

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Research

Literature is a kind of arts and creative activity for ideas and feelings in the form of writing that expresses many aspects of human life. It is reflection of human life which is represented imaginatively. It also expresses about human, life, culture, ideology, character, which connects all problem relates to human life. It has relation to the writers, readers, and human life. A unique literary work has many messages that the researcher wants to convey is a novel. In a novel, the author tries as much as possible to direct the readers about the images of reality of life through the stories contains in the novel.

The novel also as literary work that the writing tells about a story that really happened or a writing that only tells ideas, feelings, and passions based on the awareness and responsibility made by author. In other hand a novel is written in a neat language style for readers to enjoy. Many things can be copied from a novel, such as feelings of motivation, confident, and enthusiasm. Finally these things can generate energy that never happens before the reader of a literary work. There are various types of novels; detective novel, romance novel, mystery novel, gothic novel, and science fiction novel.

The novel as the subject of this research is one of the most famous novels and became a New York Times best seller list since 2012 which inspired a lot of readers, it was written by R.J Palacio entitled “Wonder”. The main view in this novel is how the author tells the life of the main character, named August Pullman

or Auggie with deformity physical condition in his face. The influence of this novel is enormous on deformity people. R.J Palacio's novel is written using simple language and easy to understand. Therefore, this blue-bound novel is categorized as a children's fiction novel.

“Wonder” does not only present writings as an ordinary reading, but many things researcher can learn from this novel. This novel consists of 316 pages, tells about the many conflicts experienced by each character. For example, how family and his friends can accept and continue to provide support to the main character. One of the most interesting things to be discussed by the researcher is how the main character’s efforts to get self actualization. Therefore, the researcher knows if to understand this novel is more difficult than tell it.

This research was constructed and then conducted by researcher based on the story of the novel, from this study researcher identified that the main character in the “Wonder” novel named August has psychological problems. This research analyzed the novel by using a hierarchy of needs by Abraham Maslow theory. Maslow conceptualizes the following five levels needs in a pyramid, there are physiological needs, safety needs, love and belonging needs, self esteem needs and self actualization. The basic needs must be fullfil first before go to the next needs.

The “Wonder” has many psychological conflicts experienced by each character. One of them is the effort of main character with the different condition that he was born with a condition called facial deformity. This research is also focusing on the main character's condition is very rare. The researcher conduct to

research that focuses on self esteem of the main character. According to Orth & Robins (2014) self esteem refers to an individual's subjective evaluation of his or her worth as a person. Although, August has a physical deficiency on his face he must fight against his distrust to achieve self actualization.

According to Ismail (2011) self esteem refer to an individual's overall evaluation of one's self worth or self image because it becomes important for individuals to determine how an individual behaves. Self esteem include four aspects, they are confident, achievement, respect by others and respect of others. The research on self esteem has been done but, in this research the researcher found if the individual with disability condition tend to show lower self esteem than the normal individual especially for the children.

In order to prove the originality of this research, researcher presents one of the researches that are similar to this research. The research was conducted by Jan, (2015) Bullying is an everlasting problem in the lives school kids. It is a problem that affects all students, the person who bully, those who are victims, and the person who witnesses to interpersonal violence. Bullying may include verbal and physical assaults, threats, 'jokes' or language, mockery and criticizing, insulting behavior and facial expressions. These factors work individually, or collectively, to contribute to a child's likelihood of bullying. Bullying is difficult to eradicate in schools because it is so often effectively used by students. Bullying must be recognized, understood and taken seriously.

From the explanation above the researcher is interested in analyzing the self esteem of the main character August Pullman in the novel "Wonder" by R.J

Palacio. In addition, “Wonder” is also presented not only in the form of a novel but also in the form of a film, so that it can be enjoyed by all circles. The researcher analyzed this topic because the researcher wants to improve the knowledge about psychological approach in scientific literature. With all the inspirations and touching stories, researcher would like to conduct this research entitled Self Esteem of The Main Character to Achieve Self Actualization in “Wonder” by R. J Palacio: Psychological Approach.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher identifies the problems that might be appearing in this research such as:

1. The self esteem needs of the main character in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.
2. The effort of main character to fulfill the self esteem needs in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.
3. The relationship between self esteem the main character's condition with his self actualization in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

In order to make the research to be more focus in discussion and regarding to the limitation of the time, cost and energy of the researcher, the researcher then limits the problem to be analyzed into:

1. The self esteem needs in the main character in novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.

2. The self esteem needs in the main character in novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.
3. The effort of main character to fulfill the self esteem needs in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, formulation of the problem in this research would be:

1. What are the self esteem needs of the main character to achieve self actualization represented in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio?
2. How does the effort of the main character fulfill his self esteem needs in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objective of the research is to answer two questions that consist of:

1. To describe the self esteem of the main character do the self esteem needs to achieve self- actualization in the novel “Wonder”by R.J Palacio.
2. To explained the effort of the main character fulfill of self actualization the main character in the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio.

1.6. Significance of the Research

The significance of the research can be seen as follow:

a. Theoretical

This research can apply the analysis of the novel into the theory it is as reference to others researcher in the same research. So, it can make people understand about the story of novel and to add people knowledge about literature.

b. Practically

This research has significance for student, especially for English department. This research gives information concerning to the novel more about literature and gives information and explanation about the novel which may interesting for the readers.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

In order to understand the discussion in this research, researcher put some of the key terms that will help readers understand about what is discussed in this research.

a. Psychological

Often applied to the assessment and treatment of mental health problems, it is also directed towards understanding and solving. Psychological is the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Kaur (2013).

b. Self Esteem

Esteem needs can equally be referred to as ego needs in human environment. It is always natural that people seek for esteem and prestige in human environment when it is obvious that they feel secure in their respective social groups such family group, social group, communal group, working group of

colleagues, group of friends among others in their various communities in the society. Skinner, (2012).

c. Self Actualization

Self actualization as defined by Maslow is the desire for self-fulfillment particularly referring to the tendency of maximizing an individual's potentials.

A simpler way to understand the concept can be described as the transforming process experienced by a person to increase self capacity to achieve what is desired. Piragasam ,(2018).