

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The chapter of this study consists of five sub chapters which are important part of this research. It covers background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Mental is something abstract because it cannot be seen clearly. Besides, most of people do not realize the existence of mental itself. Nevertheless, it has an important role for human life. One of the important role of mental is mindset. Mindset can be defined as the people's way of thinking. It can influence human behavior in everyday life. Moreover, human behavior is related to the theory which is commonly called as Psychoanalysis. Psychoanalysis regarded everything mental being in the first place unconscious, and thus for them, consciousness might be present or absent (Freud, 1912; Ricoeur, 1970). A reflection of mental can be seen from every behavior and action of human. Surprisingly, the mental's condition from one person and the other is different. Most of people do not recognize the condition of their mental. This case commoly happens in adolescence.

Adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood. During this period, adolescents began experiencing changes in attitudes and behaviors in line with physical growth. It is strongly influenced by some factors which emerges from the external and the internal factor. The external factor includes relationships with family, the environment and friends. Meanwhile, the internal factor is the relationship between people and themselves such as align the heart with the treatment. It means that there is no regret between what is wanted and what has been done. The adolescent period is characterized by its rapid physical and psychological changes in the individual, together with increasing demands from and influence of peers, school and wider society (Qidwai, Ishaque, Shah, Rahim, 2010). Thus, it can be concluded that the changing in attitude experienced by adolescents is caused by the surrounding environment. For example, someone who is quiet and well-behaved in an environment surrounded by mischievous people. Then she will be affected by those mischievous people and will follow in the footsteps of a mischievous person. People will have difficulty when they are not able to adjust their soul to the environment well. Besides, people will unconsciously do all the things to achieve without thinking for the advance. The result, people will realize if they have experienced the alienation after they have done the act which damage themselves.

In the other words, human are always controlled by the surrounding environment. For example there are two female cousins, they live in different families. The first lives in luxury place and the second does not. When the first cousin buy a new dress and a second cousin accidentally noticed it. The second

cousin rush to buy clothes whole motif almost the same as the first cousin. Although she does not have enough money to buy things like her cousin. It proves that someone has lost her role in controlling her life. Human should be the subject in regulating the environment that become the subject. It seems that human beings do not know they turned into an object and become a game that is controlled by something as a subject. It is like people who come from a rich family but with a million demands that makes things worse.

Generally, people who come from a rich family and have many friends may experience alienation in their life. This is because the one of the oldest member of the family always give rules or restrictions on the youngest member of the family. For example, there is someone which is prohibited from dating and should not leave the house, except the school. This case shows that s/he will become a poppet within the scope of her/his own family. Based on this case, s/he does everything possible to be free from the rules made by the family scope because it is the way freedom-based treatment that makes her/him getting depression and the alienation will continue in her/his next life. The phenomenon about Alienation is also portrayed in the novel *We Were Liars* written by E. Lockhart.

We Were Liars tells about a girl, Cadence from a wealthy family who is demanded to be the perfect girl in her life. She has a group called The Liars. The Liars consists of Cadence, her two cousins Mirren and Johnny and her boyfriend named Gat. Cadence and The Liars always spend their summer holiday in private island owned by her grandparent. Cadence had an accident in the water, near in

the beach and feels migraine every day. Because of the accident, Cadence is forbidden to live with other families. Unfortunately, all of her cousins fell silent when Cadence ask about events that she can not remember. She gets the rules that require her to leave someone she cares about. Then, she refuses all of rules and does everything she can to make her and The Liars free from the island.

This novel is interesting to be analyzed because it describes about girl's life and her problems. The girl is the main character who experience the alienation in the family environment. Her name is Cadence and usually called Cady. She becomes a very interested character to be analyzed. Therefore, this novel can be analyzed with *Alienation* theory which proposed by Erich Fromm.

We Were Liars was written by E. Lockhart who was born in New York in 1967. E. Lockhart is the pseudonym of an American writer Emily Jenkins, she is an American writer who writes novels with several types of books such as Picture Books, Young Adult novels and Adult Fiction. She received numerous awards such as the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction, a National Book Award finalist and a Printz Award recipient. The novel with the Young Adult Fiction genre was first published in 2014. The novel has received acclaim and won the Goodreads Choice Award for Best Young Adult Fiction. However, the novel *We Were Liars* is published in 2014 by publisher *Delacorte Press* with *paperback* format.

Alienation which proposed by Erich Fromm, man experiences nature and the universe passively and as the separation of subject from object (Fromm,1961:23). The situation that puts the people and their environment seem

alien to themselves. The people who experience alienation do not realize that they should play an active role in their life. Human being becomes the object, and the environment becomes the subject. They will be like missing from themselves, common sense, feeling and with the outside world.

In this study, the writer is interested using psychoanalysis theory especially alienation theory because the main character in this novel tells about the process of alienation itself from the environment, family and itself. This novel tells about the main character, Cadence who want to be free from the rules made by her family. Cadence does everything can make her experience alienation. Thus, Cadence who wants to be free of her family in the wrong way can be analyzed using alienation theory.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problems

In relation to background of the study above, the researcher formulates statement of the research questions as follows:

1. How is the alienation toward Cadence's experience portrayed in *We Were Liars*?
2. How does Cadence resolve her problem in *We Were Liars*?

1.3 Objectives of the study

Based on the statement of the research questions, the objectives of this study are to explore:

1. How the alienation is portrayed toward Cadence's experience in *We Were Liars*.
2. How Cadence resolves her problem in *We Were Liars*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of the study consists of two points. They are theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the result of this study is estimated to provide more information and knowledge to readers about *Alienation* theory as a reference for the next study or another researcher. Moreover, this study can increase the knowledge of readers, especially the students of English literature University of Trunojoyo Madura. Practically, this study is expected to the society especially teenagers to be open to the family and always looking for good friends as much as possible.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is psychoanalytic theory especially *Alienation* theory that is proposed by Erich Fromm. The researcher limits the analysis on Cadence's utterances in the story. The purpose is to know the alienation experienced by the main character in the story. The story is taken from a novel by E. Lockhart entitled *We Were Liars*. The limitation of this study is to analyze the Cadence's utterances through the Narrator's explanation and another character utterances which answer the research questions.