

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Research

Bullying is one of the most issues that is still being a warm discussion in the community. Bullying mostly occurs in some places such as in schools, workplaces, and particular community. According to Sullivan (2004) bullying is series of manipulative, negative, and also aggressive actions by some people who have high powers over people who have the opposite power to stand for their rights. For instance, bullying like scolding, isolation, mockery, and many else can make the people who have a lower power being eliminated from the society (Rigby 2007). Bullying can occur to people who have weaknesses in particular area which is visible for example people with facial disabilities. Thus, according to Rumsey & Harcourt (2005), there are some causes of facial disability such as birth mark, cleft palate, trauma of burns, or surgical intervention that the person has will be easily got bullied.

There are many kinds of bullying which can occur in the society through physical and non-physical condition of the person. Physical bullying mostly happen to the victims whether directly such as kicking, punching, biting, spitting and also indirectly can be seen when the culprit is getting someone to assault the victims. Besides, there are also occur the non-physical bullying which divided into two, namely verbal and non-verbal bullying. Verbal bullying action includes name-calling, making cruel remarks, racist teasing, spreading malicious and false rumors

about the victims, persuading someone to insult the victims, and threats of violence. While non-verbal bullying is actually can happen directly and indirectly such as mean faces, rude gestures, ignoring, getting someone to dislike the person, and isolating. Not only that, but also removing someone's belonging (Rigby 2007).

In addition, there are also the impacts of bullying action will be following after the bullying included the long terms and the short terms (Rigby 2007). The long terms mostly happen to the victims. This kind of impacts has characteristics which can be brought into the adulthood such as has deep feelings of anger, anxiety, powerlessness, mistrust, and depressed. While the short terms usually seemed as a temporary feeling which can be gone when the problem is done or solved. For instance, the kind of short terms impact can be seen when the victim has problem with self-esteem, feels frustrated (a domino effect), absenteeism, and friendless. After all, these impacts are depend on the responses of the victims to the bullying actions.

Some of the people who do the bullying may think that the persons they bullied cannot do as what they do to victims. However, they just do not know exactly what that victims will be facing after they bully them. Some victims will experience the difficulties of life and many problems. They have to face like difficulties to find friends who want to support them to be courage and also they will be avoided by other friends because they are afraid of becoming a new victim of bullying. The worst part of becoming a bullying victim is could be lost the victim's life. However, there are some of victims who are strong in mentality and

want to show their abilities in order to bring down people who have been bullying them.

Therefore, being as a new student in a new school is a challenge for everyone (Phillips 2017). They have a chance to adapt in a new situation and a new social interaction, adjust themselves to other students from different backgrounds and social lives, and have a new assignment. It is easy for some normal students who attend the school to make new friends. However, it is difficult for the students with a facial disability because it can be affected in their interaction with others. And it will decrease their mentality and self-esteem to face their problems.

As in school, the challenges of children with appearance of facial disfigurement commonly like getting isolated by their friends or getting teased from people around them. A children with a disfigured face usually gets unpleasant responses from people because most of the people even their friends as in their ages look at them just in the way they look not in the way they are. The other reactions that a child with a disfigured face may find included staring, avoiding, looking away, and so on. Sometimes it is hard for them to live because of their environment does not support them. And this condition happens to the main character from a novel of “Wonder” who named August Pullman. On the other hand, the other main characters had also gotten bullying behaviour by their friend in this novel because of some circumstances.

The novel of “Wonder” was the first novel that was written by Raquel Jaramillo Palacio or R.J Palacio. She was a famous author and she was also great in design graphics. She was born on July 13, 1963 in New York City. Her first novel was published on 14 February 2012. Moreover, this novel also had been sold about millions of copies in worldwide since it published. The reason behind this story in the novel of “Wonder” was because R.J Palacio’s son met a girl after there was an incident, she had a facial differences and he started to cry. However, R.J Palacio did not want him to react badly so she took away her son from getting worse but it did, the situation ended up worse. After that, when she heard one of the song by Natalie Merchant entitled “Wonder”, so she got inspired through Natalie Merchant’s song and she started to write. Hence, she named the book after the song, and it was “Wonder”. And this novel had won some awards, as the “Choose Kind” campaign on Twitter and Tumblr, the Best Seller in The New York Times with category genre of Children’s Book Award in 2014 and the Christopher Award. Based on it, some of schools all over the world had applied to their curriculum by “Wonder” to teach the students about kindness and empathy to socialize with whom had disabilities or facial disfigurement.

“Wonder” is included as the literature of children. So the literature of children according to (Price, Ostrosky, and Mouzourou 2016) it has several purposes. It provides context to understand in social behavior and norms, it helps children adapt in the society with the development of appropriate emotional-social skills. Moreover, the children literature has significant role in teaching children about

moral value. So the children know how to adjust themselves and to develop their interaction skills in society.

“Wonder” novel is not only telling about August Pullman’s perspective, but also there are six parts which each part describes different characters. The author tries to teach the readers through her book named “Wonder” about what should we act and deal with people who are different from us which is people who have genetic disorder like facial disfigurement. Thus, the author tells the characters in the novel about how they respond to the existence of August Pullman who is imperfect in his physical look and how August Pullman has to face the difficulties by using the psychological approach. So from the step by step of August’s storyline, there are many things that can be learned through the story. Therefore, “Wonder” novel by R.J. Palacio is interesting to be studied.

The story tells about August Pullman or Auggie, a boy who has suffered a facial disfigurement since he was born. He has been homeschooled by his mother so it will be the first time that he will enter the regular school in Beecher Prep. in the fifth grade at the age of 10. Thus, in the first of his tour in the school, he meets 3 friends, they are Julian, Jack Will, and Charlotte. The example of bullying can be seen from the quotation below:

“Every new class I had was like a new chance for kids to "not stare" at me. **They would sneak peeks at me from behind their notebooks** or when they thought I wasn't looking. **They would take the longest way around me to avoid bumping into me** in any way, like I had some germ they could catch, like my face was contagious.” (Wonder, 2012, p.61)

Another fiction story-telling also has the same theme just like *Wonder*, it is *Ugly* by Robert Hoge. It was his real experience in suffering facial deformity. The story told about a child who was born with a huge lump in his face, precisely in front of his forehead and he has something wrong with his right foot that made it to be amputated. Until he finally would be going to school for the first time. At the first day of school, it was good. Until one day when he was walking in stairs, he fell down and made him drove away to the hospital and he had surgeries. Soon after that, when he was going back to school, his friend bullied him.

“Sometimes there were **whispers, strange looks and stares, pointing, sniggers hidden behind hands, and name-calling.**” (Hoge, 2015, p.46).

Some researchers have analyzed “*Wonder*” as an object of their studies. They were from Erika et al. (2017) and Adesia (2018). According to their researches, they have been using different topics in their analyzing. Thus, the writer reviews their researches to make sure that the issue which the writer chooses is different from other topics of research. From Erika’s research, they analyze about bullying behaviour to adults based on their gender, family, and gang. How the adults response to the bullying behaviour. While from Adesia’s research, she analyzes about moral values in the novel “*Wonder*” which is how to be good parents. Nevertheless, from their researches, they are different from the novelty of this research which the researcher focuses about. The similarity between Erika’s and this research is both using the same topic of bullying behaviour, but the difference between these researches is not use the same primary source. Erika’s research focuses on the real events issue in the society which different from this research

because this research focuses on the reflection of bullying behaviour that can be found in the novel “Wonder”.

On the other hand, in Adesia’s research, she uses the same main data source as this research which is about “Wonder” novel. Meanwhile, the focus of between her research and this research is different. Her research analyzes about the moral values which is how to be good parents while this research analyzes about bullying behaviour in the novel. Hence, the researcher chooses to analyze the “Wonder” novel since because there are bullying issues that occur to the main characters of August Pullman, Jack Will and Olivia Pullman. This study will be applied the theory of psychology. Therefore, the researcher wants to analyze about the description of the bullying behavior that the main characters receive from bullying and the impacts on them by using the theory of Ken Rigby. Because of the bullying behavior that is done by their friends, the main characters have to face it twice more difficult. In conclusion, bullying still happens in the society either at schools or other places. After knowing the experience of bullying behaviour by the victims, bullying itself cannot be neglected but must be prevented so that it would not getting to be worst and also hopefully, people become better in managing their responses and reactions to people with a disfigured face.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

Furthermore, after the background of the novel, the researcher has identified the problems that exists in the previous section as follows:

1. Bullying behaviors that the main characters receive in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio
2. Bullying impacts to the main characters in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio
3. How the main characters solve the bullying problem in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio

### **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Limitation the problem in this research can be described as follows:

1. Bullying behaviors that the main characters receive in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio
2. Bullying impacts to the main characters in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio

### **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

Furthermore, to get directed research results, it is necessary a problem formulation. The formulation of the problem in this study are:

1. What are bullying behaviors that the main characters receive in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio?
2. How do the impacts of bullying to the main characters in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio?

### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

Objectives of the problem according to the research questions as above are:



1. To describe what bullying behaviors that the main characters get from the bullying in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio
2. To analyze how the impacts of bullying to the main characters in “Wonder” novel by R.J Palacio

### **1.6. The Significance of the Research**

Within this writing of the research has the benefits that done well as for the purpose of this research writing:

#### **1.6.1. Theoretical benefits**

In theoretical aspect, the benefit of this is to give the extensive knowledge or insight for the readers about the literary artwork which is about the way how to analyze the issue of bullying by using the theoretical methods especially through psychological approach in literature.

#### **1.6.2. Practical benefits**

In the practical aspect, this research is to increase more knowledge about the literary artwork itself, especially regarding the kinds of bullying behavior which can be influenced into the human characters in mentally and emotionally. Besides, for the result of this research can be a reference for the next researcher who decides to analyze the Wonder novel by R.J Palacio.

- a. For readers and literature artwork lover

They can know how does the research look like and they can have a reference of research as the material to differentiate another research.

- b. For English department students and another departments

This research is used to motivate the students to create a new creative and innovative idea in the future so that it would be as a personal development.

c. For education

This research likewise, it can be used for the teachers or lecturers from English department as the material about language and literature.

### 1.7. Definition of Key Terms

**Bullying** : The negative or aggressive and also can be manipulative actions from a group of people against another person in period of time (Rigby, 2007).

**Facial Disfigurement** : Significantly is affected to the personal identity in which to access the social roles and also be profound as psychological implications such as bode-image, poor self-esteem, and decreases the quality of life (Rigby, 2007).

**Peer Pressure** : There is the influence press by an individual or groups who encouraging other persons to change their behaviors and attitudes to act to a particular person who is marked to be bullied (Rigby, 2007).

**Psychology** : Psychology is a study of behavior and the way of thinking (Rigby, 2007).