

## CHAPTER IV

### STUDY OVERVIEW

#### A. Novel

The word of the novel is derived from the Latin word *novellus*, Italian word *novella* (which meant a little new thing), and the French word *novelle*. According to Chodea (2019, p.1100), is derived from the word *novella* which meant “a small brand new thing”. Nowadays this definition was interpreted as a short story in prose fiction. Furthermore, the word *novella* was used first time by Boccaccio in his ten short stories entitled *Decameron* which is written in the fourteen century.

The novel is literary work that tells about human life in an imaginative way. Meanwhile, according to Wellek and Warren (2017, p.12), a novel is a literary work formed in a narrative story. The story is supposed to entertain the reader. However the experiences and life problems are usually the important points in the story, fiction must remain an interesting story, remain a coherent structure building, and still has an aesthetic purpose.

Novel are also divided into two elements, which are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements of a novel are plot, setting, character, and characterization, point of view, theme. Meanwhile the extrinsic of the novel isa social and psychological condition in a society. Furthermore, the novel also divided into some types or known as a genre of novel, such as romance, gothic, fantasy, science fiction, mystery, and young adult.

As historical, novel as literary genre gained popularity in 18<sup>th</sup> century, and its can separated from the beginning when the oldest literature *Epic Gilgamesh*

was written. Based on Chodea (2019, p.1001) in 18<sup>th</sup> century with the adequate literally predecessors such as Bunyan, Behn, Chaucer, Boccacia and other writers in 17<sup>th</sup> century, the next writers availed opportunities to further experiment and also produce novel as literary genre. Furthermore the rise of novel was influenced by some aspects such as industrial revolution, decline of romance and drama, rise of the middle class, and mobile libraries.

### **B. American Panda by Gloria Chao**

*American Panda* is a novel written by Gloria Chao. This novel was published on February, 6<sup>th</sup> of 2018. The genre of novel is young adult, romance, and also contemporary. *American Panda* novel tells about Taiwanese-American teen girl, named Mei Liu from Taiwan who born and live in America with her parents. Although still 17 year old, Mei has been in MIT School because she skipped . Her parents who keeping their own culture (Chinese culture), teach Mei everything about Chinese culture in their home although outside Mei faced with American culture. Mei who was born and grew up in America think that the things in culture of her parents most of irrational if compare with American culture. For example, Mei's mother has determined with whom Mei gone to married later and Mei should not marry with other races besides Chinese. One more, Mei has to be a doctor, because for her parents doctor is promising job. Even though, Mei does not like the biology class and fear of germ.

In the beginning, Mei tries to do everything which her parents want, but as long as time more things irrational happened. Then, Mei think that she cannot being as what her parents want just old traditional culture. Mei wants to againsther

parents rules, but in Chinese culture, filial piety to parents has become a part of life, so Mei tries to think that it is the one way of her parents to show their love.

Even Mei more tries to follow of her parent's rule, as long as time Mei feel more uncomfortable with all of this. She tries to do something that makes her happy such as dancing, talk to her brother who has been expelled from their family, eat some American food, and fall in love with Darren, a boy from Japan. Those things Mei hides from her parents.

Until the end, all of things that Mei hides disclosed. Mei's parents very wrathful with her. They cut off financial ties with Mei until Mei aware and apologize to their. Mei tries to explain to her parents, that she is born and live in America in which there is American culture but her parents never teach and give the knowledge of American culture. Because of this, Mei always looks different and weird in American views even in other immigrant who stay in America. For example, her parents sent Mei to school without knowing English and with pork floss sandwiches for lunch and then her classmates thought they looked like pubes. Yet, Mei still in her decision because she thinks that she cannot live in America without knowing of American culture. Meanwhile, her parents and her father family still in their opinion that culture must be kept alive.

In *American Panda* novel, there are several element that study found which is written as follow

1. Theme

In analyzing the intrinsic element, this study found that theme in American Panda is combination of filial piety, family expectations, traditions and culture, finding an identity, and also doing what your love. Filial piety in question is

tradition in Chinese family. Tradition and culture in this story is about two culture which are America and Chinese culture. Then, Mei Liu as main character also tries finding her identity and doing what her love.

## 2. Plot

This study found the plot of *American Panda* novel is progressive plot. At the beginning of the story, Mei as main character was graduated from senior high school and continues her study at MIT School in Boston, USA. Her parents prefer Mei there to become a doctor later. Unfortunately, Mei does not like to be a doctor. She belongs there just because she does filial piety to her parents. Day by day, Mei tries to adapt and learn about pre-doctor school. In fact, she really fear about things in doctor, such as germ. In center of story, Mei reconnect to her brother, named Xing Liu who is estranged from house before. They plan to meet in a restaurant.

Unconsciously, the meeting between them was seen by Mrs. Liu friend. Then, during the meal at a restaurant with Mr. Liu, Mrs. Liu, Mei's grandmother, Mei's aunt, there Mrs. Liu friends whom greeted they and also greeted Mei while give know that she ever greeted Mei and Xing at the restaurant. Definitely, this make the situation become heat up, because her parents also her grandma and her aunt did not like Xing because his choose to get married with a girl who hard to pregnant. At this situation, Mei said that her brother was not wrong, but the way of her family thinking is the one to correct. Then, suddenly her grandmother has faint and was died.

Furthermore, after the events in restaurant, Mei starts to wonder if all the secrets are truly worth it. She thinks that being in MIT as form of filial piety to her

parents but she doesn't love it. She can't bring herself to tell them the truth that she hates germs, she loves dance, falls asleep in biology lectures, and has a crush on her classmate Darren Takashi, who is decidedly not Taiwanese.

At the end of story, Mei decided to out from MIT and start to learn in accounting and also teach dance in her studio. Finally, her mom accept Mei's decision although her father not yet talk to Mei, Her mother also accept Darren as Mei boyfriend.

### 3. Setting

This study found several setting in American Panda novel that are MIT School, Mei's house, Chow-Chow restaurant, train and church.

### 4. Character

This study found there are twelve characters in American Panda novel as follows.

#### a. Mei Liu

Mei Liu or called Mei is the main character in *American Panda* novel. She was young girl who 17 years old. Then, after graduate in senior high school, she comes to MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) in America. Her family is from Chinese but Mei and her brother born and grew up in America. In this study found that Mei Liu also protagonist

#### b. Mei's Mother

Mei's mother or called Mama (Chinese language) is the minor character in this novel. She is good mother. She also from Chinese. She did not work just as mother who treats her family.

c. Mei's Father

Mei's father or called Baba (Chinese language) also the character in this novel. He was work in an office in Boston.

d. Mei's Grandmother

Mei's grandmother or called Nai-nai (Chinese language) is mother from Me's father. She is kind person. In the story, Nai-Nai depicted as grandmother who always care to Mei.

e. Yilong

Yilong is uncle of Mei. She is the little sister of Mei's father. She is bad-tempered person. She also likes collecting the plastic shopping bag.

f. Xing

Xing is a brother of Mei. Unfortunately, because of family's problem that Xing love the girl who hard to have a baby which make her parents does not agree. Finally, Xing kicked out from home.

g. Darren

Darren is a boy from Japan who also school in MIT and also boy whom Mei loves.

h. Nicolette

Nicolette is a roommate of Mei in MIT boarding house. She is cheerful and also kind.

i. Ying Na

Ying Na is a girl who becomes the legends for Chinese-American people, especially for almost of parents. It is because Ying-Na was depicted as woman

who mutinous her parents and finally become the poor girl. Although in real life, Ying Na becomes a successful woman.

j. Dr. Chang

Dr. Chang is a doctor at MIT School. She is a girl. In the novel, she is depicted as a reticent person. She speaks to other people rarely.

k. Mrs. Huang

Mrs. Huang is a friend of Mei's mother. She often shows the achievements of her son to Mei's mother.

l. Helen

Helen is a high school friend of Mei who is also from Chinese. She is a pretty and famous girl on campus. She is a kind person. Helen is one of Mei's best friends in senior high school.

