

Chapter 1. Introduction

This chapter describes and explains about the background (the reason of why these topic and novel are chosen), research questions, research objectives, research significances, and research scope.

Basic Consideration

Over the time, significance development of literature is clearly seen as an attempt to provide entertainment, enlightenment, or even lessons to the reader especially the literary work in the form of novel. According to William Whitla (2010), novel has become the most popular literary form since 18th century, particularly during the Victorian-era where novel even pushed poetry and drama aside. In the same book, it is also explained that the novels' popularity is increased as its social scope expanded to include characters and stories of the middle and working classes. Nowadays, the popularity of novel is undoubtedly at its peak, as well as fiction novels and non-fiction novels, such as imaginary stories about magic and mystical matters have become popular in all circles. This fact is due to the author's desire and vast imagination, hence gives a distinct impression or impact to the reader. As well as literary works that based on the real stories, real events experienced by someone could be more interesting for the author to be wrapped in a literary work, especially novel.

Reading a novel that is based on a true story is quite similar with reading an individual's personal life story. *A Long Walk to Water* is based on someone's life story, which was written by the author in a form of a novel. Although it is

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famous for its true story, the genre of this novel is still included in fictional genre. Also, aside from the addition of fictional character; this novel is not considered as a biography, which talks about the real life story of the characters with the additional perspective from the author to provide entertainment and moral message. Narration, plot, theme, setting, and character are the elements that have their own roles and need to be assemble in order to construct a novel

A Long Walk to Water novel is written by Linda Sue Park and published on November 5th, 2010 for the first time. This novel has a characteristic in its storyline. This novel talks about the struggle of a lost boy from Sudan named Salva Dut, where he had to live by himself, away from his family for years. His struggles began when he sat in a classroom at his school and thought about his friends when suddenly, he heard a gunfire because apparently, a violent civil war was taking place in his country. Then, the teacher asked everyone, include Salva, to run away from the classroom to the bush right after the bomb fell. She also instructed them not to return to their own village because their village might have attacked.

After that, his miserable life began. Normally, an 11-years-old boy lives with their parents to teach them important things in life and even education. However, different thing happened to Salva instead. After the incident, he strolled around with a group of foreigner until he was left in a barn alone, sleeping. Next day, he spent a few days with an old woman in her barn, but finally, the woman told Salva that she needs to leave because there is no more food and water left. Living alone for the second time did not make Salva easily gave up. He joined a

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large group of people from his village and then the group began to wander across Sudan, hoping they will find a safe refugee camp.

Overall, the worst events that the main character experienced is when he was 11-years-old. His ups and downs stories were not only make him tough, it also can make him a survivor. According to Barlow (2002) "Childhood experience takes a very important role to guide someone's perceive sense of control, lack of perceived control can lead to anxiety" (p. 23). It is shown that there is a mental war that is raging inside the main character, something that can lead him to give up or survive.

In fact, aside from the sheer amount of struggle, the main character never stepped back. It proves that the initial background of his parents before the war and the environment has formed the foundation of his personality. This can be seen from when he and his fellow refugees were forcibly evicted from the refugee camp and he was believed to lead the group and bring them to a new safe camp.

It goes along with the statement from Erikson (1968) that talks about psychosocial development. A person's personality is not shaped by itself. In some cases, person's personality is printed on the genes while in another case, it is due to the environment. Hence, social and historical factors took major roles in shaping the personality. It means that different environment might shape different personality based on the environment itself. Salva's life experience has motivated people not to give up with the problems in their own life. What's more, not only being able to survive in a difficult situation, Salva even helped his group.

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A person's personality will not be molded without an exact process that might be occurred the main character in the novel. There are stages that must be passed by someone in order to form their personality. From the illustration above, the theory of psychosocial development by Erik H. Erikson is used to analyze the main character personality. In fact, by using psychology, one can understand someone personality which has a fairly strong relationship with literature, it means that we need to study literature. Comer (1995) stated that the aim of psychoanalytic is helping people to bring about a major change in their whole perspective on life. Trough literature, people will learn about someone innermost feeling and though by their personality.

Research Question

Based on the basic consideration above, the researcher formulates the problem of this research is "How is the personality development of the lost boy Salva Dut and what motivated him to struggle and to survive for his life?"

Research Objective

The objective of this research is to discover and describe the personality development of Salva Dut that influences his motivation to struggle and surviving from all problems in his life.

Research Significances

This research is expected to contribute to the academic field, especially literature.

The significances of this research are:

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First, the readers will learn about someone personality in a literary work especially novel through psychological analysis. This research is expected to aid them, who want to conduct research on the same field.

Second, this research presents facts about the psychological mindset of humans and the things that are capable of motivating a human being to fight and not give up easily

Scope of Research

This study focuses on the personality of the character of Salva Dut in a novel, *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park. First published in 2010, 215 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10003. In the story, it is said that Salva is a person who does not easily give up even though he was only an 11-years-old kid. The researcher believes that there are some aspects that encourage him to keep fighting. This is examined in psychological perspective by the researcher.