

BAB I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five parts. They are background of the study, the statement of the research problems, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of The Study

Childhood is the time when children learn about relationships, and how to develop their own relationships, for example with parents or friends. They learn how to develop social skills and build a sense of self. They also learn how to manage their emotions, both enjoyable ones, and those that are more difficult, like anger and sadness. Parents and friends play a key role in helping children to understand these emotions, and how to manage them.

Children who have been abused or neglected can find difficulties to develop their life and it can lead to emotional problems later in their future life. These problems tend to be common factors in those diagnosed with the disorder that influence children's activity. Some cases, they tend to be alone and create their own world. They use their imagination and fantasy to show what they want to be and do to fulfill their pleasure needs that cannot be reached in their real life. For example, a girl who is neglected by her friends in her school and her circumstances prefers to stay alone in her bed play with her dolls. She imagines her dolls as a human who can speak and listen. She had conversation to her dolls

as if her dolls are her friends that she cannot find in the real life. This case can be said as daydreaming.

Jerome Singer in Somer (1988) defines daydreaming as the normal activity of shifting attention away from some primary physical or mental task toward an unfolding sequence of private responses, or, more simply, watching your own mental videos. It means that daydreaming is an activity to watch what someone is thinking in his or her mind by his or her self. Somer (1988) states that most reports indicate that this mental activity occurs chiefly when a person is alone (e.g., in bed before sleep) and tends to focus on planning future actions and reviewing interpersonal contacts. Somer shows that daydreaming is an activity that is usually done by human when they are alone. They tend to think about what they want to do and to be in the future and review what they get from their interaction with others. Daydreaming is a common activity done by children. Nevertheless, if daydreaming goes too far and influence the children to interact with other, it can be called as disorder, which is called as Maladaptive Daydreaming.

Somer (2002) defines Maladaptive Daydreaming (MD) as fantasy activity so extensive that it replaces human interaction and/or interferes with academic, interpersonal, or vocational functioning. It means that Maladaptive Daydreaming is a fantasy activity which is done so often that can influence and replace what the function of the human generally. Bachai (2013) describes maladaptive daydreaming begins in childhood. The children who suffer Maladaptive Daydreaming hypnotize their selves. They keep distance to another and tend to

daydream what they like to fulfill their pleasure need, but once again they realize that what they daydream does not truly happen but they still enjoy it. They do it to escape for their real life and make their own world. It causes they becomes difficult to socialize with others. It can be imagined of the children cannot socialize to other. As it is known children is the important phase for the development of human. They will difficult to face another person. It can obstruct the development of human normally. By being aware to the damage of maladaptive daydreaming, daydreaming should be noticed in order not to go far and become maladaptive daydreaming. Because of that, this study takes maladaptive daydreaming as the topic to discuss.

Maladaptive daydreaming is not only famous suffered by human in real life, but also it can be found as a theme of literary works, like novel. *The Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson is one of novels that tells about maladaptive daydreaming. It is written and published in October, 27, 1977 by Harper Collins. This novel is a great and amazing novel. The author of the novel shows the character of a lonely child. He makes his magic kingdom "Terabithia" to solve his problem. Katherine Patterson makes this novel inspired by her friend's son died from a lightning strike, she also adopted the Narnia novels written by C. S. Lewis.

Katherine Paterson is American author known for children novels. She was born 31 October 1932. Katherine Paterson has twice won both the Newbery Medal and the National Book Award. She received a 1998 Hans Christian Andersen Medal as well as the 2006 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for the body of his work. She is also one of the three who won two major international

awards. Katherine Patterson is also the second U.S. Ambassador National Literature Young Child (2010-2011) and received the Laura Ingalls Wilder Medal from the American Library Association in 2013.

The novel *Bridge to Terabithia* is chosen as the source of data because it is never analyzed from the maladaptive daydreaming point of view and it can be proved that this study is still original. There have been several researchers who have analyzed *Bridge to Terabithia* (Erry, 2014; Nuraeni, 2010). Most of them are interest searching for The Unfulfilled Needs and the Effects of the Unfulfillment, The Major Character of The Children (Ego Defense Mechanisms), anxiety and defense of mechanisms. None of them take Maladaptive Daydreaming to analyze.

In addition, this study uses Psychology of literature to analyze Maladaptive Daydreaming suffered by Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr in the novel *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson. Maladaptive Daydreaming is taken as the theme of this study because it is interesting to analyze and it is seldom analyzed by another writer.

1.2 Statement of Reseach Problem

This study analyzes Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr's Maladaptive Daydreaming in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia* using Psychology of literature. The problems are formulated as the following questions ;

1. What are the functions of maladaptive daydreaming for its sufferer, Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia* ?
2. What are the themes of the maladaptive daydreaming experienced by Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*?

1.3 Objective of The Study

In line with the statement of the research problem, this objective of the study will describe ;

1. The functions of maladaptive daydreaming for its sufferer, Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr, in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*
2. The themes of the maladaptive daydreaming experienced by Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia*

1.4 Significance of The Study

This study hopefully can give the significances theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study can give knowledge and better understanding about maladaptive daydreaming. It also can be as a reference for another writer who takes maladaptive daydreaming to be the theme of the study. Practically, this study is expected to give significance for the society, especially for the parents by knowing the maladaptive daydreaming. From this study, the parents are expected to be more aware to their children in order to prevent them to suffer maladaptive daydreaming.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study discusses Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr's Maladaptive Daydreaming in Katherine Paterson's *Bridge to Terabithia* through Psychology of literature. The study focuses on dissociative disorder especially maladaptive daydreaming suffered by Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr. This study limits its data from some utterances and narration about Jesse Oliver Aarons Jr that show the maladaptive daydreaming suffered by him.