

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

There are so many literature works in the world, such as poetry, novel, short story, etc. Literature is the way of the author to explain and tell their story to others, whatever it is fiction or non-fiction. Every author has a purpose and meaning of telling their story, in order to make people understand what are they thinking and understanding author's perspective, personalities and styles. Novel is one of the literature that really well-known by people around the world and contains many genres, such as romantic, fantasy, psychological, and many more. K.L. Slater's novel *The Mistake* is the example of novel with psychological genre.

K.L. Slater is the author of suspense, mystery and psychological thriller novels which has sold million copies in different parts of the world. After years of trying and failed of getting her novels published, she went back to the university at the age of 40 when she gained a first-class degree in English & Creative Writing and an MA in Creative Writing from Nottingham Trent University (Slater, About Me, 2021). Her popular novels are *Safe with Me* (2016), *Blink* (2017), *The Mistake* (2017), *Liar* (2017) and *The Visitor* (2018).

The Mistake tells about a girl named Rose, who missing her younger brother Billy when they play together, only to found that Billy is found dead two days later. Sixteen years after the tragedy, she still blames herself for what happened to Billy. She still feels guilty because of her failure to protect her little brother. Rose has never fully recovered from the trauma, and one of the few people she trusts is her neighbor Ronnie, who she has known all her life. But one day Ronnie falls ill, and Rose goes next door to help him and what she finds in his attic room turns her world upside down.

The story sets in the present time and sixteen years earlier (about early 2000s). Sixteen years earlier, Rose met a man named Gareth, who has ten-year-old difference

with her. She started a relationship with Gareth, but it got worse because Gareth was controlling too much about her life and even play the key role of the breakup of friendship between her and Cassie, her best friend. Cassie then got raped and even Rose got tortured by Gareth. After the disappearance and then the death of Billy, she believed that Gareth was the killer. In the present time, her past trauma is back again when she discovers Billy's blanket in the house of her neighbor Ronnie. She is eager to find out whom responsible for Billy's death. Several attempts were made, even by meeting Gareth, who still loves her. Towards the end of the story, she found something unexpected about Billy's killer and things that out of her expectations.

The reason why I choose novel *The Mistake* by K.L. Slater is because of the reflection of guilt and anxiety of the character Rose as the effect of her past events: the death of her brother Billy. I found those issues of guilt and anxiety is interesting, because guilt and anxiety are related to person's life. What we have done in the past sometimes giving a big effects in our present time, just like Rose's guilty because of Billy's death and her anxiety because of her relationship with Gareth and when she discovers Billy's blanket in Ronnie's house. This study can be useful because I will analyze it through intrinsic approaches: characterization, plot and setting, and extrinsic approaches: the concepts of guilt and anxiety.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, I identify that the problem of this research is about the reflection of guilt and anxiety by the character of Rose, when she expressed her guilt feeling because of Billy's death. Her trauma about the incident causes she has anxiety and she attempts to find someone who is responsible of her brother's death after she found Billy's blanket in Ronnie's house. Therefore, I assume that the concepts of guilty and anxiety are reflected through the character of Rose in K.L. Slater's novel *The Mistake*.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problems above, I give limitations of the problem in the novel as it follows:

1. Through intrinsic approaches: Characterization, plot and setting
2. Through extrinsic approaches: The concepts of guilt and anxiety

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the assumption, the research problem is formulated in the form of research questions as follows:

1. What are the characterization through telling and showing method?
2. What are the plot and setting of this novel?
3. What are the concepts of guilt and anxiety?
4. What is the theme of the novel based on the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problems above, the objective of this research is to prove the assumption that the concepts of guilt and anxiety are reflected on the character of Rose in K.L. Slater's novel *The Mistake*. To achieve the objective, there are steps of research as it follows:

1. To analyze the characterization through telling and showing method.
2. To analyze the plot and setting of this novel.
3. To analyze the concept of guilt and anxiety.
4. To develop the theme based on intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.6 Benefits of the Research

This research is expected of giving benefits for those who are interested to understand and learn about K.L. Slater's novel *The Mistake*. This study is expected to be useful because it is done through applying concepts of characterizations, plot, and

setting and psychological concepts of guilt and anxiety through the character of Rose and other characters that defined in this research.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

In accordance to the title of the research above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

It consists of: the background of the problems, identification of the problems, the limitation of the problems, the formulation of the problems, the objectives of the research, the framework of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

It consists of: the definitions through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approach includes characterization, setting and plot. The applied extrinsic approach is psychological approach of guilt and anxiety. Previous Related Studies also included in order supporting the research.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODS

It consists of: time and location, research approach and method, research object and data, data collection technique, and data analysis technique.

CHAPTER 4: THE REFLECTION OF GUILT AND ANXIETY OF ROSE CHARACTER IN K.L. SLATER'S NOVEL "THE MISTAKE"

It consists of: the presentation and analysis of the research based on formulation of the problems compiled in the first chapter. Analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches associated with the title of

The Reflection of Guilt and Anxiety of Rose Character in K.L. Slater's Novel "The Mistake"

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

It consists of: an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result.

