

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Many people often spend their time doing various activities such as watching, writing, listening to music, or doing their hobbies. Usually, people will spend their time reading. One of them is short stories; short stories are one of the literary works that are in great demand by the public. Short stories are produced by the author through imagination, feelings, and real-life experiences as outlined in writing. A short story is a form of fiction that is short in both the events disclosed and the contents of the story, the number of characters, and the number of words used, so it does not take long to read it (Priyatni, 2010, p. 126). This is supported by the opinion expressed by Poe in Nurgiyantoro (2007, p. 10) that short stories are stories that can be read in one sitting, approximately between half an hour and two hours.

Although short, short stories also have intrinsic elements that are quite complex. Such as plot, background, characters, and characterization. The author will describe the characters in the story very well, and each character certainly has a different character. There are those who are brave, cowardly, shy, and so on. According to Diyanni (2001, p. 56), "Characterization is the way the author uses to display and express character." Characterization is a technique or method used to create and develop characters according to what is planned. The meaning of characterization is to display and introduce characters so that the personalities of each character in a short story can be seen.

In Indonesia, every novel or short story is usually in Indonesian so that readers can easily understand it, but usually several well-known Indonesian novels or short stories are translated into English. Like the novel "Malam Terakhir" by Leila S. Chudori. Short story collection "Berhala" by Danarto This collection of short stories has been translated into several languages, namely English, Dutch,

French, and Japanese, and was awarded the *Penghargaan Pusat Bahasa* in 1990 and the *Pustaka Firdaus* award as the main book publisher of fiction in 1987. In (Sitepu, 2013) Sitor Situmorang published six short stories, collected under the title *Pertempuran dan Salju di Paris* (Clash and Snow in Paris) in 1956. The collection includes *Salju Di Paris* and *Ibu Pergi Ke Surga* (Mother Goes to Heaven). The second collection which appeared in 1963 was titled *Pangeran* (Prince). Translated short stories are definitely not fake stories. In a short story, there must be a message or issue contained in each story. Whether it's political issues, feminists, religion, or identity.

Identity itself can be categorized as individual identity, personal identity, and social identity. Individual identity is one's identity, which cannot be interfered with by other people's identities. For example, one's identity may be that of a female. It has nothing to do with his friend's individual identity or anybody's identity. Therefore, this personal or individual identity is only focused on one's identity and not influenced by others' identities (Oyserman, Elmore, & Smith, 2012). Meanwhile, social identity is one person's identity that is related to his or her position in a social community or group membership. Someone's social identity has something to do with other people around him or her, as well as groups or social communities that surround him or her. Social identity is related to a person's role related to group membership (Stets and Burke, 2000).

Identity is a characteristic of a person's condition or identity derived from the biological, psychological, and sociological factors that underlie individual behavior. According to Stryker (1980), identity is a theory that focuses on interactions between individuals within a larger social structure, or what is called society. Individuals and society are seen as two sides of the same coin. A person is shaped by interaction, but social structure shapes interaction. In this respect, Stryker seems to agree with a structural perspective, especially role theory. Meanwhile, according to Waterman (1984), identity means having a clear self-image that includes a number of goals to be achieved and values and beliefs chosen by the individual. These commitments have increased over time and have been made

because the goals, values, and beliefs one seeks to achieve are important for giving life direction, purpose, and meaning (Lefrancois, 1993). In the psychology dictionary (American Psychological Association), social identity is the set of personal qualities that one claims and displays to others so consistently that they are considered to be part of one's essential, stable self. This public persona may be an accurate indicator of the private, personal self, but it may also be a deliberately contrived image. In social psychology, the part of self-concept that is derived from memberships in social groups or categories, ranging from family to nationality or race, Social identity is distinguished from the public self and the private self.

The writer is interested in understanding more about the issue of identity contained in a literary work, namely short stories. The writer focuses on issues or problems of identity in the three Indonesian-translated short stories. The short stories include *Forbidden to Love Flowers* by Kuntowijoyo; *Ancestors* by Rainy M.P. Hutabarat; and *Oh, What a Beautiful Woman* by Ratna Indraswari Ibrahim. The writer took three short stories from the book "*The Lontar Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories*." The Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories, volumes 1 and 2 (the English edition is entitled *The Lontar Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories*), contains 106 short stories or fictions by 106 authors from 1924 to 2000.

The first short story is *Forbidden to Love Flowers* by Kuntowijoyo. Kuntowijoyo, in addition to being known as a social scientist, historian, and Muslim scholar, is also known as a reliable writer. He has produced many literary works, both in the form of novels, short stories, and poems that he has composed. One of his famous works in the form of short stories, namely "Forbidden to Love Flowers", won the first prize in the 1968 Literature magazine in the form of a collection of short stories that highlighted the life of rural communities in relation to matters of faith. *Forbidden to Love Flowers* tells the story of a boy named Buyung who loves flowers but is strongly opposed by his father. Buyung and his family have just moved from the village to the city. Next to his house is a house with high walls that belonged to the old man. Buyung was very curious about the old man's house; he was desperate to climb the fence and visit the old man's house, even though people

and even his parents forbade it. Then, driven by a very curious attitude, Buyung insisted on taking a peek at the mysterious house next to his house, which was said to be inhabited by an old man who lived alone in the house. Then, in the afternoon, when Buyung's kite was cut off, without realizing it, Buyung realized that the old man was already behind him and gave a bunch of flowers to Buyung. Buyung likes to bring flowers to his house. But his father scolded him for liking flowers, because a man doesn't deserve to like flowers.

The second short story is *Ancestors* by Rainy M.P. Hutabarat. *Ancestors* tells the story of a girl who insists on knowing the origins of her maternal ancestors. Her parents had told her that her ancestral grave had been lost on the battlefield. Even so, Roito wanted to continue her pilgrimage to the graves of her ancestors. She also knew from her early days that the tomb of her ancestors should not be visited because the myth would be overwritten by disaster afterward. That is the belief of her family. Actually, her ancestors marriages were not approved by both parties because of their different religions. Her male ancestors were still religiously *Pelbegu*, the belief followed by the Batak kings, while her female ancestors had embraced Christianity. Then their parents cursed that their descendants would not be allowed to step on their graves. If it is violated, it will be disastrous.

The third short story is *Oh, What a Beautiful Woman* by Ratna Indraswari Ibrahim. *Oh, What a Beautiful Woman* tells the story of a woman named Nikita, who is 27 years old and has two children. Nikita feels that her beauty will be wasted if she is only a housewife. She is eager to realize her unfulfilled dreams, such as becoming a movie star. Instead of taking care of the restaurant ordered by her husband, Nikita wants to get recognition from her husband that she is beautiful. Nikita does not want to be shackled or belittled. Her husband must understand that Nikita is still beautiful and has potential. Nikita does not want to be like clay; she does not want to be an ugly woman who spends her life in the kitchen. She also wants to always look beautiful in front of her customers.

The writer is currently very interested in choosing these three short stories as material for study because as literary works, the three translated short stories provide a portrait of the main character's life with all its problems. There are three problems that the writer finds interesting. First, the authors of the three short stories are able to describe strong characterizations in each short story. Second, the three short stories can specifically describe identity and social dimensions and provide readers with new knowledge about social life, kinship relations, and gender struggles. Third, the three short stories are literary works that are very relevant to today's society, as there are still gender issues, namely between masculinity and femininity. Modern society, which still holds the beliefs of their forefathers. As well as psychological problems regarding the desire for "self-proud" recognition that the closest person wants to accept. There are different problems of identity in the short stories. For the purposes of analysis, the writer sorts out whether there are significant similarities or differences between the short stories. What identity problems are experienced by the character, and how does each character deal with these problems? because the stories of the three short stories have almost significant similarities, the writer is interested in conducting this study. Based on the description above, this research is entitled "The Problems of Identity in the Selected Indonesian Translated Short Stories".

1.2. Statement of the Study

Based on the research background, this *Skripsi* seely to answer these following questions:

1. How is the characterization of the main character in each short story?
2. What problems of identity are depicted in each short story?
3. How does the main character in each short story deal with the problems?

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The purposes of this study are:

1. To describe the characterization of the main character in each short story
2. To describe the problems of identity depicted in each short story
3. To describe the main character in each short story deal with the problems

1.4. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to be used as an additional reference for discussing studies on short stories about the phenomenon of identity. The results of this study can provide information about identity problems that exist within individuals. The writer hopes this research can be useful for other student to analyzing about problems identity. This research can provide readers with more useful information and knowledge.

1.5. Methodology of the Study

This study uses a qualitative approach. With a qualitative approach, this research will produce descriptive data to understand the identity phenomena experienced by the main characters in the selected Indonesian translated short stories. The data was taken from the book "*The Lontar Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories*," short fiction from the Twentieth Century. The Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories, volumes 1 and 2 (the English edition is entitled *The Lontar Anthology of Indonesian Short Stories*), contains 106 short stories or fictions by 106 authors from 1924 to 2000. For analysis, the writer took 3 short stories, namely *Forbidden to Love Flowers* by Kuntowijoyo, *Ancestors* by Rainy M.P. Hutabarat, and *Oh, What a Beautiful Woman* by Ratna Indraswari Ibrahim.

To analyze this research, the writer uses the theory characterization, identity, identity perspective, types of identity, the formation of cultural identity, and the theory of gender. The data were analyzed in several steps. After reading the selected Indonesian-translated short stories, the writer has a text that contains material for review. The writer identifies it based on its type. This step is achieved by analyzing

the data using the theory of characterization and identity. After that, an explanation of any identity problems that arise based on the context according to identity theory was described. Finally, the study ends by providing an analytical description in the form of quotations to show the identity problems experienced by the main character in each short story. The presentation of the results is displayed in the form of quotations, and then the writer reports the analysis descriptively to show the characterization, identity problems, and how the characters deal with these identity problems. There were several steps taken, including reading the selected Indonesian-translated short stories, collecting data, selecting data, classifying data, analyzing data, and presenting the results of the analysis.

1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid a wider analysis, the writer conducted this study only focusing on the identity elements contained in the selected Indonesian translated short stories. This research focuses on identity problems in the selected Indonesian translated short stories that are experienced by the main character in their lives. In this research, the writer takes every sentence that includes the classification of the writer's research. The characterization of each main character, identity problems, and how the main characters deal with these problems are presented in this study. The theoretical discussion in this study will focus on identity problems.

1.7. Status of the Study

After conducting a literature review, the three short stories *Forbidden to Love Flowers* (Kuntowijoyo), *Ancestors* (Rainy M.P. Hutabarat), and *Oh, What a Beautiful Woman* (Ratna Indraswari Ibrahim) have never been studied before by students of the Faculty of Letters and Languages, Universitas Kristen Indonesia. And the writer also did not find other researchers who conducted research on the three short stories on the internet. The writer used research that analyzed the identity as a source of reference for writing this essay. The following research will be used as a source of reference for the writer: The research with the title "*The Identity Crisis of Ali as Potraited in Ali's Wedding (2017)*". This research was conducted

by Miladia Nur Aini, a student of the English Department, Faculty of Adab and Cultural Sciences, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University in 2021. She analyzes the identity crisis experienced by the main character, namely Ali. She analyzed the identity crisis because it often occurs when someone is in the process of developing their identity. In her research, she discusses the main character, who is experiencing an identity crisis due to the influence of parents and social conservatives. Apart from identity problems, the main character also experiences clashes between two cultures. In this situation, the main character explores other roles to find an identity that is acceptable to him. Because that is what causes some conflicts in the development of his identity. Miladia uses identity development theory by Erik Erikson, identity status theory by James Marcia, and movie theory by Villarejo. Miladia analyzes the fact that the main character experiences identity confusion. The results of this study show that the main character is in three different identity states: *identity foreclosure*, *identity moratorium*, and *identity achievement*. And the results of this study also prove that the social context has a major influence on the formation of one's identity.

The similarities between the writer's research and Miladia's research are that both discuss problems and the formation of the main character's identity. There are also both parental and social influences that shape a person's identity. Although both discuss identity, there are differences that distinguish the writer's research from Miladia's. Miladia discusses identity specifically, namely the identity crisis in the main character, while the writer discusses the problem of identity in the main character by classifying identity based on its type.

1.8. Organization of the Study

Chapter 1 is introduction. This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the research methodology, the scope and limitation of the study, the status of the study and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2 is review of related literature. This chapter presents the theories or related research studies in the same field. This provides the theories used in analyzing the data, that is theory characterization, identity, identity perspective, types of identity, formation of cultural identity and theory of gender.

Chapter 3 is findings and discussion. This section displays all the results of data analysis. The research based on the formulation of the problem which consists of three points, namely the characterization of the main character in each short story, what identity problems are depicted, and how each main character deal with the problems. All the findings will be discussed and analyzed in this chapter.

Chapter 4 is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter the writer presents conclusions and suggestions based on the research finding of the previous chapter to answer research questions on the selected Indonesian translated short stories. This chapter describes the conclusions from what has been discussed previously and some suggestions regarding this research.

