

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Romance fiction still has a special place for society to enjoy. A lot of people enjoy romance because romance is one of the popular genres and people choose this genre to entertain themselves. The romance's plot provides a swinging mood to the reader, it can be from happy to sad or the opposite. Even it can make you cry and happy at the same time. Romance provides the reader with a certain emotional release that is proscribed in daily life because the social role with which they identify themselves leaves little room for the guiltless, self-interested pursuit of individual pleasure (McCracken, 1998, p. 82). Romance pleases the readers by how the story develops from the beginning until the end of the story.

Romance fiction is not only enjoyable fiction but also can be taken as a literary study. At Ma Chung University, Lilis Lestari Wilujeng, Dono Sunardi, and Wawan Eko Yulianto, as a lecturer, teaching how romance has been growing from Greek romance to the modern era of romance. For example; in the middle ages, the popularity of chivalric romance was accompanied by associations of frivolousness. In this modern era, romance has been given a lesser place than the realist novel (McCracken, 1998, p. 76).

Society can enjoy romance fiction by watching or reading it. An example of romance fiction that you can watch is movies or dramas. South Korean dramas are known for their excellence in story development, intelligibility, straightforward and extreme expressions of emotions, and tears (Takeda, 2004, p. 147). For example, *The World of Married* was released on March 27, 2020. According to Nielsen Korea, "The

last episode of *The World of Married* has scored a national average rating of 28.37%, beating its record 24.44% from the previous night's episode." It shows how popular Korean Drama in society is". Another option is to enjoy romance fiction by reading it, such as a novel or short story. In the world of novels, *The Twilight Saga* by Stephenie Meyer is one of the famous romance fiction. For a short story, one of the famous writers comes from Russia, Anton Pavlovich Chekhov. Some of his works are famous; such as *The Lady with the Dog* (1899), *A Living Chattel* (1882), *About Love* (1898), and *The Grasshopper* (1892). After seeing those fictional works, the writer is going to write a short story about a woman who has an asthma disease, and there is a male character who is willing to help her and accompany her until the happy ending.

The writer is interested in a serious illness called *Asthma*. Asthma is known as a chronic inflammatory disorder of the cells that play such an important role in the human lungs and it causes constriction of the respiratory tract (Bourdin et al., 2009). In *Life and Breath: Respiratory Diseases in Canada*, The Government of Canada (2007) states on the website that "Over 3 million Canadians have reported having a problem with the respiratory problem and one of them is asthma." Based on the writer's experience, asthma can relapse regardless of time and place and it will be more dangerous if we are just indifferent to this serious disease. Also, the writer feels asthma can be triggered easily by some allergen in our surroundings, such as dust pollen or a pet's hair.

Based on the description above, the writer is interested in writing a short story that has a love story genre. There are some reasons the writer wants to write a short story. The first reason, the writer wants to test the writer's creativity in writing romance fiction in the form of a short story. The second reason, the writer wants the reader to

feel what the writer wants to tell in the short story. The last reason, the writer wants to tell about asthma and how dangerous this illness will be if not taken seriously.

1.2. Research Purposes

In writing a non-thesis project entitled “*The Lungs*” as a final project, the writer finds not only general purposes but also specific purposes to be achieved.

The general purposes of this creative writing are to entertain the reader, to convey the moral value of the short story, and also to educate the reader about the positive value of the short story.

In addition to general purposes, there are also specific purposes of this creative writing.

1. For the writer, this non-thesis project becomes a requirement for taking the graduation exam from college. Beside that, this project becomes a measurement to test the writer’s creativity in writing a short story. Not only that, become a story writer is both the writer's dream and wish.
2. For society, this creative writing is to entertain readers. Besides that, the writer wants to tell or share with the reader about asthma disease in general.