

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, statements of the research problem, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and; scope and limitations of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Child abuse is a negative action that occurs to Children which can affects them negatively, Especially if it occurs in family environment. The first environment that a child grown up in is family. Hence, child abuse in a family environment can surely affects children in a negative way. According to American SPCC (American society for the positive care of children, it is identified that around 4.1 million child maltreatment referral reports are received which involves 7.4 million children who suffer child abuse in U.S. The reports of child abuse refer to the some cruel acts such as neglecting the child, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and psychology maltreatment. In addition, the early exposure to abuses makes children more likely to suffer mental health disorders and post-traumatic stress disorder (American SPCC, 2017). In short, child abuse is a major case which cause psychological problems to children. The terrible event of child abuse that cause a psychological disorder in form of damage to the mind because of a severely terrible events that threaten human's sense of safety is commonly known as Psychological trauma.

Furthermore, child abuse which is happened in real life also occurred to the character in literary works, such as novel. One of the novel that reflect the issue of a child abuse trauma is a novel by Torey Hayden entitled *Twilight Children*. Victoria Lynn Hayden, more known as Torey Hayden is special education teacher and writer, known for her novels based of her real-life experiences with teaching and counseling children with special needs. The majority of her works which are about her experiences working in helping people with psychological problem, particularly children. For instance, when she works in the town's psychiatry ward counseling three mental patients, Cassandra, Drake, and Gerda. Cassandra is an nine-year-old girl who experiences child abuse, Drake is a four-year old boy who refuse to speak to anyone but his mother, and; Gerda is a stroke patient and weird elderly who is trapped in depression and self-imposed silent. The experiences on counselling her patients inspire her to write down her experiences working to help them and explain the three patients' unknown stories about what cause them to have mental problems and how it affects them in her latest novel *Twilight Children*.

This novel by Torey Hayden is chosen to be analyzed because of its interesting story that covers the issue of child abuse and the trauma of child abuse of the character named Cassandra which is actually occurred in real life. Thus, it draws the writer's interest to study the issue in this literary research.

Early researches on the novel have focused in many aspects, ranging from the Dissociative Identity Disorder (Purnama 2015), the education

strategy (Aggraini 2008) , and the Teacher's lore (Marlowe 2006). However, none of the researchers analyze the Child abuse's trauma on Cassandra in the Novel. Therefore, this paper concerns on the trauma from the Child abuse's experiences in Torey Hayden's Novel, *Twilight Children*. The Character that is going to be analyzed in this paper is Cassandra.

In the novel, Cassandra goes through abduction, sexual abuse and violence by her father and uncle. Cassandra's mother divorces her husband because of drug abuse and abusive personality, and later she put him in prison. Unfortunately, her father abducts Cassandra for his revenge to his ex-wife. After years of searching, she is found in a small store. She goes through a severe traumatic experience of child abuse which affects her life extremely. She turns into a problematic girl and thus affects people around her. Cassandra's mother sends Cassandra to the town's psychiatric hospital, in which she meets her psychiatrist, Torey Hayden. The novel has an intense and interesting conflict about how terrible the trauma of child abuse affects Cassandra and how she struggles to heal the psychological trauma of child abuse with the help of psychiatrist. It perfectly covers the issue of the child abuse, the effect that occurs to child abuse survivor, and the ways the character heals herself from the trauma. Thus, the writer selects the novel as the source of data to be analyzed in this study.

The focus of this study is Cassandra's child abuse trauma, which related to psychology. In order to analyze the topic of psychological trauma, the theory of psychoanalysis in Psychology and Literature is used. According

to Dastmard, Razmjoo, and Salehi (2012:420); Psychology theory is the only available theory to analyze the character or human personality in life. In this study, the psychology theory is applied in order to be able to analyze the character's psychological problem in literary work. The source of data is analyzed with psychoanalysis theory, especially the psychological trauma theory by Judith Herman. The theory of psychological trauma is chosen because it helps the writer to elaborate the focus which is child abuse trauma of the character that can be explained by the theory. The theory of psychological trauma helps to execute a deep analysis of the child abuse trauma of Cassandra in order to elaborate the effects and the processes that Cassandra experienced to heal her trauma. Thus, the theory is chosen because it is very appropriate and suitable to analyze the source of data which is Hayden's *Twilight Children*.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

This study emphasis on the discussion about Cassandra's child abuse trauma, the effects, and the healing processes related to the psychological trauma in Hayden's *Twilight Children*. Thus, the research problem formulated as follows:

1. How does Child Abuse Trauma affect Cassandra in Hayden's *Twilight Children*?
2. How does Cassandra heal her trauma in Hayden's *Twilight Children*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Regarding of the statements of the problem of this research, the aims of the analysis are:

1. To elaborate the effects of Child Abuse trauma to Cassandra in Hayden's *Twilight Children*.
2. To elaborate how Cassandra heals her trauma of the child abuse in Hayden's *Twilight Children*.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of this study consist of theoretical and practical:

1. Theoretically, this study has the intention to give more knowledge of literary theories, particularly Psychological trauma theory by Judith Herman. Furthermore, this study can be used as references for students of English Study program who want to conduct further studies of the novel or theory in the future.
2. Practically, this study hopefully can give more information to the readers about child abuse and the psychological trauma of child abuse, in order to have more knowledge about the issues.

2.3 Scope and Limitation of the Study

This study focuses on Cassandra's child abuse trauma, which includes the effects of child abuse trauma and the processes of healing child abuse trauma. In order to analyze the novel, the writer uses psychoanalysis theory, especially psychological trauma by Judith Herman (1992). Herman's theory of psychological trauma can help to elaborate the effects of child abuse

trauma and the processes of healing child abuse trauma which are the focuses of this analysis.

The source of data of this study is novel entitled *Twilight Children* by Torey Hayden. The novel is Hayden's latest novel which is written based on her experiences working with patients in psychiatry ward, therefore it is written from Hayden's point of view as a psychiatrist. Hayden's purpose of writing the novel is to make people aware of the story of her patients, including Cassandra. Cassandra is a patient in psychiatry ward which suffers child abuse trauma. The novel tells the story of Cassandra's child abuse trauma in details, about the child abuse experience, the effects, and the processes of healing child abuse trauma. In order to analyze Cassandra's child abuse trauma in the source of data, the researcher uses psychological trauma theory by Herman. The limitation of the study is the characters quotation especially Cassandra and Hayden; and author's descriptions.