Chapter I
Introduction

In this chapter, the writer will focus on giving the introductory explanation of the research. This chapter presents background of the research, research question, limination of the research, objective of the research and significances of the research.

1.1   Background of the Research

Literature is a term for written works with beautiful value that can be appreciated such as expressions, ideas, feelings and imaginations. Literature consists of three major categories: prose, poetry and drama/plays. In prose, there are literary works such as novel and short story that tell about fictional story to the reader.

Novel is a fictional prose which contains series of the events that involves the characters with their surroundings. In the novel, there are several types of novel in conveying the story such as epistolary, descriptive, monologue, narrative, etc.

A narrative is a form of the story that tells by person to audience which is in the novel, the audience is the reader. A narrative in novel creates fictional world in which human beings exist and interact within life-worlds that are almost

completely the same as the real world. The writer is interested in analyzing novel *Coraline* which is one of narrative novel that wrote by Neil Gaiman.

Neil Richard MacKinnon Gaiman is an English author of short fiction, novels, comic books, graphic novels, audio theatre, and films. His notable works include the comic book series *The Sandman* and novels *Stardust*, *American Gods*, *Coraline*, and *The Graveyard Book*.

The novel tells about Coraline Jones, a smart-little girl who lives with her parents in a flat in a big old house. It also has several rooms for other tenants that live in the same roof. Coraline is an explorer who loves to find something new.

Boredom and curiousity make her exploring her surroundings; the house, the people, and the yard until she discovers a locked wooden door at drawing room. There is something fishy about the door and she tries to open it with old key for once again but, unexpectedly, it brings her to another world.

The door resembles to the real world where she lives in; her parents, the neighbors, and the environment which turns out to be her liking. Although she has a lot of fun with many interesting things that she can not find in her real world, Coraline doesn't feel right and wants to go back home.

Even though the *other* parents force her to stay, she insists to go back through the door, only to find her real parents has gone missing. Coraline has no choice but to play a *game*, to save her real parents and other souls that kidnapped in the other world.

In conveying the story, the author uses narrative method where there is a figure of narrator who utters the story and the events to the reader:

> She explored the garden. It was big garden; at the very back was an old tennis court, but no one in the house played tennis and the fence around the court had holes in it and the net had mostly rotted away...(2012: 2)

> ...It wasn't the kind of rain you could go out in—it was the other kind, the kind that threw itself down from the sky and splashed where it landed. It was rain that meant business, and currently its business was turning the garden into a muddy, wet soup. (2012: 4)

From the text above, there is a narrator who tells about the events and characters in the novel. Narrator is figure or medium in the novel that conveys the story such as characters, events and situation to the readers. While reading a narrative novel, the narrator will guide the reader to follow the plot from the prologue until the end of the story.

Thus, the writer is curious about the figure of the narrator itself. The writer wants to know either if the narrator is an observer that absent from the story or one of the characters in the story. The answer can be found by using narratology as the main theory of the research.

The writer uses theory by Gerard Genette which is a study of the relationship between narrative and story, between narrative and narrating, and between story and narrating. Genette in Fludernik (2009: 98) makes a first distinction between voice and mood. Voice is concerned with 'Who speaks?' and mood with 'Who sees?' which is a perspective from which the story is presented.

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In voice, there are sub categories such as Person, Time of Narration, and Narrative Level. The most crucial binary opposition in categoriy of voice is the distinction between homodiegetic and heterodiegetic. Homodiegenic is first-person narrative whereas heterodiegetic is third-person narrative. The writer will find out the relationship between the narrator in *Coraline* and the story, either if s/he is outside from the story or one of the characters in the story.

There are also several types of narrative in order to know how the narrator narrating the events or situation. Time of Narrration is used to indicate when the action or state are expressed by analyzing form of the verb in sentences.

In the text of the novel *Coraline*, there are different form of narratives that tells by the narrator. The third sub category of voice is Narrative Level which is the study to find out if there is any other narrative that—may be—embedded in narrative that tells by the narrator. The author of *Coraline*, can insert some embedded narrratives that told by other narrators with their own narratives. The result of analyzing narrative level, the writer can figure out how much narrative level that contained in the novel.

As a reader of *Coraline*, the writer is curious about the truth of the story that has been told. The narrator may tease or misleads the reader through the narrating. S/he can also take a side of the certain character in the story either if it is the protagonist or the antagonist. The narrator can also tell lies to the reader while explaining the whole events in the story.

In order to find out the truth of the story, the writer will analyze the perspective of the story (or Genette's term for perspective called focalization). Focalization is a subcategories of mood, it can also show the ability of the narrator in conveying the story to the reader. There are zero focalization, internal focalization and external focalization.

In zero focalization, the narrator knows everything in the story, including the events and characters' thought. This narrator can be called as Eye of God or omniscient narrator that act like an author of the novel.

For internal focalization, the narrator can explain all of the events in the story but s/he can not report the thought of the characters except focal character, which commonly play as protagonist of the story. In other way, internal focalization can be omniscient in certain situation.

The last type is external focalization where narrator describes the external view or visible things such as gestures, expressions, but the narrator is unable to read the thought or feelings of characters. S/he act like camera eyes that doesn't know anything except the things that can be seen through eyes.

1.2   Research Question

According to background of the research, the writer tries to find the answer to the following question:

1. How does the narrator present the story in *Coraline* according to Genette's narratology in Fludernik (2009)?

1.3 Limitation of the Research

The writer will try to analyze the novel with two major categorizes (voice and mood) that divided in Genette's narratology in Fludernik (2009). *Voice* contains three sub categories which are person, time of narration and narrative level while *mood* contains focalization (zero focalization, internal focalization, external focalization) as the sub categories.

1.4 Objective of the Research

The writer has purpose in her analysis as follow:

1. To find out how does the narrator present the story in *Coraline* according to *voice* and *mood* by Genette's narratology in Fludernik (2009).

1.5 Significances of the Research

The result of this research is expected to give benefits to writers, especially to the reader, institution, and other further researchers. Through this research, the writer personally expects the readers to understand about how to analyze Gaiman's *Coraline* using narratology. In addition, the significances of this study can be divided into two major significances, which are:

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1. Academic significances

   The results of this study are expected to provide knowledges in the educational field, especially English Literature and in further research in analyzing novel or other literary works by using narratology.

2. Practical Significances

   The results of this study are expected to provide knowledge for the reader in order to understand how narrative applies in the novel.