

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This study explores how female identity is represented in classic literary narratives. To frame this analysis, in this chapter the researcher outlines the background of the study, identification of the study, limitations of the study, research problems, research objectives, and significance of the study.

### 1.1 Research Background

*P.S I Still Love You* is a sequel to *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. a novel in popular literary works that belong to the romance genre, written by a best-selling author Jenny Han. The novel spent five weeks on *The New York Times* Best Seller list, peaking at 2 in the Young Adult fiction section. After the novel gets the popularity, the novel adapted into a film in 2020 then the movie Won in the "Young Adult" category in 2015 in Award Asia/Pacific America for Literature.

P.S I still love you is one of the most popular romance genre, as proven by Goodreads, Bukukita.com and Topposta approval ratings reached 96%. Apart from that, the popularity of this novel is also the same proven by the appearance of the third sequel, namely *To All the boys: always and forever* (2017). Romance is a literary genre that puts love relationships as the main focus, with stories centered on the development and resolution of those relationships. Ramsdell (2009:244) defines romance as "a love story in which the main focus is on the development and satisfying resolution of the love relationship between the two main characters, written in such a way as to give the reader some level of representative emotional participation in the courtship process."

P.S. I Still Love You (2015) is a novel that continues the story of Lara Jean, who a smart, beautiful, and quiet girl who often fantasizes about love. The story In the first novel, her younger sister, Kitty, secretly sends Lara Jean love letters that were never sent to some of the men she once had crushes on, which then leads to unexpected situations. In P.S. I Still Love You, Lara Jean has to solve the problem of that, now in a real relationship with Peter, one of the receiver of her letters.

Their relationship, which was initially superficial, has now become sincere. However, new challenges arise when John Ambrose, another man from her past who also receives letters, comes back into her life, bringing back old feelings. The conflict in the novel focuses on Lara Jean's struggle between her feelings for Peter and her unresolved emotions for John. In addition, themes of jealousy, trust and the complexities of teenage love main the story. Rather than social conflict or family problems, the main source of tension comes from Lara Jean's inner conflict and the different personalities and relationships she has with Peter and John. This dynamic creates a fresh twist to the love story that adds depth to the story.

As one of the most popular genres, it is often considered underappreciated in popular literature. Regis (2003: 1) even referred to it as "*le genre le plus populaire et le moins respecté* (the most popular and least appreciated genre). One of the reasons is the story pattern that is considered easy to guess and has a happy ending. In the romance genre, of course, it presents to readers the love story of a woman and a man who try to be together and unite the love of the two, even though they face many conflicts and problems that must be faced such as friendship problems, disharmonious families and misunderstandings between the two. The romance genre is inseparable from the formula theory on which it is based.

(Saricks, 2009) notes that the main appeal of the genre is its focus on emotions and characters, where readers can connect deeply with the characters' romantic journeys. Stories in this genre provide an escape from everyday reality, yet still reflect relevant expectations, values, and challenges in real life. Simplicity and certainty in the plot are often factors that keep readers coming back for more, especially since they know that the story will lead them to a happy ending.

This aspect is closely related to the topic of this research, which will focus on the analysis of the formula theory in literary works, especially novels. The selected novel contains intrinsic elements that support the application of the formula theory. In addition, the story in this novel centers on the two main characters who are lovers, so the entire storyline is built based on the formula theory pattern.

Based on the description above, the author seems interested in looking for *Analyzis Romance Using Formula Theory* by Wyatt and Saricks in *P.S I Still Love You*. This aspect is closely related to the topic of this research, which will focus on the analyzing of the formula theory in literary works, especially in the case of Lara Jean and Peter's relationship back together, their relationship is not described as perfect or "finished". It is possible that the relationship is still fragile. The selected novel contains intrinsic elements that support the application of the formula theory. In addition, Lara Jean's interactions with her siblings (Kitty and Margot) as well as her father play a big role in the story. The support and criticism from Lara Jean's family had an impact on her decision in her love relationship. so that the entire storyline was built on the pattern of formula theorys.

In addition, the author has read some of the same research in the form of romance genres with different literary objects as supporters of this research. The author will focus this research by describing the romance genre formula theory in this novel from the romance genre formula theory displayed through the character and conflicts in this novel Wyatt and Saricks.

This aspect is closely related to the research topic chosen because this study will focus on analysis of formula theory in the literary work. This novel includes intrinsic elements that support the theme of romance. It also centers on the two main characters, who are lovers, making the entire story based on a formula theory.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

The main problem in this research relates to the Analyzis Romance Using Formula Theory by Wyatt and Saricks in P.S I Still Love You. The formula theory needs to be built by several key elements, such as tone/mood, characterization, storyline, frame pacing, and language style. Analyzing these elements in depth is essential to understand how they work together to build a complete and structured romantic plot.

The novel P.S. I Still Love You by Jenny Han is an example of popular literature that uses a formula theory to capture readers' interest. This novel continues the story of the relationship between Lara Jean and Peter Kavinsky, which was first introduced in *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*. The formula theory in this novel not only presents a teenage love story but also explores family dynamics, relationship uncertainty, and the emotional growth of the characters. This research aims to explore how the element formula theory implemented in analyzis P.S. I Still

Love by Neal Wyatt and Joyce G. Saricks, and how these elements contribute to the novel's appeal to readers.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Study**

The analysis in this research focuses exclusively on the formula theory in the novel *P.S. I Still Love You* by Jenny Han, using Neal Wyatt and Joyce G. Saricks' theory. This analysis examines the novel's tone, characterization, storyline, frame, pacing, and language style to understand how these elements work together to build a compelling romance. By applying Saricks' framework, the study explores how each of these components enhances the plot and character relationships, contributing to the novel's appeal as a popular work of romantic fiction.

### **1.4 Research Question**

Based on this background and problem statement, the research question can be formulated as follows:

1. How the element formula theory implemented in novel *P.S I Still Love You*?

### **1.5 Objective of the Study**

Through the research of this study, the writer aims to address the research issues and attain additional goals. Therefore, the primary objectives to be accomplished through this study include: The research objectives to be achieved are:

1. To Identify and analyze the Forms of Formula theory in the Novel *P.S. I Still Love You* (2015): This study explores the elements that make up the formula theory in *P.S. I Still Love You*. A formula theory usually includes

certain patterns that appear often in love stories, such as main characters who fall in love, obstacles or challenges in the relationship, and resolutions that support the theme of love. By understanding these patterns, the research try to identify how the author uses the formula theory to create an engaging and meaningful love story.

### **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study is carried out to attain importance for the English department, fellow students, and other relevant individuals. Therefore, the primary importance to be gained from this study includes:

1. it will give readers an understanding of the romance genre formula theory, which can be studied not only in popular literature but also specifically in novels. This research may also be useful as a reference for future studies on similar topics in popular literature.
2. The results of this study are expected to increase knowledge about the romance genre formula theory in popular literary works, especially in novels, and to give a better understanding of Wyatt and Saricks' romance genre formula theory for similar studies in the future. this research can benefit fellow English literature students by providing a framework for analyzing romantic themes in literature, encouraging a deeper appreciation for the genre, and promoting discussions that support their academic growth