements of literary work has been applied in the curriculum of English education department, State University of Gorontalo. Particularly, on several literary subjects namely Poetry, Prose, Drama, and Literary Criticism.

Meanwhile, this study is mainly concerned on analyzing intrinsic elements of literary work on Prose subject. In this subject, the students discuss about English short stories and one novel and also learn the way to analyze the intrinsic elements of story.

Related to the previous explanation about literary analysis, this study takes an issue about students' ability towards analyzing short story. On this occasion, the students analyze the intrinsic elements of short story. The reason for choosing this issue is

that most of students do not make depth analysis in their worksheets of short story. It is proved by preliminary investigation that held toward students of English Department on Prose subject and interviewed some lecturers of its subject. The students tend to make very brief analysis of the intrinsic elements of short story without supporting with the textual evidence which indicates that their analysis based on the facts within the short story. It is known that analyzing short story refers to the activity of doing literary analysis. Thus, it must be done through that way, and one thing that needs to be noticed is that their quality in writing. Still found many grammatical errors and improper language used. Some of lecturers also explained that when the lecturer began to discuss a new short story, the students seemed to know very little about the story because many students preferred to read the synopsis of the short story instead of reading its short story from the beginning to the end.

According to Icoz (1992) as cited in Kweldju (2000, p. 24) “basically to read literary texts demands an adequate competence in the language, appropriate cognitive development, accessible references to understand the cultural items in the texts”.

This means that Icoz also ever experienced with the circumstance which people in this case the students tend to analyze the intrinsic elements of short story with regard to neglect the procedure in analyzing them. The students may not accustom to the autonomy accorded by analyzing the intrinsic elements in short story. Similarly, they may used to struggling through short, boring, and exceedingly difficult texts, which

for many students it also may entails devastatingly careful of reading and surely constant of using dictionary.

Specifically, this research will be analyzed students' worksheets of analyzing the intrinsic elements of short story which consists of plot, character, setting, and theme as document analysis. The students would analyze the short story "Maria Concepcion" written by Katherine Anne Porter as the analysis object. As a result, the researcher will analyze those students' worksheet in order to know their ability in analyzing short story on Prose subject.

There are several reasons for choosing this story. The first is because it includes in teaching material of Prose subject. The second, this short story is appealing to be analyzed for the teenagers even adults, it is known as story about betrayal of love. The third, Maria Concepcion short story consider being the most famous short story in Prose class.

Based on the elucidation that has been revealed, the aim of this research is describing the students' ability toward analyzing short story of Maria Concepcion by collecting their worksheets of the short story. Therefore, the researcher would like to conduct a research entitled *A Descriptive Study on Students' Ability in Analyzing "Maria Concepcion" Short Story on Prose Subject.*

Research Question

This research focuses on students' ability in analyzing "Maria Concepcion" short story on Prose subject. Prose is one of literary subjects in English education department which provides an activity to analyze short story. Thus, the formulation of the research question is:

How is the students' ability in analyzing "Maria Concepcion" short story on Prose subject?

Aim of Research

Based on the research question above, this research aims at discovering and describing how is the students' ability toward analyzing "Maria Concepcion" short story on Prose subject, and also giving the description about understanding of English Department students in analyzing intrinsic elements of the short story. Eventually, this research is expected to give some recommendations and provide a reflection whether the teaching of Prose in English education department needs improvement in order to make it becomes meaningful subject.

Significances of Research

It is expected that this research gives contribution to:

Theoretically

The research will offer several significances in the field of English Language Teaching. First is, hopefully it will give precious information to the English teachers about students' ability in analyzing short story. It is known that literary work such as short story is being source of authentic texts of the language teaching curriculum. The English teachers are highly recommended to understand this study so that they may choose suitable short story in their English classroom. More importantly, this research also will give significance within teaching literature, especially for Prose subject. It will provide beneficial information for lecturers of Prose about their students' ability in doing the activity that is analyzing the short story. By knowing this information, the lecturers could determine the purpose of teaching the subject with regard to the needs and expectations of the students.

The second is, this research will help the students of English education department to get better understanding about literary analysis as analyze the intrinsic elements of prose in short story. Then, hopefully, they will have awareness about the advantageous of analyzing literary work for instance, short story. It must be considered the theory from Carter and Long (1991) as cited in Bottino (n.d., p. 211) which explain the role of literature in language teaching. It emphasizes three models

of teaching language. They are including; cultural model, language model, and personal growth model. The cultural model means that by recognizing where the author lived, the students can learn about culture of one country through the short story. It is reflected by the words and expressions in it. The language model, it is closely related to the advancement of linguistic competence in terms of increasing students' vocabulary and structures of sentence by reading the short story. The personal growth model is actually trying to encourage the students to savor the moral value of the story or even analyze the theme of story indeed.

The third is, the researcher will receive more knowledge about how to analyze short story by applying the knowledge of the intrinsic elements of prose because while describing students' ability to do so, the researcher also try to seek for the good solution into it.

Practically

This research will be useful to everyone who wants to do a research with the same problem. Then, the research gives more opinions as the previous research which is used by other people. In the future, many researchers may concern on the similar topic to study, but the study should contribute more significances in further.

Delimitation of Research

Actually, the activity on Prose subject is not only analyzing short story but also analyzing novel by applying the knowledge of the intrinsic elements of prose. However, to minimize the area of the study, this research is focused on short story to be analyzed by the students. It also because the students still have lack understanding in analyzing intrinsic elements of short story as has already been pointed out in the basic consideration. It will use theory from Kuiper (2012, p. 134) which reveals implicitly that there are some intrinsic elements of short story; plot, character, setting, and theme. This study also will limit the participants which only take one class among five classes in Prose subject because based on the preliminary investigation and interview with some lecturers of Prose subject, this class includes in classes that has problem as this study has been explained. The data of this research also derived from document analysis which is the students' worksheets of analyzing "Maria Concepcion" short story by Katherine Anne Porter.