

**The Motives of Christopher Mc Candless Wandering into the Wild
in Jon Krakauer's *Into The Wild***

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Literature is imaginative writing as reflection of all aspects in human life (Holman 1985). Through literature people are able to read case or phenomena around the world. Phenomena in society, experience of life, and idea will be shared in writing texts. Literary works are based on the author's experiences those appear caused by problems in their life. Literary work reflects the era and problems that occur in every literary works written. By reading literary work, people know the history of human life especially in human phenomena as knowledge or solution to answer people's problems. Furthermore, Holman states that literary work has a function to share knowledge even to affect reader's mind (299). It contains the author's knowledge, experiences, and mentality or their personality.

One of the literary works is novel, and it is the object that will be analyzed. Quoting from Holman novel is a writing used in its broadest sense to designate any extended fictional prose narrative or a narrative text that often presented by some organizing principles, theme, plot, and idea (298). Novel is divided into two terms. They are fiction and nonfiction.

Holman explains that fiction is a writing containing story which is made based on imagination or the writer's fantasy (Holman 289). Fiction or imaginative writing is usually in novel and short story form. Conversely nonfiction is a writing made based on reality, fact or real happening event (Holman 289). Meanwhile, nonfiction writing is commonly in science writing, report, article, thesis, paper, and nonfiction novel.

The novel, *Into The Wild* is written by an American writer, Jon Krakauer from Seattle United States in 1996. Even the story is nonfiction, the writing is certainly as the writing in the story. The novel is the international best seller in 1998 and it is a nonfiction novel, and the author as the investigator of the happening, he finds out the truth by interviewing the witness from Christopher Johnson McCandless' family who becomes the living witness but the fact is not only from interviewing but it is also from McCandless's personal note which is found in McCandless's corpse. Christopher Johnson McCandless as the main character in the story is someone who has strong character from effecting his environment by seeing his broken family, his experiences in direct life, reading insight, and his parents as the most cause of his action. In 1990 he has graduated from Emory University in Atlanta, with good reputation. He walks away from his family and drops out of sight, he changes his name, gives his nearly twenty four thousand dollars savings account to charity. Abandoned his car and most of his wealth, burn all his money after his car is getting horrible caused of flash flood in South shore of Lake Mead, then he decides to take a free life or real life by leaving his nauseating schedules, wandering across

North America in search of real happiness, and getting inspirational experience. Instead of the reality McCandles does not want continue his next study, even his parents have planned for him and financed his next study.

Christopher takes a wandering for two years. He decides to wander into the wild and it begins from South Dakota to Southern California from the sea of Cortez to the Alaskan Wilderness. These wanderings include a canoe voyage passing a dangerous brisk, labored labor over rice field of Westerberg's factory, troublesome working in McDonald, and settle for staying with an adventurer couple, a kindly old widower, and an old lonely pensioner man of military. Christopher decides to live in the wild, without the intervention of human society. Living in a bus is in the midst of the Alaskan wilderness with nothing more than some basic limited supplies. During his wandering, he always writes his events in his wallet diary. Unfortunately, when he finishes his wandering by going back to the society, he is trapped by the flood of liquid that snow cause he stay back in the bus for days. With limited food, he is in hunger then makes him to eat the plants. With poisonous plant that he has known yet, he weakens in the next day and poisoned. Finally with powerless body, he is lying death in peace in the bed inside the bus.

By the story, the first interesting thing is because nonfiction presents the true life experiences while in writing uses in fictional narrative of life experience (Holman 299). The second, the writer is interested in wandering that is done by Christopher. A young man who has a good result of academic education, stable economy, and prepared future walks outside leaving all of

those things. He wants to find out the real happiness. An obsession is coming from his reading. He reads books from Tolstoy, Stegner, and Jack London which causes him find a real happiness by walking in nature and lonely. While his reading motivates him to wander finding out real happiness, hating his parents is causing him leaving them. So, the writer tends to choose this novel.

Christopher's motive is to wander into the wild is the subject that the writer will analyze. From the motives, Christopher acts his wandering. A motive is coming from mental, and it is the part of psychology. By motive, Christopher forms his thought and commands his behavior to do. Instantly, motive is as floor of a building and purpose is roof (Freud 1989). Floor is a footing or a foundation of person to do something to reach the roof as the purpose. The focus of the writer is in floor or motive, the things forming the floor or motives are his reading and his environment or the other possible causes.

Motive is so related with inside of mental, and it is the part of psychological condition. Freud states that mental is the source of motivation and a drive inside us (Boeree 2006). Related to the fact, the writer uses psychodynamic theory to analyze the novel. While the psychodynamic which is chosen by the writer are psychoanalysis and psychosocial from Freud and Erik Erikson. The theories analyze from motives shaping inside of Christopher's personality and intervention of environment around him. The writer considers both theories are suitable to analyze the motives of Christopher walks into the wild.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Related with the background of the study, the writer wants to find out more deeply the psychological aspect from the main character in the story. In this case the writer formulates the research questions as follows;

1. What causes that influence Christopher's behavior and thought?
2. What is the end of his wandering?

1.3. Objective of the study

Based on the statement of the problems above, the writer gets three main purposes.

- 1.3.1. To know and identify the causes that influence Christopher's behavior and thought
- 1.3.2. To identify the end of Christopher's wandering
- 1.3.3. To know the way Christopher ends his wandering

1.4. Scope and Limitation

To get a focused discussion, the study is more concerning in McCandles' character. It is certainly about personality that has a relation with psychology, because analyzing the motives behind the behavior and thought. The writer analyzes it from psychical side. So, the limitation of this research is to analyze the character focusing in personality by the psychological theory.

1.5. Significance of Study

The writer hopes that the research can be useful for the readers who are interested in the story especially for those who want to know about Christopher's mind, and his personality that motivates him to do wandering. Especially for young, the story can be a good lesson to not be reckless people to live alone, stand happily without anyone, or to consider ourselves as the right people then cause to refuse the other opinions and bring the bad things for us, such as the fatality of McCandles who has eaten the poisonous plants because his carelessness and ignoring the laboratory officer even he has learnt and bought the book of plants. On other hand, hopefully there are many things that the reader can deepen and get from the research.

Basically the writer can get many lessons from the research itself and more enrich the knowledge about motivation inside personality of every people particularly for the writer. The writer also hopes that the research is able to be used as reference for students of UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya to conduct research and study more about the story in order to avoid the same focus and to use the research as reference.

1.6. Method of the study

The part will discuss how the research is conducted. It brings four main sub parts. They are research design, source of data, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis.

1.6.1. Research design

To answer the statement of the problems in the point 1.2, the writer uses the library research based. So, how the writer answering out the statement of the problems are by analyzing the literary works (novel) where the data is the text form, written words, or phrase because it is a novel. The study uses *Into The Wild* novel which is written by Jon Krakauer. The novel as the main data will be analyzed by the theory that proposed by expert or analyzer as the expert in psychology and the theory is the form of book or writing. It is called a qualitative research or research based on library research. By library research method, the writer wants to get a valid description of motives that motivated McCandles' behaviors and thoughts. It totally can answer the statement of the problems scientifically. The study uses the psychodynamic as the literary tool and it is divided into psychoanalysis especially the structure of personality from Freud and psychosocial theory from Erik Erikson.

1.6.2. Source of Data

The main source of data to be analyzed is *Into The Wild* novel. It is written by Jon Krakauer, published in 1996 by Villard. The research analyzes the paragraph, sentences, and phrases which is related with motives or the things that influences the behavior and thought of McCandles through psychoanalysis or Structure of personality and psychosocial theory.

The supporting source of data to analyze the novel is the books, article, journal, and internet especially in psychology, such as the development theory, theories of personality, psychoanalysis theory, and psychosocial theory.

1.6.3. Procedure of Data Collection

Data is the most important part for conducting a research, so data must be collected effectively and completely as the writer needs as possible. Procedure of data collection is the one of sub from the research method, and here will explain how data are collected to support the research. In collecting data for the research are based on library research or qualitative research method. The steps of collecting the data are as follow;

1.6.3.1. Preparing *Into The Wild* novel as the main data

1.6.3.2. Collecting the data from the novel by comprehending reading to get a valid data

1.6.3.3. Reading and selecting the reference which is related with or support the data collection

1.6.4. Procedure of Data Analysis

The data which have been collected will be analyzed using literary theory. The research is library research and in presenting the analysis, this research uses descriptive analytical method. The steps of procedure data analysis are;

1.6.4.1. Describing the causes of influence Christopher's behavior and thought

1.6.4.2. Explaining the end of Christopher's wandering

1.6.4.3. Analyzing the data collected dealing with statement of the problems, influence of Christopher's wandering, the end of Christopher wandering and how does Christopher's wandering end

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

1.7.1. Personality : The sum of the pattern of thinking, feeling, and behaving that are characteristic of a person (Encyclopedia Americana 756).

1.7.2. Motive : Some inner drive, impulse, and intention that causes a person to do something or act in certain way, a goal, and an incentive (Encyclopedia modern psychology).

1.7.3. Psychodynamic : The science dealing with the laws of mental action (Encyclopedia modern psychology).

1.7.4. Psychosocial : The dominant topic in relationship between individual and society, interaction among group, and socio economics group in shaping behavior, attitudes and personality (Encyclopedia Americana 724).