

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

All the Bright Places (2015) is a young adult novel written by Jennifer Niven. It tells about two teenagers, Finch and Violet, who deal with mental health, love, loss, and the struggle to find hope and meaning in life. With its significant exploration of mental health, this novel has been widely studied from the psychological perspective. However, little to no research has explored the novel from its intrinsic elements, specifically the study of point of view.

This novel is unique as it has two narrators in the novel and is narrated from the perspective of first-person. This novel is narrated by the two main characters, Theodore Finch and Violet Markey. The dynamic of two narrators should be explored, whether they use different or similar point of view or and what impact of their narration has. To see their dynamic of point of view, a linguistic approach to literature can be employed through a stylistic study. Stylistics is a method for interpreting texts that emphasizes the role of language in creating meaning (Simpson, 2024).

A stylistic study of point of view can be done by analyzing the grammatical and semantic features, which is also called as *modality*. Modality in stylistics is used to convey a writer or speaker's attitude toward a specific object. Moreover, modality, according to Simpson (2004), helps identifying the attitude of the narrator

or persona in a story. Modality analysis is important in revealing the dynamic of point of view from the two narrators in this novel as it can also help in revealing their characterization. Therefore, this research will analyze the modality in *All the Bright Places* novel to uncover whether the point of view from Finch and Violet is different or similar, which also help in shaping their characterization.

1.2 Research Problems

This research primarily focuses on the use of modality as it has significant role in examining each narrator's attitude and point of view in the story. Accordingly, the research problem is formulated through the questions below:

- a. What are the types of modality used by Finch and Violet in *All the Bright Places*?
- b. What kind of point of view do Finch and Violet have according the types of modality?
- c. How can the point of view reflect the characterization of Finch and Violet?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research aims to identify modality to reveal the point of view of the narrators towards events and situation in the story and how it influence their narration. In accordance with the research problems, this research has three main objectives as follows:

- a. Describing the types of modality used by Finch and Violet in *All The bright Places*.

- b. Explaining the point of view according to the type of modality used by the narrators.
- c. Describing the characterization of Finch and Violet according to their modality and point of view.

1.4 Previous Studies

There have been several studies conducted related to modality and point of view analysis. The writer has discovered six previous studies which discuss modality and point of view in narrative text. Modality is effective in helping stylistic analysis explains how meaning is constructed through grammatical choices. A study of modality and point of view was conducted by Abood (2018) entitled *A Study of Modality and Point of View in Some Selected Short Stories*. This study analyzed modality in three different short stories. By applying Simpson's theory of modality, the article aimed to analyze the prominent type of modal system, the narrator's position and the narrative mode in each story. The study reveals that all three short stories have different shading; negative, positive, and neutral. Modality and point of view were very useful in detecting how the attitudes and the minds of the the character work and the style of the writer.

A study of modality and point of view was conducted by Borgogni (2016) entitled "*The Thick and Black Clouds of Obloquie*": *Modality and Point of View in Abiezer Coppe's 'A Remonstrance'*. It examined how modality and point of view function to convey hidden ideological messages. Using Simpson's model of modality, the study reveals that Coppe uses the modality system to obscure direct

meaning while subtly affirming his prophetic stance. Through modal shading, Coppe creates a dual point of view: One that outwardly appears submissive to authority and another that covertly asserts theological resistance.

A journal article of modality and point of view analysis was published by Abdullah and Abood (2016) entitled *Hedges as Modality and Point of View in Narratives in Terms of Simpson's Model*. They examined how hedging functions as a modality device in literary narratives using Simpson's (1993) model of modality and point of view. This study analyzed the types of modality within selected short stories and novels, focusing on how hedged expressions reflect politeness, indirectness, and character perspective. The findings showed that epistemic modality was most prominent particularly in the form of non-factive utterances, which revealed character's uncertainty, personal attitudes, and ideological positioning.

Modality and Point of View in The Help (2009) Novel by Kathryn Stockett is an undergraduate thesis by Sari (2022) which used Simpson's (1993) modality framework and Halliday's (2004) theory of modality value. The author identified four types of modality and examined how these contributed to the narrator's psychological states and perspectives. The findings showed that deontic modality and epistemic modality were dominant, and that both narrators mostly narrated in positive shading, reflecting confidence and assertiveness.

Another undergraduate thesis related to stylistic analysis of modality was conducted by Azizah (2021) entitled *The Study of Narrator's Unreliability: A Stylistic Analysis of Modality in Agatha Christie's Endless Night*. Using Simpson's

(2004) modality framework, she categorized modal expressions into four types of modality and analyzed their frequency and shading. The study found that epistemic modality was the most dominant, resulting in negative shading, which reflect the narrator's uncertainty and internal conflict. These linguistic features, along with narrative inconsistencies and contradictions supported the claim that the narrator was unreliable.

A study by Abdulla (2018) entitled *Modality and Its Interaction with Point of View in Graeme Simsions (2013) The Rosie Project: A Stylistic Analysis* focused on how the first-person narrator used modality types to express judgment, doubt, obligation, and desire. Using Simpson's (1993) modal grammar framework, the study found that Don's narration reflects negative shading, marked by frequent use of epistemic and perception modality, revealing his uncertainty and internal conflict. However, instances of positive and neutral shading also appear, contributing to a nuanced portrayal of the character's psychological state.

The novel *All the Bright Places* also has been studied widely from the psychological perspective and intrinsic element, mainly, plot, conflict and characterization. An undergraduate thesis entitled *Theodore Finch's Bipolar Disorder in Jennifer Niven's All the Bright Places* written by Ratushima (2017) analyzed Finch's character using psychological and structural approach. The study focused on Finch's general behavior, internal and external conflicts, and the novel's setting to examine how bipolar symptoms are portrayed. The findings revealed that Finch experienced both manic and depressive episodes, shaped by childhood trauma and ongoing bullying, which led him to his suicide.

Another study by Widyantara et al. (2020) discussed *The Plot of the Characters in All the Bright Places*. In this study, the author aimed to identify the adapted plot elements that contribute to the development of the plot type in the novel *All the Bright Places*, and examine how the information and individual plot elements are organized within the narrative. From the study that has been conducted, it can be concluded that the plot of the novel made up of six significant plot elements that divided into six part: exposition, complication, crisis, climax, falling action, and resolution. The plot played a significant role in shaping a cohesive narrative, giving characters clear purposes and challenges within specific settings. The theme of mental health also influenced the direction of the plot, which unfolded in a chronological sequence.

An undergraduate thesis written by Cahya (2021) entitled *Social Conflict Of Theodore Finch In The Novel All The Bright Places By Jennifer Niven* examines the social conflict experienced by Finch and the causes behind the conflict. There were conflicts of the role and conflict of interest experienced by Finch. These conflicts arise from differences in personality between Finch and his friends, varying perceptions between the teacher and Charlie, Finch's envy toward John, and his past experiences with Romero. Finch eventually resolves his social conflicts by patiently following his teacher's instructions, avoiding actions that would worry his mother, setting aside his father's expectations to be more casual and relaxed, acting as a responsible older brother to his step-sibling, and being more mindful of his behavior.

Fardani and Nirmala (2021) has conducted a study of Finch's characterization in Jennifer Niven's novel with the title *Characterization of the Main Character (Theodore Finch) Through Directive Speech Act Analysis*. This study aimed to know the characterization of Finch by analysing his utterances that contain directive illocutionary act. The authors applied qualitative method and quantitative method because the authors needed to know about the frequency of the data used to depict the characterization of Finch and describe the utterances that contained directive illocutionary act. From the results, the caring, brave, and adventurous character from Finch are illustrated through the behaviors and traits in the novel. The most used illocutionary act by the character is indirect ask and also indirect speech act is order.

After reviewing the previous studies, there is still no study conducted related to point of view the novel *All the Bright Places*. Whereas, this novel is unique because it is delivered through the first-person point of view and is narrated by the two main characters of the novel. In identifying the point of view in a narrative text, stylistic approach can be done through the modality analysis. Therefore, this research is need because also contributes to new findings.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of this research discusses modality and point of view narrated by Finch and Violet. In carrying out this research, the writer utilizes Paul Simpson's theory of modality which consist of four modal systems namely *epistemic*, *deontic*, *boulmatic*, and *perception*. These modal systems are analyzed to identify the

narrators' attitude, view, and judgement toward the event and the situation, and also to find the shading of the story which reflect to their characterization.

1.6 Writing Organization

This research is elaborated into four chapters as follows:

CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research problem, the objective of the study, previous study, scope of the study, and writing organization.

CHAPTER II : THEORY AND METHOD

This chapter presents theoretical framework of modality and point of view. It also presents research method.

CHAPTER III : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter shows the finding of the types of modality by providing tables and explains what are the modal systems and point of view in found in Finch and Violet's narrations.

CHAPTER IV : CONCLUSION

This chapter presents the interpretations based on the results of the analysis.