

## **Chapter1: Introduction**

This chapter describes basic consideration, research question, the objective of the research, and research significances.

### **Background**

In a work of fiction, the character is one of the most important aspects of fiction depicted through both narrative and dialogue. It is supported by Reaske (1966) who state that character is a fictitious creation which the characterization must be presented through the dialogues by the writer, specifically about their central emotion such as love and hate, so that the writer can assess their ability in the art of characterization. It means that the author of the story must be able to create a character that can convey the intent or the message to be conveyed clearly to the reader through what is called characterization and how the character acts. Through the characterization and characters act in fiction, it can be known as the personality of the character. According to Larsen and Buss (2018), Personality is a stable, organized collection of human psychological traits and mechanisms that influence their interactions and changes in the psychological, social and physical environment around them. In line with this statement, Omuteche (2011) explains that the personality of characters on fiction can be revealed by how the author describes a character towards their responses to conflict, their dialogue with others, and through the description. Therefore, the personality of each character is determined by their actions, attitudes, and behaviors towards the surrounding environment. Moreover, by analyzing the personality of the character in fiction, we can effectively understand stories more easily and relate to them completely. It also helps us strengthen our ability to study people in the real world and fully appreciate their point of view.

The personality of the character can be found in a literary work such as the novel. Hawthorn (2001) defines the novel as one types of fictitious narrative or tale which is considered as a representative of the real-life of past and present time. From the definition of

the novel, it can be inferred that the story which is contained in the novel is based on real-life events or issues. Moreover, the novel also contains the expressions of human characteristic which is presented through their characters as in real life belongs to their psychology. Wellek and Werren (1948) state that psychology in literary work, such as the novel, is considered by us to be equally psychologically because the character and plot of the novel have the same quality of real life. Hence, the novel is closely related to psychology because the characterization and the character in the novel are based on the existence of psychology, as in the novel *Looking For Alaska*.

*Looking For Alaska* is John Green's first novel published in 2005. This novel is inspired by the author's own experiences as a high school student (Wikipedia). It tells about a teenage guy named Miles Halter who moves to a boarding school called Culver Creek to seek a great perhaps. There, he met and fell in love with a mysterious, smart, sexy, funny and messy girl named Alaska Young.

In this novel, there are three main important characters, they are Miles Halter, The Colonel and Alaska Young. On the novel, John Green creates the characterization of each character of a teenager's life which is slightly different from the teenager in general. From the psychological point of view, this character shows that; Miles obsession towards famous people last words before they die has a relation with his struggle to find a meaningful life. One quote of Miles in the novel which is described his obsession is "*Alot of times, people die how they live. And so last words tell me a lot about who people were, and why they became the sort of people biographies get written about.*" (Green, 2005, p.128). From his quotes, it can be inferred that these last words seem like guides on how to live life for him (Litcharts). The second character is Chip Martin or The Colonel who loves to prank a wealthy day student at his school. Colonel's attitude towards the wealthy students shows a sense of injustice, considering his background who comes from a poor family. It is supported by

(Shmoop) that stated: "...because the Colonel grew up with nothing, he resents the wealth that others have". The third character is Alaska Young. Based on the story of the novel, she loves to talk about death because of her past event which is impacting her personality and the way she acts. Besides she also acts unpredictable and mysterious, it can be seen from how the other characters describe Alaska, as an example when Miles said: "I didn't know whether to trust Alaska, and I'd certainly had enough of her unpredictability—cold one day, sweet the next; irresistibly flirty one moment, resistibly obnoxious the next." (Green, 2005, p.65).

From those three characters, the researcher attempts to analyze Alaska's character because Alaska shows a strange personality. It can be seen from the story how Alaska seems so desperate and broken everytime she tells a joke about death. Besides, she is also included as the most complex character, which is proved from Alaska's sentence "How do I survive this labyrinth?"

According to previous explanation, the researcher attempts to conduct this research in order to analyze Alaska's structure of personality. Therefore, from this point of view, the researcher state this problem as belong :

### **Research Question**

The central question in this study asks :

How is Alaska's personality portrayed in the novel *Looking For Alaska*?

### **The Objective of the Research**

The objective of this research is to find out the personality of Alaska Young in *Looking For Alaska* novel by John Green, especially Alaska's psychological condition.

### **Research Significance**

In this research, the researcher provides two contributions as theoretical and practical function.

Theoretically, the result of this research is giving the contribution to literature field, particularly Introduction to Literature which is focused on character and characterization, and Literally Criticism, which explains about psychological analysis on literary work.

Practically :

- For the reader, will help them to know deeply about the meaning of the novel and to increase their awareness about the message contained in the novel.
- For the students, will help them to understand the relationship between psychoanalysis and literature.
- For the future researcher, this study contributes knowledge about characters' personality especially for those who intend to conduct research with a similar topic.

### **Research Limitation**

1. In this study, the researcher will analyze Alaska Young personality as one of the main characters. Besides that, the researcher notices the other two main characters such as; Miles and The colonel (what their acts, utterance, and attitude towards Alaska).
2. Moreover, the analysis will focus on Alaska's personality.
3. In order to analyze Alaska's character, the personality theory of Sigmund Freud is used, which are Id, Ego, Superego.