

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

There are many definitions when people try to define the meaning of literature. People can define it as an imaginative writing of someone in fiction; or a writing that uses language with an uncommon style; or someone's creative writing that contains many moral values such as spiritual, social, life, etc. The term 'novel' in English literature comes up in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries (Eagleton 1-3). A book of Terry Eagleton, entitled *The English Novel: An Introduction* explains that novel is a writing that is written in prose. However, this definition seems like confining the meaning of novel itself, because there are some novels that are written in a verse like Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* or Vikram Seth's *The Golden Gate*. Besides that, novel is also kind of literature that resists its definition. Because, people can find poetry or other literary works in a novel. Eagleton also adds that there are many genres of novel that we can find in literature, such as romantic and fantasy (1-3).

As a novel with fantasy genre, *The Alchemist* novel by Paulo Coelho succeed to become one of inspiring books in the world. Therefore, *The Alchemist* novel becomes the object of this analysis. This novel tells about the main character, Santiago, who tries to achieve the real treasure that locates in the Pyramid. This vision of treasure comes up twice on his dream and makes

Santiago curious about the meaning of the dream. Santiago's family background as a poor farmer gives the reason for Santiago to visit an old woman who can interpret the dream. After that, he also meets the old man, Melchizedek, who understands about the meaning of his dream. The old man gives some advices for Santiago to follow his dream. It convinces Santiago to make his dream of sleep to be his goal in the real life. On his journey of reaching the treasure, he confronts many obstacles that make him wants to give up for many times. However, Santiago always gets suggestion and motivation from his surrounding to keep continuing his journey.

Santiago's striving to compensate his inferiority feeling becomes the focus in this study. According to Individual Psychology of Alfred Adler, people strive for success because they have inferiority feeling. With this inferiority feeling, people create a goal to have a perfect life or the better future. As states by Adler (1956) in writing by Feist and Feist (71) about the striving force as compensation, people should feel inferior to have a reason to strive toward completion, and they who do not have an inferiority feeling, would not have any reasons to move toward completion or perfection. This kind of situation makes someone does not have any motivation that support them to achieve the final goal. Schultz and Schultz explain that "Adler proposed that inferiority feelings are the source of all human striving. Individual growth results from compensation, from our attempts to overcome our real or imagined inferiorities" (Schultz & Schultz 132). It means that Alfred Adler believes that feeling of inferiority becomes the reason behind

someone's striving. People will strive to achieve what they want as long as they still feel inferiority feeling. Adler also states that people are born with feeling of inferiority, and they are driven or motivated by the need to overcome the feeling of inferiority and to strive to get a better or higher levels of development. This feeling is the basic step of someone to make or create their final goal for the future.

In creating final goal, people can start from 4 or 5 years old. Because, Adler says on his theory that people's creative power develops about that age and it helps people to create their final goal freely. Adler also thinks that even a baby who is born with small and weakness has an urge to grow bigger, stronger, etc. (Feist & Feist 70).

Adler believed that people are motivated by present perceptions of the future and as fictions, these perceptions need not be conscious or understood. He believed that each person strives to become more perfect and this is their master motive. (Bell 3)

Adler believes that people's behavior in the present is motivated by the subjective perception (final goal) or expectation of future. Although this subjective perception is still an illusion, but the consciousness of creating it is important and should be understood. "Goals are signals that orient a person to what is valuable, meaningful, and purposeful" (Emmons 107). The quotation explains clearly that creating goal in life is an important thing and we can get many benefits of it. Someone who creates final goal will feel that their life has a better purpose to the future about what they are going to do or reach in life.

Clement Bezold (190) states that a goal can be a vision of future that is compelling or inspiring someone or community about what they want to achieve. “In either case, the final goal is fictional and has no objective existence. Nevertheless, the final goal has great significance because it unifies personality and renders all behavior comprehensible” (Feist & Feist 76). According to the quotation, although the final goal is still fictional, people will take a full awareness about what they are doing at a present time to support their final goal. Therefore, final goal has a great meaning to aim someone’s personality and behavior together to make the goal come real and compensate the feeling of inferior. However, people who have a goal should strive to implement any kinds of actions that will support them to reach the goal.

When people strive for the final goal that they have created, it will refer to two kinds of striving. “In his final theory, Adler identified two general avenues of striving. The first is the socially nonproductive attempt to gain personal superiority; the second involves social interest and is aimed at success or perfection for everyone” (Feist & Feist 72). In Adler’s theory, they are called striving for success and striving for personal superiority. Striving for success refers to people who strive for success of all humankind. They strive with concern to the social interest. For them, their successfulness is hopefully capable to help their surrounding. In their striving, they also see others as someone who can be invited to cooperate with, not as an opponent. Whereas striving for personal superiority has different meaning from striving for success. Striving for personal superiority refers to people who strive for

their personal gain without any concern to others. These kinds of people only focus on their own benefit and usually refer to the negative action. The real examples of this striving are becoming thieves, murders, etc.

All of the explanations above are portrayed in *The Alchemist* novel of Paulo Coelho. Therefore, this study uses *The Alchemist* novel as the object. In the novel, Santiago's striving for success becomes the topic that is interesting to be analyzed. The story tells us that every people have their own final goal and they will create their behavior according to the goal that they have made before. Schultz and Schultz state that although final goal is imaginative, it becomes the standard of perfection in someone's life. This imaginative perfection will always against the reality (Schultz & Schultz 135). For example, Santiago sets his final goal to discover the treasure because he wants to compensate his family background as a poor farmer. Using Individual Psychology theory of Alfred Adler, this study focuses on the striving for success portrayed by the main character in discovering the real treasure reflected in *The Alchemist* novel and kind of final goals achieved by Santiago.

B. Problem Formulation

1. How is striving for success portrayed by the main character in discovering the real treasure reflected in *The Alchemist* novel?
2. What kind of final goals achieved by Santiago?

C. Limitation of the Study

Based on the problems above, the limitation of this study focused on the striving for success of main character in discovering the real treasure reflected in *The Alchemist* novel and kind of final goals achieved by Santiago.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem above, this study proposes the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To explain the striving for success portrayed by the main character in discovering the real treasure reflected in *The Alchemist* novel.
2. To explain kind of final goals achieved by Santiago.

E. Significance of the Study

This study, entitled “Striving for Success of the Main Character Depicted in Paulo Coelho’s Novel: *The Alchemist*”, is expected to give benefits for the readers as follows:

1. This study can be used as one of references for literature students in analyzing literary works, such as novel, poetry, movie, etc.
2. This study can give knowledge for the readers who want to learn more about Individual Psychology by Alfred Adler.
3. This study also hopefully helps the readers to more understand about striving for success depicted in *The Alchemist* novel.

F. Organization of the Study

This study is systematically organized in chapters. Each chapter discusses different matter as follows:

The first chapter consists of Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study and Organization of the Study. The second chapter is about Review of the Related Literature that covers Synopsis, Theory of Individual Psychology by Alfred Adler, and Definition of Treasure. The third chapter contains Methodology Research which deals with Object of the Study, Types of the Data, Data Collecting Method, and Technique of Analysis Data. The fourth chapter is about Finding and Discussion. The fifth chapter is Conclusion and Suggestion.