

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

There are many literary works in this world that can describe the reflection of human life today. Literary works have purpose and meaning that the authors want to tell to the reader. One of them is Gayle Forman published her novel *I Was Here* in 2015.

Gayle Forman was born in Los Angeles on June 5, 1970. She lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband and daughters. She is an award-winning, internationally bestselling author and journalist. She is the author of *Just One Day* and *Just one Year*, and the companion e-novella *Just One Night*, as well as the *New York Times* bestsellers *If I Stay* and *Where She Went*. *I Was Here* is Gayle Forman at her finest, a taut, emotional, and ultimately redemptive story about redefining the meaning of family and finding a way to move forward even in the face of unspeakable loss. She wrote an article about suicide in which she interviewed friends and family members of young women who had taken their lives. As she did in *If I Stay*, Forman offers an introspective examination of the line between life and death, and the encourage it takes to persist in *I Was Here* novel.

The story tells about Megan Luisa Garcia—Meg who suffers from depression. Meg gets the disease from her mother. She has her first clinical episode in tenth grade. After she knows depression, and it is not something that visits once and disappears. She always gets antidepressants from her parents. Besides that, she feels tired of her life which always depends on antidepressants. When she starts to have suicidal thoughts, she reaches out for support, goes to her university's health center, but ultimately puts her trust on a suicide "support" group or *The Final Solution*, which applaud her impulse to end her life and give her advice in how to do it. Finally, she chooses to drink a bottle of industrial-strength cleaner alone in Starline Motel, Seattle and sends emails to friends and family on a time delay. So that, no one can interfere with her fatal decision. This novel describes how Meg has been thinking of taking her own life for such a long time because of depression that she suffers from. She imagines that the death will release her from pain. Until, she chooses to commit suicide in her young age.

The reason why the writer chooses this novel is the character of this book is very representative of people life today which a lot of cases to commit suicide without knowing the risks of what they are doing also this novel has a conflict of interest to be discussed. In a work of literature, there are few analyzes that can be used to examine a literary work. Moreover, this study is expected to be useful for those interested in getting deeper knowledge in analyzing a literary work. This study is expected to be useful because I want to analyze it through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Through intrinsic approaches I use characterization, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approaches I use psychological approaches are depression and death instinct.

### **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem above, I identify the problems at Megan who suffers from depression and feels tired of her life which always depends on antidepressants until she chooses to commit suicide in her young life. I assume this is the theme of the novel: *The Reflection of Depression and Death Instinct on Character Megan in Gayle Forman's I Was Here Novel.*

### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit on the problem of the novel as follows:

Theory and concepts that I will apply as follow:

1. Through intrinsic approach: characterization – showing and telling methods, setting, plot, and theme.
2. Through extrinsic approaches which are the psychology of literature and the psychology of personality: depression and death instinct.

### **D. Statement of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I state the problem: whether it is correct that the theme of this novel which is the reflection of depression and death instinct on character Megan in the novel “I Was Here” *true*? In order to answer this question, I formulate next problems.

1. What are the characterizations of this novel through showing and telling methods?
2. What are the setting and plot of this novel?
3. What are the depression and death instinct through the characterizations, setting, plot?

4. What does the theme of this novel reinforce through the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

#### **E. Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, I aim to show that the theme of this research is the reflection of depression and death instinct on character Megan. In order to reach this aim, I make several steps as follow:

1. To analyze characterization through showing and telling methods.
2. To analyze the novel by using the concept of plot and setting.
3. To analyze this novel by elaborating the concepts of depression and death instinct with characterization, setting, and plot.
4. To reinforce theme by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

#### **F. Methods of the Research**

Based on the framework of the theories above, I use qualitative methods. Qualitative methods is a broad term that can be applied to a range of research approaches that have their theoretical origins in a range of disciplines, include anthropology, sociology, philosophy, social psychology and linguistics. Although considerable diversity exists in the type of studies that can be described as 'qualitative', it is possible to define a set of core characteristics. Those are study of literature, and interpretative character of research or analysis by collecting data which is the literature text of the novel entitled *I Was Here* by Gayle Forman as the primary source and it is supported by other literature which relates to the concepts as the secondary source. Those are from several books such as the books entitled *Concise Companion to Literature* by James H. Pickering and Jeffrey D. Hooper, also from some websites.

#### **G. Benefits of the Research**

Based on the methods of the research above, this study is expected to be beneficial for those who are interested in getting deeper knowledge of the novel entitled *I Was Here* by *Gayle Forman*. This study is expected to be useful because it is done through a new perspective by applying the concepts of depression and death instinct that included in the field of psychology literature that is shown as something new and uncovered for the next study.

#### **H. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Based on the benefits of research above, systematic organization of this research is arranged as follows:

**CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

It consists of: background of the problem, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, statement of the problem, objective of the research, methods of the research, benefits of the research, and systematic organization of the research.

**CHAPTER II: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF STRUCTURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES**

It consists of: the explanation of the concepts and theories. It includes intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approaches are characterization – showing and telling methods, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approach, I use theoretical framework – psychological approaches are depression and death instinct.

**CHAPTER III: THE NOVEL *I WAS HERE* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACHES**

It consists of: analysis of characterization through showing and telling methods, analysis of setting and plot through the concepts of setting and plot. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

**CHAPTER IV: “THE REFLECTION OF DEPRESSION AND DEATH INSTINCT ON CHARACTER MEGAN IN GAYLE FORMAN’S *I WAS HERE* NOVEL” THROUGH INTRINSIC AND EXTRINSIC ELEMENTS**

It consists of: analysis of the novel which reflects depression and death instinct. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

**CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION**

It consists of: the conclusion that proves that the theme of this novel is “The Reflection of Depression and Death Instinct on Character Megan in Gayle Forman’s *I Was Here* Novel.”

Attachment: References and Poster of the Research.

