CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, researcher discusses the Background of Study, Research Question, Objective of the Research, and Significant of the Study.

1.1 Background of Study

The immigration phenomena are a global issue that not only impacted the economic and political aspects, but also has deep implications for the psychological and emotional conditions of the individuals involved. Moving to a new social and cultural environment often creates significant emotional stress, especially for individuals who leave behind the roots of their home culture. In this context, immigrants often experience alienation, loss of identity, difficulty adapting, and discrimination which has a direct impact on their mental well-being. Smith et al. in (Iqbal et al., 2025) noted that the psychological pressure experienced by immigrants can trigger feelings of loneliness, anxiety, and even depression, especially when the available social support is inadequate. This is reinforced by (Andronic, 2024) who states that the immigration experience is often accompanied by psychological disorders due to cultural gaps and conflicting social expectations.

Recent research also shows that the emotional conflicts experienced by immigrants are the result of the pressure of adapting to a new environment, especially in the face of significant cultural differences. (Hasnain et al., 2024) stated that individuals with immigrant backgrounds often experience an identity crisis due to tensions between cultural values of origin and dominant values in the destination country. This has a direct impact on the formation of complex emotions, such as guilt, sadness, alienation, and even anger. (Contini & Carrera, 2022) added that feelings of not being accepted or marginalized by local society exacerbate the psychological pressure of immigrants, especially among women and teenagers. Therefore, understanding the emotional dimensions of the immigration experience is important for designing effective social and psychological interventions.

Immigrants are vulnerable to depression as a result of a lack of social support and a heavy burden of adaptation. This is in line with the findings of (Fauzan Alamari, 2020) which explains that feelings of alienation and stigma from local communities are the main obstacles in the social integration process. (Gloria Kang GJ et al., 2018) also noted that cultural discrimination as well as economic hardship are two main factors that exacerbate immigrants' emotional distress. In a further study, (M. Rothe et al., 2011) emphasized the importance of inclusive social policies and contextual psychological interventions to support the mental well-being of immigrant communities. They recommend the creation of safe spaces such as multicultural community centers that can encourage social participation and strengthen individuals' cultural identities.

In literary studies, emotional issues in the immigrant experience are also often used as central themes in various contemporary works of fiction. Literature can represent psychological reality through characters who face identity dynamics, emotional conflicts and cultural pressures. One literary work that highlights this is a novel Maame by Jessica George. This novel tells the story of the journey of a young woman named Maddie who comes from a Ghanaian immigrant family and lives in London. In the narrative that is constructed, Maddie is described as an individual who experiences complex emotional stress, such as feelings of isolation, loss, guilt, and the search for identity in an environment full of contradictory expectations and values.

The choice of David Krech's theory in this research is based on the strength of his theory in systematically grouping emotions into several main categories, namely basic emotions (such as sadness, anger, fear, joy), sensory related emotions (pain, disgust, pleasure), evaluative emotions (such as guilt, shame and pride), and interpersonal emotions (such as love and hate). This classification framework is very relevant to reveal the emotional complexity of the character Maddie in the novel *Maame*, who not only experiences one type of emotion, but also experiences emotional transitions and conflicts as part of his identity struggle as a child from an immigrant family. In addition, Krech's approach allows researchers to link emotions to cognitive and social factors, so that the interpretation of a character's emotional dynamics becomes more in-depth and contextual.

For example, in the following quote Maddie says: *"I feel like I'm stuck in a life that isn't mine, like I've been cast in a role I didn't audition for."* (George, 2023:112). This quote reflects feelings sadness and isolation which is profound, because Maddie feels like her life is not her own and she has no control over her destiny. In Krech's theoretical framework, this expression can be categorized as emotion sad which is rooted from identity conflict and social pressure. This also illustrates how emotions do not appear randomly, but are closely related to self-perception, personal values, and environmental expectations.

In essence, Krech's theory offers a lens for understanding deep emotional dynamics *Maame* as a reflection of the broader immigrant experience, where the struggle for identity and belonging is fundamental to emotional development. By applying this theoretical framework, this research not only illuminates the emotional depth of Maddie's character, but also contributes to the understanding of how emotions in literature can reflect the psychological challenges faced by immigrants in multicultural contexts.

This research is relevant because Maddie's experience reflects the emotional dynamics that many immigrants experience in the real world, especially second generations living between two cultures. This study also enriches understanding of literary characters from the perspective of literary psychology, namely by examining the complexity of emotions in character development and storyline. In line with that, (Utama, 2022) in his analysis of the novel The Siren Kiera Cass's work shows that emotions such as sadness, love, and guilt are important elements in the formation of main characters. Likewise, (Frasa, 2024) uses Krech's theory in analyzing various emotions in literary works such as shame, hatred and love as reflections of the characters' psychological conflicts.

Thus, this research has novel value in the study of literary psychology, especially in exploring the emotional experiences of immigrant characters in dual cultural contexts. It is hoped that this research can make an academic contribution to the study of migration literature and psychological dynamics in literary representation. In addition, the results of this research can provide insight to the wider community and policy makers regarding the importance of emotional support for immigrants in the process of social and cultural adaptation in a new environment. Therefore, this research is not only academically important, but also

has high social relevance in understanding and responding to the complexity of migration experiences in the contemporary world.

1.2 Research Question

1. What are the types of emotions portrayed by the main character in Jessica George's Maame Novel?
2. How are the main character's emotions depicted in Maame by Jessica George?

1.3 Objective of the Research

1. To identify and classify the types of emotions of the main character in Novel Maame by Jessica George.
2. To Analyze the main character's emotions in Maame by Jessica George.

1.4 Significant of the Study

This research has two main benefits, namely theoretical benefits and practical benefits. Theoretically,

1.4.1 Theoretical

This research makes a significant contribution to enriching literary studies, especially through a literary psychology approach. By applying the theory of emotion classification proposed by David Krech (1969), this research is able to offer a new perspective in reading and interpreting the psychological dynamics of characters in novels Maame. The use of this theory not only expands the range of approaches to literary analysis, but also emphasizes the cross-disciplinary relevance between psychology and literature, especially in explaining the complexity of emotions experienced by individuals in the context of migration.

1.4.2 Practically

Practically, this research has a real contribution to the development of migration literary studies and literary psychology. This research can be used as a reference or starting point in understanding the representation of immigrants' emotions in literary works, as well as how their emotional experiences are constructed narratively. The results of this research are also useful for researchers, academics and readers interested in issues surrounding migration, identity and mental health. In addition, this research opens up a wider discussion space

regarding the psychosocial challenges faced by immigrants, especially in terms of cultural adaptation, loneliness, and emotional vulnerability. The findings from this research can provide insight to the general public regarding the importance of empathy and social support for immigrants. By understanding how social and cultural factors influence the mental condition of individuals who move to a new environment, it is hoped that society can be more sensitive and inclusive in responding to the presence of immigrants. This awareness is important for creating an environment conducive to the integration process and psychological well-being of immigrants, as well as strengthening social solidarity in multicultural life.