

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Falsehood may happen in someone's life. Although falsehood is a wrong behavior, there are some reasons why people tell a lie, whether it is for good or bad reason. Falsehood can also happen in a relationship of a couple. Sometimes they do it to protect something, to hide their trauma, or to keep their important things.

Falsehood may be defined as a statement that distorts or suppresses the truth, in order to deceive. (Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary). Falsehood is the opposite of the truth. It is one of the defense mechanisms commonly used by human in every situation. "Freud used the defense mechanism to refer the unconscious processes that defend a person against anxiety; they protect against external traits or against internal anxiety by distorting reality in some way (Hilgard, 1975:442)"

Furthermore, DePaulo (1996: 981) proposes that a lie may occur any time someone intentionally tries to mislead another. As DePaulo and her team expect, lying is a fact of daily life. Most people lie once or twice a day. The lies are being told to benefit the liars as same as to benefit other people. Both men and women commit to say falsehood approximately last in 10 or more minutes. In romantic couples or close relationships, usually women tell twice as many lies as men.

There have been many studies on falsehood. One of them is in the Asbatin's thesis (2009) *The Twin Aunt's Lie in Mark Twain "Was it Heaven? Or Hell?"*. She analyzes the reason and the consequence of the main character in the novel. Asbatin uses intrinsic and extrinsic approach that is the psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud, while the writer in this research uses the psychological approach based on Rene Wellek. Asbatin also uses many types of lies based on website Wikipedia while the writer uses the types of lies based on DePaulo and Viorst.

The practice of falsehood can be traced in Rosamond Smith's novel, entitled *Lives of the Twins*. The story tells about a couple of lover who have a complicated relationship because of their falsehood, each falsehood has its cause and effect.

The writer chooses the topic about falsehood because the novel gives many falsehoods that connects the three main characters. The falsehood in the novel happens among a couple relationships. The novel interests the writer because it is a psychological novel written by Joyce Carol Oates under a pseudonym name, Rosamond Smith. This is not typical writing for Oates who usually writes about historical and epic proportions. The novel is a readable story of a woman who invites trouble and makes love affairs with identical twins.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background above the writer proposes two statements of the problem as follow:

1. What falsehood are told by the characters in the *Lives of the Twins* novel?
2. What are the impacts of the falsehood toward the characters?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of problem, the objectives of this study are to:

1. Describe every falsehood told by the characters in the *Lives of the Twins* novel.
2. Describe the impacts of the falsehood toward the character.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes this research will give benefit to the readers especially in understanding about falsehood and the impact of the falsehood that happen among the characters described in Rosamond Smith's *Lives of the Twins* novel. Hopefully, this study can be used as a reference for other students who want to know the meaning of falsehood and are interested in psychological novel as well.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

Apart of many aspects that can be traced in the novel, this study focuses on analyzing falsehood done by every character in the novel. The study focuses to analyze the falsehood and its impact in the data source of *Lives of the Twins* using falsehood theory and it will be analyzed using psychological approach. Therefore, the generalizations from the analysis will be limited to the data used in the present study.

1.6 Organization of Study

This study is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction, which includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the study Organization. The second chapter is the Review of Related Literature. The third chapter is the Research Method, consists of Research design, research instrument, literary approach, data and data source, and data analysis. The four chapter is The Analysis. It focuses on analyzing the problem that is explained by the writer. The five chapter is the Conclusion in which the writer gives the conclusion of the problems that have been analyzed.