

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

"Mother was head of the house. That was all that mattered" (Rukiah, 1950, p.11). How do Indonesian women respond if they see the statement stated above? Does it fit with the portrait of the mother in Indonesia in reality? Where exactly is the position of a mother in the house? Is a mother capable of having a big power or role?

Talking about Indonesia, Mother in Indonesia has a significant meaning, There is several things that we must have heard before, A Mother day, *Ibu Kota*, *Ibu Negara*, *Ibu Pertiwi* *Ibu rumah tangga*, *Bahasa ibu* etc. In Indonesia culture, both in folklore and history, The mother places in an important position. In the Indonesian folktale *Malin Kundang*, his lack of respect for his mother resulted in him being transformed into a stone. The story shows the influence of a mother on her child, which means that the mother is portrayed as being in an important role. The important position of mother is also described by Rukiah in the novel.

*The Fall and The Heart* is a translated novel written by Siti Rukiah Kertapati, an Indonesian women writer who pays a lot of attention to the little things around her that even people often forget, even though these things are no less important than something big. In her works, Rukiah can be seen the war of the souls that are about to advance against the old thoughts that are still there. Rukiah started her career at a relatively young age, at the age of 19, Her first book published by *Balai Pustaka* at 1950 with the title *Kedjatuhan dan Hati* recorded as one of the first generations of women to publish their work after the war. Rukiah's books: *The Fall and The Heart/Kedjatuhan dan hati*, *Istri Prajurit* and *Tandus* It is enough to place Rukiah as a hopeful female author. Rukiah is known as a woman who is intelligent and sharp-minded. Though busy with various activities of the organization and writing, Rukiah remembered her family and still have time to raise their children.

Rukiah's novel *The Fall and The Heart*, published in 1950, is one of the strongest works written by a woman writer before the 1970s. This novel tells the story of a middle-class woman who lived during the 1965 revolution, her thoughts, emotions and interactions with her family, lovers and social environment. Novel that tells the story of a small family during the revolution. The family is comprised of a father as the head, a mother, and three daughters: Dini, Lina, and Susi. This small family is whole but is slightly different. If in the family, it is generally the husband who has power over the house. At the same time, in this novel, the narrator is Susi, and the mother has more power in the house. In raising her three daughters, the mother has a measure of her own values or principles as a child and woman that she wants to instill in her three daughters. She wants her three children to become female figures who are in accordance with her wishes, namely, women must have a soft and beautiful heart, must be radiant, and when speaking, must be able to captivate the heart so that they can get a rich husband and be able to return the favor to her Mother. If the traits she hopes for are not present in her daughter, she will take out her anger on her daughter to return to her words, to fulfill her wish, the mother also prepares a husband's for her child, such as an arranged marriage with a man according to her criteria. Responding to the mother, her three daughters had different reactions, some were tough and against their mother's wishes, some always obeyed their mother's wishes so that they became the favorite child at home, and the last was between the two reactions, namely being a child with a dilemma, vacillating between the desire to rebel and the desire to surrender and make the mother happy.

The family is the smallest unit, as well as the first community, for the development of the child. Therefore, the family in society plays a very important and strategic role in building and strengthening the mental and characteristics of children until they grow up as part of the life of the nation and state. What a child gets in the family will affect his physical growth and psychological development. This is inseparable from the intervention of the mother's figure, who has a bigger role than the role of the father in caring for and raising a child. Mothers are assumed

to be individuals who only devote themselves to their families because they focus more on the reproductive area and the domestic dimension. The mother's responsibility is to raise and educate the child directly. In other words, the mother may not delegate this task to other people. Thus, mothers are asked to continue to be around the child to meet their needs. This concept is commonly known as a housewife.

The concept of the role of the mother in the family is explored by Rukiah in this novel. It is interesting to see that the role of the mother is quite prominent, whereas the role of the father is not visible. Mother characters in real life and in a literary work are always depicted almost the same, namely through the role of a mother in the household, who is always the person in charge of domestic work. Based on another understanding, it said that a housewife is a mother who has a role in various things such as; (a) Doing or taking care of household chores such as preparing food or cooking, cleaning the house, and other domestic activities; (b) taking care of children, namely raising and educating their children; (c) responsible for meeting the effective and social needs of children; (d) play a role in being an active and harmonious society, Effendy (2004, p. 32) in Junaidi's (2017).

According to the present writer, the role of Mother based on the above understanding is a form of the result of stereotypes or constructions that built in the community itself, that the part of women, especially mothers, is only attached to the world of domestic work. It is interesting to see from Motherhood implied in this novel.

Definitions of motherhood are historically and situationally specific. More directly, perspectives of Motherhood are both racialized and class-based. Though at any point in time there are paradigms of motherhood that crosscut class and race, motherhood as an activity is experienced differently by women depending on their social locations (Mahon 1995) in journal by Gibbon (2010). Definition of motherhood is clearly gendered and represents a division of labor that puts women in the home and responsible for the emotional lives of children Gibbon (2010, p. 51).

Research conducted by Therriault (2014) with the title *Moms Gone Social: A Critical Thematic Analysis of Mommy Facebooking And Its Effect On Motherhood Identities And The "Good" Mother Ideal* stated that culture also influences the view of society as a whole regarding the responsibilities of a mother. Based on several views related to Motherhood, it is quite interesting to carry out an analysis with the description of the mother as outlined by Rukiah in the novel *The Fall and The Heart*. This is the reason why the present writer chose this novel because the present writer wants to see the strength of the mother character depicted in an Indonesian work of fiction. Therefore, this *skripsi* focuses on discussing the Mother's character.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the research background, This *Skripsi* goes to answer these following questions:

1. How is the characterization of the mother depicted in the novel?
2. How does the character of the mother affect the family members?
3. How is the portrayal of Indonesian mother depicted in the novel ?

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

This study is aims to:

1. To know the Mother characterization as described in the novel.
2. To know how the character of the mother affect the family members.
3. To know the portrayal of an Indonesian mother is depicted in the novel.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The present writer does this research to give more information to the readers and other researchers about the role of a mother, to give more information to the readers about role a mother affect family, also give more contribution to literature study in the field of searching about motherhood In Indonesia.

### 1.5 Methodology of the Study

This study uses descriptive qualitative research methods. This type of qualitative descriptive research is a research method that uses qualitative data and describes it descriptively. This type of qualitative descriptive research is usually used to analyze events, phenomena, or social situations and the purpose of descriptive research is to make descriptive notes about structured representations related to the events being studied. There are several stages in analyzing the novel *The Fall and The Heart*, First, stage of preparation, the present writer read the novel and collect data that can be related to the portrait of Indonesian Mother, and the second stage is data analysis using characterization theory and the concept role of mother and Indonesian mother.

### 1.6 Scope and Limitation

Siti Rukiah has written some literary works such as Novels, *Tandus* (1952) and *Kedjatuhan dan hati* or *The Fall and The Heart* (1950). However, the present writer will only focus about translated novel *The Fall and The Heart*. Besides, the author also uses the original Indonesian novel as material for conducting the Analysis. There are several topics to analyze in the novel such as feminism, Love, and Indonesia condition during the revolution. However, this study limits its discussion to only a discussion on Mother's Characterization.

### 1.7 Status of the Study

There are several analysis or research project about *The Fall and The Heart* or *Kedjatuhan dan Hati* Novel by Rukiah, there is by some students, like Wirawan (2018) titled *Independent Woman in Postcolonial Indonesia: Rereading the Works of Rukiah* from Universitas Sanata Darma talked about This paper discusses the strategic essentialism of gender and politics in modern Indonesia by rereading literary works of Siti Rukiah (1927–96). While Lawrence (2012) titled *Shattered Hearts: Indigenous Women and Subaltern Resistance in Indonesian and Indigenous Canadian Literature* from University of Victoria talked about the position of women

for both the post-revolutionary Indonesian and contemporary Indigenous Canadian contexts.

There is an alumni of Faculty of Letters of Universitas Kristen Indonesia, Aryani Andrieza who has ever done a *Skripsi* about *Portrayal of Mothers' Role by The Two Major Characters in Our Happy Time*. However, there is not any student who has ever done a *skripsi* about *Potrayal of Indonesian Mother in the Translated novel "The Fall and The Heart" by S. Rukiah Kertapati*.

### **1.8 Organization of The Study**

This *skripsi* consists of four chapters:

Chapter I is introduction. This chapter provides the background of the study, statements of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, methodology of the study, scope and limitation, status of the study, and organization of the research.

Chapter II is review of related literature. This chapter contains the theories that underlie this research. This provides the theories used in analyzing the data, that is theory characterization, themes, stereotype, role of mother, mother in Indonesia.

Chapter III is findings and discussion. This chapter contains the answers of research problems, interprets research findings, integrates research findings into established knowledge collections, modifies existing theories, and explains research results.

Chapter IV is conclusion and suggestion. This chapter present summary of the results of the research that described in chapter I.