

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the introduction of this thesis. The introduction consists of the research background, research questions, research objectives, scope of the research, research benefits and definition of terms.

### **1.1 Research Background**

Everyone has some perspective in expressing or form a narrative story on their life, one way of them is literature. Literature is a term used to describe written and sometimes spoken material. Derived from the Latin *litteratura* meaning "writing formed with letters," literature most commonly refers to works of the creative imagination, including poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, journalism, and in some instances, song" (Lombardi, 2015).

Aras says that "Literature, which intertwines within such fields as history, philosophy, sociology, psychology and so on, is a discipline wherein language is used as a medium of expression so as to interpret man, existence and culture"(2015). In other words, literature has a complexity to describe human on their humanity in almost all aspects including psychology.

Through literature, especially in the novel character, we will find so many human behaviour that represent the psychological aspect that sometimes very influence the reader, such as personality problems, self identity, self crisis and disorder.

A personal identity problem is really interesting to discuss both literally and psychologically. There are so many problems might come in the future when someone failed to solve their personal identity confusion on their childhood or adolescence.

Based on BKKBN data at 2009, teenagers conditions in Indonesia at this time has faced some crucial issues such as: early marriage, 660.000- 740.000/ year, sex before marriage and unwanted pregnancy 1,5-2 million/year, abortion 2.4 million: 700-800 thousand are teenagers, HIV / AIDS cases in 1283, an estimated 52,000 infected (iceberg), 70% of teens, drugs and alcohol addiction 3,2 million.

The procentages number above are quite surprising. A group of teenager that we expect for their potential future has undergo into a moral crisis, fueled by the search for identity false. According to Santrock, search identity failing will caused role confusion which has a big part to moral crisis and social participation failure (2009, p78). In other words we should concern about the search of personal identity to avoid the moral crisis and its additional negative impact in the future.

There are many ways to identify an identity crisis or the meaning. One of the term come from Erikson that state an identity crisis as the failure to achieve ego identity during adolescence (1970, p.730). Adolescents are faced with physical growth, sexual maturity, and integrating ideas of themselves and about what others think of them. Adolescents therefore form their self-image and endure the task of resolving the crisis of their basic ego identity. Successful resolution of the crisis depends on one's progress through previous developmental stages, centering on issues such as trust, autonomy, and initiative.

In adolescence self identity problems arise, they will find identity versus role confusion (Papalia, Olds, and Feldman, 2009). Identity, as the adolescence personality looks, sometimes does not match with the society general values. During this stage, teenagers have to deal with the decision of who they are, what they are, and where they might proceed in life (Santrock, 2009).

In real life an adolescents who has special needs, have more difficulty level to adapt with their environment and has the possibility to feel more different and does not match with the society on general values. This situation create some confusion for both side and risen the complex problem such as bullying by the society and the inferior feeling for the special need student as had happened recently at one of famous university in Depok, West Java. in this Campus, a student with autism becomes a bullying victims by his friends as a reported by Hamdi (2017).

The world of children and adolescents is a world where a prohibition and a necessity are not directly said. They come to a level where they need a real figure or idol and a beautiful word that can influence their point of views.

Kathryn Erskine, one of the novelist, who concern about children and adolescent problems, realize about the search of identity problems that may frequently appear on adolescents life and take it as an interesting topic for most of her novel. She dedicates most of her time to write some novel with some factual condition that appear on children and adolescent life, one of them is *Mockingbird*.

*Mockingbird* is an interesting novel that won the 2010 National Book Award for Young People's Literature. The main character of Caitlin Smith who has an interesting personal identity problem with her asperger syndrome, gives a different strong reason

for the writer to analyze this novel. In Caitlin's world, everything is black or white. Things are good or bad. Anything in between is confusing. That's the stuff Caitlin's older brother, Devon, has always explained. But now Devon's dead and Dad is no help at all. Caitlin wants to get over it, in fact as an eleven year old girl with Asperger's, she does not know how. When she reads the definition of closure, she realizes that is what she needs. In her search for it, Caitlin discovers that everything is not black and white, the world is full of colors, messy, and beautiful.

The writer intend to dig deeper on the main character of Caitlin Smith on the novel to find out more about her personal identity problems as life lessons. It is interesting to analyse how an eleven years old girl can find a solution for her personal identity problem through her Asperger syndrome special condition.

To satisfy the writer curiosity of the main character personal identity process finding, she decides to bring the novel into a study entitled ***The Search for Personal Identity in Kathryn Erskine's Mockingbird (2010).***

## **1.2 Research Questions**

The writer formulates three problems to be answered in the study. The research problems formulation is as follows :

1. How is Caitlin Smith personality in this novel?
2. What are Caitlin Smith personal identity problems?
3. How does the main character search her personal identity in Mockingbird novel?

### 1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research problems above, the aim of the research are as follows:

1. To describe Caitlin's personality in the novel
2. To present Caitlin's personal identity problems.
3. To reveal the main character search of her personal identity in *Mockingbird* novel .

### 1.4 Scope of the Research

The search of personal identity in literary work is very interesting to discuss. It is about the process and the progress that how some characters in the novel will find a consciousness about their ambiguity through their personal identity finding. The search for personal identity that reflected by the character in the novel give us good example how to identifying the personal problem and clarifying our life perspective into a better awareness. Therefore, the writer needs to limit the scope of the study to make the study more focus and to gain the best outcomes from the analysis. To limit the study, the writer only focuses on the main character, Caitlin Smith. The writer put attention into her personalities especially about her personal identity problem. An identity psychological perspective that becomes the attention of the writer are her personal identity search process.

### 1.5 Research Benefits

There are some benefits of the research. The first, **theoretically** this research is hopefully beneficial and useful toward any readers, especially student of English

Education Department. This study can be used as starting point to start further research on the same novel, that is *Mockingbird*.

The second beneficial is **practically**. Practically this study is expected to contribute greatly to the development of English mastery for student of Mercu Buana University, especially the students of English Education. Hopefully this research is useful when they teach about literary and aalso is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another researchers who have interest in literary study on the novel from Psychological Approach.

### 1.6 Definition of Terms

In order to assist the readers in understanding the topic discussed, the writer need to clarify the definition of some terms. The first is **the search**. According to Hornby, the search is a process to find something by looking or otherwise seeking carefully and thoroughly (1995, p.1140). While according Longman Dictionary, the search is an attempt to find someone or something that usually takes a lot of time.

The second term is **personal identity**. According to Horowitz (2012), Identity is described as a conscious or intuitive sense of sameness over time, while personal identity according to Perera is the way we see ourselves that is closely related to our self image (2010).

Therefore, **Character** is described as “ the person that presented in dramatic or narrative work who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral and dispositional qualities in the dialogue and action” Abrams ( 1981, p.20)

