

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the research which covers research background, research questions, research objectives, scope of the research, research benefit, definition of terms, and the organization of the study.

1.1 Research Background

Emotion is an extraordinarily essential part of human life which exists in every human being as an aspect development. It plays a crucial role in live that affects the individual to be able to feel his or her state and express his or her feelings appropriately. The importance of emotions in human life and behavior are widely recognized in psychology. Emotions are frequent companions in every individual lives which brings color to live and become more meaningful. As human being, emotional experience can be an important motivator of behavior in taking certain actions but sometimes the level of emotion can appear uncontrolled. On the other hand, emotional expression also has an important role that involves both communication and social interaction to others.

Goleman (2002:411) said that emotion refers to typical feelings and thoughts, a biological and psychological state and a series of tendencies to act. Emotion is essentially the impulse to act. Emotion is usually a reaction to external stimuli and in individual someone. Emotion also can be said to be a burst of feeling that develop and recede in a short time. For example, when we laugh, a few minutes later we feel sad because there are people who scold us because he or she is disturbed by our laughing voice. As described above, it means that emotion indicates the significant of impulse to act. Thus, emotion produces various kinds of emotions that encourages individual to respond or act against the existing stimulus.

Horowitz and Znoj (1999:213) points out that emotional control is usually the processing of a difficult, emotionally challenging topic. This is one of processes a piece of bad news from a stressor event that requires revision of prior knowledge. Based on this definition, experiences would be able influence human's emotions. When a person gets bad news, it will activate the emotions that may be contradictory with existing mental models. Emotion greatly affects the actions or behavior from one to another individual, the surrounding environment, and including the family.

Many factors influence the change of emotions. Nonetheless, Cole et al (2004:73), they stated that emotions are recognized as both products and processes of social relationships. The influence of social relationships particularly gives impact on the progress of emotions abilities. In general, it affects the way of people interact with their environment. When people continuously have too much tense or worried experience in social environment, it can stimulate them excessively and will influence their emotions. However, the emerging emotions at that time also teach them how to behave and adapt effectively depends on the demands of social environment. Thus, most of this circumstance sometimes encourages people to think positive, empathy, and emotion control.

In fact, social environment only has a small part of the emotional influence that caused by the relationship around its environment. Therefore, one of the main factors that affect the emotions in every individual is family relationship as a place of their daily interaction. Family is the closest environment to each person and certainly plays a big role in the human life. In addition, family cannot be separated from the relationship which has implication on other family members. It means that when there is something in the family, then like it or not, it will give effect to all family members in it.

In relation with the description above, it is undeniable that family is the first social environment norms and values are internalized in a person (Sarwono, 1994). Internalized values and norms of relationships with family members is what later became the foundation of individual attitude towards life in general (Hurlock, 1993). It can be said that the environment from individual experience affects their overall growth and emotional development in many important ways; especially on how the way they interact each other in family relationship.

Moreover, in the daily life, people express their emotions in different ways. Some of them express their emotion directly but some tend to hide their feeling at the moment. The awareness of individual to another's feeling is necessary since each person has different emotional sensitivity. Emotion can support someone to be able to do something beyond people's mind. The affection of parent to their child makes them being active and talented, for example in writing. It can be found in the news on *m.cnnindonesia.com*, online media on Thursday, October 15th, 2015. It mentioned that there was a teenager who named Nadia Shafiana Rahma, 11 year old. Her hobbies brought her name being famous writer to the Frankfurt Book Fair 2015. She got the opportunity to be a speaker in the greatest event for the publishing world. She had have published her work of writing at least 11 books. No wonder, she wrote since she was in a kindergarten school. Her ability to develop her skill could not be separated by the role of her parent. Their closeness made her family being

proud of her success. Her parents gave her attention with a great affection and they usually spent their spare time together by reading a lot of books. Thus, it influenced Nadia's ability to reach her dream. This is the example one of the facts of affection from the family can give a positive impact.

However, emotion can trigger a conflict if an individual does not take emotion in a proper way. In reality, there are various facts about the phenomenon of human experience that is universal related to the emotion in terms of violence, chaos or crime which happen everywhere; even in small scope like at home. Recently, one of the causes of violence is feeling dissatisfaction of life which occurs on a bad act of a teenager. For example, it can be found in the news on *Merdeka.com*, online media on Saturday, May 16th, 2015. It stated that there was a teenager tortured his mother with a crowbar to be battered. After being investigated, the main cause from this incident was the suspect mistreated her mother because he was upset that she did not give him the money he asked for. This example is just one of many other cases of conflicts that are caused by individual when they cannot control their emotions.

Related to this, a novel is as a part of literature which is able to expose kinds of human's thoughts and emotions, such as happiness, satisfaction, sadness, disappointment, and others. A novel can reach the readers to appreciate the world around them, even themselves by providing a story about various emotional experiences. Robert (1989:2) mentioned that it enables the readers to develop a perspective on the events that occur around them and helps the reader become more human.

Little Women is an interesting novel that tells us about various emotional experiences, written by Louisa May Alcott (1832-1888). She was born on November 29, 1832, in Germantown, Pennsylvania and Louisa died on 1888 in Boston, Massachusetts. Her novel was originally published in two volumes in 1868 and 1869. In wikipedia.com it is mentioned that *Little Women* became an overnight success, selling 2.000 copies. The novel has two parts. The first part consists of 217 pages and 23 chapters; and the second part consists of 24 chapters. This novel is loosely based on Louisa May Alcott childhood experiences with her three sisters, like the character "*Jo March*" in *Little Women* novel. Louisa's character is like a boy. The novel follows the lives of four sisters, such as *Meg, Jo, Beth,* and *Amy March* detailing their passage from childhood to womanhood.

Little Women tells about women struggle. The struggle of Mrs. March and her sisters are without Mr. March. They grow up in the polite poor family. Their life is simple but they always have so many problems, sadness, unsatisfied, and dispute. However, they never stop giving their love and being happy family. Their mother gives inspiration and support

to them. They have a different character. Meg is mature and mother-like, Jo is frank and down to earth but she has a quick temper and acts impulsively. Beth is shy, and the last is Amy, she is little artist and immature. They make a newspaper for a week. Mrs. March cares her family with her companion, Hannah. The absence of Mr. March in the war gives bad impact to March family, especially in the financial condition. The situation makes Mr. March's sisters work to get money for themselves. Their mother always cares her daughters with love, gives motivation in every situation, and teaches them to help the poor people. The girls also are the friends of Theodore Lawrence, a grandchild of rich man, Mr. Lawrence. They always help March family. One day, a letter comes in March. It gives the information that Mr. March was sick and asked Mrs. March came. Jo helps her mother to accompany her having a trip. She cuts her hair to get some money for her mother. Because of Jo March's sacrifice, finally their father, Mr. March, is back to home. (Alcott:1868)

In the *Little Women*, Josephine is the major character. She does a big sacrifice for her family, she cuts her hair to help her mother in order they can get enough money to have a trip in looking for Mr. March. Civil war gives the family bad condition but she can manage herself not to be an arrogant eventhough she acts at home as her father. (Alcott:1868)

From the explanation above, the researcher was interested in analyzing this novel because there are a lot of aspects from it, such as psychological and sociocultural point of view. The researcher would like to dig deeper about Josephine, the major character on the novel. Furthermore, the researcher focused to find out more about Josephine's emotion that give more life lessons towards family relationship. It is interesting to analyze, because people can learn from her character that she played. Thus, people will be able to realize that life does not always go exactly as well as our desire. To satisfy the researcher's curiosity of the main character, she decides to bring the novel into a study entitled ***The Influence of Josephine's Emotion towards Her Relationship among Family Members in Louisa May Alcott's Little Women.***

1.2 Research Questions

According to the background of the research, the researcher will focus on the problems that formulated below:

1. What are the Josephine's emotions in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?
2. How does Josephine's emotion affect her relationship toward family members?

1.3 Research Objectives

Based on the research questions above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To find out Josephine's emotion in Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?
2. To analyze the effects of Josephine's emotion with her family members Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*?

1.4 Scope of the Research

In line with the research objectives, the researcher chooses *Little Women* as the scope of the research that covers the main character, Josephine March. The researcher needs to limit the scope of the research to make it more focus. Thus, the researcher is able to acquire the best outcomes from the analysis. Besides, in social interaction, emotion holds a very important role and it is interesting to discuss. Actually, emotion is a dynamic phenomenon in many human life situations which go along with its effect on consciousness, behavior, and also psychological process. Ideally, we as a good human being must be able to control emotion because it can give impact to our life in the future. Therefore, the researcher puts attention into Josephine's emotion in the daily life that becomes the one of the characters in the novel. Psychological perspective becomes the reference for the researcher to identify her emotion while searching process.

1.5 Research Benefits

There are some benefits of the research. The first, theoretically, this research may increase the knowledge to study of psychological, especially the study that is focused on emotion. It also can be used as a reference on literary study from *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott that discusses the emotion. Thus, the next researcher can use it effectively.

The second beneficial is practically. This research can give the contribution to the development of English mastery for college student of Mercubuana University of Yogyakarta, especially the college students of English Education Department. Hopefully, this research is useful for them to teach the literary. Thus, it can enrich their knowledge and experience to another researcher who is interested in literary study and psychological approach.

1.6 Definition of Terms

In this element, the researcher needs to describe the terms are related to the topic of this research as follows:

1. Emotions

According to Harre and Gerrod (1996:3), emotions are at once bodily responses and expressions of judgements, at once somatic and cognitive. There are emotion displays and there are, in some cultures, emotion feelings, and neither is immune from cultural influence.

2. Relationship

In Macmillan dictionary, relationship is the way in which two or more people or things are connected with or involve each other.

3. Family

Based on Grusky (2014: 156), he defines family is the basic unit of society. In its minimal form, family may consist of a husband, wife and children. In its widest sense, it refers to all relatives of several generations connected to each other by blood, marriage, or adoption. A family unit takes birth with the living together of a legally wedded couple under one roof. The married couple not only shares common residence but also cooperates with each physically, emotionally, socially, and economically. It further strengthens the affection between husband and wife and their respective families.

4. Little Women

Alcott (1868) presents *Little Women* which reveals story about the life in the March household. It is full of adventures and accidents as the four very different March sisters follow their varying paths to adulthood, always maintaining the special bond between them. Sensible Meg, impetuous Jo, shy Beth, and artistic Amy each has to confront different challenges as they grow up together and attempt to learn how to be both happy and good.