

## **Chapter I: Introduction**

This chapter presents several subtopics such as basic consideration; it provides the reasons to conduct this study. Problem statement, it shows the problem of this study that will investigate. Objective of study, it describes the aim of the study. Scope of study, which tells the limitation of the study that related to the psychoanalytic approach and the childhood trauma, and the significance of study, it draws the impact of this study.

### **Basic consideration**

People have many needs to fulfill. Food, cloth, house and love are the example of needs of human. Love is the most important than the others. Love can change a person's mood from sad to be happy, even it will change a person's personality from bad one to be a good one. Lack of love will make people feel anxious, bored and lonely. Especially lack of parental love since childhood, a child gets violence from parents that caused fear and anger. Parent supposed to give a sense of security to their child. According to Sujanto, factor that affects someone's personality basically comes from inner self in a form of thought, desire, fantasy, and childhood memory (2004, p.5). It explains that past memory becomes the main factor in making someone's personality. Bad experience when a child will cause trauma in their personality in the future. Sometimes people who are afraid of their past create a fantasy to overcome their fear.

In psychology, trauma is one of the psychological problems that gets special attention among psychologists because trauma gives bad impact to the sufferer. People who get trauma will affect their daily life because their personality is not stable. The trauma victim always feels the fear about the bad experience that will happen again in their life, feel danger, regret, nightmare or even endured the horrible flashbacks are the annoying their personality. It makes a traumatized person life in the past or in the present because there will always be something as the reminder.

Psychological trauma is an affiliation of the powerless. When experiencing the traumatic event, the victim becomes helpless because of the overwhelming force. When the force is that of nature, we speak of disaster. When the force is that of another human being, we speak of atrocities (Herman, 1997, p. 33). Many things can cause trauma and have bad impact on the person who has it that can be from bad experiences such as neglect, abuse and many other things that cause person to feel helpless or feel in danger. Moreover, trauma does not only come from the human being but also that of nature such as the earthquake, flood, war, etc.

In addition, the fact that trauma could be experienced by child because it is a time of vulnerable for children exposed to trauma where the child as a weak figure which always has a high dependence from the adults around them. It is supported by *National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2010)* stated that children from birth to age 5 are at a particularly high risk for exposure to potentially traumatic events due to their dependence on parents and caregivers.

Cases of violence, abuse, and neglect on children that can cause trauma become global virtually in various countries. Such as in Indonesia there is much news that told how cruel a teacher did bad things like sexual abuse to his student. In the other cases there was violence from their own parents. Family as the first education for the child rather than school. Karen has the different life as a child with the others. She gets abuse from her first education. The family must have been full of love and warmth.

Trauma rapidly in childhood will effect until adulthood. In this case, there is a literary work that told about someone who experienced trauma rapidly during childhood. The novel *Switching Time* created based on the true story of a patient who was treated by Dr. Richard Baer which published on September 2007 by Crown, New York. The main character in the novel of *Switching Time* has a traumatic experienced, her name is Karen Overhill. In childhood, Karen experienced many bad things because of the cruelty of her father and grandfather, as well as the indifference of her mother. To avoid the pain she suffered, she unconsciously creating a personal private else in her to live life the next day. It is realized by Karen when she gave a birth for her second child, she lost her memories, does not know anybody, even her husband, and parents. She felt depressed with that condition, so she decided to go to a psychiatrist Dr. Baer.

Dr. Baer began to diagnose the illness suffered by Karen and the result of the diagnosis Karen has multiple personality disorder or dissociative identity disorder. Patiently, Dr. Baer started to unfold one by one personality of Karen, starting from letters with the round words belonged to a daughter named Claire,

then Katherine, Holdon, Karen 2 and 3, Julie, Sandy, Miles, and others. They all emerge from the suffering experienced Karen, ranging from rape by a friend of her father, torture on his genitals, physical abuse from her father. They all continue to live within Karen, and often taking over her body, so Karen often loses time.

Based on the explanation, the researcher interested to analyze the main character of *Switching Time* novel because the content of the novel offers valuable lessons for families, especially parents to prevent bad things that can cause trauma to children. Therefore, it is clearly important to understand the effects of trauma when it happened on childhood that can be effected on adulthood. The issue clearly reflected in the novel where the main character experiences profound psychological trauma since she was a child. She abused during her childhood, but she tried to survive against hardness with her defense mechanism as her self-protection for many years. The bad experiences in the childhood of Karen made trauma in her life, sometimes she lost her memories. Here is the example of the data that shows when Karen Overhill loosing of time.

*The nurse kept calling me Karen, so I thought that must be my name. I knew I was in the hospital, but I didn't know why. I had bandages over my abdomen and my chest hurt when I breathed. I lay in the bed for a while—quiet, frightened, and feeling alone in a world I couldn't explain. I was afraid I'd lost my mind. (Part1, p. 24)*

The main character becomes the important point in the novel because of her trauma. This problem will be analyzed using Dudley theory childhood trauma and the effect; he divided into three categorized trauma-related neurological symptoms, trauma-related psychological symptoms, and other difficulties resulting from trauma and lack of parental nurture. In addition, Freud personality theory will discuss about Karen's life. According to Freud anxiety happened when the three system of personalities conflict each other. Based on that, the researcher conducted a research entitled "*The Effects of Childhood Trauma of Karen Overhill as Reflected on Richard Baer's novel Switching Time*".

### **Problem statement**

Based on basic consideration, the problem of the study is "How is the effects of childhood trauma on Karen Overhill as reflected on Richard Baer's novel *Switching Time*?"

### **Objective of study**

This study is conducted to explore and to analyze the effects of childhood trauma on Karen Overhill as reflected on Richard Baer's novel *Switching Time*.

### **Scope of study**

This study focuses on how the effect of childhood trauma on Karen Overhill based on Dudley theory. Dudley divided the effect of childhood trauma into three symptoms; trauma-related neurological symptoms, trauma-related psychological symptoms, and other difficulties resulting from trauma and lack of parental nurture. Besides, this study will use Sigmund Freud personality theory to

analyze and linking with the data which have an important influence on the childhood trauma of Karen Overhill.

### **Significance of study**

This study gives an acknowledgment to the reader how childhood trauma can effect a person's psychological and neurological until she/he an adult. In this era, sexual and physical abuse in children often occurs that causes trauma in the child. Unfortunately, those abuses may come from family environment and most of them are children. The results of this study will be; firstly, this research is expected to give a condition in literary field as the reference to the other researcher in analyzing novel particularly for student English department who will conduct similar cases. Secondly, this is expected could be useful in literary criticism class and becomes a guideline in analyzing the effect of childhood trauma that can impact on adulthood.