

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

As we know, literary works are made to be enjoyed by the general public. It is developed in conjunction with the author's point of view, goal, way of life, experience, and even emotion. A novel is one of the most common forms of literary work. According to Abrams (1981: 119), a novella is "a small brand new thing" in literary terms, and it is therefore interpreted as "a short narrative in prose form." A novel is described as a story with multiple events that have a plot with characters, a setting, a theme, a point of view, and the character's worldview.

One of the most important elements in a novel is the character. Presenting characters with various types makes the story of the novel live. According to Holman (1985: 74), character refers to someone in fiction. The creation of this fictional character is called characterization. There are three basic methods of characterization: explicit representations in which the writer writes the characters directly; character presentation in action where the writer expects the reader to understand by giving little or no explicit commentary; and representations from within characters where the author does not comment on characters about the effects of actions or emotions. Characters can be static or dynamic. Static characters do not change or change a little while dynamic characters change through the actions they pass (Holman, 1985: 75-76). Dynamic characters, as is well known, go through changes and growth or also known as character development. Character development can happen for a number of factors, including the influence of other characters.

One character development that has attracted the attention of researchers is the character Scrooge from the novel *A Christmas Carol*. Several researchers such as

Theresia Erwindriani (2000), Tina Islam Miyati (2014), Fachriza Amalia Rakhman (2017), Liwei Sun (2017), and Ursula Peggy Susanti (2018) studied the same novel and characters. However, these studies use a literary and cultural approach rather than a linguistic approach. On the other hand, Scrooge's characterization is reflected through verbal communication, either through the way the character speaks or the narrator tells the story. An analysis of the narrator's speech representing the development of Scrooge's character must be carried out to support previous research.

Through this research, the writer is interested in analyzing how the character development is represented in the novel. The writer chose a novel entitled *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens which was published first in 1843. The novel is about Ebenezer Scrooge, an old miser, haunted by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley, and the ghosts of Christmas Past, Now, and Yet to Come. Scrooge is turned into a kinder, gentler man during their visits. This novel has a dynamic main character and develops from being a selfish and stingy person to become someone kind and generous. That is one of the reasons the writer chose *A Christmas Carol*.

The writer chooses a study titled *Transitivity Analysis of Scrooge's Character Development in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*. Since transitivity analysis is a grammatical analysis of a text in its context, it can reveal what a character is like, what an activity character does, what habits a character usually has, what ideas a character feels or thinks, and what utterances a character makes.

## **1.2 Research Problems**

As said previously, the problem of the research is that we don't understand the character development of Scrooge from a linguistic aspect. Hence, the problems in the research that the writer wanted to analyze are as follows:

1. How the Scrooge's characters are identified through the utterances of the narrator?
2. How the characters development are described through the transitivity process?

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

Following the problems of the research, the purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To identify the Scrooge's characters through the narrator's utterances.
2. To describe the Scrooge's character development using transitivity process.

### **1.4 Previous Studies**

In conducting this study, the writer used ten studies as previous research. The first previous study was an undergraduate thesis entitled, "The Miserly of Ebenezer Scrooge Reflected at Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol Novel (1843): A Sociological Approach" by Tina Islam Miyati (2014). Her thesis focused on showing how the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge reflected in the novel. She analyzed the novel based on the structural elements and analyzed some aspects of England's society in the nineteenth century based on a sociological approach. Based on the sociological analysis, there is a close relationship between the novel story and the reality of England's life. This novel describes the social effect of Scrooge's character. The social status of main character in this novel can alterate the bad character (miserly) into good character (generosity) with the way visited by three Spirits.

The second previous study was conducted by Ursula Peggy Susanti (2018) entitled "A Study of Scrooge's Behavior Change As seen in Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol". In her research, she discussed Scrooge's character's behavior change and the reason of the behavior change itself. The research found that Scrooge's characteristics are mean, stingy, and strict. But after he met the Marley ghost and the other ghosts, Scrooge changed his behavior into a good person. He became grateful, generous, brave, and sociable. The reason why Scrooge's behavior changed, based on Marlow's theory, is because he remembered his greed, bitter experiences, sharing his wealth, and avoiding punishment.

The third previous study was "The Analysis of Charles Dickens' Novel A Christmas Carol—From the Essence of the Novel to Western Culture" by Liwei Sun

(2017). Through this review, she inferred three novel essences such as the spirit of Christmas and humanitarianism, two opposite sides of the person, and the value of choosing. The influence of Western civilization is also influenced by the book. In *A Christmas Carol*, Scrooge's transition is due to the ghost's influence, since ghosts play an important part in literary works. Analysis of this novel reveals that as long as we are supportive and kind, we offer infinite pleasure to ourselves and others.

The fourth previous study was conducted by Fachriza Amalia Rakhman (2017), entitled “Philanthropism in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis”. The research was undertaken to examine the world view of Charles Dickens in *A Christmas Carol*, a book in which the Philanthropic discourse can be identified. The researcher used Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism theory to examine the world view. The principle of philanthropy is shown by the change of personality of the main character, from stingy to charitable. The principle of philanthropy is often shown by the thoughts and behaviors of other characters.

The fifth previous study entitled “The Conflict of The Character in Dickens *A Christmas Carol*” by Reskiawan Sabri (2017). This study analyzed the different traits among the three spirits and explained the time function scheme of *A Christmas Carol*. The study used the same approach as the other study namely structuralism, but in this study, the writer focuses on setting and character. The study showed three things, firstly, the true nature of Scrooge changes from initially miserly to a good human because of the three spirits. Secondly, the difference between the three spirits when they visit Scrooge. Thirdly, the function of time used for naming the three spirits.

The sixth previous study was conducted by Theresia Erwindriani (2000), entitled “Scrooge’s Character Development in Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol*”. The study examined the character growth of Scrooge used a formalistic approach, based on the text of *A Christmas Carol*. A formalistic review has shown that Dickens portrays Scrooge's image in his book, *A Christmas Carol*, as a cold-hearted, miserable,

misanthropic, anti-Christmas old man. But Scrooge continued to grow his character steadily when he was visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve to remind and alert him of his evil character by revealing his dreams of past, present, and future.

The seventh previous study entitled, “Analysing The Characterization of Mr. Lorry in *A Tale of Two Cities* Simplified by Patricia Atkinson Using Transitivity System” by Aswita Aqidatul Ersah Mahardika (2017). This research evaluated the characterization of the narrator in portraying one of the characters, namely Mr. Lorry. In her research, it was found that Mr. Lorry is mainly seen by the indirect characterization of the appearance, behaviors, emotions, and feelings of the characters. It is also found that the writer has drawn a character into a relational process and a non-relational process. Mr. Lorry's personality was defined by his presence and his feeling through the relational process. In the meantime, certain processes have been established by a non-relational process, such as behavioral, mental, material, and verbal processes.

The eighth previous study was conducted by Intan Siti Nugraha and Sutiono Mahdi (2020), entitled "Transitivity System on Building Character of Mr. Summer in *The Lottery* by Shirley Jackson". The research studied the key character of Shirley Jackson's *The Lottery* using the Transitivity System of Systemic Functional Linguistics (SFL) approach. It is noticed that the speaker of the short story is influential in the linguistic method of building the main character by his verbiage, the strongest of the total processes in the clauses. In comparison to a material process that often occupies a high number after a verbal process, it suggests that the character carries out operations in both the domestic and physical domains.

The ninth previous study entitled, “The Transitivity Process Patterns and Styles in the Characterization of The Protagonist Character in Phuoc’s *The Story of Tam and Cam*” was conducted by Simon Arsa Manggala (2017). This research centered on the use of languages, the purposes, and the results studied using the transitivity process. The transitivity study revealed that the processes used to describe the protagonist

character are material, mental, relational, verbal and behavioral processes. Processes can disclose specific significance to the characterization process. From the results, the features of the protagonist character are accompanied by unique linguistic choices. Diligence is entirely assisted by material processes, loyalty by material and verbal processes, and compassion by material, mental, relational and behavioral processes.

The tenth previous study was conducted by Abdul Rashid (2016) entitled, "Transitivity Analysis of Hiroko's Character in *Burnt Shadows*". This thesis explored the application of transitivity in Kamila Shamsie's novel *Burnt Shadows* in order to investigate the mechanism of Hiroko's character building. The study showed that Hiroko is a thinker of the form of mental clauses rather than a doer of the sort of material clauses. It also revealed that Hiroko is given 69% of the roles which are higher than the combined sum of all the other characters which reveal that Hiroko is the subject of the plot.

Referring to those similar studies, this study differs from the other studies. Indeed, several of the previous studies have addressed the formation of character and some of them used the transitivity process. But, they used different objects. Six of ten previous studies used *A Christmas Carol* as their research object, while four others used different objects such as short stories and other novels. The six previous studies employed some approaches that differ from each other. There are sociological, cultural, structuralism, and formalistic approaches. Meanwhile, the other four applied the transitivity process to their research in analyzing the characterization. Furthermore, two of the four previous studies focused on analyzing just the mental and material processes in the characterization. The gap in the previous studies above is there are no previous studies that studied the development of the main character, namely Scrooge in *A Christmas Carol* using the transitivity process. The writer in this study tried to identify the characters of Scrooge and describe the transformation of him in the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens using the five process of transitivity process, which the writer has not encountered before.

### **1.5 Scope of The Study**

This study focuses on identifying clauses that describe the characterization of Scrooge in Charles Dickens' novel A Christmas Carol. The writer also focuses on the clauses that demonstrate the progression of the Scrooge character through the method of transitivity by Halliday. The clauses chosen reflect Scrooge as an active and passive participant followed by all verb forms.

### **1.6 Significance of The Study**

This study is expected to give practical contributions to lecturers and student to be a source in linguistics subject especially in the transitivity process. They can use this study as an example of how the transitivity process can be used to identify character development in literary works. This study also gives the contribution and foundation to the next researcher who has interest to the transitivity process and character development.

### **1.7 Writing Organization**

This study contains 4 chapters which are organized as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION**

The introduction chapter contains an explanation that leads to the writing of the content. In detail, this introductory chapter consists of the background of the study, research problems, purpose of the study, previous studies, scope of the study, significance of the study, and writing organization.

#### **CHAPTER 2 : THEORY AND METHOD**

This chapter presents two things, namely the theoretical framework and research methods. The theoretical framework contains an explanation of the theory of transitivity process in

Systemic Functional Linguistics, characterization, and others. The research methods section contains the type of research; data, population, sample, and sampling technique; method of collecting data; and method of analyzing data.

CHAPTER 3 : RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter describes logically and coherently the research results obtained based on data analysis with the theory used.

CHAPTER 4 : CONCLUSION

This chapter presents conclusions which are critical generalizations of the results of data analysis obtained from the research.