

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

To study characters, for example, in novels or movies, it is reasonable for a literary researcher or critic to learn and understand various psychological concepts related to the characterization and mental state of the characters depicted in the selected novel or movie before conducting the research or forming an opinion. According to Edel in Olugunle (2019) in literary studies, there is a relationship between literature and psychology and it is called literary psychology.

Wellek and Warren in Aras (2015) suggest that literary psychology has four possible meanings; 1) Literary psychology is the study of the psychology of the author as a type or as individual; 2) Literary psychology studies the creative process; 3) the study of types and psychological laws applied to literary works; and 4) studies the impact of literature on the reader.

One example of the literary work and also life writing is called memoir. According to Julie Rak (2013), "Memoirs can be read as honest records of the lives of others so that the work of personal transformation can be carried out and carried on by readers. In this understanding of what memoirs are, it does not matter whether they are "literary" or not, but whether they are true or not and whether they faithfully report experiences from which others can learn". Memoir is a type of autobiographical writing in which the story is about the events that happened to the author or their closest friends and family described from the

author's perspective. Therefore, the characters and storyline in memoirs are considered actual, which makes memoir is a type of life writing and included in group of non-fiction prose (Rak, 2013; Baena, 2005).

As one of the the element in prose, character is one of the important elements in literary works. The other elements are setting, plot, point of view, and language style. Character development in the story has an important role in shaping the attraction in the story. In this case, the characters are expected to develop to be more complex than their former personality. Characters that continue to develop along the story will be more engaging for readers than characters that are constant and not relatable with people's real-life experience (Maslej et al.,2017).

Fictional characters are conceptualized into 2 literary theories, namely mimetic and structuralist theory. The first of these sees character as humanlike, as non-actual yet recognizably individual persons. The second theory, on the other hand, takes character strictly as a textual object and a literary artifact (Polvinen & Sklar, 2019). In brief explanation, it can be seen from the first concept which is mimetic states that fictional characters will not be depicted very differently from the story of human life, while structuralist categorizes fictional characters according to their role in the story, it's not necessary to be related to real life.

According to Erick Erikson, there are 8 stages of life cycle, or better known as his theory of Psychosocial development theory. Which are : infancy (trust vs. mistrust) and the range of ages are 0-1 ½ years old, toddlerhood (autonomy vs. shame) with the range of ages 18 months to 3 years old , preschooler (initiative vs.

guilt), 3-6 years old, schooler (industry vs. inferiority), 6 to 12 years old, adolescence (identity vs. role confusion), 12 to 18 years old, young adulthood (intimacy vs. isolation) with the range of ages 18 to 40 years old, middle adulthood (generativity vs. stagnation), 40 to 65 years old, and late adulthood (ego Integrity vs. despair) in 65 to more than 65 years old (Chung, 2018; Dunkel & Harbke, 2016). This theory is a development of the ego theory in Sigmund Freud's "Psychoanalysis" (Ahmadi, 2015). This study aimed to find out whether there is character development in the memoir, in which the character being analyzed is also the author of the memoir. Previously, the use of Erick Erikson's theory was most widely used to analyze people and habit, but, this study was decided to analyze the character in literary works in the form of memoirs.

During the period of compiling the research, there are a numbers of studies related to psychosocial and also memoir study, for example in one of the research journals that was conducted by Apri Yuliyani, Imas Juidah, Embang Logita which entitled "*Kepribadian Tokoh Utama Dalam Novel Api Tauhid Karya Habiburrahman El Shirazy: Kajian Psikologi Erick Erikson*".

The results of this study were to find intrinsic elements in the novel, and to find and classify each phase of the main character's life from infancy to old age as well as changes and developments in the character's character as they grow older. From the study, according to Psychosocial Theory by Erick Erikson, the author of this study answered their second problem that the personality of the main character in the novel *Api Tauhid* by Habiburrahman El Shirazy are: (a) trust versus mistrust, where 'trust' prevails in character traits; (b) autonomy versus

shame and doubt, marked by the character's personality who is willing to ask questions without hesitation to form autonomy within himself; (c) initiative versus guilt, marked by the development of curiosity and language skills in Bediuzzaman Said Nursi, making initiative outperform his personality; (d) Industry versus inferiority, characterized by new contacts and experiences in the social world experienced by Said Nursi, namely attending the assemblies of the scholars in this phase; (e) identity versus role confusion, marked by the behavior of Said Nursi who was already busy with himself and the existence of a fairly good ego identity in Said Nursi; (f) intimacy versus isolation, marked by the closeness that is built towards Bediuzzaman Said Nursi and his followers; (g) generativity versus stagnation, characterized by Bediuzzaman Said Nursi starting to place himself in society to give teachings.

Said Nursi also gave ideas or ideas in contributing to world development; and (h) ego integrity versus despair, marked by when Bediuzzaman Said Nursi tries to reflect on his life in the past. However, he felt hopeless because he had been left behind by his mother and niece whom he loved so much. So far there are no deficiencies in this research, therefore the researcher makes this journal a mentor text.

From the selected previous studies, the author found that there is a gap in the analysis of character development in the memoir which used psychosocial theory. If the previous study analyzed fictional prose and fictional characters, this study analyzed data from non-fictional prose in the form of memoirs, so this could

be an opportunity to study the psychosocial development of real character / person in memoirs.

The research uses a data from a memoir book from the United States entitled *Educated* by Tara Westover. This book tells the life story of Tara Westover who struggled to be more educated. This is where the author becomes the main character in the story, where she tells the story of her life from childhood until being able to study at one of the best universities in the world. The point of interest in this memoir is that this memoir takes a true story from a state in the USA which is known as a developed and modern country but has a number of community groups who live in reluctance to depend on facilities provided by the government, have complex beliefs and are far from advanced life.

Through this memoir, reader could find out the different side between the life of community in the city and several towns in USA. However, there is a great enthusiasm for a young girl who wants to explore the world and chooses to leave her hometown. The researcher took the whole story in this memoir as the data and the preliminary data for this research are a number of childhood memories and piles of encouragement told by Tara Westover herself which became the turning point for her desire to leave Buck's Peak, the name of her place of residence, and a text that shows her anxiety about the longing for reuniting with his family or accepting that he has gone too far from home and doesn't need to come back.

#### **Preschooler Phase :**

##### **P.5**

*The memory was formed when I was five , just before I turned six, from a story my father told in such detail that I and my brothers and sister had each conjured our own cinematic version, with gunfire and shouts.*

**Initiative Points :****P. 12 ( Supporting sentences 6)**

*I practicing slipping the bag onto my back and running with it – I didn't want to be left behind. I imagined our escape, a midnight flight to the safety of the princess.*

There is a preschooler phase from psychosocial theory in the character Tara Westover. According to Erick Erikson, preschooler phase demand is to choose between initiative or guilt to dominate the character. The story started from when Tara Westover was 5 years old. She was under the dominance of her father. At that time she was still very young and believed everything her father said. Her father was a radical person who didn't trust government and gave his children the fear of FBI agents who might hunt them for being a rebel citizen. Her father also believed that the Days of Y2K was imminent.

Tara was an obedient child. It is not written in this memoir that Tara was once scolded by her father and mother, and they teach her how to survive without needing the government. Tara even took the initiative to train herself so that she also able to survive in situations that require survival skills. In this preschooler phase, initiative wins over guilt, because Tara decide to follow the rules because she know how determined her father and once almost completely trusted him.

The purpose statements of this study are to find out each phase of life experienced by Tara Westover according to psychosocial theory based on the memoir. The second step is to analyze the character development of Tara Westover in the memoir *Educated* in terms of theory development of psychosocial.

Expectation through this research are the results can be a useful reference for the development of a more objective literary criticism and a reference for the use of psychosocial theory in literary works in the form of texts. Both author and readers, especially at a young age, are expected to learn more about self-potential through the introduction of Erick Erikson's psychosocial theory.

### **B. Problems of The Study**

The following are the problems that were analyzed in the research data:

1. What are the phases of psychosocial development experienced by Tara Westover in *Educated* memoir?
2. How does Tara Westover's character develop after experiencing each phase of psychosocial development in *Educated* memoir according to the theory of Psychosocial?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

The following are the objectives of the study that were concluded from the research data:

1. To find out each phase of psychosocial development experienced by Tara Westover in *Educated* memoir.
2. To analyze Tara Westover's character development after experiencing each phase of psychosocial development in the memoir *Educated* according to psychosocial theory.

#### **D. Scope of the Study**

This research is limited only to the content in the book Memoir "Educated" by Tara Westover as a material object as well as an object of analysis. The formal object of this research is analyzed using the narrative structure contained in the stories summarized in the memoir book "Educated". After analyzing the structure, the writer then analyzes the main character's psychosocial development. In this memoir analysis, it is limited to a social psychology approach to reveal personality aspects, namely Erick Erikson's theory of psychosocial development.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

The results of this study are expected to be useful references for the development of more objective literary criticism and references to the use of psychosocial theory in literary works in the form of texts. Both writers and readers, especially at a young age, are expected to be more familiar with self-potential through an introduction to Erick Erikson's psychosocial theory. So, if classified, the writing of this research has 2 significant benefits that are expected to be carried out properly, while the purpose of writing this research includes:

##### 1. Theoretically

This research can provide broad insight for:

- 5 Student : add insight about prose appreciation study, especially in study character in the literary work, not only to learn intrinsic and extrinsic elements but learn deeper about the literary works from uncommon perspective , for example about the type of literary works with uncommon genre and literary review with psychology or culture aspects



6 Readers : The research are expected to tell the reader that literary work in truly inspired by real life even they may labeled with fiction, reader can learn from the theory used in this research to apply their understanding from psychosocial to life.

7 Other Researcher : From this research, the author expect other researcher to add this study as the references for further study about literary works, about how to analyze using the method of psycho-social development theory, or to examine the theory used here to other form of creative work.

2. Practically

This research increases knowledge in the field of literature, especially regarding the stages of psycho-social personality development theory that can affect the development of human character and can be applied in real life.