

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In this chapter, the writer presents the background of the study in section 1.1, problems statement in section 1.2, the objective of the study in section 1.3, theoretical framework in section 1.4, significance of the study in section 1.5, limitation of the study in section 1.6, definition of key terms in section 1.7 and organization of the study in section 1.8.

#### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Only few people in Indonesia are interested in reading. According to Central Connecticut State University as quoted in Gewati (2016), the study showed Indonesian's people dislike reading because from 61 countries, Indonesian's reading interest only ranked 60<sup>th</sup>. This statement is also supported by Munir (2016) that reading has occupied the lowest percentage among Indonesian people in comparison between people who tend to watch TV as pointed out by BPS in 2012 which had recorded around 91.58 %, and the other chose to read books, newspapers, magazines around 17,58%. These evidences show that reading is not an interesting activity for people in Indonesia.

According to Setiawati (2016), novel consists of a long story and it is a prose form. In other words, many people consider that a novel is heavy to read because it consists of many pages and it makes people feel bored. Kennedy (1991:213) also states that prose and actual life can be found inside a novel. These are also supported by Baker (1979:7), unlimited variety of subject and matters in every aspect of life are

applied to a novel. A few of people only read a novel to fill their free time, and some of them instead to do it to enrich their own vocabulary without realizing that from reading a novel they will improve not only their vocabulary but also their knowledge that they have never had or experienced about other people's life.

In making a novel, characters' presences are very important. Characters deliver moral messages as stated by Yudo (2012). As Bastian (2015), states that human is different from animal because each of them has feelings and thoughts and the most crucial thing is the moral they possess. From those two statements, it can be seen that one of the author's intention in writing a novel is they tried to deliver their messages to the readers, certain messages including moral messages through their fictional characters. It is crucial for readers to analyze which characters are morally good and learn from those fictional characters' characteristics so they can improve their own moral.

The writer chooses a novel entitled "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald because this novel is a great novel. "The great Gatsby" was adapted into film in 1974; the movie was starred by Robert Redford as Jay and Mia Farrow as Daisy. In the 2000 production, the movie was starred by Toby Stephens and Mira Sorvino. In the 2003 production, the movie was starred by the legendary actor named Leonardo De Caprio and Carey Mulligan. This novel was written in 1922 and it was published in 1925 after Fitzgerald published "The Romantic Egoist" and "This Side of Paradise". As a great American novel, "The Great Gatsby" nowadays also is the required reading for senior high school students in America

<https://m.tempo.co/read/jeda/2013/05/31/97/Gatsby-diantara-Fitzgerald-dan-Luhrmann>). For further, novel The Great Gatsby will be the focus of the study.

The story of the Great Gatsby novel began from Nick Caraway moved to West Egg, and as the narrator, he told the readers about all characters inside the novel. One day Nick visited his cousin's house Daisy who already married to Tom. While he was there, Nick did not realize that Tom and Daisy were quarrelling about Tom's mistress, until Daisy's friend, Jordan told him. In the following day, Tom asked Nick to go together to the garage where Myrtle and her husband stayed in intention to introduce him to his mistress. In West Egg, Nick's house was beside Jay Gatsby's mansion. Some people that Nick knew told him that Gatsby always held huge parties in his mansion. After his moving, Nick invited as Gatsby's special guest. Nick found the host and he felt that the host was a charismatic person. Since Nick attended his party, he and Gatsby hanged out together and they became friend. One day Gatsby requested a help from Nick to arrange his meeting with Daisy. Nick arranged their meeting inside his house and finally Gatsby could meet Daisy again. Since that, Gatsby told Nick that Daisy visited him often.

In our daily life especially in Indonesia, adultery that is damaging human's dignity is continuing to happen. Sinaga (2016) implies that 25.000 cases of divorce happen in Indonesia because the main reason of the presence of the third person in marriage's life. According to Gordon in Mangenre (2015), many spouses do not feel satisfied with their marriage's life and this leads them to cheat behind their spouse.

As Daisy cheated behind Tom because she did not feel satisfy about her marriage life and this case similar to Myrtle Wilson. Myrtle has regretted to marry Wilson because he was too poor, then she became as Tom's mistress. From Sinaga and Gordon's statements and from the novel story can be concluded that a novel is a reflection of what happens in our society. In other words, the main reason of many cases of adultery has happened is they do not feel satisfy about their marriage life and this lead the presence of the third person. This behavior will harm each human moral character. The novel that Fitzgerald's wrote showed the moral decays of each character. Most of the major character's acts are improperly, including Gatsby. Nick knew that Gatsby wanted Daisy so much even though she has married and has a child. Nick witnessed that they rebuilt their relationship again and he knew that Gatsby ran an illegitimate business. In real life, not only inside a novel many people have ignored the crucial meaning of moral virtues in their lives, as we can see from those fictional characters are also alive around us.

Based on the novel, finally the narrator found and realized that there was something gorgeous about Gatsby as Fitzgerald mentioned Gatsby was great in his novel entitled "The Great Gatsby", after all that he has done inside the story. This triggers the writer to reveal Gatsby's character traits and which moral virtues he had.

### **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

In this research, the statements of the problems are arranged as follows:

1. What character traits are reflected in the major character named Jay Gatsby in the "Great Gatsby"?

2. What moral virtues are reflected in Gatsby's character in "The Great Gatsby" novel according to Aristotle virtue ethic?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the character traits of the major character named Jay Gatsby in the "Great Gatsby" novel
2. To find out the moral virtues which reflected in Jay Gatsby in "The Great Gatsby" novel according to Aristotle virtue ethic

### **1.4 Theoretical Framework**

To rearrange this thesis the writer uses the objective approach by Abrams to find Gatsby's character traits that covers the intrinsic analysis of the novel: character, plot, setting and theme, without involving the aspect of the universe, who is the author and the reader's feeling. The writer also uses Aristotle virtue ethic in order to find the moral virtues reflected in Jay Gatsby character traits.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study is expected to be beneficial in the following ways:

1. The writer expects that the readers can learn from which character is morally good and the story can improve the readers' own life.
2. The writer expects that the readers become more curious in reading more literary books, find the positive values of the books and they can practice it in their life.

## **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

The writer limits the study on *The Great Gatsby* novel only, without considering the movie of *The Great Gatsby*. The writer focuses in analyzing Jay Gatsby's character traits and Jays Gatsby's moral virtues. In term to find Jay Gatsby's character traits, the writer uses Abrams objective approach and for the moral virtues were reflected in the main character named Gatsby inside the novel it self, the writer uses the Aristotle's virtue ethic.

## **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

It is necessary to determine some key terms applied in this thesis:

1. Moral virtue is moral quality in a state of character that is based on the average condition (Aristotle as translated by Ross, 1991:36-39).
2. A novel is a fiction covering human experience that consists of related events and person in specific setting (Burgess, 2017).
3. Character traits are the values that a person gives toward other people; it can be judged from his physical appearance or his behavior (Fleming, 2016).

## **1.8 Organization of the Study**

To make it easier for readers to understand the content of this thesis, it is necessary for the writer to divide this thesis into several parts. The writer decides to organize it into five chapters.

Chapter I presents an introduction that consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, theoretical frame work, significance of the study, limitation of the study, definition of key terms and the organization of

the thesis. Chapter II presents the review of related literature that consists of intrinsic analysis of the novel, Aristotle's virtue ethic and review of the previous research. Chapter III explains the research methodology that consists of research design, source of data, instrument, procedure of collecting data, and data analysis procedure. Chapter IV explains the analysis of the findings that consists of feature characteristics and moral virtues study in major character named Jay Gatsby according to Aristotle, and Chapter V contains suggestion and conclusion from the writer.