

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five subchapters in this chapter. The subchapters cover the background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, the significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

When people move to other place, they must learn about something new such as culture, places, languages, and so on. They should adapt themselves to the new environment. It makes them feel comfortable with the environment. If they feel different and weird in the place, they will feel shame and uncomfortable about the situation. Ruth Scott (1998 : 3) mentions that adjustment implies not only an adapting person, but a set of circumstances which impose demands and requirements. It means people adjust themselves because the situation push them to develop themself learning something new in the social situation.

When people learn something in social situation, they must interact with society. When people exist in society, they think first about the social situation around them before beginning to interact with others. Commonly, people think about the behavior of the society or the environment around them. They make some assumptions or perspectives that make them understand about the situation. Tina Abbott(2001 : 37) states that in which a situation may cause people to behave in a certain way, but the way they behave will have a further effect on the situation where they live. It means that social situations will influence people to

behave as they see at a place. On the other hand, when they behave in a situation, they will influence further to the situations even change the condition of social.

Thinking process of social situation is called social cognition. Irving B. Weiner (2003 : 257) mentions Social cognition refers to the cognitive structures and processes that shape human understanding of social situations and that mediate human behavioral reactions to them. It implies humans interpret social situation to understand about behavior in the social situation, and it mediates their behavioral reaction to the situation. On the other hand, social cognition is part of psychology, especially social psychology in which thinking of social behavior. Firstly, social cognition was called social learning theory by Albert Bandura in 1960, but it was presented in his book in 1977. Social learning theory approaches the explanation of human behavior in terms of a continuous reciprocal interaction between cognitive, behavioral, and environmental determinants (Bandura, 1977). It can be concluded that human's personality is influenced by reciprocal interaction in social life.

Social cognition is important not only in real-life, but also in literary work because there is a connection between psychology and literature. According to Can Emir (2016 : 1) a literary work is at the same time a product of a certain psychological condition. Therefore the literary work supports psychology in terms of depicting human psychological conditions. It means literature and psychology have relation to understand about human being in literary work. Therefore when people read a novel, short story, drama script, and poem, they can find some

aspects in it such as social, cultural, politic, economic, and so on in literary work, one of the aspects is psychological aspect.

This study explored one of the novel written by Ireland's writer who is well-known in her country, the name is Sheena Wilkinson. *Street Song* is a novel by Sheena Wilkinson that the content tells about the 18 years-old popular pop from Dublin city, the name is Ryan Lee Challaghan. By his popularity, he has problems like drug addiction and conflict with his stepfather. Because of it, his career almost over and makes him depressed. He has an ambition and he wants to get freedom for himself, he runs away from home because he thinks that his career is over there then goes to Belfast city. He learns about the new situations, he thinks and get some assumption in which he will make a decision about what should he do that he faced. It develops himself be a better person than before because he learns something in the new place.

There are some previous studies which are related with the topic. No study has used the novel as the source of their study. It is new novel and no one analyzes about it. However, there are only studies quite similar with the topic of adjustment. It is an undergraduate thesis entitled "*Self-Adjustment of Starr Charter Toward Two Different Versions of Herself in Angie Thomas's The Hate U Give: Psychological Approach*" by Erna Sulistiana, University of Trunojoyo Madura(2020). Then there are journals which present social cognition and literature. The first is *Literary Fiction's Influence On Social Cognitive Brain Activity* by Olivia G. Cadwell, The University of Puget Sound(2015). The second is *Evaluating whether stories can promote social cognition: Introducing the*

Social Processes and Content Entrained by Narrative (SPaCEN) framework by Raymond A. Mar, York University(2018). Third is *The Function of Fiction is the Abstraction and Simulation of Social Experience* by Raymond A. Mar¹ and Keith Oatley(2008).Fourth is *Literature and Psychology in the Context of the Interaction of Social Sciences* by Badegül Can Emir Karadeniz Technical University(2016).

From the explanation above, no previous studies which have been mentioned as source of data a novel *Street Song*. This study analysed social cognition in *Street Song* because the topic is dominant in the novel. Main character in the novel face some social situation during in story. That is the reason social cognition is appropriate for analysis *Street Song* of main character. It is good for readers to know how thinking process of social situation in literary work.

1.2 Research Questions

Based on the background of the study above, there are two research questions, as follow:

1. What society's behaviors does Ryan Lee find in new situations?
2. How does Ryan Lee respond to the society's behaviors in new situations?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

According to research questions above, the objectives of the study are to reveal:

1. Society's behaviors that Ryan Lee finds in new situations.
2. Ryan Lee's response to the society's behaviors in new situations.

1.4 Significances of The Study

There are two prominent significances of the study, theoretical and practical, as follow: Theoretically, this study is expected to give the information about psychology and literature especially Social Cognition. Practically, this study is expected to give explanation about analysis social cognition in literature. It is also expected to give the reference that literary work also can be analyzed by social cognition. This study is also expected to give information that *Street Song* can be analyzed by others. It is also expected that it makes the reader understands about the psychological pattern of human behavior in the same problem.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is on the way in which Ryan Lee faced the social situation as he get information and learn about it. This study focusses only on analyzing the social cognition which is potrayed by the main character Ryan Lee in *Street Song*. Social cognition is the thinking process of a person to understand social behaviors. The person will make decisions from the goals of understanding social behaviors. The concepts of social cognition deals with environment, psychological factors, behaviors, and decisions.