

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Literature has occupied an important place in human being, since it helps people to express what they think through a creative work. Literature is also known as the result of what author thinks based on the real life in the society. It contains of interaction between human and environment. The author who has imaginative sense as the picture of aesthetic value, consciousness base and responsibility can create a literary work which feels real and be alive. It is equal to argument of Imam Ja'far Al-Shodiq as a Muslim Scholar and Philosopher (1995) that "literature is the garment which one puts on what he says or writes so that it may appear more attractive. Literature is a slice of life that has been given direction and meaning, an artistic interpretation of the world." Indeed, literary work is an expression of life by understanding, expressing, and sharing experience that have been through by human, this is as what Pickering, James H & Hoeper, Jeffrey D (1981:307) said that "literature is a uniquely human activity, born of man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences." It is having the same aim with Klarer (2004:1) who says that in the most cases, "Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can

be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word". Based on the definition of literature above, it shows that literature is the part of unique human activities (by understand, express, and share experience) which is formed as the written expression consisting non-exact sense of the word. Shortly, literature is the sharing experience of uniquely human activity in written form without exact sense.

Rely on Khazar Journal of Humanities and Social Science (Volume 19, p.49), Literature and psychology are two branches of science that use human as the object of the study. Psychology analyzes human behaviors and their causes while literature depicts human behavior through fiction. These two branches of science studying human behavior which are interrelated and mutually beneficial each other. Literary work is the form of the correlation between psychology and literature. Literary works study human being and describe their inner world with all its aspect. A literary work supports psychology in terms depicting human psychological condition. Jung noted, psychology also provides insights into literature by exploring mental processes. A literary work benefits from psychology in terms of successfully presenting characters, expressing their moods, and bringing the reader into the psychological dimension of human reality. Psychology and study of literature meet in their focus on phantasies, emotions and human soul. Thus there exists a two-way relationship based on mutual interaction between literature and psychology, in the form of evaluation

of a literary work with the resources of psychology and obtaining psychological truths from a literary work. Ismet Emre, Turk Academician (2006, p. III) gives the following explanation of the relationship between the two disciplines:

Beside literature and psychology there is no other branch of science which is engaged so much in the study of the relationship between human body and soul with its contradictions and dilemmas, making efforts to define the relationship in terms of certain rules, to know the mysterious aspects of the human soul and its subconscious areas by means of long and detailed journeys: at the same time both branches have been struggling in their existence between arts and science for about a century.

The quotation above is talking about literature and psychology. They are blended in a unity named literary work. As the implementation of that, this study will analyze a literary work by Roald Dahl and focus on “Three Ring Conception” by Renzulli. This theory explains about giftedness and characteristic of giftedness.

David G. Armstrong and Tom V. Savage (1983:324) says “the term gifted and talented children means in accordance with objective criteria prescribed by the commissioner, children who have outstanding intellectual ability or creative talent, the development of which requires special activities or services not ordinarily provided by local educational agencies.” Meanwhile, Kaufman (2008) has opinion of giftedness, he says that:

“Conceptions of giftedness can be based on either explicit theory or implicit theory of giftedness. An explicit theory is one proposed by a scientist or educator who has studied giftedness and has arrived at a conception of giftedness that has been subject to some kind of empirical test. An implicit theory is simply a layperson’s conception of a phenomenon. It has no explicit scientific basis. It might be looked at as “pragmatic” conception rather than as one based on rigorous research. Regardless from the giftedness signs which come to a person in what age, conception of giftedness comes to lead and see the point of view of phenomenon (giftedness) to be analyzed in the giftedness child”.

There are two kinds of giftedness, first is explicit theory which categorizes giftedness based on the empirical test. The second is implicit theory, which categorizes giftedness based on the sign of the child itself, without knowing the IQ score. This refers to theory from Renzulli which analyzes giftedness by knowing children characters.

Three Ring Conception by Renzulli (1979) is also called as “Three Dimensional.” He said that gifted covers three dimensional. Those are (a) Above Average Ability (b) Creativity (c) Task Commitment. Those three aspects are in tight correlation each other. In Above Average Ability there are two types of ability, they are “general ability” and “specific ability”. The creativity consists of the fluency, flexibility, originality of thought, an open to

experience, sensitivity to stimulations, a willingness to take risks. And task commitment consists of motivation turned into action. Those three dimensional blend into one and work together. When those characteristics from all the rings work together, it can achieve high result as what Renzulli said.

This study uses “Three Ring Conception” by Renzulli as the theory to analyzes the main character of *Matilda* novel. The focus of this study is characteristic of giftedness child as reflected in the *Matilda* novel by Roald Dahl. There are some considerations why *Matilda Novel* is interesting for this study. The first reason is moral value of the story, a little child who has giftedness characteristics. The second is we can know the giftedness child by seeing the characteristics and the activities. Therefore, the title of this study is: GIFTEDNESS CHILD AS DESCRIBED IN ROALD DAHL’S *MATILDA*.

B. Scope of The Study

To avoid the widespread of discussion, the study is limited on the main problems. The study focuses on the *Matilda*’s personalities relates to her gifted characteristics in the *Matilda*’s novel. Another focus is stimulation personality toward giftedness characters of *Matilda* in the *Matilda*’s novel.

C. Problem Formulation

In order to restrict widespread the study, the inquiry will be guided by the following question:

1. What kind of Matilda's personalities reflected in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*?
2. What kind of Matilda's personality toward giftedness characters as reflected in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*?

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study as follows:

- a. To identify the personality of Matilda reflected in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*.
- b. To describe stimulation personality toward giftedness characters of Matilda as the main character in Roald Dahl's *Matilda*.

E. Significance of the Study

Literary works always gives knowledge and significance information about history, sociology, psychology, culture, etc. Because it is an interesting way to enrich our knowledge. *Matilda* is a novel that contains psychological aspect as reflected on the main character, Matilda. After reading this study, it is expected to give the readers information, especially the information about personalities of Matilda and stimulation personality toward giftedness characters as reflected in the *Matilda's* novel. Moreover, this study is used to help the readers in understanding characteristics and social life of gifted children in the society.

In literature field, this study can be used as a reference to help the students to understand how a literary work may integrate with psychological theory. Furthermore, specifically for the students of literature, it can be used as a reference

to analyse another literary work which relates to giftedness personality. The study sincerely is expected to be a useful document toward study of literature.

F. Organization of the Research Report

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

Chapter one provides introduction that consists of these matters: background of the study, scope of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study significance of the study, and organization of the research report. Chapter two is about theoretical framework that covers synopsis, theory of “Three Ring Conception” by Renzulli, relation of psychology theory and literature. Chapter three is research method that consists of data collecting method, the source of the data and data analysis technique. Chapter four contains of discussion and analysis which are Matilda’s personalities and characters of giftedness child that Matilda has. And chapter five is the conclusion and suggestion.