CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the introduction of the study. There are some points of this study. They are Background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of research report. This chapter will explain those points one by one.

A. Background of the Study

Literary work is a form of human artwork which expresses idea, experience and knowledge. There are many aspects that can be presented through literary work like science, fiction, imaginative story, mystery and etc. As a creative art, literary work is a place that aims to deliver as though feeling, invention, culture, language, social life, psychology and others with using human as its object in order to make people understand about something through language as its intermediary media which is showed by oral or written. In other hand, literature also has purpose as entertainment. It could amuse and give insight for people who are curious about something by watching film, reading novel, listening music, and many more. Bertens states "literature also had important things to teach us, was already familiar in antiquity and we see it repeated time and again over the ages" (1).

There are many kind of literary work. One of the literary works that still greatly exist in society is Novel. Many things can be obtained from this work. Eagleton states "The English late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, the word 'novel' seems to have been used about both true and fictional events, and

even news reports were hardly to be considered factual" (1). Novel is a literary work in the form of prose which has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. A novel usually tells or depicts about the human life that interact with the environment and other people. It also contains a series of human's life stories by highlighting the character and nature of the perpetrator and the conflicts that occur to other people.

Problems and human life like love, family, and social environment often reflected by Novels. Through identifying intrinsic and extrinsic elements can direct how storyline of a novel. The existence of storyline can also be related to the character and purpose of the story that need to get attention and study thoroughly especially in understanding characteristic and psychology of a figure. Psychology is a study of soul or mentality. Psychology does not learn the soul or mental directly because its abstract nature, but psychology restricts the manifestations and expressions of the soul that is in the form of behavior and mental processes. Relatively, psychology is a scientific study of the process behavior and mental. Psychology is one part of behavioral science or social science. Dealing with psychology that discussing about human behavior, human personality, problems of social life, mental condition that can work together in building character and how people think about their life, literature can also criticize about human personality and character from people who are created by an author of literary work. Dastmard, Razmjoo, and Salehi also explain "Psychology and literature have a reciprocal relation, the psychology of the unconscious can be called literature, and is a dune mining approach to its foreign opinion, very familiar to literature and literary critics. In Psychological Review in

depth stories, and techniques for induction made ploy it is" (9423). Psychology was born to study the psyches of humans who are on the earth as the object of psychological research. While the literature was born in the society, the author lives in the midst of society and also creates literary works including the characters in it.

Humans are not perfect creature. They need helps of others and require interaction with other people. Every human has chance to pursue their dreams no matter they have disabilities or not. Environment is one influences the formation and development of individual behavior. Carlson states "Every person is born with natural strengths and weaknesses. In Adlerian Individual Psychology weaknesses in the body and perceived physical or environmental weakness create feelings of inferiority" (12). Humans are motivated by the main impulse, which is to overcome feelings of inferiority and to be superior. Inferiority means feeling week and not having the skills to deal with a task or situation that must be resolved. It does not mean being inferior to others in a general sense, while superiority does not mean feel better than others, but trying to be better, getting closer to one's ideal goals.

Motivation is a driving force for human actions or motive why someone does something, motivation is also about why someone does and what goals they are willing is that they do so. "Life moves us towards 'becoming' or 'overcoming', towards 'perfection' towards 'superiority' towards 'success'. Life is about survival and belonging. It is not possible to train or condition a living being for defeat" (John 2). For people with disabilities, the role of social

environment is very influential on the condition of soul and spirit. Physical deficiency makes people with disabilities become lack of opportunity to learn and interact with others so that they are treated differently from other normal humans. "Studies have documented that people with disabilities are confronted with experiences of discrimination, stigmatization in terms of attitudinal barriers, negative labeling, and prejudices in their daily encounters with able-bodied counterparts" (Singh and Chopra 10). Singh and Chopra also states "Research has found that people with disabilities encounter experiences of unfriendly, hostile gaze that invade their minds and give them the sense of negative perception about them and make them feel as a non-existent entity" (11).

Positive social life, culture, family, and support are very required by them to show their ability in changing and learning. Based on the phenomenon of social treatment from society towards people with disabilities, the way of thinking must be necessarily changed to overcome the feeling of inferiority against the lack of perfection on people. Forms of defense carried out by people with disabilities to overcome this inferiority complex in psychology known as the term "Striving for Superiority". It is carried out in order to overcome feelings of inferiority and less valuable that is on people. To overcome the feelings of inferiority, the way of people thinking with disabilities must be changed, from negative ways to be positive ways and optimistic. When people are striving for their superiority, the process from inferiority to superiority must have many obstacles in the middle of reaching the goal. That condition will lead people to face a creative power. Creative power can bring a power for people in reaching their goal. People have

freedom to choose the path they want, design their lives and take responsibility for their lives.

Flowers For Algernon is a short story or a science fiction novel written by Daniel Keyes. The Novel written in 1958 and first published in the April 1959, released of the Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, it won the Hugo Award for Best Short Stories in 1960. In 1966, the novel became the joint winner of the Best Nebula for Novel Award that year. The *Flowers for Algernon* tells about a man named Charlie Gordon who has a low IQ and physical disability. His family was offered by a university to put Charlie into an experiment that was believed to stimulate the brain so that people with low IQ would become genius. This experiment has been carried out on a mouse named Algernon, and now the mouse became a smart mouse that can play intelligence-challenging games.

There are two reasons why the writer wants to analyze this novel. First, the writer wants to know about individual psychology through characterization of Charlie Gordon in facing his limitedness. Charlie as the main character of this novel is very important one to be analyzed because he was able to adapt and facing his environment in positive and right ways when people treated him in bad ways. The second, the writer wants to know about the purpose of Charlie Gordon and how he applies his reliance in fighting the superiority and also controlling the creative power. Based on the background above, the writer proposes to conduct a research entitled "The Portrayal of Striving for Superiority and Creative Power on Charlie's Character Reflected in Daniel Keyes's *Flowers for Algernon*".

B. Problem Formulation

In order to analyze the main character's striving for superiority appears on *Flowers for Algernon* novel in detail, this study formulates two problems as follow:

1. How is Feeling of Inferiority portrayed by the main character in *Flowers for Algernon* novel?

2. How is Motivation portrayed by the main character in *Flowers for Algernon* novel?

3. How is creative power described by the main character in *Flowers for Algernon* novel as an effort in striving for superiority?

4. How is Striving for Superiority portrayed by the main character in *Flowers for Algernon* novel?

C. Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of the study, this study focuses on analysis the main character named "Charlie" who has mental retardation reflected in *Flowers for Algernon* Novel by Daniel Keyes. It will discuss about feeling of inferiority, motivation, striving for superiority and creative power as an effort in striving for superiority by exposing the main character in facing difficult family situation and the middle of environment that does not support him, based on Alfred Adler's Individual Psychology.

D. Objectives of the study

The results of the primary objective of the study such:

1. To describe feeling of inferiority on Charlie's character in *The Flowers for Algernon* Novel

2. To describe motivation Charlie's character in *The Flowers for Algernon* Novel

3. To explain creative power as an effort in striving for superiority on Charlie's character in *The Flowers For Algernon* Novel

4. To describe striving for superiority on Charlie's character in *The Flowers for Algernon* Novel

E. Significance of the study

This study will give some benefits to the reader. Especially, for the student of English literature program in Language Faculty and Communication Science in the following ways:

1. This study of striving for superiority which is reflected in *Flowers for Algernon* Novel could help the students of English literature who want to know more about individual psychology in detail.

2. This study could be useful for students who might use the result of this study as a reference to make the similar research topic.

F. Organization of Research Report

The Proposal Writing presents into three chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter covers the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of research report. Chapter two, it is about synopsis and theory of the study. In addition, chapter three contains of research methodology

that consist of types of research, data organizing, types of the data, and analyzing the data. Chapter four consists of Findings and Discussions and Chapter five provides Conclusion and Suggestions.