

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statements of the problem, purposes of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Every country has a different culture and characteristic that can influence our behavior and around the environment. The environment affects human behavior to produce a response as supported by Skinner's opinion "Certain processes, which the human organism shares with other species, alter behavior so that it achieves a safer and more useful with a particular environment." (Skinner, 1957: 1). Skinner's view says that behavior is the product of our conditioning, and those mental processes, such as thoughts, feeling, and intentions, are superfluous to the purposes of psychological research.

Whether every person realized or not, the environment influences our personality in life. Most personalities include a wide range of ambitions, ideals, hopes, fears, beliefs, attitudes, purposes, habits, interest, and tastes commonly called an individual's personality. In this statement which is related to individual psychology that attempts to see individual lives as a whole, and in regard to each single reaction, each action and impulse as an expression of an individual's attitude towards life. According to Adler, he says "Individual Psychology thus not

only predicts what will happen, but, like the prophet Jonah, it predicts what might happen in order that it does not happen.” (1997: 1-2)

In the other hand, individual's personality which is connected to individual's psychology also has the structure of personality. In Freud's concepts are meant to capture significant elements of the structure of personality as it undergoes a dynamic process of development during childhood and as it exists in a more firmly fixed state in adulthood (Freud, 1923: 486 in Passer and Smith). His concept reveals that personality as a process of human being since they are childhood until adulthood. According to Freud's theory, personality can be divided into three major parts or the structure of personality; those are the Id, the Ego, and the Superego-interacting in dynamic balance.

The id is the innermost core of personality, the only structure present at birth, and the source of all psychic energy. It exists totally within the unconscious mind. Freud describe the id as “a chaos, a cauldron of seething excitations” (Freud, 1900/1965: 73 in Passer and Smith).

The ego has direct contact with reality and functions primarily at a conscious level. It operates according to the reality principle, testing reality to decide when and under what conditions the id can safely discharge its impulses and satisfy its needs. The last personality structure to develop is the superego, the moral of personality. Which is shaped in the age of 4 or 5, the superego contains the traditional values and ideals of family and society. With the development of the superego, the ego sits squarely in the eye of psychic storm. It must achieve compromise between the demands of the id, the constraints of the superego, and the demands of reality. This balancing act has earned the ego the title “executive of personality.” (Passer & Smith, 2009: 456-457)

In this case, the researcher wants to analyze through a psychological study which is the part of psychoanalysis. According to Passer and Smith, they describe: Psychology as the scientific study of behavior and the mind. The term behavior refers to actions and responses that we can directly observe, whereas the term mind refers to internal states and processes-such as thoughts and feelings-that cannot be seen directly and that must be inferred from observable, measurable responses. (2009: 2). While according to Fox and Prilleltensky (1997) describe mainstream Psychology as a view of Psychology as a science conducted by objective researchers and practitioners who uncover the truth about human behavior.

Therefore based on the theories above, the researcher choose to analyze the novel entitled *The Story of My Life* through a psychological study. This novel is the first true story written by Helen Keller. She is American author and educator who is blind and deaf. Helen Adams Keller was born on June 27, 1880. She is born in Tuscumbia, Alabama, a small country town. Her father, Arthur Henley Keller, was a veteran of the Civil War. He was a captain in the southern confederacy. Keller afflicts at the age of 19 months with an illness possibly scarlet fever that left her blind and deaf. She examined by Alexander Graham Bell at the age of 6; as a result he send to her a 20-year-old teacher, Anne Sullivan from the Perkins Institution for the Blind in Boston, which Bell's son-in-law directed. (Schraff, 2008: 5-6)

During 1888–90 she spent winters at the Perkins Institution learning Braille. Then she began a slow process of learning to speak under Sarah Fuller of the Horace Mann School for the Deaf, also in Boston. She also learned to lip-read by

placing her fingers on the lips and throat of the speaker while the words were simultaneously spelled out for her. At age 14 she enrolls in the Wright-Humason School for the Deaf in New York City, and at 16 she entered the Cambridge School for Young Ladies in Massachusetts. She win admission to Radcliffe College in 1900 and graduates cum laude in 1904. Her education and training represent an extraordinary accomplishment in the education of persons with these disabilities. Throughout her life, Helen write extensively about blindness and deafness in many major magazines. She also write many books and essays about her experiences and various other subjects, including *The Story of My Life* (1902), *Optimism*(1903), *The World I Live In* (1908), *The Song of the Stone Wall* (1910), *Out of the Dark* (1913), *My Religion* (1929), *Midstream: My Later Life* (1930), *Journal* (1938), *Let Us Have Faith* (1940), *Teacher* (1955, about Anne Sullivan), and *The Open Door* (1957)

Her efforts to improve treatment of the deaf and the blind were influential in removing the disabled from asylums. She also prompts the organization of commissions for the blind in 30 states by 1937. Keller's childhood training with Anne Sullivan was depicted in William Gibson's play *The Miracle Worker* (1959), which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1960 and was subsequently made into a motion picture (1962) that won 2 Academy Award. (The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica, 2014).

The first reasons why the researcher chooses this novel because this novel has many psychological aspects include her psychology and her structure of personality. And the last reason, the researcher chooses Helen Keller as the object for analyze because she has the different personality. According Mark Twain said

that there are two most interesting characters of the nineteenth century are Napoleon and Helen Keller.

The admiration with which the world has regarded her is more than justified by what she has done. No one can tell any great truth about her which has not already been written, and all that I can do is to give a few more facts about Miss Keller's work and add a little to what is known of her personality. (Macy, 1914: 286).

Based on the statement above, the researcher finally chooses the novel *The Story of My Life* written by Helen Keller. The researcher interested to analyze through the main character's personality in one of novel title is *The Story of My Life*. This novel motivated the researcher to analyze it.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

To make a clear focus on the problems and to systemize the discussion, it is necessary to formulate the research questions. Based on the background stated above, the researcher tries to present the problem as follow:

1.2.1 How is the personality of Helen Keller?

1.2.2 How is Helen Keller's structure of personality constructed?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Related to the problems above, there two objectives that the paper wants to show to the readers. Two objectives are:

1.3.1 To describe Helen Keller's personality.

1.3.2 To analyze the construction of Helen Keller's structure of personality.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By studying this thesis, it can give some significances for the reader those are firstly, the reader can learn about the personality on a psychological study and the structure of personality. It is can learn influence the knowledge of the reader about the psychology and personality in Helen Keller's novel *The Story of My Life*.

Secondly, the researcher wants this analysis can be used as another reference for the reader who wants to know about the main character, even though the reference is limited but can uses as additional reading and improve the reader's knowledge.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The Story of My Life novel by Helen Keller there are a lot of aspects that can be explored but the scope of the thesis focuses on a psychological study of Helen Adams Keller's structure of personality as seen in Helen Keller's Novel the *Story of My Life*.

The limitation of this thesis which focuses on Helen Keller's personality. Personality is one of important aspect on a psychological study. The researcher only describes Helen Keller's personality and psychological approach, and the structure of personality.