

**Saroo's Struggle to Find His Family in *A Long Way Home*: A
Memoir Novel by Saroo Brierley**

A THESIS

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of English
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Abstract

Tamam, Ma'ruf. 2019. Saroo's Struggle to Find His Family in *A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel* by Saroo Brierley, English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Thesis Advisor: Sufi Ikrima Saadah, M, Hum

In this research, the writer analyses Saroo as the main character in *A Long Way Home: A memoir* novel by Saroo Brierley. This novel tells about Saroo that looks for his family after getting lost when he was five years old in railway station. Then he finds his family twenty five years later. The aims of this research is to discuss Saroo's journey to find his family.

This thesis uses descriptive qualitative method. The writer uses New Criticism theory to explain Saroo's journey. The result of this study shows that Saroo is searching his family by using Google Earth, he struggled to find them although he faces a lot of obstacles. He also looks for his family by coming to India to find them.

Key word: Struggle, Family, Searching

Intisari

Tamam, Ma'ruf. 2019. Saroo's Struggle to Find His Family in *A Long Way Home: A Memoir Novel* by Saroo Brierley, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Adab dan Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

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Di dalam penelitian ini, penulis menganalisa tokoh utama yang bernama Saroo dalam novel *A Long Way Home: A Memoir* yang ditulis Saroo Brierley. Novel ini menceritakan tentang Saroo yang mencari keluarganya setelah hilang saat berusia lima tahun di stasiun kereta api. Kemudian dia menemukan keluarganya dua puluh lima tahun kemudian. Tujuan dari skripsi ini adalah untuk mendiskripsikan perjalanan Saroo dalam mencari keluarganya.

Skripsi ini menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif. Penulis menggunakan teori New Criticism untuk menjelaskan perjalanan Saroo. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa Saroo mencari keluarganya menggunakan Google Earth, dia terus berupaya mencarinya walaupun dia dihadapkan banyak rintangan. Selain itu, dia mencari langsung ke India untuk menemukan keluarganya.

Kata kunci: Usaha, Keluarga, Pencarian

Character is the most significant in a literary work. Character is the person represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who is interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it the dialogue and from what they do the action (Abrams 42). As what Potter said that characters are the basic elements in much of imaginative literature, and therefore they merit the considerable attention which is paid to them(1).

Characterization is the means by which writers present and reveal character. The method of characterization is a narrative description with explicit judgment. It is given fact and interpretative comment. From both fact and comment the readers derive an impression of the character in the story (DiYanni 55)

[illegible]

experience that he has been undergone is very helpful to him in an emergency, because he and his brothers are used to live on the street.

Another expression about Saroo's intelligence is stated in the quotation below:

But by now I was growing more and more familiar with the sprawling red station. It felt like my only real connection with where I'd come from, whereas the masses of people coming and going outside frightened me. Each time I went on a trip to a new and strange place, I was glad to get back to the big station, where I knew my way around and knew where to sleep or where I was most likely to find food. Of course, more than anything I still wanted to find my mother, but I was adjusting to life at the station (Brierley 37).

The quotation above explained that Saroo not only lived in that station but also observed and analyzed it. “If felt like my only real connection with where I’d come from” Saroo understands that the train from the station can take him home because Saroo understands that the railroad tracks connect to one another, and he was last down at this station. So, according to him, one of the trains in the station was his way home. “Each time I went on a trip to a new and strange place, I was glad to get back to the big station” Saroo explained that he made the station a reference point if he went out and back to the station. Every time he went to a foreign place, he must be back at the station. Because he does not want to get lost in the next foreign place.

But there was danger ahead as well as behind. As the track turned to the right, I found myself face-to-face with the blinding light of a train coming straight towards me. I jumped to one side as it hurtled by with a deafening roar, terrifyingly close to my body. I had to press myself as hard as I could against the wall for what felt like an eternity as the train kept passing, with my face shoved sideways to keep clear of anything that might be sticking out from a carriage (Brierley 48).

From the incident above, it can be explained that Saroo understands that under certain circumstances, like what Saroo experienced in the quotation above. He kept saving himself when danger came to him. "I jumped to one side as it hurtled by with a deafening roar, terrifyingly close to my body" this excerpt reveals that Saroo is smart when getting into trouble. If he is not sprightly in the presence of such danger, Saroo will undergo a fatal accident.

Saroo's smartness is also described in this quotation,

More than anything I wanted to get to my mother, to Guddu, to our family, to be protected and cared for, but I also knew that to have any hope of that I would have to be as strong as I could be. Otherwise, I would disappear, or even die, here on the bank of the wide, murky river. I understood that I had to rely on myself. I pulled myself together (Brierley 42).

Saroo constantly wants to go home to his mother and his family, but he realized that his hopes had to be full of struggle. He realized that he had to struggle to survive first. “I understood that I had to rely on myself,” there is no body reliable in his life, no other person could help him, he has to make his own effort to survive. Another incident that shows Saroo’s smartness is seen in the quotation below;

That night, I was woken by a pack of scary-looking dogs barking under a nearby streetlight. I kept a rock in my hand, and a pile of others within easy reach, and must have fallen asleep like that, because when I woke with the hot sun full in my face, the rocks were still there but the dogs were nowhere to be seen (Brierley 43).

Saroo is often facing dog on the street but he is never heard of how to deal with a dog from his mother. To face the dog, he needs to calm down. He can not look afraid so the dog will not chase or bite him. But in this case he faced the dog

I realised things could become worse and that I had to get out of there, so I tried to collect myself. I stood up, turned around and started walking away at a steady pace, as you might do from a dangerous dog, my face stinging. Maybe if I showed I didn't want to stay in their place, they would leave me alone. But when they began to come after me, I broke into a run. Through the tears in my eyes I made out a narrow gap between two buildings and darted towards it, just as I felt a rock that one of them had thrown sting my arm. (Brierley 45)

In this incident, Saroo was faced with a very dangerous condition of his life. When Saroo was bullied by a bunch of older children, the kids slap Saroo and keep beating him until he falls to the ground. Saroo understands this kind of circumstance could be fatal to him. But with his calmness and intelligence, Saroo moves far away from their reach. In this incident, Saroo showed that he is smart in making decisions.

Brave is having great confidence in the face of danger, trouble, it is not afraid. When he was still in India, before losing, Saroo's family is a very poor family. The condition makes Saroo and his family struggle hard to get to eat something. Saroo has to get food every day. The condition makes Saroo become a brave boy. Such as in the following quotation:

[illegible]

slopes, shaded by big leafy trees, quickly gave way to the muddy tiber's edge,..... (Brierley 39)

The quotation above described that Saroo is intrepid. Saroo was not afraid to do what he has to do. He does something without feeling worried and always focuses on the target. He had no long thought to keep running from the people that have bad intentions to him. He dared to pass a strange and steep place. Saroo is not afraid with what will happen.

Saroo is very brave. He is not afraid of anything, the only thing in his mind is how to live in a foreign place to himself, without help and supervision from other people. And he just thinks how to keep himself out of danger that comes close to him. Because of this reason, Saroo has become brave. He is faced with a hard life, full of obstacles and full of danger, but Saroo faces them calmly and without thinking what will happen in future. Saroo's bravery described in the quotation;

....Daylight confirmed that this was the biggest river I'd ever seen, but it was also fouler and smellier, lined with dead animal, human excrement and filth. As I picked my way along its edge, I was horrified to see two dead people lying among the piles of rubbish, one with his throat cut, the other with his ears chopped off. I'd seen dead bodies before, when people had died at home and others saw that they were treated respectfully..... (Brierley 41)

That quotation above explains that Saroo is very brave. “I was horrified to see two dead people lying among the piles of rubbish”. Usually, child of the same age as Saroo used to be afraid when he saw something unusual like this. But, Saroo is calm to face the circumstance. He is not afraid of a corpse, even though the corpse was lying in a pile of garbage, and died of unusual death, Saroo remained brave and not panic.

- **Hardworking**

Saroo is a hardworking boy, even though he is very small, he is not shy to work, because the income of his mother and of his brothers was not enough to get food every day. So, Saroo works to lighten his family's burden. It is described in the quotation:

.... I accepted a job ferrying ten large watermelons across the town's main street for a man with a stall in the town market. He offered me a little money and I hoped he might add a slice of watermelon when I was still small,

(Brierley 24)

From the quotation above, Saroo worked to help his family income. Usually, a child his age goes to school, plays with his friend, and so on. But Saroo is different with others. He looks for money, he accepts a job to get money to buy food, so that he can help his family. The case that describes Saroo is a hardworking person is also described in the quotation below;

For the most part, I stuck to the boundaries of the house and its courtyard. I spent long days sitting on the earthen floor alone, idly listening in on conversations and watching life go on around me, while Shekila slept inside. Sometimes the local townsfolk who kept an eye on us would let me go off and find wood for cooking, and I would haul it back and stack it by the side of the house. I also occasionally earned a paisa or two – enough for a lollipop – by helping the local storekeeper with his deliveries of wooden planks. He'd have me stack them in the pen by the store's front door. But mostly I simply sat alone in that courtyard. We had no TV or radio. There were no books or newspaper, although, of course, I couldn't have read them anyway. It was a simple, basic existence. (Brierley 26-27)

Saroo is smart in setting the time. Although Saroo has a job to take care of his baby sister, Saroo is still working when his baby sister was sleeping. This shows that Saroo never gets tired of looking for anything to eat. He used his free time to look for a little bit of money. He is not tired or lazy to work. It is because

- **Ambitious**

When someone has smart nature, then, there will be an ambitious nature, this trait is reflected in Saroo. He has an ambitious nature. He is the same like child in general, that has fancy to study. He also wants to wear uniform like them. He wants to be the same like them that go to school early in the morning and play like them. Saroo's ambition is described in the quotation below:

..... Often, first thing in the morning, I would go and hang around by the gates of the local school as the children entered in their uniforms, and I would stare inside, wishing I could be a pupil there like them. But we couldn't afford for me to be sent to school..... (Brierley 25)

Saroo's desire is hampered by his family who can not finance to go to school.

- **Mistrustful**

In life, human being does not escape from the social interaction, everyone needs to trust each other. Saroo used to live with his brothers Guddu and Kallu, they live on the street to look for a little money. They do not believe other people. Saroo used to live without friends, but his brothers. That is why he tends to feel mistrust to others. This nature is described in the quotation below:

I didn't really have any close friends – maybe it was because of our having moved neighbourhoods, or perhaps a general mistrust of those I didn't already know well – so I hung out as much as possible with my brother, whom I adored (Brierley 27-28).

Saroo does not have any close friends in his life, because he does not trust anyone. He only believes to his own family. Saroo's mistrust is also described in the following quotation, ...Conductors, police anyone in uniform – after that, we'd

avoided them all. It didn't occur to me that now they might be able to help.

(Brierley 35)

The quotation above tells about Saroo who is always running away from men dressed like the police, or the conductors of the train. It is because Saroo is traumatized by what his brother, Guddu ever undergone. Guddu has been in prison for three days for selling toothpaste on a train station. Saroo is afraid of being arrested by uniformed officers and sent to jail. Because of this case, Saroo feels mistrustful to anyone.

Saroo's mistrust is also described in the following quotation;

Nothing untoward happened, and the man didn't lay a hand on me, but despite the marvellous, intoxicating promises I was being made about finding my home, I knew something wasn't right. I also knew that I shouldn't show him that I didn't trust him, that I should play along. While he was saying that the next day we would go together to a place he knew and try to get me back home, I nodded and agreed. At the same time, I knew beyond question that I should have nothing to do with this man, and that I had to make a plan to get away. (Brierley 48)

The quotation above describes that Saroo does not trust anyone. Even though there are people who promised to take him to find his home, he still does not believe. Saroo lives very carefully. And he was calm, he is not panic so they do not suspect if Saroo does not believe them in what they plan to do. He keeps thinking about how to get away from those people.

Or I might make a casual sweep down the east coast, to see what was there. I even checked out a Birampur in Uttar Pradesh, near Delhi, in the central north of India, but that was a ridiculously long way from Kolkata and I couldn't have travelled that far in twelve or so hours. It turned out it doesn't even have a train station. (Brierley 92)

Then Saroo looks for his homeland in detail. His searching was described in the following quotation:

[illegible]

The quotation above explained that Saroo began searching by analyzing his searching zone. The first thing that he did to find out the speed of the train while running, then match the time that Saroo experienced when he was five years old when he was on the train. It is not difficult for Saroo to know the speed of trains in India, because he gets a lot of information from his campus friends, especially Amreen. Train's speed in India is around seventy or eighty kilometers on hour. From that fact he analyzed the pace of the train. he calculated the speed of the train then multiplied by the time taken on the trip, the duration is for about twelve to fifteen hours, and the results of the calculation were around a thousand kilometers. From that result, then he looked for a city that was a thousand kilometers from Kolkata. This very simple way that can help him do a searching.

Then he continued by analyzing it through Google Earth. As illustrated in the following quotation:

So the places I was looking for was a thousand kilometres along a train line out of Howrah Station. On Google Earth you can draw lines on the map at precise distances, so I made a circular boundary line of thousand kilometres around Kolkata and saved it for my searches. That meant as well as West Bengal, my search field included the state of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and nearly half of the central state of Madhya Pradesh to the north, and most of the north-eastern spur of India, which encircles Bangladesh. (Brierley 94)

The quotation above explained how Saroo searched for his homeland. He was sweeping the railway track starting from Station Howrah, he gave a line on the map that depicted the railway line. The railway track is analyzed like a railway crossing Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and also a railway in the northwestern part of India. Saroo did his searching in a simple way like this.

Then Saroo continues his searching as explained in the following quotation:

Then, as the countryside flattened out into farmalands, I finally came across a little blue symbol denoting a train station. I was so attuned to looking from them, I was somehow relieved to find it, and I checked out the tiny wayside station, just a few buildings to the side of a reasonably major train line with several tracks. Out of habit, I started tracing the route as it wound south-west. I quickly came across another station, a bit bigger, again with a platform on only one side of the tracks but some areas of the township on either side. That explained the overpass, and was that... was that a water tower just nearby? Holding my breath, I zoomed in for a closer look. Sure enough, it was a municipal water tank just across from the platform, and not far from a large pedestrian overpass spanning the railway line. I scrolled over to the town side and saw something incredible – a horseshoe-shape road I used to be able to see from the platform. Might it be? I zoomed out, discovering that the train line skimmed the north-west of a really large town. I clicked on the blue train station symbol to reveal its name – it was called Burhanpur. (Brierley 101)

The quotation above explained that Saroo is still following several regions. When he looked at the rural, he still had not found the railway track, then he kept searching and finally he saw a small sign indicating the train station. It indicates that the area was included in the suburbs. When he faced such a situation, he did not feel excited, because he was used to the train signs in Google Earth. However, the symbol of the train station meant a lot to him because it was the progress of his search.

Then, he checked the small station, he saw the building around the railway line. And he began following the railway tracks starting at the station, the route wound to the southwest. And after going down the railway route, he found another station near the first station. The station was bigger than the previous station. At the station, he saw the cities located on both sides of the station. Saroo

was a little calm after seeing the signs, then he enlarged the image so that it could be examined in great detail. After the image is enlarged, he sees a water tower opposite the station. The water tower is not far from the pedestrian overpassing along the railway line. When he looked carefully, he saw something very extraordinary. Before being lost Saroo was used to seeing the place, he was used to seeing the ring road which was right outside the station.

Saroo continues to see and examine the station. the station seemed familiar to him, the picture became the main focus at the time, he reduced the image, after seeing the railway track crossing in the northwestern of a very large city. When he seen the blue symbol, the station was named “Burhanpur”. Then Saroo paused, as explained in the following this quotation: “My heart nearly stopped. *Burhanpur!*” (Brierley 101)

ring road, water tower and flyover, all exactly to the station being searched. But the city that beside the station was not recognized by him. He continued to study the area. If the station is correctly what that he is looking for, Saroo believes that his homeland is not far from the station.

Then, Saroo continued and studied the map. As explained in the following quotation:

.....Almost afraid to do so, I dragged the cursor to pull the image north along the train line. When I saw that the track crossed a gorge just on the edge of the built-up area, I was flooded with my brothers travelled on a small bridge over a gorge like that, before pulling in to the station... (Brierley 101)

From the quotation above, since childhood Saroo is used to ride trains and crossing gorge, and the experience is similar with that he found in Google Earth. He traced the railway tracks from the station to the north, then he saw the railway tracks that crossed the gorge. This finding made Saroo more volatile, he found additional traits to compare the station he was looking for with the station being remembered.

Saroo continued his searching, as explained in the following quotation:

...The river's flow was significantly reduced below the bridge by dam walls on either side. If this was the right place, this was the river I used to play in, and there should be a bigger concrete dam wall to my right a little further from the bridge. (Brierley 101-102)

From the quotation above, Saroo sees a picture of a river. If the river is truly what Saroo searched, it means the river is a place where he played as a child. But there are irregularities in the river, after observing it again, the river must be a

The quotation above explained that Saroo was very excited about what he found. He called Lisa without realizing it was midnight. He told Lisa "I've found my home town! You've gotta come and see this!" He could not withhold his excitement. At that time he was in front of his laptop for seven hours to find his homeland.

Lisa responded to Saroo's finding. As explained in the following quotation: "Lisa grinned and hugged me tightly. 'That's so great! You did it, Saroo!'" (Brierley 103)

As long as Saroo did the searching, the person who supported him the most was Lisa as his girlfriend. She accepts Saroo's attitude.

After telling Lisa, then he told his father. As explained in the following quotation:

‘Dad, I think I’ve found my home town.’

He stopped working on his computer. ‘Really? On a map?’ I could tell he was sceptical. ‘you’re sure?’ (Brierley 103)

The quotation above explained that Saroo told his father. He told his father that he wasn't so sure. After his father heard from Saroo, he responded to the news, he said 'Really? On a map?' This explained that Saroo's father was surprised to hear the news. He seemed to doubt that Saroo's actions, because Saroo only used a map. Then he asked in other words he still doubted it. He said 'you're sure?' He still wasn't sure about Saroo's finding.

Saroo keeps trying to convince his father. As explained in the following quotation: In retrospect, one of the reasons I was so keen for dad to believe me

was that telling him was the start of the journey back to India for me. (Brierley 104)

From the quotation above, Saroo convinced his father of his discovery. There is no useful in Saroo doing the searching without permission and blessing from his parents. Therefore, he tried to convince his father. In the quotation above Saroo reasoned that telling his father was the beginning of the journey back to his homeland.

After telling his father, then he told his mother. As explained in the following quotation:

Telling mum was another step. She knew I had some interest in finding my Indian home and that I looked for clues on the internet, but not that I'd been actively searching. It was she that I was particularly anxious about upsetting. (Brierley 104)

The quotation above explained that Saroo told his mother that he had found a home in India. His mother was different from his father. Saroo's mother already knew that his son had the desire to find his home in India. She also knew that Saroo was looking for it on the internet. But his mother did not know that Saroo searched continuously. Saroo is happy to be able to tell his parents as well as he is worried about his mother.

Then Saroo starts looking for his homeland again. His searching is explained in the following quoteation:

I turned to another tool that hadn't been around when I started my search – Facebook. I searched for 'Khandwa', and up came a group called 'Khandwa: *My Home Town*'. I sent a message to the group administrator: (Brierley 104)

Saroo searches in a different way than before. This time he searched for Facebook. 'Khandwa' is the key word for searching on Facebook, after entering the word, a group called 'Khandwa: My Home Town'. This Facebook group is the second tool to search for his homeland.

Saroo sent a message to the Facebook group. And the message delivered by Saroo is as below:

“Can anyone help me, think I’m from Khandwa. I haven’t seen or been back to the place for 24 years. Just wondering if there is a big fountain near the cinema?” (Brierley 105)

Saroo wrote the message above then he sent to the facebook group Khandwa: My Home Town. He said that he was from Khandwa and he said what he remembered in the area when he was five years old.

The next day, Saroo got an answer on the Facebook page. And the answer is like this,

“Well we can’t tell u exactly... there is a garden near cinema but the fountain is not that much big... the cinema is closed for years... we will try to update some pics... hope u will recollect something”. (Brierley 105)

Saroo got answers from people who join in the Facebook group. Saroo got a slightly disappointing answer. What he got from that answer did not match what he had asked before. And the answers in the group ask for other signs.

Saroo finally sent a message again, and the question this time was different from the first question. The second question is as follows:

Can anyone tell me, the name of the town or suburb on the top right hand side of Khandwa? I think it starts with G... not sure how you spell it, but I think it goes like this (Ginestlay)? The town is moslim one side and Hindus

on the other which was 24 years ago but might be different now. (Brierley 106)

Saroo's question is focused on the name of the city. He asked the city name beginning with G. The city was not far from Khandwa, or around Khandwa. Saroo calls the city namely Ginestlay. He continued to tell what he remembered as the city was inhabited by Hindus and Muslims.

After waiting one day, Saroo got an answer. “Ganesh Talai” (Brierley 107)

After a long time of searching and waiting for an answer from the Facebook group he finally got what he searched. Ganesh Talai is the name he has been sought after. Saroo realized, after getting the answer, he felt he had made a mistake in pronunciation when he was a child. And he has found Burhanpur and Khandwa and now a name that is the most important, that is the city of Ganesh Talai.

b. By Coming to his Homeland

After finding his homeland in Google Earth. Saroo is very happy for what he found. Saroo searched his homeland by going to India directly. He went to India because he found a fact or a city that has become his destination.

After the searching succeed, Saroo finally ventured to go to India. As explained in the following quotation:

Maybe ultimately my reasoning was even simpler than that: this was my journey and thus far I'd made it by myself, from the trains to the late nights on the internet – it just felt right that I complete it alone, (Brierley 109)

India didn't exactly welcome me back. My first experiences firmly established me as a stranger – I might have come 'home', but this was a country foreign to me. My bag was missing from the luggage claim carousel. (Brierley 111)

The quotation above explained the problem that Saroo faced when he was at the airport in the city of Indore. He was faced with a problem Saroo would not forget. He lost the bag that he was carrying when he wanted to get out of the airport. Even though he was born in India, he remains a stranger in his homeland, because Saroo grew up in different countries and different cultures.

After Saroo arrived at the hotel, he decided to go to the place that he was looking for. As illustrated in the following quotation: After a fitful few hours' asleep, I organised a car and driver to take me there the next day. (Brierley 112)

The quotaion above explained Saroo's impatience in his searching. Even though he had just traveled very far from Australia to India. He didn't feel tired, he only thought of his homeland. He could not sleep well at his inn.

Then Saroo decides to look for what has become his goal. As illustrated in the following quotation:

Suddenly, I decided to go straight to the railway station, before the hotel – I was past dragging things out, and that would be the quickest and easiest way to discover whether what I had worked out on my laptop back at home in Tasmania was right. We changed direction. (Brierley 112)

From the quotation above, Saroo took an action to look for the train station that he had been looking for. He wanted to make sure the discovery that he had searched for in Google Earth really existed. He went to the station while traveling from the hotel to Khandwa. He did not want to delay his searching.

After arriving at the station that Saroo was looking for, he automatically knew the station's condition.

English well. They asked Saroo to wait. They went to a hallway to meet or tell Saroo's mother.

After that, they came with good news. As illustrated in the following quotation: After a couple of minutes the man returned and said those word I'll never forget: 'Come with me. I,m going to take you to your mother.' (Brierley 116)

From the quotation above, they come with phrases that will not be missed by Saroo. They seemed to bring Saroo's life. 'Come with me. I, going to take you to your mother' is an extraordinary sentence for Saroo, because that sentence changed Saroo's situation.

Then Saroo found what he was looking for for months. As illustrated in the following quotation: Then I got goosebumps and my head began to spin – just moments ago I'd given up twenty-five years of hoping for exactly this. (Brierley 116)

The quotation above explain when Saroo got information from the two men. He shuddered or was excited when he wanted to meet his mother after separating for twenty-five years ago.

After only about fifteen metres, the man stopped in front of three women who were standing outside a doorway, all of them looking in my direction. ‘this is your mother,’ he said. I was too stunned to ask which one – I half-wondered whether this was a prank. Incapable of doing anything else, I looked from one to the next. The first was certainly not her. There was something familiar about the woman in the middle, and the third woman was a stranger. It was the woman in the middle. (Brierley 116)

The quotation above explained the meeting a child who is separated for twentyfive year from his mother. After Saroo followed the two men, he met three

women standing about fifteen meters in front of him. There is no need for another clue to guess what Saroo's biological mother is among the three women, because she knows it from herself, this shows the inner connection of a child and mother who will never be lost. As the following quotation: Despite the years, I knew the fine bone structure of her face the instant I looked back at her, and in that moment she seemed to know me too. (Brierley 116)

Twenty-five years is not a short time, but they still know each other without help from others.

After he met with his mother, Saroo's mother immediately called another child. As illustrated in the following quotation:

She remained standing and produced a mobile phone from within the layers of her clothing. When she said, Kallu, Shekila ...' I understood that she was calling my siblings. They were still here too? She spoke excitedly on the phone, screaming and laughing, and calling out, 'Sheru! Sheru!' it took me a moment to realise that my mother was saying my name. Was it possible I'd been mispronouncing my own name all this time? (Brierley 117)

From the quotation above, Kamla (Saroo's mother) calls Kallu and Shekila. His mother told him that Saroo had come home. He calls 'Sheruu! Sheruu!' With enthusiasm. Saroo realized she called his name. Then he wondered if his real name was Sheruu. If true, it means that he was mistaken when he was a kid. "But I learned that my mother had converted to Islam many years earlier and had taken the new name Fatima. I think she will always be Kamla to me." (Brierley 117)

Saroo gets report that his mother has embraced Islam. He became a convert several years before. And his mother has changed his name to Fatima. Saroo still considers his mother to be Kamla who was once a hard worker, not easy to give up and brave.

But Saroo's brothers are not yet complete, as explained in the following quotation: But where was Guddu? Of all the stories I wanted to hear, his was top of the list. (Brierley 119)

In the quotation above, Saroo questions where is Guddu? the last person who was with him before he disappeared was Guddu. Because the last time with Saroo before he disappeared was Guddu. “That when I was told the hardest news I heard that day – indeed, the hardest news I’ve ever heard. When I asked my mother about him, she replied sadly, ‘ He is no longer’.” (Brierley 120)

Then, bad news sounded in his ear, Guddu that he was looking for was gone. The news became the most sad news for Saroo. Another quotation that explained about Guddu as follow: “Guddu hadn’t come home either after that night I was lost. My mother found out a few weeks later that he had died in a train accident. She had lost two sons on the same night. I couldn’t imagine how she had borne it” (Brierley 120).

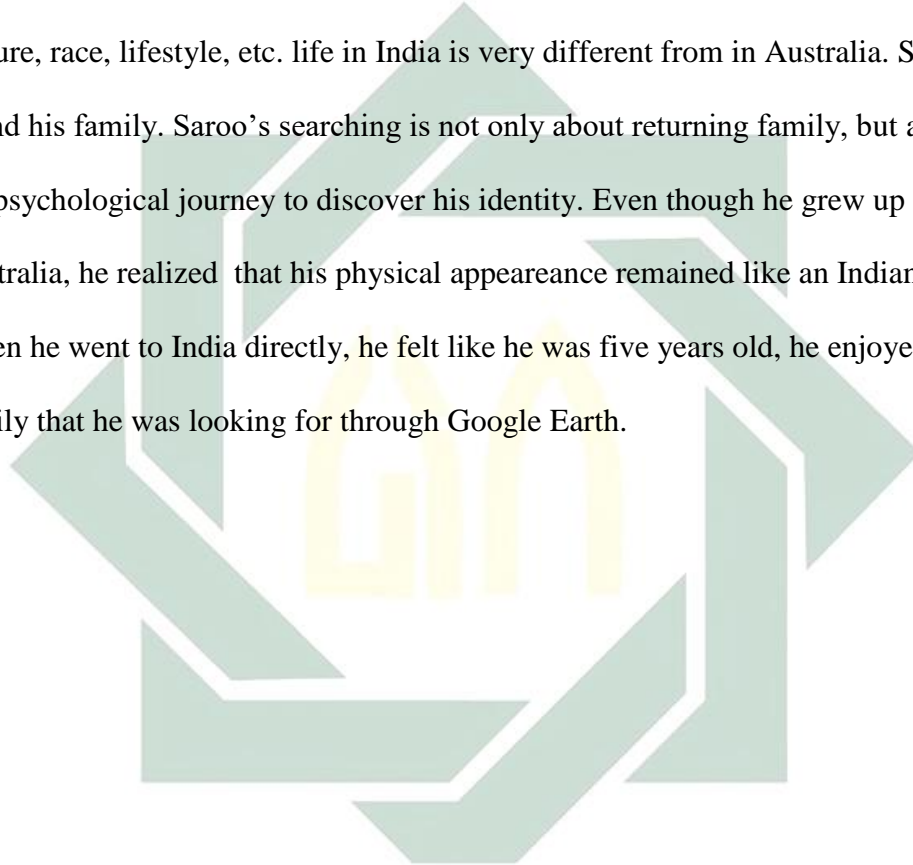
In the quotation above, Saroo just knows that he and Guddu did not go home that night. After a few weeks, his mother knew that Guddu had died in a train accident. At the same time, Kamla lost two sons at once. Saroo was very disappointed because Guddu was gone, because he was the one who brought Saroo to Burhanpur.

After Saroo found his home and met his family, he gave news to his family in Australia.

“The questions I wanted answered have been answered. There are no more dead ends. My family is true and genuine, as we are in Australia. My mother has thanked you, Mum and Dad, for bringing me up. My brother and sister and mum understand that you and dad are my family, and they don’t want to

intervene in any way. They are happy just knowing that I'm alive, and that's all they want. I hope you know that you guys are first with me, which will never change love you" (Brierley 123).

Saroo found his homeland and his family. Saroo's searching takes very long time. After finding his family, he found all that has to do with him, such as culture, race, lifestyle, etc. life in India is very different from in Australia. Saroo found his family. Saroo's searching is not only about returning family, but also the psychological journey to discover his identity. Even though he grew up in Australia, he realized that his physical appearance remained like an Indian. When he went to India directly, he felt like he was five years old, he enjoyed the family that he was looking for through Google Earth.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, the researcher has found about Saroo's characterization and Saroo's struggle to find his family in *A Long Way Home: A Memoir* novel. This research uses new criticism theory to analyze the novel.

The first, the researcher analyzes Saroo's characterization. Saroo was smart, brave, responsible, hardworking, and mistrustful. As a smart person, he told about his experience in a very detailed way when he was under six years old. He also could explain the geographic location of his quarters. He also could speak the new language quickly. Besides that, he was smart in facing his problem. The next Saroo's characterization was brave. He was not afraid of anything, and he was not afraid of what will happen.

Saroo was also a responsible person. He was very responsible in his duties. Although he was still very young, he was responsible to wash and feed his baby sister, watch over her, and fetch breakfast for her. When he was outside the house, he always thought of a chore that he has to keep his baby sister.

Saroo was also a hardworking person. As a child who was under six years old, he worked to help with his family income. He accepted a job to get money to buy food. He never got tired and lazy of looking for anything to eat.

Saroo was also a mistrustful person. He did not believe other people. When he was a child, he did not have any close friends in his life, he only believed to his own family. Even though there were people who promised to take him to find his home, he still did not believe.

The second analysis is Saroo's struggle to find his identity. The first time, after he got lost in a station, he tried to catch a different train to find his family. When he was in Australia, he searched his homeland using Google Earth. He looked for his family every day and every time. He looked for his homeland in Google Earth by following railway carefully. He started his searching from Kolkata. Kolkata was the last station that he lived in when he got lost when he was for about five years old. He looked for his homeland "Ginestlay." He examined the area for months. After he found his homeland, he told his foster parents that he found his home in India.

After finding his family in India by Google Earth, he searched his family by coming to India. In India, Saroo searched his family by going to Khandwa and after that he continues his searching. He remembered his experience and continues walking towards his house. After following the road he usually passed when he was a child, he found the house that he was looking for for months. And finally, Saroo met his family.

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