

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to the Wellek and Warren (1965, 22) that the term of literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature, that is, to imaginative literature. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author. Literature is not just a document of facts, it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life, however literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination.

Literary work has two main elements which can be analyzed. They are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Perrine (1987) stated that intrinsic elements are the whole elements which build up a literary work. Character, setting, plot, theme, point of view are the examples of the intrinsic elements. While the extrinsic elements are the sociology, psychology, or historical side of the literary work. To understand and reveal the meaning of literature thoroughly, one should notice and see the history and society behind the literature. The approach that combines these two kinds of literature elements is Genetic Structuralism.

Genetic structuralism is one of literary approaches that appear since the dissatisfaction against the structuralism, which is only focused in the intrinsic elements without regard to extrinsic elements in literary works itself. Literature is human creation. Since the author is a member of society, there is a correlation among the author, his or her literary works and his or her social condition at that time. The social condition can be the inspiration of the author to create those literary works. Based on the author's background and experiences in his or her life, he or she can create the imitation poured into literary works. The author also can make the imaginary characters in his or her creation. Therefore, some literature can be reflection of author's social life. An author as the representative of certain society expresses his or her idea dealing with the social circumstance into his or her literary work at that time. Therefore, literature is a mirror of the society. Lucien Goldmann develops this approach into several aspects; human fact, collective subject and vision du monde or world view of author.

Agatha Christie began to write in 1920, after the First World War was ended. Her first story was *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* (1920). She is the best remembered for her detectives story including two diverse characters of Hercule Poirot and Miss Purple. She is considered to be the best selling writer of all time. Agatha Christie is probably one of the most famous pioneers of detective genre and certainly a successful one as a writer in detective genre. Although,

during the times in which she lived and wrote majority of her work, she did not get the respect and praise she deserved. Her work was often considered a “low-brow” literature and she was perceived more as a creator of great puzzles than as a respectful literary author. Edmund Wilson, a literary critic, once wrote in his essay called “Who Cares Who Killed Roger Ackroyd?” that: “Yet, I did not care for Agatha Christie and I hope never to read another of her book” (Wilson, <http://www.crazyoik.co.uk/>). This is only an example of a great deal of criticism she received.

The first, novel entitled *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was written in 1916. It was published for two times, the first one published by John Lane in 1920 in the United States and the second one published by The Bodley Head on 21 January 1921 in the United Kingdom. This story was a challenge from her sister Madge to Agatha Christie to write a story. The story begins when the main character Hastings sent back to England because of injury in the First World War. He is invited by his old friend John Cavendish to take a rest in the beautiful Styles Court. In the Style he meets John's step-mother, Mrs. Inglethorpe, and John's father, Mr. Alfred. Here Hastings feels so enjoy and relax because of the tranquil surroundings, but he begins to realize that there is something wrong. Those are when Mrs. Inglethorpe is found poisoned. Hercule Poirot, is invited to investigate who is the murderer then the family gets the suspicion.

Then, the story by Agatha Christie is novel entitled *Evil under the sun* which is her 29th story. In this novel, the main character Hercule Poirot is called to investigate a case for a dead woman's body and diamond that found on a moor then he sent to the company. Poirot finds that the diamond was bought by Sir Horace Platt for Arlena Marshall. He knows that Arlena is on her honeymoon with her husband and step-daughter. He joins them on the tropical island and finds that everybody else starts to hate Arlena for many and different reasons. So it's just a matter of time before Arlena dead, strangled and Poirot must find out who is the murderer.

And the last is *Sleeping Murder: Miss Marple's Last Case* which is her work of detective fiction. It was first published in the UK by the Collins Crime Club in October 1976 and in the US by Dodd, Mead and Company later in the same year. It was written over 30 years before it was published. After Gwenda moved into her new home, the odd things started to happen. She tries to modernize her house, but she can see the past events. She feels that it was her child home. The worst thing is every time she climbed the stairs she felt an irrational sense of terror. In fear, Gwenda turns to Miss Marple to exercise her ghosts.

In Christie's works it can surely be found certain types of the characters, both male and female, and there also exist common patterns in their behaviour. The first general types of women which Christie presents in most of her work are those, who are very capable,

intelligent, smart, independent and have enough courage to take the risks in many aspects of life. These characterizations belong to young adventurers, which are plucky, boyish and sometimes cheeky, driving sport cars, smoking and often very beautiful.

Conservative in England well known as Conservative Party, it is a political phenomenon. The main objective of Conservative Party is to achieve and maintain power. The ideology of conservative ideology is far more abstract and dependent on the actual state of things. Conservatives promote the traditional way of life, unity of the union, family values and support of business and commerce, which is tightly connected with the party (Ramsden, 2006). Since Agatha Christie has a politician views to the Burkean conservatism there is a correlation between her political views about conservative, “At a time of massive social transformations in areas as fundamental to individual identity as gender, family and class, Agatha offered the soothing balm of Burkean conservatism” (Hari, 2007) with her works. She poured it into her works through the character in her works.

This study focuses particularly on the female protagonists of major character in her novels through close reading of some of her selected works. The aims are to find the ideal model of a conservative woman. And it is also to prove that generally all main female characters, however independent they are, they find solace and happiness in

following traditional values, including marriage, family life, motherhood, etc.

Many main protagonists in her work are women from various social backgrounds, with various social roles and professions; from housewives, spinsters, actresses, artists, courageous young adventuresses to practical and successful business women who are from high society class. Maybe we can divide them into two general very simplified categories: those female characters that have no own identity, only through being the wives of their husbands, and those women who are independent and are seen as equal to male characters or a serious competition for them. Women in Christie's novels often cross the lines between these two categories. Female characters can be murderers as likely as male protagonists. Even one of the Christie's most famous detectives, an amateur sleuth Jane Marple, is a woman, solving the mysteries on her own relying on her own wits. 'General studies tend to emphasise the ideological element in crime fiction or its sociological insight' (Merrill, 1997). Considering this fact, in finding the ideal model of a conservative woman, this study also examines Christie's political views, since Agatha Christie is considered a conservative thinker and author, and tries to find relations between her opinions and the depiction of women in her work.

The study chooses a novel because it is one of the literary works that conveys the imaginative exploration to the readers through

women characters in action and setting. The writer chooses this novel because interested in the Agatha's way to illustrate an independent woman in the story. In this study, will discuss about *The Mysterious Affair at Style*, *Evil under the sun* and *Sleeping Murder*.

B. Problem Formulation

In this study, the writer would like to analyze the Agatha Christie's work by presenting and focusing the discussion on the:

1. What is the conservative independent woman defined in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *Evil under the Sun* and *Sleeping Murder* novel by Agatha Christie?
2. What does the value that Agatha Christie propagates through the female characters in the *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *Evil under the Sun* and *Sleeping Murder* novel?

C. Limitation of the Study

By reviewing the background of the study, this study focused on the conservative independent women and the background of Agatha Christie as the author as the result of the genetic structuralism that depicted in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *Evil under the Sun* and *Sleeping Murder* novels by Agatha Christie.

D. Object of the Study

The objectives of this study are:

1. To explain the conservative independent women in *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *Evil under the Sun* and *Sleeping Murder* novel by Agatha Christie
2. To explain the value that Agatha Christie propagates through the female characters in the *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, *Evil under the Sun* and *Sleeping Murder* novel.

E. The Significance of the Study

The result of this study is expected to be able to give the following benefits:

1. The result of this study is expected to be useful for students of College of Languages of Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang, mainly for literature students who are interested in extrinsic elements such as the background of the author of the literary work.
2. This study can help the readers in learning the issue conservative independent woman.
3. This study can be the source of information and further research relating to the discussion of genetic structuralism

F. Outline of the Study

This under graduate writing consists of five chapters. Chapter one is consists of introduction in which the study gives description of the background of the study and the reason of chosen the topic, problem

formulation, limitation of the study, statements of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study and outlines of the study. Meanwhile chapter two consists of synopsis and review related literature and the discussion of the theory which is used in this study, such as intrinsic elements of literature, concept of independent conservative woman and genetic structuralism. While chapter three discusses about the research method, description of the method and procedures of the analysis. In addition chapter four is discussion and analysis; finally conclusion and suggestion.