CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

Gothic is one of genre in literature which is identic with evil, sickness, death gloomy, and curses. There is no specific definition about Gothic, but, the existence of Gothic could be recognized by its features in literary work, such as supernatural with its nuance. In gothic fiction, the nuance of supernatural is aroused by terror and horror. Those are different things but related each other. Horror defined as the nuance that come up from human fear caused by the eerie atmosphere or supernatural thing, and terror is feeling that something will harm to oneself. Both horror and terror are more potent to stimulate Gothic emotions and have an important role in the Gothic's plot as its dominant nuance.

The brief explanation about Gothic above has not been changed since the first Gothic literary known in eighteen century and burgeon in twentieth century up now. Botting (2005: 109) has named it as Postmodern Gothic, yet, it has several differences for each periods—setting of place such as building architecture that presented as height walls and loftier towers with carved object on the wall and wide rooms which themed dark and gloomy, it also include cultural things such as wearing dark clothes, and the involvement of supernatural things which based on belief. Different with Postmodern Gothic, in architecture, Postmodern Gothic combined in several style architectures and has flexible theme on building appearance. Besides of that, Postmodern Gothic

included several things that only exist in postmodern period such as utilizing of electronics things such as EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomenon) that is part of supernatural things as tool to capture the voice of spirit, camera to capture a sign of spirit, and a phone which can be interacted by spirit according to certain experiences. However, supernatural as gothic features becomes main issue that preserve in the novel.

Supernatural is part of Gothic features which mostly interpreted by supernatural beings, such as God, Angel, and Demon. Those supernatural beings could be adapted with any changing around periods without making disappear its characteristics from where it begins. It is because the existence of supernatural being is started from the religious scripture. Based on the scriptures which include the explanation about supernatural beings makes human imagination can create another beings that written in a works of literature and knowing as fictional beings. In literary works, the works which adapted supernatural beings such as vampires, witches, zombies, and the other various beings, are generally categorized as genre of Horror.

In the work of fiction, the novel entitled *The Preternatural* is one of its dominant element. The novel presents a deaf family who encountered mysterious events in their new home. The desperate and fearful filled their minds after frequent of horrific accidents. They tried to find the solution to resolve the supernatural phenomena by asking help from their neighbors, a psychic, pastor, and paranormal institute—an organization by experienced and trained professional people as investigators and researchers with utilizing all protocols such as scientific and non-scientific methods.

Then, the horrific accident ended with help from paranormal institute researchers who uses their way with the read loudly the verses of bible and some rituals. According to the novel, the plot showing about fear that caused by horror and terror.

There are several researches that contained horror and terror, Azie (2013) discuss about the supernatural beings called Dracula in his research entitled *Alegori Tokoh Dracula dalam Novel Dracula Karya Bram Stoker*. He describes Dracula as the supernatural beings that categorized as monster which its characteristics sucking a human blood, pale faced, cruel gazed, long finger nail, and the existence of Dracula is always come in the night. According to its characteristics, the representation of Dracula brings the nuance of horror when Dracula shows and it becomes terror when Dracula hunts a human. Beside of that, Prohászková (2012) stated in her article entitled *The Genre of Horror* that the supernatural beings is created by human imagination and the development of horror is represented by violence and brutality. But, it depends on the how the environment or setting that describe in literature and supernatural beings. She also stated about the typical archetypal character mostly categorized as supernatural beings such as vampire, monster, zombie, demon, ghost, werewolf which the environment of place that could bring the nuance of horror such as cemetery, abandoned castle, gloomy forest, old house and so on.

Differ from previous research, the aim of the study is to analyze one of postmodern novel, *The Preternatural* written by Hajek (2015), that present supernatural beings and the research focuses on the manifestation of supernatural

beings. Thus, this skripsi is entitled SUPERNATURAL BEINGS AND ITS MANIFESTATION IN *THE PRETERNATURAL* WRITTEN BY DARYL HAJEK.

1.2 Research Question

In accordance to the elaboration above, this skripsi discusses gothic feature in *The Preternatural*. The research questions are elaborated as follows:

1. What kind of supernatural beings represented as gothic features in the novel?
2. In what way the supernatural beings is manifested in the novel?

1.3 Objectives

Based on the research question, these are the objectives of this paper:

1. To recognize and explain the representation kinds of supernatural beings as gothic features in the novel.
2. To explain the manifestation of supernatural beings in the novel.

1.4 Significant to Knowledge

This research is conducted to explaining about gothic features in the novel entitled “The Preternatural” (2015). Theoretically, this research is analyzed to contribute the knowledge about gothic in learning literature in post-modern period. As

practically to the writer or the readers, this research could be used to expand the acknowledgment about gothic literature especially supernatural beings.

The existence of supernatural beings cannot be identified clearly and there is a continuous discussion of it. On the other hand, the research on supernatural in the Preternatural (2015) has not been discussed yet especially its relation between fictional and religious being. In addition, the purpose of this research is to find out the manifestation of supernatural beings that contained in the novel *The Preternatural* (2015).

Besides of that, this research could be a positive contribution and significant benefit especially for other students in Faculty of Literature. Furthermore, this research expected to provide a reference to develop of subsequent research to evolve the knowledge about supernatural beings in literary works.

1.5 Framework of theory

This research uses supernatural beings by Shtulma's ideas (2008) as the main of analysis discussion that focuses on supernatural beings that contained in the novel and also uses the classes of actor by Bal (1999) to support the purpose of this research which is starting from the nuance of Gothic and come up from Botting's idea (1996) who stated that *gothic is the fascination with transgression and the anxiety over cultural limits and boundaries, continue to produce ambivalent emotion and meaning in their tales of darkness, desire, and power* (1996: 1).

Based on quotation above, the nuances of gothic are darkness, eerie, horror and terror. It can transgress over the limit of culture. According to the cultural of gothic, those nuances mostly caused by supernatural beings. Shtulman (2008) split up the supernatural beings as two categorizes, Religious and fictional beings. The explanation about supernatural beings from Shtulman (2008) is used to identify the supernatural beings in the work of fiction and to reveal the manifestation of supernatural beings.

In this case, the supernatural beings presented in the novel then analyzed using Bal's concept (1999) on the classes of actor which focuses on main character to limit the discussion. Both Stulman's concept on supernatural and Bal's concept on actors were combined to present the nuance of horror and terror experienced by the Nathans in their new house. The Shtulman's concept is used to identify which kinds of supernatural beings that contained in the novel and the Bal's concept is used to identify the manifestation of supernatural being in the novel. According to the description and explanation about supernatural beings in the novel, the parameter of classes of actor is based on Nathans point of view as main character and as a subject.

The concept is elaborate as follows:

