

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the portrait of the human experiences, through literature readers are able to understand the aspect of life without roving the entire of the world. Through the number of the authors and literary works those readers ever read, they are able to develop their imagination to understand the aspect of life. As what Robert and Jacob said that literature develops our imagination, enable us to recognize human dreams and struggles in difference place and time (2). Shortly, literature is the way to understand someone's expression of thoughts, feelings, and experience of life in different place and time.

There are many kinds of literary works, such as novel, drama, poetry, and short story. According to Edgar and Henry literature may be classified into four categories or genres: prose fiction, poetry, drama and nonfiction prose. Usually the first three are classified as imaginative literature: myths, parables, romances, novels, short story (2). Then the last one is nonfiction prose. It consists of news reports, feature articles, essays, editorials, textbooks, historical and biographical works (3). Each of those genres is in literature different each other, for instance, prose is narration, while poetry is in rhyme and rhythm, and drama is in its dialogue and action and then nonfiction prose present the truth of the factual world. The

literary works present as depiction of life. Many kinds from reality of human life portrayed in. Usually, human life and the reality which is portrayed in the works based on the society background of the author in different place and time. Then the readers will be able to understand and get many experience of life from reading the literary works. As what Robert DiYanni stated that through reading a wide variety of stories readers can enter many imaginative worlds in the process enlarging and deepening reader's perception of the world (3-4). Those one of the reason why this thesis high light the novel as the object to be analyzed because it is one of the window to see the real life portrait of the world in different place and time.

In this thesis the study would like to criticize the character in the novel through psychology field such as personality, anxiety and human behavior. Then, to understand the character's personality in the novel the study uses psychoanalysis to interpret the literary work. As what Tyson said that psychoanalysis theory is very helpful to understand about human behavior. Psychoanalysis is also helpful to interpret literary texts which also talks about human behavior from character (11). May be psychology known as treatment for medical health, but in this case psychology is used to analyze and interprets the character's personality in the novel. As what Freud stated psychoanalytic criticism is a form of literary criticism which uses come of the techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature (qtd in Mario 3). It means that, in the medical knowledge

psychoanalysis is used to cure the mental issue then in the literary field the psychoanalysis is used as techniques to interpret literary works.

Particularly the literary work that the study interested in is Helen Keller's novel which contents of her memoir because she is a person who has physical-defect which became great person. Helen Keller was born on June 27th, 1880, in Tuscumbia, a little town of northern Alabama. Helen wrote her life in several books, including a novel *The Story of My Life* (1903). The first of her books *The Story of My Life* was used as the basis for 1957 television drama *The Miracle Worker* (bio). By her attainment she has known as the great character at the time. As Mark Twain has said the two most interesting characters of the nineteenth century are Napoleon and Helen Keller (Macy 286). Moreover she is known as the educator and journalist in America.

By choosing Helen Keller's novel then the discussing making why *The Story of My Life* is taken among Keller's works because the study founded there is still few thesis that analyze this novel. Most people only know about Helen Keller's other works, one of them is *The World I Live In* (1908). This work is most known than the other works. So, the study hopes this thesis is able to give new color among numbers of thesis which takes Helen Keller's works.

Helen Keller wrote *The Story of My Life* which consists of her memoir at the early age of 22nd when she is still in college (Wati,

Nugroho, Styobudi 2). Then the work published on 1903 and the other works followed. *The Story of My Life* is not written as the fiction but it comes from the fact experience of the author's life. The book is in three parts. The first is the story of Helen Keller's life the next part of the book is the extracts from Helen Keller's letters from 1887-1901 as supplementary story of her life. The third part is additional explanation of Helen Keller's life and education which is wrote by her teacher's husband John Albert Macy.

This novel tells about the sketch of Helen Keller's life from birth until she finished her study at Radcliffe College. She live in Tuscumbia, little town of Northern Alabama. She is a daughter from the second wife of her father Arthur H. Keller. Helen Keller is a normal as other babies before illness tear away her sight and her hearing. About five years old before her teacher Miss Sullivan came, she tries to do anything by herself lead by her sense of smell. She use sign language but she does not know what the sign is, she think that the others use the same language like her. Helen Keller is unresponsive with others except her mother. She is quick temper and willful. Oftentimes, angry kicks and screams until she is exhausted. Helen Keller is little bit anxiety, often fear, sensitiveness, she does not sure with herself when she create something she always said "I am not sure it is mine."

The way Helen Keller in serving the story is very clear. The language is not difficult to understand the meaning by reader, because she

writes the beautiful language as like she is a normal. For example “Everything has its wonders even darkness and silence, and I learn, whatever state I may be in, therein to be content.” (Keller 130). Through *The Story of My Life* Keller tries to representing an idea of life. She explains the adventure of her life story as a person who has physical-defect. Darkness and silence is the depiction of the life she live in because she lost her sight and hearing, but even she is a handicap person she can do anything, she go anywhere, and she reach whatever she want. In fact she oversteps the normal person by her attainment. The work is very motivating for the readers. It teaches how not to give up with every limitation and difficulties of life especially for the psyche lack.

The other interesting thing is the anxiety of Helen Keller’s personality. It will be analyzed, because this part show the anxiety personality of Helen Keller, she feeling fear, that to be judge by people around. For long time she live in doubt, anxiety and fear, so that for several times she lost her interests in the books when she thought the days, where she is accuses plagiarism. Helen afraid that all of her friends will keep away from her because of about she does. By those event Helen, although she oftentimes loses control, temper, sensitive, and fear, but then in the end she could think rationalist.

Considering the explanation above, the study tries to analyze the sketch of the author’s life. Furthermore, the study tries to find out the

anxiety issue developed within Helen Keller' personality so that influences her behavior based on the novel Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life*.

B. Statements of Problem

Based on the background of study the statements of problems are formulated as follow:

1. How is Helen Keller's personality seen through psychological approach?
2. How does Helen Keller's anxiety influence herself?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. Discussing the personality of Helen Keller through psychological approach.
2. Explaining the anxiety of Helen Keller that influences herself.

D. Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on Helen Keller's personality. The analysis of personality is necessary to use personality theory to support the data analysis. Furthermore, to make clear in this analysis the study uses psychoanalysis theory. It is also important to limit this study in Helen Keller's personal.

E. Significant of the Study

This thesis expects to show the readers that this novel may become one work which portraits how personality influenced human behavior. Furthermore, the study expects that the readers by understanding the aspects that influence human behavior, they can learn how to solve the

problem of life. The study also expects that the readers will be more interested in reading novel, especially Helen Keller's *The Story of My Life*.

For the students of English Department who are interested in doing the same research as the study, this literary work recommended for you, it is because there are a lot of interesting issues that can be analyze in Helen Keller's *The Story of My life*. Besides, the study expects this thesis will give a good contribution to the literary studies, especially in English Department Faculty of Humanities.

F. Method of the Study

1. Research design

To answer the problems and to collect the data, the study uses the library research. Library research is called qualitative research in which the data are in the form of text, written words, phrase or symbols; it concerned with any numbers (Neuman in Wigayanti 8). This study uses *The Story of My Life* a novel written by Helen Keller. Thus, through qualitative method the study wants to get valid description about the character's personality in the novel which the character is Helen Keller the author of the novel itself. Based on the problems above, this study uses the Freud's personality theory and also the psychoanalysis theory, as the literary tool.

2. Data

The data consist of two parts. They are main data and supporting data.

