

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Since the first literature work was published, literature has developed in many aspects. This development happened either in forms, genres and so on. It means that literature is dynamic along to the era. There are many great literature works created from many authors in this world. Some of them become a legend as their works are very popular and being liked by many people for long time (Wellek & Warren 50). William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliette*, Sophocles's *Oedipus the King* and Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* are some of the most popular literature works throughout history. A literature work can be whether a fiction or non-fiction (Norwegian Books Club, 2002 from <https://www.infoplease.com>).

Non-fiction - according to Oxford dictionary - is one of the two main divisions of narratives specifically in prose writing. It contains of information and characters that assumes responsibility for the truth of the events, people presented (Farner 6). There are many types of non-fiction literature include biographies, memoirs, journalism, and historical, scientific, technical, or economic writings.

Memoir is a term from French "mémoire" meaning memory or reminiscence that used to define a collection of memories written by an individual about moments or events, either public or private and took place of subject's life (Oxford dictionary). A memoir book asserts to be factual. Since 20th century,

memoir has been historically categorized as a part of biography or autobiography. However, it is still differentiated by the form and presents a narrowed focus. Another difference between memoir and biography or autobiography is that biography or autobiography tells a life from a story, meanwhile memoirs tells the opposite; it tells a story from a life.

One of memoir book in 20th century is a memoir book written by an American author, Rachel Sontag entitled *House Rules*. In her memoir, Rachel tells her childhood experiences including the memories with her family, especially her memories under her father's parenting. Rachel shows up the experience of being the only one from daughters of the family getting abuse in childhood by her parents.

Abuse in childhood or in psychological term known as child abuse is the act of harming children by neglect, physical force, violence, sexual attack, or by inflicting psychological or emotional distress (Strickland 112). It is such a human violence and rights infraction that cannot be ignored because children are a gift from God who has to be kept well by not only their parents but also all people around them. They are the next generation for human being where their future depends on how they are being treated by people in their environment since they were born. They have rights that have to be fulfilled from their caregiver such as parents or their close people. Those rights are including safety, good nutrition, love, well education, and many others (Nisa' 1).

Childhood is important period in human development because almost all of kind developments either physically or psychologically occur in that period since they were born. In this period, a child learns everything for the first time so they always have to be monitored and to be protected from any kind of dangerous things that may threaten them or give them bad influence. However, there are some children who do not get their rights as children instead they get bad treatment or being neglected by some people or even their own parents. This maltreatment (child abuse) can give any kind of influence to children either good or bad (Bowlby 1).

According to World Health Organization (WHO), there are four types of abuse in children; physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect (World Report on Violence and Health 59). Physical abuse of a child refers to the acts of commission by a caregiver that potentially cause physical harm. Sexual abuse is defined as the acts done by caregiver where children are used as object of sexual gratification. Emotional abuse covers many forms of act by caregiver include their failure to provide an appropriate and supportive environment. It is also include the acts that cause effect to emotional health and development of a child. Restricting a child's movement, denigration, ridicule, threats and intimidation, discrimination, and rejection are the example of non-physical forms of hostile treatment (60).

Neglect refers to the failure of caregivers especially parents to provide child's need that supports their development in one or more aspects of their need; health, education, emotional development, nutrition, shelter, and save living

conditions. It is different from circumstance of poverty in that neglect can occur only in case where reasonable resources are available to the family or caregiver (60).

Any forms of abuse in children can give effects to children development either physically or psychologically. Physical abuse can cause physical defects in children and it may influence to children emotion such as their confidence in society. Emotional or psychological and sexual abuse can give effects to psychological condition and influence to their personality in the future. In serious condition, it may cause long-termed trauma that must be very dangerous to their life which is very hard to be recovered (Strickland 114).

Child abuse also can influence to children's behaviors. Children can change to be more afraid with their environment or people around them. When they are in school-aged, they may have academic problem with poorer grades and performance on standardized achievement (Strickland 114). They also can change to do bad behaviors if they feel that all of the bad treatments they get are unfair and getting mad with it. They will do inappropriate behaviors such as lying, fighting with their friends, hating people around them, or doing things that threaten security. They do those things as a release from abuse they get.

It is the issue that the researcher wants to take as the main issue in this research. Using a memoir by Rachel Sontag *House Rules*, the researcher wants to analyze child abuse experienced by Rachel Sontag and how it influences to her during getting the abuse. Published for the first in April 2008, Rachel as the main

character experiences many abuses from her father and mother rather than her sister, Jenny who looked “invisible” in Sontag’s family. Through her memoir book, she delivers to the readers all of her experiences as Sontag’s daughter who has very different life than other people because of her parents, especially her father.

The researcher chooses this memoir book because it is a real story and has very complicated conflict about parent – child relationship. The conflicts are related to child abuse and its influences to child’s psychology development. It also tells about the struggle of a daughter to face how her parents treat her badly. This research uses psychological approach that deals to children psychology that is portrayed in the story.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the researcher has an interest to analyze the issue by formulating the research problems as follows:

1. How does Rachel Sontag experience abuse during her childhood in *House Rules*?
2. How are the world view of Child Abuse that presented by Rachel Sontag in *House Rules*?

1.3.Objective of the Study

In appropriate with the research problem that have been formulated, this study has two objectives that can be stated as follows:

1. To describe the child abuse experience of Rachel Sontag in *House Rules*

2. To describe the world view of Child Abuse that presented by Rachel Sontag in *House Rules*

1.4. Significance of the Study

Theoretically, this study has significance to increase the literary understanding, especially in study of sociology of literature in literary criticism. The researcher also wants to give an understanding to the readers the role of parents and their treatments to their children's development, especially knowledge about child abuse and its effects to children. This study can be used to motivate readers to treat children better and to avoid physical, psychological or any kind of abuse to them.

Practically, this study can be used as reference for students of English department especially for students of universities, especially State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya who want to analyze literary work which deal with study of sociological approach in literary criticism. Furthermore, students also can use the research as a reference that related to research finding about children abuse.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

In order to prevent non-relevant problems, the study will be limited to the memoir book *House Rules* by Rachel Sontag. The scope of the study is describing children abuse experienced by Rachel Sontag as the main character in her memoir book. The research focuses on the form of child abuse and its effects to Rachel. the researcher also focuses on the world view that Rachel presents in her memoir

