### **CHAPTER 1**

#### INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature which is an imitative of human action, often provide the pictures of people think, say and do in the society. It serves as a mirror of introspection where people can see themselves to change in the positive things (Duhan 192). It shows that literature is influenced by the development of society's way of life and people can also learn of the works that present to get better experience. Literature presents the work that relates to a condition or a situation which evolve in people's life. In the society, condition of human's mind and behavior are one of the influence of the literary work. According to Krystal, literary means in several things, it is written, voiced, expressed, invented, and whatever form (89).

Literature also is explained as the writings which express and communicate thought, feelings and attitudes toward life (Risdianto 5). According to him, literature is used at least in two different ways; the first is informative literature which tells about facts, history, and the figure's life, such as the life of Prophet, Napoleon, and etcetera. Also the literary works are usually the text written as the knowledge which presents to the reader about anything in the world such as social, politic, motivate, and others. The second is imaginative literature, which is the expression of author's idea, feeling, and attitude to

communicate feelings which is not in fact of the emotion which present in the works, as well to arouse thought of the readers. It also has fuller and deeper sense than informative literature, such as prose fiction and poetry (4).

Informative and imaginative literature show the different ways in literature and has own purpose, because everything has function and purpose just like a literary work in Horace's formula that literature function must relate to dulce et utile (Wellek & Warren 23). "Dulce" is literary work that can entertain the reader and it is not a boring work. While "utile" is literary work that has function in which the reader can take moral value, knowledge and benefit from this kind of literary work.

To understand more about the literary work, it takes the appropriate approach and theory in the study. There are so many theories to analyze the literary work either it is imaginative or informative literature. This study is going to analyze informative literary work that applies psychology as the theory. Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behavior. The word "psychology" comes from Greek words "psyche" means life, and "logos" means explanation (Stangor 10). Therefore, in this research psychology is used to analyze character's life through attitude, activity and mental process done by the character. Psychology in this study uses individual psychology tenet by Alfred Adler. "His individual psychology presents an optimistic view of people while resting heavily on the notion of social interest that is a feeling of oneness with all humankind" (Feist & Feist 65). Here Adler presents the positive side of people's

condition which focuses on human beings concept around society's life. Thus, this study analyzes the character's individual psychology of the novel which is one of the products of the literary works presented by author.

Literary works represent the author's idea or thought is a term which derives from other language, such novel. For Burgess, the term novel is a truncation of the Italian word novella (the plural form of Latin novellus, a late variant of *novus*, whose meaning is "new"), hence, in most languages, a diminutive denotes historically the parent form".

<a href="https://www.britannica.com/art/novel">https://www.britannica.com/art/novel</a>. According to Jassin, novel is an event of extraordinary people's lives because the incident was born of a conflict, a dispute that redirects their fate (Suroto 19). Hence, the work is instinctive as portrait of the experience people's thought and one of human creations which is created by author's imagination or based on the true story that reflects human real life.

In writing novel, author can build their own world of the work which has correlation to the social order. As Wellek & Warren stated that almost great novelists prefer presenting a world to a character case or event. It is because world overlaps with the realm of reality, but it has the coherence between the form and content of literary work, which is must be understood separately (257). Novel, as a form of literature, which is a modern epic must interest which has the structure, esthetic, coherence and certain effect (254). The value of the use on literary work is one of the good criteria of work through the way story presented.

Here the author gives a new dimension of the reality and then provides the life experience and the way to be alive in a wise, prudent and kindliness for reader (Andari 46-47). Therefore, novel will be completed when the work fulfill as entertainment that has function or benefit to the reader. There are novels containing both of Horace's formula, similar to the novel which is used by the writer for this research.

Angela's Ashes is novel used in this study. It is the most popular novel created by Frank McCourt. The story is a genuine memoir about the bittersweet autobiographical story during the 1930s and early 1940s. As Dimmitt states, at the age of 50 Frank still became a teacher at Stuyvesant High School in Manhattan, he tells about his childhood story to his students, then they said that his story had an interesting childhood and suggest him to write the book (936). Novel written is tale which begins of his childhood story, this tells his whole memoir only. As McCourt said "I had attitudes and these attitudes had to be softened. I had to get rid of them, I had to become, as if says in the Bible, as a child. The child started to speak in this book. And that was the only way to do it, without judging" (925). A novel which is published in 1996 placed Frank McCourt as a major character. He was born in Brooklyn; New York. Little Frank McCourt is a Catholic who was called by his baptismal name 'Francis', the name Francis is derived from one of the names of a saint, St. Francis (McCourt 6).

Angela's Ashes tells the story of children who survive in poverty, adverse weather, disease, death, and the power of religious leaders to strive for a better

life and success. He spent his childhood and adolescence in a poor family with many familiars. Initially he lived in New York, because of his father's difficulty to find a job. His family returned to Ireland but they are sunk deeper into poverty. He is the first son from seven siblings and three of his brothers and sister had passed away because of malnutrition. Frank struggled to earn money since in the very young age. He did that because his father who likes to drink a lot always spends his money and then left the family. Due to the poverty, Frank's family always depend on government's allowance to fulfill their necessity which is actually not enough for them. He worked for the family's necessity in order they can eat breakfast, lunch and dinner just like other families. Frank's purpose to work is for helping his mother and also for his savings to go back to America. Frank's dream is to be a successful man and live in America as a great country for him. His fictional finalism leads him to reach superiority that he expects with any inferiority from the elder that underestimates him and also poverty in his life so Frank strives hard to get his success.

Angela's Ashes is qualified as the novel which must be read besides winning the Pulitzer Prize, McCourt as author who is able to tell his story with humor in the poverty condition that makes his story alive until the end. Hence, the story is very depressive and tragic. The author tells it with comical innocence of a child and transforms the whole meaning of tragedy as the things that can be perceived individually (Dixit 13). In his suffering childhood, he built good story

by merging both of poverty and amusement. He was a successful survivor whose childhood is miserable. As he said in his *Angela's Ashes*;

When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I survived at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood (McCourt 1).

After reading the Angela's Ashes, the writer is interested in analyzing the process of Frank strives for superiority. The writer chooses this novel as an object because the story shows the inferiority aspects which make the character survive on his life. Further, this work becomes a tragic portrait of the life which ever existed in the world. Although many novels show tragedy and the inferiority of character's life, this novel is presented with innocent characters which then create humor.

### 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study, the research problem formulated in the following question:

- 1. How is Frank's inferiority shown in the *Angela's Ashes*?
- 2. How does Frank get his superiority in *Angela's Ashes*?

# 1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is the continuation of the statement of problem above. The writer decides the objectives of this study as follow:

- 1. To describe Frank's inferiority based on *Angela's Ashes* novel by Frank McCourt.
- 2. To find out the process of Frank get his superiority or success based on his fictional finalism on Angela's Ashes novel by Frank McCourt.

### 1.4 The scope and limitation

The scope of this research focuses on the part of novel where Frank's inferiority, process of striving for superiority or success in his life, and his superiority gained. The study will be limited to the *Angela's Ashes* novel by Frank McCourt. Then, Individual psychology by Alfred Adler used as the theory which focus on inferiority, superiority, striving for superiority, and fictional finalism.

## 1.5 Significance of the Study

The researcher divides the significances of the study into two categories; theoretically and practically. The researcher hopes this study will be useful for the next researcher whose study about psychology especially in Alfred Adler's theory of individual psychology.

Theoretically, this research is expected to provide more information about the psychology theory which is individual psychology in the literary work which included inferiority, superiority, striving for superiority, and fictional finalism toward the superiority gained by Frank McCourt in his fictional Finalism in Angela's Ashes novel.

Practically, researcher hopes that the study could be useful for academic and non-academic reader to give understanding about the theory of individual psychology by Alfred Adler, and also can be applied in the real life to struggle of getting superiority from inferiority stage. Furthermore, display the inferiority, the process of striving for superiority or success, and the superiority gained by the character in better life, provides motivation to the reader to get superiority or success also.

### 1.6 Method of the Study

This part discusses about the methodology of the research used by writer that consists of research design, research instrument, subject of the research, data and data source, data collection, and data analysis.

### 1.6.1 Research Design

Research design of this study is descriptive qualitative as a method, that is used to explain the data analysis from novel in form of word and sentences since it is not numeral. The data are retrieved in the text of the novel Angela's Ashes, and uses some of books also other references such as journal or website to satisfy the data needed.

### 1.6.2 Research Instrument

The main instrument is the researcher. Instrument of this research is the writer itself, because the writer will be the only one of the collect the data of the novel entitled *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt or the other source.

## 1.6.3 Object of the Study

The object of this research is Frank McCourt as the main character and also the writer of the novel entitled Angela's Ashes.

### 1.6.4 Data and Data Source

Data source in this research is the novel entitled *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt as the primary data. The data of this research are words, phrases, and sentences of Frank's dialog or description which explain about his inferiority, process of striving to get superiority or success, and the superiority. The secondary data will be taken from the journals, websites and books that concern to this issue.

### 1.6.5 Data Collection

The data will be collected by close reading and read the novel for several times, quote a few sentences, and taking note of the story Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt. Collecting and selecting data in the form of narration and conversation of the story which is related to the inferiority, process of striving to get superiority or success, and the superiority. The writer also uses the journals, articles and websites to complete the data.

### 1.6.6 Data Analysis

Data analysis is done to obtain an effective analysis is the researcher identifies the process on striving for superiority of the character as a major issue in this study. The researcher conducts the following analyzing process, as follow:

- 1. Analyzing the data collected based on the theory and methods to be used.
  - a) Describe Frank's inferiority in his life using individual psychology of Alfred Adler as the theory
  - b) Describe Frank's process in striving for superiority or success of his fictional finalism and Frank's gained the superiority using individual psychology of Alfred Adler as the theory
- 2. Draw conclusion based on the results of the data analyzed.

## 1.7 Definition of Key Term

Definition of key term here describe the term which used in the study to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of using word, as follow;

Inferiority : A sense of worthlessness that arises because of

perceived inadequacy or a less physical state

(Adler 115).

: The idea that there is an imagined or potential goal that Fiction Finalism

guides human behavior (Schultz 146).

Striving for Superiority: The urge toward perfection or completion that

motivates people (Schultz 145).

Superiority : The compensation of the inferior feeling and the final

goal of people strive (Alwisol 66)