CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter offers an overview of the entire study. It includes the background of the study, explaining the motivation behind the research, followed by the research question. Additionally, it outlines the objective of the study and highlights its significances of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work can be classified into short story, novel, poetry and drama. This brings about how their works can be depicting of the author's life. Furthermore, a literary work is a direct expression of an author's creativity ability through thought, conveyed through various forms to highlight the aesthetic value of literature. Thus, it can reflects the life of human being and delves into thoughts, feeling, behaviour, or attitude. Psychology is closely related to literary works, offering insights into the author's mental state during the creation process. Consequently, a literary work may be viewed as an expression of the writer's psychological experiences.

Whereas, characters in literary works also play a crucial role in the story as they provide insights into deeper psychological themes through their thoughts, actions, and interactions. The main character is particularly significant because they often embody the central conflicts and resolutions of the narrative. Their experiences and personal growth allow for a thorough exploration of psychological

struggles. In addition, conflict is a crucial element in story and can be divided into internal and external types. Internal conflicts are the psychological struggles within a character, such as dilemmas, emotional distress, and cognitive dissonance. On the other hand, external conflicts involve the character's challenges and interactions with other people and their surroundings (Edward H. Jones, 1968). Understanding these conflicts helps to reveal how characters deal with various issues and what these struggles say about their psychological state.

Conflict is closely related to human psychology, as it often triggers various emotional and cognitive responses. These responses can be examined through the lens of psychoanalytic theory, which was developed by Sigmund Freud. Psychoanalytic theory delves into the unconscious mind, repressed emotions, and internal conflicts, providing a framework for understanding the psychological dimensions of a character (Freud, 1923).

From definition above, literary work viewed as psychological phenomena, the psychological aspects will appear through the characters if the text likes drama or prose (Endaswara, 2008). Referring from the previous explanation, the researcher is interested in finding a psychological concern reflected in a novel. It becomes challenging for the researcher to know more about history and psychological theory through a literary work. One of the novels significantly presenting the issue of psychology *is "Walk Two Moons"* by Sharon Creech. The researcher intends to present main character's psychological approach in handling mental conflict in literary research and would like to explore some important problems related to psychology. By a novel entitled *Walk Two Moons*, this study

focuses on the main character in *"Walk Two Moons"* and their psychological journey in handling mental conflict. The novel's protagonist, Salamanca Tree Hiddle, undergoes significant internal conflicts as she grapples with grief, identity, and emotional turmoil. By applying psychoanalytic theory to Salamanca's character, this study aims to uncover the psychological mechanisms she employs to cope with her mental conflicts.

The novel talked about Salamanca Tree Hiddle. Salamanca the main character with her gram and gramps are on cross-country trip. As they travel, to fill the trip she tells her grandparents the story of her friend Phoebe Winterbottom, whose mother has recently and mysteriously disappeared. Salamanca narrates this tale in lieu of talking about the loss of her own mother. Mysterious reason for leaving her husband and daughter to take a bus to Idaho. Throughout the journey, Salamanca discovers that the trip is actually a gift from her grandparents, allowing her to visit her mother's grave and come to terms with her own feelings of loss. Nevertheless, this novel about Salamanca as the main character tries to find answers about her mother, who left her family. In her search, Salamanca tries to accept her life the way it is. She eventually finds the answers she's looking for and comes to terms with her identity. It delves into themes of coping mechanisms, finding joy amidst change, and grieving processes. It could delve into her perceptions of reality, her defense mechanisms, and the impact of her past on her present mental well-being.

However, there are many interesting aspects in this novel, such as about family, friendship, also psychological aspects, one of them is handling mental

conflict. Therefore, by exploring Salamanca's character, the conflicts and psychological aspects, the study will use conflict theory, as explained by Robert Stanton (1965), to look at the main character's conflicts, distinguishing between external and internal conflicts. It will also apply Sigmund Freud's (1923) theory of the id, ego, and superego to see how these psychological elements affect how the character deals with conflicts. The focus will be on how the main character's thoughts and behaviors are connected to her approach to conflict.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

By looking at how Salamanca deals with different conflicts in "Walk Two Moons," the study aims to reveal how these struggles affect her thoughts and actions. The novel "Walk Two Moons" presents complex themes of mental conflict that are pivotal to understanding the main character, Salamanca's, psychological development. The primary problem identified is how Salamanca copes with and resolves various internal and external conflicts throughout the story. The conflicts she faces significantly impact her mental state and behavior, providing a rich ground for psychological analysis. This research aims to dissect these conflicts and understand the psychological mechanisms Salamanca employs to handle them. By doing so, it contributes to a broader understanding of human psychological resilience and offers insights that can be applied to real-life situations where individuals face similar mental challenges.

1.3 Research Questions

In relating to the previously identification of problems described above, the research objectives can be summarized by three key questions:

1. What kinds of conflict are the main character faced in the novel Walk Two Moons?

2. How is the main character's psychological faced the conflict in story Walk Two Moons?

1.4 Objective of the Study

The aims, I will study a case about understanding the character and impact received by Salamanca's character and more specifically the researcher divides it into two objectives:

1. To identify what kind of conflict Salamanca faced throughout the narrative to comprehend the multifaceted aspects of her personality.

2. To analyze the main character's psychological faced conflict in Walk Two Moons.

1.5 Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on the psychological analysis of the main character in *"Walk Two Moons"*. It specifically looks at internal and external conflicts using Robert Stanton's conflict theory and applies Sigmund Freud's psychoanalytic theory of the id, ego, and superego. The research limit the scope to examining the main character's thoughts, actions, and behaviors to understand how she manages mental conflicts. It does explore external influences like social factors that might

also affect her psychological experiences. Additionally, the study is confined to the main character, Salamanca. This narrow focus helps provide a detailed analysis but means that the findings may apply to other minor characters or situations within the story.

1.6 Significances of the Study

1. Theoretical Advantages

   Analyzing study through a research can offer valuable insights for educators, enabling them to better understand and address the challenges faced in similar circumstances. And for researchers, it can be a reference for further research in the same field.

2. Practical Advantages

   In this study, the researcher aims to improve the quality of literary work in the English Department at University Pasundan by providing insights into *Walk Two Moons*. The researcher also hopes to educate others on using psychological analysis to understand Salamanca's mental conflicts. This study can serve as a reference for future research on similar themes and help foster empathy and awareness, creating a more supportive environment for those facing similar challenges.