

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Terry Eagleton, literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us though our imagination is a mood stated literature as born of telling story of arranging world in pleasing pattern of expressing words in some special aspects of our human experience (20). Literature has three main branches; they are prose, drama and poetry. Literary work is result of human being thinking which tells about life deal with feeling, ideas and problems.

Moreover, to cover and understand literature, Endraswara said that literary Criticism in that way becomes an important point of view that will reveal to the whole content and purpose of the work of literature” (36). Literary criticism explains what a work of literature means. It has important role for human life and the development of literature itself. It means that literary criticism is important in developing knowledge and understanding the values outside literary itself such as religion, philosophy, moral and so on. The purpose in analyzing a literary work is to understand what it tries to communicate. Furthermore, analysis helps us through reading and through reflection, understands the way ideas and feelings are talked in the works.

Jonee, Jr. stated that literature includes all written material. He divided this all written material into two different groups. The first is the literature of knowledge that is functioned to teach such as scientific articles, dictionaries, directories,

school textbooks, history books, and etc. The second is literature of power that is functioned to move such as novels, poems, plays, magazines, and etc (1).

There are many types of literary criticism; one of them is biographical criticism. Biographical criticism is a form of literary criticism which analyzes a writer's biography to show the relationship between the author's life and their works of literature (Griffith 177). Biographical criticism is often associated with historical-biographical criticism (Benson 108). So, biographical criticism begins with the simple but central insight that literature is written by actual people and that understanding an author's life can help readers more thoroughly comprehend the work.

Biographical criticism is interesting to discuss, as in a novel *Life of Pi*. It is a novel written by Yann Martel. He writes this story based on true story. When he became backpacker in India, he met an older man. His name is Francis Adirubasamy. The man said that he had a story that will make him believe in God. The old man advises him to ask some questions to Piscine Molitor Patel as the main character of the story. That's why Yann Martel use Piscine Molitor Patel's name as the main character in his story (Krist 7). From the true story of his life, Yann Martel writes this novel. This is an example of biographical criticism which the story of the novel related with the life of the author.

Life of Pi (2002) is an epic survival story with an overarching religious theme. The precocious son of a zookeeper, 16-year-old Piscine Molitor Patel or usually called Pi, he is raised in Pondicherry, India, where he tries on various faiths,

Hindu, Christian, and Islam. Though, basic faith of his family is Hindu but he did not want to accept it easily, he is interested in finding his God by his own thought. Many things had happened in his process to find God in his life. It is also about how hard he survived being stranded in the ocean as a result of an accident that happened to him and his family aboard. Moreover, because he was stranded with Bengal tiger from the zoo where he was born and raised.

From part of the story about looking for God in this novel, the writer want to take that theme about the mental of a boy who looking for God in early age. Because usually, courage which arises in one's mental to take decision to try some various faiths is extremely happened in adolescents which still in early age.

Pi has a strong love towards God although he is still a young man. Pi is having a disliking towards his biology teacher who does not believe in God's existence. Pi sees the doubt on the importance of religion and the existence of God as just a while. Every man will pass away someday and reach a happy life. Although, Pi is still young, he has already experienced his deep feeling about being religious and to religion itself. Like what has been said by Pi in the novel:

"What a terrible disease must be if it could kill God in a man." (p. 35)

Based on the quotation above, Pi thinks that God is not being that does not exists because He is the Creator and Destroyer of the universe because of the cause that can kill mortals. Also he said:

"All living things contain a measure of madness that moves them in strange, sometimes in inexplicable ways. This madness can be saving; it is part and parcel of the ability to adapt." (p. 51)

Quotation above explains that there is Supreme Being that moves His creation in a way that cannot be explained even by science. This is the belief about the unseen. So, Pi tried to look the power over him, which is God, to make him believe that God is available and ready to save him.

In doing this research, the writer uses the theory of characterization and psychoanalysis from Sigmund Freud to analyze personality of the main character. Therefore, the personality of Pi is an important thing to analyze. This study will also be interesting with the Islamic perspective about the journey of Pi in looking for God, because in Islam is also having a story of looking for God performed by Prophet Ibrahim.

This study will create a new perspective of a boy's personality who interesting to look for God. To that end, the writer uses this topic about Pi's personality, so that the reader knows that personality a boy can develop produces critical thinking like looking for God that conducted by Pi.

B. Statement of the Problems

Piscine Molitor Patel or usually called as Pi is the main character in this novel that looking for God in his life. After examining the novel well, I am curious to know:

1. How is Pi's life?
2. How does he endure his problem in looking for God?
3. What perspective does Islam give about Pi's journey in looking for God?

C. Objective of the Study

1. Understanding about Pi's characteristics in life.
2. Understanding about Pi's effort in enduring his problem in looking for God.
3. Understanding Islamic perspective about Pi's journey in looking for God.

D. Scope and Limitation

This thesis focuses on Pi, the main character in the *Life of Pi* novel. This study discusses about Pi's life in looking for God. Especially, this thesis is talking about Pi's characteristics in life, and about Pi's effort to endure his problems in looking for God. Also, Islam gives perspective on the ways of Pi's journey in looking for God. To criticize this topic, the writer deals to use characterization and psychoanalysis, verify Freud's personality development.

E. Significance of the Study

This thesis will give benefits to the readers who seek to analyze literary works, especially novel. By reading this study, the readers can understand about Pi's characteristics in life, and about Pi's effort to endure his problems in looking for God. In the last discussion Islam gives perspective about the journey of Pi to find his God. In the present study, the analysis is centered on the main character of the novel, Pi. The readers delineated how great the author to serve a personality of Pi in order to looking for God. For the future researcher, they could take this thesis as the state of knowledge.

F. Method of the Study

1. Research design

Basically, the writer accomplishes a library research to get the answer of the problems. The method that applies in this research is descriptive qualitative. In qualitative method inquirer deals with data are those are in the form of words, rather than number and statistics. The writer uses this method in order to get a rich description and understanding about looking for God in this novel. The writer aims to explain about Pi's characteristics in life, and about Pi's effort to endure his problems in looking for God. The writer also uses Islamic perspective to observe how the ways of Pi in looking for God by adds the history of prophet Ibrahim in looking for God.

2. Data

The data concentrated in forms of narrations and conversations of the novel *Life of Pi*.

3. Data collection

In collecting data, the writer used some ways. First, the writer employed a close reading the novel *Life of Pi* as the primary data in order to comprehend and examine the novel well. Second was collecting data, quotations, and taking notes. The writer also used the internet facility to complete the data. Third, the writer also made definition of the key terms to make the analysis easier to understand.

4. Data analysis

The data were analyzed with theory of characterization and psychoanalysis. In characterization, the writer wanted to explore Pi's characteristics in life. Then in psychoanalysis, there were some aspects about personality to explore Pi's effort in enduring his problems in looking for God. Islam also gave perspective about the ways of Pi finding his God by giving the history and experience of Prophet Ibrahim in looking for God.

G. Definition of Key Terms

This study gave restriction toward the terms, which were operated in the frame of analysis:

- a. **God** : In this research, the word God refers to whatever is the object of one's ultimate concern. Thus one might judge about a person, "Money or power is his God." But one can also ask whether his "God" is really is God, whether what he treats as God possesses the properties one would expect in an object of ultimate concern. In this second or more objective sense, then, God refers to whatever is truly ultimate: the greatest being, the highest object of believe, the ground of all being ("Encyclopedia of Science and Religion").
- b. **Religion** : Human beings' relation to that which they regard as holy, sacred, absolute, spiritual, divine, or worthy of especial reverence ("Encyclopedia Britannica").

- c. Hinduism : Major world religion originating on the Indian subcontinent and comprising several and varied systems of philosophy, belief, and ritual (“Ann G. Gold”).
- d. Christianity: Major world religion, stemming from the life, teachings and death of Jesus of Nazareth (the Christ or the Anointed One of God) in the 1th century (“William Richey Hogg”).
- e. Islam : Major world religion promulgated by the Prophet Muhammad in Arabia in the 7th century (“Muhsin S. Mahdi”).
- f. Quran : In this research, Quran is the sacred scripture of Islam and for all Muslims, the very word of God, revealed through the agency of the archangel Gabriel to the Prophet Muhammad (“Seyyed Hossein Nasr”).