

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study.

There is one of popular genre that authors like to choose for their novel which is thriller. According to Bridget, thriller is a genre of literature that uses suspense, tension, and excitement as its main elements (2010). Thrillers are usually about life and death situations. There are some primary elements of thriller such as the main storyline. For the protagonist is either a quest or a character that cannot be put down, the protagonist and the antagonist character may battle, themselves or each other, not just on a physical level but on a mental one as well, and so on. Thriller may be defined by the primary mood that they got fearful excitement.

Most people hardly differentiate thriller and horror genres. Both of them make people's adrenaline rush but thriller has tension, suspense and scare. Commonly, in horror genres always contain about supernatural and understandable thing such as ghost story. Many people like to read thriller novel because the story makes them curious so that they are addicted to read the novel again and again.

For this research, the researcher uses *The Green Mile* by Stephen King. *The Green Mile* published in six paperback parts separately. First was on March 28th until August 29th, 1996. The first chapter was *Two Dead Girls*, tells about the first time John Coffey (the main character of the story) got in the jail. The second part is *the Mouse on the Mile* published at April 25th 1996. It tells about a unique mouse, Mr. Jingles, which the only one animal character in the story. The third part of the novel is *Coffey's Hands* which published at May 30th 1996. The fourth

chapter *the Bad Death of Eduard Delacroix* published at June 27th 1996 . It tells about the terrific execution of one of the prisoners in the Cold Mountain. The fifth part of the Green Mile is *Night Journey* published at July 25th 1996. And the last part is *Coffey on the Mile*, it was published august 29th 1996 and tells about the execution of John Coffey. It became the last of the whole part. The story set on 1932 in Cold Mountain jail Penitentiary death row.

In *The Green Mile*, the sub-genre is the supernatural thriller because it concerns about the supernatural and unusual power of the main character. Commonly, there is antagonist character in stories and the protagonist characters against the antagonist. The antagonist character might be stronger or cleverer than the protagonist then one of the characters would do the failure things. This type of the story gives emotional pressure towards the readers. It makes the writer wants to analyze deeper about this sub-genre.

There are many sub-genres under thriller novel. According to Patterson, the sub-genres of thriller are crime thriller, action thriller, conspiracy thriller, mystery thriller, and so on. Thriller may be defined by the primary mood that they elicit and fearful excitement. It is strengthened by the quotation below:

“...thrillers provide such a rich literary feast. There are all kinds the legal thriller, spy thriller, action-adventure thriller, medical thriller, police thriller, romantic thriller, historical thriller, political thriller, religious thriller, high-tech thriller, military thriller. The list goes on and on, with new variations constantly being invented. In fact, this openness to expansion is one of the genre’s most enduring characteristics. But what gives the variety of thrillers a common ground is the intensity of emotions they create, particularly those of apprehension and exhilaration, of excitement and breathlessness, all designed to generate that all-important thrill. By definition, if a thriller does not thrill, it is not doing its job”. (2006: 14)

In *the Green Mile*, there are two main characters in the story who named Paul Edgecome, He was the narrator of the novel and police guard of the jail, and John Coffey, the prisoner who have special supernatural healing ability. The other characters are Brutus Brutal Howell, Dean Stanton, Harry Terwilliger, and Percy Wetmore who the other police guards on the jail. The other guards except Percy Wetmore are protagonist characters. Percy Wetmore is the only one antagonist character in the story. All of the prisoners in the jail would be executed in Old Sparky a legendary electric chair in *the Green Mile*.

The Green Mile itself is not the name of the prison but it is the tunnel which comes into the electric chair. The story began when John Coffey got in the jail. The guards were shock when the first time they saw him because he has huge black body because he is a nigger. Contrast with his body, he is a simple-minded, shy, emphatic and sensitive to the thoughts and feelings of the others around him.

When the other guards are being nice to John Coffey, Percy does not care about that and keep against John Coffey and the other guards. As the author of *the Green Mile*, Stephen King said Percy Wetmore is a young, arrogant and sadistic guard. He is the main antagonist of the story. He is a nephew of the governor's wife so that he got his job on the jail within his political connection and he thinks he can use his political connection to control the guards and the prisoners.

Percy Wetmore has couple dreams in the story. First, he wants to be a secretary at Briar Ridge psychiatric hospital. Second, he wants his existence to be recognized by the other guards and the last goal is he allowed an execution that is why Percy refused to leave the jail. While Percy Wetmore tries to reach his goals,

he does the symptoms of failure mechanism unconsciously. However, the writer sees it as a challenge to prove whether Percy Wetmore success or fail for reaching his dreams by using the failure mechanism.

According to Maltz, failure mechanism is unlimited powers in every single person which come in every moment in his life (1960:130). Based on the word FAILURE, Maltz defines seven symptoms of the failure mechanism, which are **Frustration, Aggressiveness, Insecurity, Loneliness, Uncertainty, Resentment, and Emptiness**. Along those symptoms, even it is not all that had experienced just like only four or five symptoms. Maltz categorized someone who has it as a failure-type person. These symptoms shall not be orderly as the acronym of FAILURE (*ibid*:131).

Failure mechanism has seven symptoms as the tool to categorize people as the failure one. The failure type personality also has its symptoms. People cannot easily to recognize these failure symptoms. Even the most successful personalities experience them at times. No one is immune to these negative feelings and situation. It comes to their life without any warning before. He will face failure mechanism unconsciously even though that person had done his best to get something.

That is why people will unconsciously experience these seven symptoms while doing their daily activities. Mechanism means signal of a warning or guidance in someone life. Basically, the signal is a method that guides someone to experience many unplanned situations. Therefore, the concept of the failure mechanism can be defined as negative signal of someone in the way of achieving

his dreams. It is a negative signal because of the failure word which contains a negative meaning in life.

People can experience the failure mechanism through the symptoms of the failure mechanism. Every single action of someone affects that person life, whether he conscious or not. Person who undertakes some symptoms of the failure mechanism will receive it as a danger signal to warn the person that something bad is going to happen soon. However, when he cannot recognize the signal then it will lead him to become a failed person.

As the author of *the Green Mile*, Stephen Edwin King was born in Portland, Maine, US at September 21st 1947. He is very well-known in Hollywood and around the world. He is an American author of contemporary horror, supernatural fiction, suspense, science fiction and fantasy. King has published 54 novels, including seven under the pen name Richrad Bachman and sis-non fiction books. One of his famous novels is *Shawsank Redemption*. *The Green Mile* novel became success when first published and was on the New York Times bestseller list simultaneously. In 2003, he received The National Boo Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters. (www.stephenking.com).

The writer chooses *The Green Mile* due to several things. First, the author of this novel, Stephen King is one of the greatest American authors. Where in each of his work deserves to be analyzed in detail. Second, the writer interest to analyze Percy Wetmore because his character is interesting to be analyse. Percy Wetmore does the Failure Mechanism when he pursues his dreams while he is on the jail, and he is failed for copings the symptoms of Failure Mechanism. The last reason, there is no researcher who discusses The Failure Mechanism of Percy

Wetmore in Stephen King's *The Green Mile* in Muhammadiyah University of Surabaya. For understanding the discussion clearly, it will be put into statement of the problems below.

1.2 Statement of the Problem.

The Problems of this paper are:

1. What are the Failure Mechanism symptoms of Percy Wetmore in *the Green Mile*?
2. Why does Percy Wetmore fail on copings the symptoms of Failure Mechanism in *the Green Mile*?

1.3 Scope and Limitation.

The scope of this research is *the Green Mile* novel by Stephen King and the limitation is just focused on discussing the Failure Mechanism of Percy Wetmore character. This limitation has a purpose to get a specific and valid result.

1.4 Objectives of the Study.

1. To find out Failure Mechanism symptoms of Percy Wetmore *in the Green Mile*.
2. To reveal the reason why Percy Wetmore is failed to cope the symptoms of Failure Mechanism *in the Green Mile*.

1.5 Significance of the Study.

Through this study, the writer wants to help the readers to know the symptoms of Failure Mechanism of Percy Wetmore, and the reason why he is failed for copings the symptoms of Failure Mechanism in the story. At last, this study can be used as a reference and comparison for the future researchers, other learners of English Department who interested with Stephen King's brilliant ideas in his novels.