

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Literature is a verbal work, and literary work is a medium for expressing ideas and opinions. They were written or implied by the author. A short story is an imaginative prose story. The complexity associated with the human experience involves a group of people in a particular environment. The novel contains plots that describe characters, events, and conflicts that reflect real life. The researcher chose this novel to review because the novel is very mysterious and curious with the ending of the story, where the character Simon in "*One of Us Is Lying*" is a boy who is the self-proclaimed "omniscient narrator" of Bayview High's rumor mill, Simon Kelleher runs a ubiquitous but reviled gossip app called About That which aggregates the juiciest gossip on campus. Though Simon's reports are daily, they are rarely inaccurate. He uses his fellow students' initials to avoid being accused outright of libel or harassment. Still, because the school community is so tight-knit, it's always obvious who the gossip is about.

Karen M. McManus is a young American fiction writer. She is best known for her first novel, *One of Us Lying*, which remained on the New York Times bestseller list for over 130 weeks. It received a star rating from Publishers

Weekly. NBC picked up *One of Us Lying* as a pilot, and the TV adaptation will premiere in October 2021 on Peacock. Its sequel, *One of Us Is Next*, received a star rating from Publishers Weekly. Kirkus Review gave it a confidential two-star review and named it one of the best books in 2019 (Heimbach A, 2018).

One afternoon at Bayview High School, five students are summoned to detention by a teacher due to a violation of school rules involving the use of their phones. The group consists of Bronwyn, an exemplary student who always adheres to the rules and maintains impeccable grades; Addy, a popular and attractive girl who has won beauty contests; Nate, a delinquent who is currently on probation for drug-related offenses; Cooper, an athlete and the star pitcher of the school's baseball team who is known as the prince of the school; and Simon, a social outcast who has created a gossip app about life at Bayview High (McManus, 2017).

Toward the end of detention, Simon suddenly collapses and dies after drinking water from a chemistry beaker that was available in the room. The police confirm that Simon's death was not an accident, but was instead deliberately planned by someone. Furthermore, a draft of Simon's upcoming gossip article, which contains scandalous rumors about the four other students who were in detention with him, is discovered. As each of the four students has a hidden secret and one must lie, they all become suspects. This research reveals the social reality in Karen McManus's *"One of Us is Lying"* using Georg

Lukács' theory of social realism, which has three aspects: objective reality, dialectical motion, artistic reflection, and critical expression of emancipation.

The dialectical motion in the novel "One of Us Is Lying" occurs in the conflicts between different characters, particularly between the main character and the police investigating Simon's death. In the novel, each character suspected of being Simon's murderer presents their defense to prove their innocence. The novel also portrays various forms of resistance employed by the characters in facing pressure and difficult situations.

The objective reality in "*One of Us Is Lying*" can be seen from the facts revealed in the story, such as Simon's death being proven as intentional murder, not an accident. The social issues faced by the characters are also reflected in the objective reality, such as the pressure experienced by students in maintaining their image in school and the negative impact of gossip or fake news spreading. In the novel "*One of Us Is Lying*", there are several strategies, cheating, and traps employed by some characters to achieve their goals, analyzed using the artistic reflection theory. The novel "*One of Us Is Lying*" also contains critical expressions of emancipation in various aspects, including the portrayal of social issues in teenagers' lives. The novel depicts how teenagers can be trapped in fierce competition and how their problems can affect peer relationships.

The theory of Social realism is a literary movement that advocates for the accurate and honest portrayal of social reality in literary works. Georg Lukács was a literary theorist and philosopher known as an important figure in the development of social realism theory. According to Lukács, literature should be a reflection of the social and political conditions of society, with the social problems experienced by the figures. This research uses the Socialist Theory of Georg Lukács, because this theory can explain these problems. The researcher analyzes to understand what tactics and crimes the four characters (Bronwyn, Nate, Addy, Cooper) have experienced that have made them oppressed by the crime. Then the characters' efforts in opposing their accusations of being murderers and the defenses they made. Researchers use the theory of a literary critic named Georg Lukács (13 April 1885–4 June 1971).

Georg Lukacs' perspective of socialist realism in this study the aspect used in his theory is the aspect of artistic reflection which is an aspect of tactics that can be understood implicitly and whose content is in the form of a tactic or plan that has a purpose to oppress an opposition or group, in this study the form of artistic reflection takes the form of evil, next is the aspect of dialectical movement, namely the form of opposition and defense, In this research, we will analyze how the resistance and defense of characters in the storyline of this novel will take shape. It is based on the consideration that the perspective has relevance to the research data. The sociology of literature is one of the

approaches in literary studies that understands and assesses literary works by considering social or societal aspects. As the name suggests, literary sociology is an attempt to understand literary works through the fusion of literary science with the science of sociology.

According to the theory of social realism, literary works often reflect the social conditions of society, including social issues faced by the characters in the story. In the novel *"One of Us Is Lying,"* the characters face several social issues. There are also different social pressures experienced by each character, such as Addy, who is trapped in her image as a "dumb pretty girl," and Cooper, who feels pressured to maintain his title as "the prince."

Additionally, when Simon dies, the four main characters become suspects and their reputations are tarnished by the media and society, making it difficult for them to maintain their social relationships. The conspiracy theory in the novel also creates distrust between the characters, causing them to suspect each other and experience insecurity. The reason Simon's character trapped the four characters in this murder case, Simon's character tried to reveal the secrets of each of the four characters that they deliberately hid so that they were honest about the secrets that had been by these four characters, Simon wanted these four characters to be honest about the secrets they deliberately hid so as not to harm these four characters and the people around them. And in the end, the four characters in the novel are honest about their actions and try to be better.

Overall, the novel is a representation of various social issues in society, including social pressures, defamation, and conspiracy theories.

The purpose of this study is to describe the four concepts of Georg Lukacs' socialist realism, while the benefit of this research theoretically is to strengthen literary theory, especially Georg Lukacs' theory of socialist realism. This type of research is qualitative descriptive research with a literary sociology approach. The data from this study is an excerpt in the form of sentences and paragraphs. As the author of this study, I was interested in choosing Karen McManus's *"One of Us is Lying"* novel because this novel received achievement 2022 Wisconsin Golden Archer Award at the Senior Level organized by the Wisconsin Educational Media and Technology Association (WEMTA). This achievement is quite great considering it is quite difficult for a book to get an achievement. It is a novel that received a lot of enthusiasm when it was made into a Netflix series because it was considered a work that managed to try to solve the murder mystery that occurred so the audience was also curious about the storyline presented.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the description explained above, the researcher formulates research the following questions :

1. What are the forms of defense and resistance employed by the character in Karen McManus' *One of Us is Lying*?
2. What forms of oppression in Karen McManus' *One of Us is Lying*?
3. What are the strategies, cheating, and traps in Karen McManus' *One of Us is Lying*?

C. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is as follows :

1. To analyze the defense and resistance undertaken by the main character suspected of murder in Karen McManus's "*One of Us is Lying*".
2. To analyze the forms of oppression depicted in Karen McManus's "*One of Us is Lying*".
3. To analyze the strategies, cheating, and traps experienced by the characters in Karen McManus's "*One of Us is Lying*".

D. Scope of the Study

Based on the explanation above, the discussion that the researcher focuses on the form of crime experienced by the characters in the storyline of the novel "*One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus" and the form of dialectical movement that is the form of opposition and defense of the characters in the storyline of this novel.

E. Review of Related Studies

Previous research, several authors have researched the novel "*One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus". First, a researcher found one scientific article or paper that discusses this novel, The thesis research found is "*Multiple Points of View in Karen McManus's One of Us is Lying by Ayu Sari Andhara (2019)*". This thesis explains perspectives to determine the degree of perspective in describing the different perspectives of the main character. Researchers use the protocol as a tool to obtain valid data. His discovery shows that the four main characters in the novel *One of Us is Lying* have a point of view. This research has similarities to the novel used, namely the novel *One of Us is Lying* by Karen McManus with different theories.

Second, the researcher found a scientific paper using the same theory. A researcher finds a scientific paper scientific article or paper that discusses this theory, the research thesis found is “*Socialist Realism seen in Maxim Gorky’s play The Lower Depths by Ainul Lisa (2009)*” This thesis explains the characteristics of the socialist theory of realism found in the drama *The Lower Depths* By Gorky. The researcher chose this drama because he wanted to focus on how Satin and Kostlyov's characters revealed the characteristics of socialist realism such as the reflection of reality and the development of the revolution. Researchers use the protocol as a tool to obtain valid data. His discovery shows that this theory of socialist realism can show the original characters in the play as has been analyzed by the Researcher, namely the character Satin who depicts the proletariat, and Kostlyov who depicts the bourgeoisie who is a reflection of life with the truth of the development of the revolution. This research is similar to the theory used, namely using George Lucaks’s Social realism theory with a different novel.

The third is a journal from Audriana Septian (2019), “*Representations of Social Reality in Hendri Teja's Tan Novel: A Perspective on Georg Lukacs Socialist Realism*”. The article tells how the concept of four aspects in the theory of Socialist Realism which shows the social representations contained in the novel Tan by Hendri Teja, and discusses this novel using the concept of four aspects of Social Realism related to the storyline in this novel which

corresponds to the three concepts of socialist realism Georg Lukacs, namely, the concept of objective reality there is an aspect of oppression with a sub-focus on oppression in the economic field, suppression in the field of education, suppression of the political field, oppression of the political field, suppression In the field of Islamic religion, and physical oppression, the concept of dialectical movement there is an aspect of resistance and defense, the concept of artistic reflection there is an aspect of tactics, and the concept of emancipatory critical expression there is an aspect of resistance with the sub-focus of resistance in the economic field, resistance in the field of education, resistance in the political field, resistance in the field of Islam, and resistance physically. This research is similar to the theory used, namely using George Lucaks's Social realism theory with a different novel.

F. Methods of Research

This type of research is qualitative descriptive research with a literary sociology approach. The data from this study is an excerpt in the form of sentences and paragraphs. The data source is in the form of novels and series so the technique used. This research is suitable for library studies. According to George (2008), literature research methods include identifying and identifying sources that provide scientific information or expert opinions. The two types of

sources that researchers use are primary sources and secondary sources. In this study, researchers used novels as the main ingredient. Secondary sources of information from internal sources include articles, media, or journals used for related research.

1. Data and Source of Data

The primary source of data is the text from the novel “*One of Us Is Lying*” Novel by Karen McManus (2017)”. Secondary data sources were taken from many sources such as journals, essays, and websites using library research that is related to this research.

2. Method and Technique of Collecting

Note-taking techniques were used by researchers during data collection. First, read the novel *One of Us is Lying*_by Karen McManus to understand the storyline, Note-taking is a complex task that requires understanding and choosing information and text and library research. Data will be collected from the novel “*One of Us is Lying*” by Karen McManus (2017)”.

3. Method of Analyzing Data

After identifying the source of the data and collecting the data, start analyzing and selecting the data using the sociological theory of realism from George Lukacs. This research tries to find all the relationships in the textual novel by using the oppressive socialist realism of Georg Lukacs, in the theory of social realism, George Lucaks classifies three aspects, there are aspects of objective reality, dialectical movement, and artistic reflection. The researcher answers three questions with three sub-theories: dialectical movement, objective reality, artistic reflection, and critical emancipatory expressions.

For the first question, the researcher uses dialectical movement to explain the forms of defense undertaken by the characters. The researcher will answer how characters defend themselves to prove their innocence and explain the forms of resistance they undertake, such as self-defense, cooperation, facing personal secrets, and seeking truth. Second question, the researcher will use objective reality to explain the forms of oppression experienced by the characters, such as cyberbullying, blackmail, and physical and verbal violence. In the third question, the researcher will discuss the strategies, cheating, and

traps employed by the characters to achieve their goals. The researcher will use artistic reflection to analyze these issues.

G. Presentation

This research will be divided into three chapters, Chapter I will discuss the introduction such as research background, research problem formulation, research objective, research significance, research scope, related research reviews, research method, theoretical approach, and presentation. In Chapter II the researcher will discuss the theoretical framework. Chapter III will discuss the analysis of the novel based on the research problem.