

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

The research entitled Regret and Tragedy in the novel Before the Coffee Gets Cold is intended to show the character Yaeko Hirai who regrets her actions after the death of her younger sister, Kumi Hirai, using a psychological approach. The feeling of regret experienced by the character Yaeko Hirai is caused by the tragedy that befell Kumi Hirai due to an accident that took her life.

The author of this book is from Japan, named Toshikazu Kawaguchi. He was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1971. As a scriptwriter, his works include COUPLE, Sunset Song, and Family Time. He previously produced, directed, and wrote for the theater group Sonic Snail. The novel Before the Coffee Gets Cold was adapted from the 1110 Productions drama by Kawaguchi, which won the top prize at the 10th Sugunami Drama Festival. Of all his works, for me the one that left the most impression was the novel Before the Coffee Gets Cold because he inserted a very extraordinary moral message that could touch my heart.

This novel tells of a cafe in Tokyo that has existed since the Edo period, named Funiculi Funicula, there is a chair at the farthest point from the door. Local legend says this chair can take anyone back in time as long as the person follows a certain list of rules. Then four customers come to the cafe having the same desire, which is to travel to the past and must comply with regulations that have been in place for a long time. First, she had to take a sip of the coffee Kazu served before it got cold. Second, people who can be met are people who have visited the Funiculi Funicula cafe. Third, when it is in the past, the person must not get up from the chair where she sits. Fourth, must not tell that they are from the present. Fifth, the person who wants to go back in time must sit on the chair where the ghost of the woman in the white dress sits.

Yaeko's bar has been closed for two days, it turns out that her sister got into a traffic accident on her way home after she tried to find Yaeko at the bar and Funiculi

Funicula. Kumi's death makes Yaeko feel guilty. Therefore, Yaeko came to Funiculi Funicula to go to the past where a few days ago her sister visited the cafe. She wanted to see her sister one last time and wanted to know the reason why Kumi always came looking for her. When she made it to the past, Yaeko finally met Kumi, and all this time her sister came looking for her because she wanted to take care of the inn with her sister, moreover it was Kumi's dream for a long time. Yaeko is even more devastated and regretful because she has treated her sister badly all this time and thinks that Kumi wants Yaeko to return home so she does not take care of her family's inn. While sitting in that chair, Yaeko refrained from rushing towards her sister, preventing Kumi from returning home so she would not have an accident and die, but Yaeko realized that her actions would not change anything since it was explained in the rules.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background, I identify the problem that the character Yaeko Hirai feels sorry for her treatment and actions towards her sister, Kumi Hirai. She blames herself for Kumi's death after visiting her in Tokyo. In the end, Yaeko still goes to the past even though it will not change the future and Kumi's death. I assume that the theme of this novel is regret and tragedy.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of this research through an intrinsic and extrinsic approach. The intrinsic approach is limited to the study of characters, plot, setting, and theme. The extrinsic approach is limited to using the concept of regret and the concept of tragedy.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I formulate the research problem as follows: is it true that the theme of this novel reflects the concepts of regret and tragedy? To answer this question, I formulated the problem as follows:

1. How does the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* describe the characterization of the characters?
2. How do the plot and setting function in supporting the theme?
3. How the concept of regret and tragedy applied in the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*?

1.5 Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to show that the theme of this novel is the concept of regret and tragedy in Toshikazu Kawaguchi's *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*. To achieve this goal, the following stages of research were carried out.

1. To analyze the characteristics of the characters using the omniscient “third-person” point of view.
2. To analyze the plot and background in support of the theme.
3. To apply the concept of regret and tragedy to the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold*.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

This research is expected to be useful for those who are interested in deepening their knowledge about the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. This research may also be useful for those who are interested in analyzing literary works using the approaches and concepts used. This research is useful because it is carried out through a new perspective using a psychological approach.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

The framework of the term paper writing title “Regret and Tragedy in *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi” is as follows:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of the phases of the research layout, such as the background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation of the problem, objective of the research, and benefit of the research.

CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of the experts' theories study which I used following the title of the research and to analyze the research data, which are as follows: The theory of regret, and the theory of tragedy. I also include three previous studies that are relevant to my research theme.

CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter consists of a detailed explanation of the qualitative approach as well as the qualitative descriptive method used in the study to explain quotations in the form of dialogue and narration taken from the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. The technique of collecting data is by reading the novel first, then selecting and sorting several quotations that are adapted to the research objectives.

CHAPTER 4 : REGRET AND TRAGEDY IN THE NOVEL BEFORE THE COFFEE GETS COLD BY TOSHIKAZU KAWAGUCHI

This chapter contains the findings and analysis of research referring to the title of the thesis, namely the sense of regret and tragedy in the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi. The findings and analysis consist of: the elaboration of characterization and regret, the elaboration of setting and tragedy, and the elaboration of plot and regret.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the conclusions from the research results of regret and tragedy in the novel *Before the Coffee Gets Cold* by Toshikazu Kawaguchi.

