

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Humans are goal-oriented creatures, no matter how big or small the goal is. It becomes an integral part of human lives and gives them a purpose to enjoy and continue their lives. We need to be resilient, confident, adaptive, and proactive when we try to achieve our goals. These aspects are also represented in literature. Literature is an art, a creation of the creative process (Wellek, Warren, 1970: 15). In literature, the author will represent human experiences through the creative process, and hopefully, the reader might attain positive messages and new perspectives. This work may affect the reader's mindset and help them become better people.

Novels are the extended version of prose. The magnitudes that novels have made have more varied characters, complicated plots, and sustained explorations of the characters and their motives (Abrams, 1999: 190). A novel is a literary work in prose describing human experiences. In this study, the novel that will be used as an object is *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro. This novel tells a story about Klara, an AF (Artificial Friend), and a sick human named Josie. Josie, who is terminally ill, makes other characters lose hope in her recovery. On the other hand, Klara tries to find a way for Josie's recovery, which is her primary goal. The author depicts the characters in this novel as if they have already surrendered to that situation. Even Josie's mother tries to replace Josie with Klara since she loses hope and grows

desperate. Then, the bright gleams of hope from the protagonist, Klara, seem like the sun shines through them. Despite the hard times and conditions, Klara always works hard and tries to find alternative ways to solve problems and reach her goals. Even though she has gaps in how she talks, she can always comfort and encourage other characters with her genuine and kind words.

Based on the reasons above, the writer is intrigued by the protagonist's determination to achieve her goal despite being in a bleak moment. The writer will explore how the protagonist achieves her goals, how the protagonist develops optimism, and how the antagonist characters' opposition impacts the protagonist's motivation. This novel also positively impacts the writer of this study; therefore, the writer hopes this study can be helpful for the upcoming research and help the reader understand the novel from a different perspective.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

The writer formulates several questions for this study after reading and analyzing the story of the novel *Klara and the Sun*. The questions are as follows:

1. How is the protagonist's goal-achieving process?
2. How does the protagonist's optimism develop?
3. How do the antagonist characters impact the protagonist's goal-achieving process?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This study aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To describe the protagonist's goal-achieving process.

2. To examine the development of the protagonist's optimism.
3. To examine the antagonistic roles of Mr. Capaldi and the Mother impact the protagonist's motivation.

#### **1.4 Previous Studies**

The previous study lets the writer know how similar studies were done in the past with this study. The previous study prevents the writer from plagiarizing in writing this study and enhances the research regarding this topic. There are several book reviews and articles related to Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun*, which can be seen as follows:

Anita Felicelli wrote a book review on the Los Angeles Review of Books website entitled *Bomb Under the Table: On Kazuo Ishiguro's "Klara and the Sun"* on March 5, 2021. It points out the Mother's intention to buy Klara to replace her dying daughter.

A book review written by Clara V. Nguyen on The Harvard Crimson website, entitled *'Klara and the Sun' Review: Kazuo Ishiguro's Shining Ode to Love* on March 16, 2021. It points out Klara's love and sacrifice for her human, Josie.

A book review entitled *Loving What We Don't Understand in 'Klara and the Sun'* by Anna Malecki on July 24, 2021, talks about faith versus rationality from Klara's point of view. In this novel, where the setting is in the future, science and rationality dominate the human way of thinking. But many things cannot be

explained scientifically, like how Klara believes that the Sun can heal Josie and how much emotion she shows and feels, although she is just a robot.

*The Difficult Balance of Text and Subtext in 'Klara and the Sun,'* by Ian J. Battaglia on March 8, 2021, points out how Klara narrates the story. Klara describes everything literally – like a human child – that makes the readers pay more attention to the dialogue between other characters and read it carefully to understand this story.

A book review entitled *'Klara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro review. What it is to be human*, written by Anne Enright on 25 February 2021, points out Klara's compassion towards people surrounding her, her naivety, and her simplicity in how she loves.

In *Losing Ourselves*, written by William Lombardo in 2021, Lombardo states that what differentiates humans from robots are dignity and unconditional love. Klara does love Josie, but it is programmed in the first place since she is built as a child's companion, even though Klara's love for Josie grows bigger as the story goes.

The following study was written by Liu Hui and Yan Ping from North China Electric Power University on 26 December 2021, entitled *Analysis of 'Klara and the Sun' from the Perspective of Defamiliarization*. It elaborates how the novel depicts the dilemma, the uniqueness, and the fragility of human beings from Klara's perspective and Victor Shklovsky's theory of defamiliarization.

The article entitled *Faith in the Bildungs-robot: A tale of AI and a diminished yet hopeful humanity* by Edmund Gordon on 5 March 2021 points out that this novel portrayed hope as the opposite of despair, which can be seen by how the story did not end with the characters' disappointment even when their plans did not work out. It gives the reader an uplifting feeling.

The study entitled *Hope, Faith, Love, Human, and Humanoid: A Study of Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Klara and the Sun'* by S. Bavetra and R. Ravi in May 2021 talks about hope, faith and love in human life from the perspective of a humanoid.

Lastly, a book review entitled *Through New Eyes: Artificial Intelligence, Technological Unemployment, and Transhumanism in Kazuo Ishiguro's 'Klara and the Sun'* by Santiago Mejia and Dominique Nikolaidis on 25 January 2022 points out how this novel delivers a society that might predict the future where every part of life is replaced by robots and technology take over the world through Klara's perspective.

In this study, the writer will analyze how the protagonist achieves her goals, how significant optimism is in achieving goals, and how the opposition of the antagonist characters impacts the protagonist's motivation.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

This study examines the protagonist's goal-achieving process using C.R. Snyder's Hope Theory, the protagonist's optimism impact on the goal-achieving process, and the impact of the antagonists' opposition to the protagonist's motivation.

## **1.6 Writing Organization**

This thesis is divided into five chapters, further subdivided into smaller sections.

Listed here are the five chapters:

1. Chapter I: INTRODUCTION. This chapter provides the background of the study, the research problems, the objectives, the previous studies, and the organization of the thesis.
2. Chapter II: THEORY AND METHOD. This chapter includes theories and the methods that the writer of this thesis uses to analyze the novel.
3. Chapter III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION. This chapter covers the discussion of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel to answer the research problems.
4. Chapter IV: CONCLUSION. This chapter provides the conclusions of the analysis in the preceding chapter.

REFERENCES