

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into six parts, namely background of the study, statements of the research problem, objective of the study, significances of the study, scope and limitation of the study and definitions and key terms. Those all sub chapters are needed to advise of this scientific study.

I.I Background of the study

Sometimes, every person has an ambition and motivation to get success and happiness in life. Ambition and motivation is a common action in human life. If someone wants to reach his or her goals, ambition is part of human behaviour as the power to fulfil their wishes. For example, someone may become ambition to be wealthy. More over, ambition and motivation guide people to make progress in achieve something in their life. This condition makes people struggling with his or her life. Ambition is a natural characteristic in every human being, which also means that everybody brings the characteristic of ambition inside themselves (Widarso, 1992:11). It proves that someone who get experiences ambition and motivation, they must do some efforts to realize their desire has more pressure and need more effort to control his mind in real life.

There are so many literary works, one of them is novel. Through novel, they are creating literary works based on their imagination or experiences. Edgar states that novel is a story based on the imagination of the author which can entertain as well as develop their imagination (Edgar, 1977:51). It means that by

reading novel the readers can share their emotions, thoughts and feelings such as sympathy, happiness, joy, tears, disappointment and sorrow depend on novel's characters. For example, *Open House* is a romantic novel which portrays about an ambition and motivation of woman life that is written by Elizabeth Berg.

Elizabeth Berg is one of the famous American author's. She was born in ST. Paul, Minnesota on December 2, 1948. When she was child, she ever submitted her first poem to American Girl magazine but it was rejected. She tries again and again until she won a contest in a magazine. After worked for magazines in ten years, she moved into novel and produced a book in a year. Most of Berg's works are based on her own experiences in the community where she lives. She attracts the readers to participate the story, so that they are able to feel the experiences too. In describing emotional feelings that reflected from the stories, experiences of Berg's life have attraction for the readers because she is skillful in describing realistically the characters (real people and real situations in fiction). She is also good in her writing about the emotion and feeling of the characters. Berg portrait of her life is so unique because she always presents fiction that contains real life based on her experiences. Elizabeth berg is the author of the New York Times bestsellers *Never Change* and *Open House*, which was an Oprah's Book club. She is the winner of the 1997 New England Booksellers award; she is also the author of the national bestselling novels *The Pull of the Moon*, *What We Keep*, *Range of Motion* and until *The Real Thing Comes Along* (Berg, 2000).

Furthermore, the eighth novel by Elizabeth Berg entitled *Open House* is New York Times best seller that serves simple story, simple language, easy to understand and give inspiration to the reader. It is very good to be read, because the story of this novel portrays about ambition and motivation of a woman in her life. This novel tells about a woman who wants to find her way back to happiness. That is the reason why this novel is chosen to be analyzed in this study (Berg, 2000).

Related to the previous statement, *Open House* tells about the main character, Samantha. She faces some problems in her life. She is a woman who has a son, Travis. Samantha has ambition and motivation after she was divorce with her husband, David. She is not only has ambition and motivation after her husband leaves her, but also takes care of her son, Travis. She has bad experiences in the past. She has sleep with nine guys before David. In addition, she does not want bad things happen to someone she loves, for example she protects Travis after her marriages are divorce. Furthermore, Samantha distress when she knows that her boyfriend, Jonathan leaves her. Then, Samantha fears about Travis, because when Travis was six he has fallen from the jungle gym and hurt his arm. Therefore, Samantha has ambition to start her new happiness life and after divorced with David, her husband, Travis.

Due to the reason, the novel tells about the main character, Samantha and her mother who has ambition and motivation to be a new woman in her new life and buried her past, thus it is very proper to use psychology and literature approach, especially concerning with the concept of ambition and motivation.

Therefore, this theory is proper to be used in analyzing this novel. *Samantha's Struggles to reach Happiness in Elizabeth Berg's Open House* is chosen to be the title of this study.

Previously, in psychology and literature, particularly about obsession is used by several writers who analyze several different sources / novels. The first writer is Melina Purnomo (2006) who analyzes A Study on Arabella Donn's Motivation To Get Jude Fawley in Thomas Hardy's *Jude The Obscure*. The second writer is Murni (2001) who analyzes A Study of The Main Character's Ambition in Sean Ocasey's *Red Roses For Me*. The third writer is Teguh Kurniawan (2011) who analyzes Philleas Fogg's Ambition and Motivation in Jules Verne's *Around The World in Eight Days*. Those people use the same concept to analyze obsession experienced by main character of each novel. Meanwhile, this study is going to analyze ambition and motivation of the character, Samantha and her mother, who experiences obsession in Elizabeth berg's *Open House*. It focuses on the topic of Samantha's and her mother ambition and motivation in the novel entitled *Open House*. In order to achieve her goals, Samantha based on suggest from her mother is willing to do and sacrifice everything including her feeling toward her life. In addition, Samantha's mother ambition and motivation is changing her life and makes her get up from weakness and has comfortable life than before.

1.2 Statements of the research problems

Based on the background of the study, this study focuses on two questions related with the theme “ambition and motivation”; the problems are formulated as follow:

1. What are the motivation that drives Samantha to reach her happiness in Elizabeth Berg’s *Open House*?
2. In what ways Samantha struggles for her happiness in Elizabeth Berg’s *Open House*?

I.3 Objectives of the study

In line with statement of the problem, the objectives of the study are:

1. To find out Samantha’s motivation to reach her happiness in Elizabeth Berg’s *Open House*.
2. To describe the ways Samantha’s struggles to her life in Elizabeth Berg’s *Open House*.

I.4 Significance of the study

The study is surely to answer the questions that have been clarified in the statement of the problem. Theoretically, this study will give understanding especially of the main character’s ambition and motivation, her motivation and the ways of Samantha’s struggles for reach her happiness towards her life. This study is expected to give better understanding about psychology and literature,

particularly motivation in the literary works. Hopefully, after reading this thesis could consider more about the concept of motivation and can apply in the society based on the condition at that time. This study hopefully can give more knowledge, moral value and explanation connected to ambition and motivation then practically, this study can apply to society.

I.5 Scope and limitation of the study

The scope of this study is about psychology and literature, particularly obsession, especially the concept of ambition and motivation. This study discusses the ways and motivations of the main character in *Open House* by Elizabeth berg. Furthermore, it also analyzes some characters, they are David, Travis, Samantha's Mother and King. The limitation of this study is the utterances of Elizabeth berg and the narrator's narration which are reflected and connected to ambition and motivation in the novel, *Open House* by Elizabeth Berg.