

# Chapter 1

## Introduction

### 1.1 Research Background

This research is based on a discussion about literary. Literature is the art of written works. According to Wellek and Warren (2016: 3) *Sastra adalah suatu kegiatan kreatif, sebuah karya seni* (Literature is a creative activity, a work of art). And it is also produced as the imagination of the author. The most basic of literary works are fiction and nonfiction. Novel is a kind of fiction works.

*Tokoh cerita (Character) adalah orang-orang yang ditampilkan dalam suatu karya naratif, atau, drama, yang oleh pembaca ditafsirkan memiliki kualitas moral dan kecenderungan tertentu seperti yang diekspresikan dalam ucapan dan apa yang dilakukan dalam tindakan.*Abrahams (1981: 20) in Nugiantoro (1995: 165).

A character is an essential element in the story, in the narration of the literary work, or, drama, which has been interpreted by readers of moral qualities and specific trend as expressed in the speech and what is done in the action. A novel is defined by a combination of its substance, scope, and, style.

As the author of builders of the soul, Habiburrahman El Shirazy earns numerous awards. One of best seller his works will be analyzed of main women characters characterization in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. Raihana, the main character who has good personality, feels be torment and languish. How does Cleopatra disappears from the narrator's "I" mind in the novel. While in reality that

Egyptian woman is exist. He always loves Egyptian woman. This novel has a simple story however it draws a clear image of Islam that gives an important value to women.

A character can express his feelings. This is important in cultural cross, those feelings become a major component to show two cross cultured woman figures in the Indonesian and Egyptian woman story. The writer's analysis focuses on the main characterization of the woman in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* that is Raihana. The writer tells the story from a man's point of view "Shirazy". In this study, the author of the novel also tells the story of the main character "I" is the man who falls in love with Egyptian woman focusing on his own feeling. But he completely forgets about woman's feelings. The novel, *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*, is very easy when reading.

This story tells an experience that many people would face in their real life. The problem of the traditions, conventions, norms, types of literature, symbols, and myths. Tomars (1940) in Wellek and Warren (2016: 98) said: "Esthetic institutions are not based on social institutions: they are not even part social institutions: they are social institutions of one type and intimately interconnected with those others."

This novel has two women that appear those are Cleopatra and Raihana. Cleopatra has existed only in "I" imagination. He was captivated by her beauty. The beautiful white-faced with a beautiful curved nose, Arabic round eyes, and red lips.

The Egyptian women's face shone, like the diamond of a clean, beautiful diamond. The image of women as teasers covered the brilliance of Cleopatra is known as the Queen of good negotiation, prestige, and powerful of her kingdom. Raihana is wife of "I" who attract to the religion and repulsed by the followers validated by the holy Qur'an. She is strong enough every problem in appearance her husband. Although they seemed to have all the qualifications and means of a successful marriage but in reality both of them did not live a normal happy life as a husband and wife.

The character "I" always compares Raihana and Cleopatra. The author tells over and over again about culture, Islam, and woman. Based on *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel two countries, Egypt and Indonesia are so much different habits, cultures, Islam and woman.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problems**

The writer would like to analyze are literary works by Shirazy, thinks that his literary works are good and give the writer inspiration. The writer finds more information about woman character, social values, marriage value, psychology, religious values, which an important role in our lives by reads the novel. Therefore, it means that it can be drawn so many lessons that the author provide for the reader through the novel.

The writer has interest in Shirazy's novels describes human life especially about Islam, social life, love, a marriage of his works. Individual's morals may derive from society, religion, or culture. It can be seen in his famous novels "Ayat-ayat Cinta" and "Ketika Cinta Bertasbih 1 & 2". In these novels Habiburrahman El Shirazy wants to emphasize that always remember Allah and do the best in your life.

*Tokoh utama adalah tokoh yang diutamakan penceritaannya dalam novel yang bersangkutan. Ia merupakan tokoh yang paling banyak diceritakan, baik sebagai pelaku kejadian maupun yang dikenai kajadian.*  
(Nugiyantoro 1995: 176).

The writer analyzes the main characters of a notable woman of Indonesia that woman characters are Javanese woman and Egypt woman in the story. The woman characters face each conflict in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* from the plot and each conflict. Based on the background study, this novel was written by one of the greatest the author, consists of interesting events that make the woman character has a great soul.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

In this study, the research question is made mainly based on the background of the study above, and also on the writer's own interest. The writer is curious about this novel. There is the rule of religion for human life, moral message, and the meaning of love. The research question is as follows:

- How the main women character is characterized in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* by Habiburrahman El Shirazy?

### **1.4 Objectives of the Research**

The aim of this study is to find the real purpose which made by the author in *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. Hence, the writer needs to know how the author describes the background or setting as the important aspect to build the mind of the main woman character's characterization the novel of *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* base on cultural differences between Indonesian and Egypt. Then analyzing search the meaning of words that *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. The writer predicts that the author intends to give information and knowledge about the religion, social life, marriage life, cultural differences between Indonesian and Egypt.

## 1.5 Significances of the Study

The writer would like to analyze the Shirazy's work which *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. The writer thinks that the author gives many contribute, inspirations by this paper titled "An Analysis of Main Women Character's Characterization in Shirazy's *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra*. The result of this study is expected to student of English Departement Pasundan University, to the reader, institution, and other further researchers. Both theoretically and practically elaborated in the following section:

### 1. Theoretically

The results of the research are expected to provide knowledge in the educational field and further research on analyzing about the female characters after reading this study of a fictional work *Pudarnya Pesona Cleopatra* novel by Habiburrahman El Shirazy.

### 2. Practically

The results of this research are expected to give knowledge the readers, in order to understand, especially of the female characters of this study can be used for the advancement of literary works.