

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background to the study

Look at the literary term in any encyclopedia at this time, and we will be surprised by the vague use of and lack of substantial materials in the effort to define literature. In many cases, it is referred to as a written whole, but not all documents can be categorized in a more precise way as literature. The description therefore generally contains additional adjectives such as "aesthetic" or "artistic" in order to differentiate between literary works and ordinary texts, for example telephone books, journals, legal documents and scientific writings. According to the formalist definition, "literature" is defined as having poetic effects; literary "poetry" or "poetry" is what sets it apart from everyday speech or other sorts of writing for instance journalism. The issue with functionalist definitions would be that, in order to claim which literature strays from the usage of everyday language, use must first be defined; this is challenging because "ordinary language" is an ill-defined category that varies across social and historical categories. Literature is, at its core, a fully developed written form of fiction which analyzes the significance of nature and life, as well as the desire to comprehend, articulate, and ultimately share the experience.

Narrative is from the word 'narrate' and narration is a wide definition of it. Narrative is an act of speech in narrating with narrator as a speaker. It can be defined that everything narrated by narrator is narrative. But, at this point according to Gerard Genette in *Narrative Discourse* (1982) draws difference between the narrative act of the narrator, narrative as text or utterance, and the story the narrator tells in their narrative. When we talk about narrative these days, we are sure to associate it with novel, short story or film. Narrative, however, means telling the story. Narrative can

be found everywhere in our daily lives, for example, news reader on TV or radio, school teacher, and we can also be a narrator or novel that we read.

According to Mieke Bal (1993), all activity takes place within the projects and constructions of particularly positioned subjects, and narrative has the unique ability to map the positioned subjects in different ways depending on how they are related to one another. With its dual perspectives on who hears (focalization) and who speaks (voice), Genette's work on the logic of discourse created a model that combines elements of perception and expression.

The aim of the focalization study is to know the perspective of the narrator. In a literary work, the narrator is internal or external with a focus and a view of his own. Then we can describe the actions and dialogs in the text. This includes all actions where they participate directly that cause them to react. The idea of a focalizer is misleading since it implies that one individual, such as a narrator or character, maintains constant attention on a certain text or section of material. It makes more sense to examine focalization as a more ethereal and dynamic aspect of the text. For instance, the opening of Dickens's *Great Expectations*, where Pip, the first-person narrator, describes how he visited his family's graves as a young orphan.

In Henry's *The Gift of the Magi*, the narrator tells the story of the characters based on what he knows and what he sees. In this case, we know that Della and Jim had given each other a gift for Christ, but they both had to sell their treasure. Della was worried, and the story started on Christmas Eve, when her meager savings were only \$1.87, which she used to get a present for her devoted husband.

Della discovers a platinum fob chain that will look good in Jim's store and is uncomplicated and of the highest caliber. After two hours of enthusiastic looking, Della discovers the ideal present for Jim. He also had a stunning golden watch his father and

grandfather had worn before. Jim hangs the watch on an old leather strap rather than a fitting gold chain, refusing to display the timepiece voluntarily.

Della gets ready for supper, coils her short hair, and then takes a seat by the door. As usual, Jim shows up as he enters the room, his eyes fixed on Della. Della is unable to read his response. There is no sign of surprise, rage, or anything else she could anticipate. She approaches him and begs him not to be angry. He concedes that if she had seen what he gave her for Christmas, she would have realized his surprise. She never imagined that she would be able to obtain them.

She softly reminisces to Jim when her tears have dried up about how quickly her hair grows and how Jim hadn't yet received his present, which makes her smile. He can check the time 100 times a day now, she says as she eagerly offers out the fob to him. Jim slumps down on the couch and beams at Della after viewing the gift she gave him. After selling his watch to purchase Della the combs, he proposes that they store their nice Christmas presents aside for a time.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

Statement of the problem used to claim the outlines problem of the study. The focus of the study deals with the following problems:

1. What is the narrator's focalization in the short story *The Gift of The Magi*?
2. How does focalization explain the narrator knowing about the story in *The Gift of The Magi*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the study are related to statement of the problem. Based on the statement of the problem above, we express the objectives of the study as follow; To find out the focalization in the short story The Gift of The Magi and to elaborate how focalization explains in the short story The Gift of The Magi.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study of this study is analyzed about the focalization or the narrator mean when narrator conveys the story of the short story The gift of the Magi using the theory by Genette (1980). The focalization can be zero focalization, internal focalization or external focalization.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The contribution of this research is that literary students can understand the theory of narratology focalization by Gerard Genette and can practice the theory in subject learning. The study of focalization can be a learning paradigm in student of English department in university to broaden students understanding of point of view and narratology studies. The aim of the project is to help students improve academic competence and can be a reference point for students who want to make a focalization thesis.

1.6 Approach of the Study

The researcher used focalization theory by Gerard Genette. It is called 'text oriented approach.' Text oriented approach focuses on the analysis of intrinsic elements such as, character, plot, characterization, and perspective of the written story especially in narrative structure. However, the central theme of the study is to analyze the point of view of the narrator in a short story entitled The Gift of The Magi by O. Henry.

This research tries to explain how the focalization is applied in the short story. The following stages must be followed in order for literary study, which includes all forms of formal, planned research, to be conducted using a scientific technique and thought process (Semi, 2012:37); Create problems and their definitions, do literature reviews, develop hypotheses and test them with models, gather data, assemble, analyze, and interpret it, draw generalizations and conclusions, and create research reports.

1.7 Organization of the Study

The researcher will classify this thesis into five chapters, which are being used for the systematics of the writing process. Chapter one the researcher presents about the introduction of the project which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter two the researcher explains about O. Henry's biography as the writer of *The Gift of The Magi* and the synopsis of the short story.

Chapter three contains the theory which the researcher will explain and discuss the focalization from the narrator point of view by Gerard Genette's theory of focalization.

Chapter four is about the outlines problem of the study.

Chapter five contains the conclusion and suggestion that explains the whole chapters and solve the problem.