

# **CHAPTER I**

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

A person as a human being cannot live alone. He needs other people. Since the time he was just born as an infant, he depended on other person to keep alive. Then he needed the parents feeding him to continue his life. Being gradually able to socialize, he needed other people to communicate and to live with. Such condition formulates a means to communicate each other. 'Language', then, comes around them.

Language, as per Hudson's opinion (1980:1), is a means of communicating information. Besides that, language is also a means of establishing and maintaining relationship with other people. In communication using language, we can use it in written or spoken. Some people name spoken as verbal language or verbal expressions. Feldman (1985:114) states that:

"Verbal language in particular is a feature which differentiates human beings from other species."

Through verbal expressions, a person shows his different idea and way of thinking to other, either who is opposing or just listening to him. These differences inevitably lead to conflict.

Conflict, according to Murray (1946:458), is:

"A form of competition in which there is an intensification of effort accompanied by antagonistic behavior."

Robbins (1991:428) defines conflict as:

"A process in which an effort is purposely made by A to offset the efforts of B by some form of blocking that will result in frustrating B in attaining his or her goals or furthering his or her interests."

Conflicts also occur among the characters in a story in a novel. Those characters' conflicts actually form the 'conflict of a novel'. Conflict holds an important role in a story. Without conflict, a story cannot be interesting because there is no problem to be solved. By analyzing conflict, we can also understand the characteristic of the characters in the story. Jaffe and Scott (1968:3), furthermore, claim that 'conflict of a novel' is the basic principle to arouse and maintain the reader's interest in a story.

The writer, in this study, elects one of Mira W.'s novels as the object. The title of the novel is "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran". The writer is interested in Indonesian novels since she believes that Indonesian novels are as well-created as English ones. Some of Mira W.'s novels, moreover, have been performed into films and sinetrons, for instance 'Arini', 'Cinta di Awal 30', 'Bilur-Bilur Penyesalan', 'Dari Jendela SMP', 'Perempuan Kedua (Cintailah Daku)', 'Ketika Cinta Harus Memilih',

'Jangan Pergi Lara (Cinta Dara Kembar)'. Based on the personal interests and the fact that 'Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran' has not yet been performed in a film nor a sinetron, the writer then simplifies the study in a title called "An Analysis on Rianti's Conflicts as Reflected Through The Verbal Expressions in Mira W.'s 'Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran'".

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

In this study, the writer intends to analyse the conflicts found in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran". However, the problems discussed are formulated as follows:

1. How do Rianti's conflicts progress in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran"?
2. What kinds of conflict does Rianti experience in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran"?

## 1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with the statements of the problem, the study is intended:

1. To find out the progress of Rianti's conflicts in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran".
2. To find out the kinds of conflict that Rianti experiences in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran".

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer realizes that there is a very limited number of studies on Indonesian novels, especially focusing on conflicts between the characters. Based on this reason, the writer expects that her study would give contribution to the world of knowledge. The study, besides that, is expected to be useful for the next person who wishes to make a further study in this field.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The object of this study is Mira W.'s novel, entitled "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran". The writer limits the study on conflicts. The main focus is the main character's conflicts, Rianti. This shall mean that other characters' conflicts would not be analysed in this study.

#### 1.6 Theoretical Framework

This study is directed by theories of verbal communication, and conflict. Theory of verbal communication shall indeed be useful as this study deals with contacts between the characters. Theory of conflict is apparently essential as conflict is the main focus of the study.

## 1.7 The Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity, the writer would like to give the definition of some key terms used in this study. The title of this study is An Analysis on Rianti's Conflicts As Reflected Through Verbal Expressions in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran". The major terms defined in this study are: analysis, conflict and verbal expression.

### 1.7.1 Analysis

Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary defines analysis as study of something by examining its parts and their relationship.

### 1.7.2 Conflict

Robbins (1994:446) defines it as perceived incompatible differences resulting in some forms of interference or opposition.

### 1.7.3 Verbal

Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary defines verbal as spoken, not written.

### 1.7.4 Verbal expression

Pateda (1994:20) says that verbal expression is the way of communicating with someone in using spoken language. Theoretically, the conflicts in this study are known through the verbal expressions, that are the dialogues between Rianti and

the other characters. However, it is impossible to depend on the verbal expressions only. Thus, the writer's description in the novel is also analysed to find out the progress of Rianti's conflicts and the kinds of conflict that Rianti experiences in Mira W.'s "Di Tepi Jeram Kehancuran".

### 1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. They, orderly, are introduction, review of related literature, research methodology, data analysis and findings, and conclusion.

Chapter I, introduction, deals with background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and organization of the study. Chapter II, review of related literature, presents related theories of the study. Chapter III, research methodology, consists of the nature of the study, the subject of the study, the instrument, data collecting procedures and data analysing procedures. Chapter IV, data analysis and findings, presents and discusses the result of data analysis. The last chapter, conclusion consists of summary and suggestions.