

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there are some points conveyed including background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

The easiest way to see the human's life phenomenon is by reading literature. Literature consists of two canons both fiction and non-fiction which is to be a means for humans to express their feelings and perspectives. Literature is written aesthetically by the author so it is read aesthetically as well. Literature is a part of life that can not be separated from humans' real life stories since the content is always reflected human's life. This is why literature is the mirror of a society regarding to what is still happening in the society. In short, people easily shape culture or identity by reading literature because through literature, the writer is deliberately open in interpretation (Meyer, 1997:4).

Not only as the reflection of human life, but also there are many studies decide that literature is a medium for shaping character. Literature basically provides a platform for critical discussions about what it means to live a good life, meaning life and ethical life (Choo and Poon, 2015:1). By reading literature, reader is offered many characters with different personality. It makes the reader learns which one is good and which one is bad, if reading literature becomes a habit it could shape the reader's

character. In conclusion, literature does not only tell an imaginative story but also some lessons to learn from.

One of literature that reflects the society and gives moral value is a short story by Bharati Mukherjee. Bharati Mukherjee is an author of some short stories that often writes about immigrants in America. Her background as an immigrant in America influences her writing. Bharati Mukherjee also best known as “the exuberance of immigration” in every of her work. She is not only known as an author who draws best about immigrant but also her capability of telling diverse ethnic background.

The Management of Grief is one of Mukherjee’s short stories in 1988. It tributes to the victims of Sikh terrorist bombing in India air plane on June 23rd, 1985. It tells about the struggles of Mrs. Shaila Bhavé againsts the grief inside her self. Mrs. Shaila Bhavé’s family becomes the victim of the bombing air plane and it makes her live alone and manage the deep grief left behind. In managing the deep grief Mrs. Shaila Bhavé passes a long struggles. She basically can not accept the death of her family, but by the help of her society, culture, person and time she can handle the grief. She fights against the deep grief and also helps other victims of India air plane.

Based on the issues above, this study tries to convey about how is the struggles of Mrs. Shaila Bhavé after she is left by her family, in addition she is also trusted by her environment who are dominated by Canadians, to cover the other victims. In the other sides, Mrs. Shaila Bhavé, in the environment of western culture is not literally assimilated to be Canadians

even though she lives in Canada for years. She even articulates the voice of the bombing air plane victims, after the grief that she faced. This adds the successful indicator of her grief management.

The management of grief by Mrs. Shaila Bhave is a lesson that could be taken for the readers. Basically, grief is not an easy thing for everyone but everyone will feel it someday. Dr. Katherine Shear, a professor of psychiatry, in her journal stated that:

The period of acute grief, which begins after a person learns that a loved one has died, includes elements of both the 'separation response' (i.e., a specific response to separation from a loved one) and the response to stress. There is strong yearning, longing, and sadness, and thoughts and images of the deceased person are prominent (Shear, 2015:1)

According to Shear, a person who faces grief must be felt a deep sad which tend to be a separation inside.

Dr. Shear in her other writing also mentions, about 2 to 3% of the population in this world tends to have an acute grief of feeling after the loss of a child or a life partner by a sudden death (Shear, 2015:2). Based on her explanation, in the case of Mrs. Shaila Bhave, she lost her husband and her two sons because of the bombing in India air plane. She is the only one who is still alive after that incident. By logic, if the grief management of Mrs. Shaila Bhave is not well-maintained, she should have felt a deep depression

because of the sudden death of her life partner and her two sons. In contrast, she survives after the death of her family and covers the others.

Moreover, it shows that Mrs. Shaila Bhavé basically faces a conflict in her life after the death of her family. In *The management of grief*, instead of being helped by a psychologist or other experts, Mrs. Shaila Bhavé resolves her conflict by herself. The process of Mrs. Shaila Bhavé in resolving her own conflict becomes the highlight of this paper, that Mrs. Shaila Bhavé has a good conflict resolution.

This undergraduate paper uses conflict resolution theory which explained by Johan Galtung and supported by other experts. This theory uses to approach the psychology condition of Mrs. Shaila Bhavé in facing her conflict and how to find the resolution. The writer identifies that there exists a long process in the way of Mrs. Shaila Bhavé manages her grief. This process could be a lesson for everyone who might face the same feeling, so it will not be an acute grief that addresses to be any fatal reaction.

The theory of conflict resolution first begins when the world war happened. In Carolyn Manning journal about “Defining Conflict Resolution”, she explains more about conflict resolution based on Boule. According to Boule (1996), there are many interpretation toward conflict resolution theory. Boule stated that:

On one hand, conflict resolution can be regarded as any process that resolves or ends conflict via methods which can include violence or warfare. Alternatively, it can be

viewed as a non-violent process that manages conflict through compromise, or through the assistance of a third party who either facilitates or imposes a settlement or resolution (Manning, 2007:3)

One of the experts who concerns on conflict of resolution theory, Lindner, stated that “We must learn to put our negative emotions in check to constructive levels and to nurture positive emotions. It has been shown that coping and resilience are associated with positive emotions even under chronic stress,” (Deutsch, 1983:1). Based on the quotation about conflict resolution, it can be concluded that conflict resolution is an effort to nurture the negative emotions into the positive emotions.

Johan Galtung as the founder of conflict resolution theory states that peace is the only way of to resolve a conflict. Whether it is an inner or outer peace. “If we begin with the need to survive, we immediately see that peace is a primary requirement of the human condition itself,” (Webel and Galtung, 2007:3). Dealing with conflict resolution theory, there are process in building peace. This process also happens to Mrs. Shaila Bhave as the main character in *The Management of Grief*.

The conflict resolution effort appears to Mrs. Shaila Bhave happens in the days after her husband and her two sons passed away. Before she covers other victims of the India air plane, she passed the days by recalling the memories of her husband and her two sons. Not only that but she also denies the reality and fights against her self, that she believes she can not cover

others, in fact she can. Those are the beginning of a conflict inside Mrs. Shaila Bhavé. Her journey in managing deep grief is started when there is an inner conflict inside her self.

After all her inner conflict, she slowly accepts the reality that her family already passed away. Fortunately, she is not alone in her process of managing deep grief but she is accompanied by people around her. Her grief is managed well not only because of her willingness to fight against it but also because of things around her and time. Mrs. Shaila Bhavé has her own reasons why she can manage her grief. What makes her success in managing grief is she survives after it by covering other victims.

The belief that Mrs. Shaila Bhavé can handle her deep grief is acknowledged by her society. That is the reason why the society trusts Mrs. Shaila Bhavé to cover other victims. It shows some quotations inside the story “—and with the complications of culture, language, and customs. Someone mentioned that Mrs. Bhavé is a pillar—because you’ve taken it more calmly,” (Mukherjee, 1988:3). Based on the quotation, it shows how Mrs. Shaila Bhavé is trusted by the society because of her peace after her grief and also is indicated as the success of fighting against deep grief.

There are some considerations why *The Management of Grief* is interesting for this study. First is because the background of the author itself. Bharati Mukherjee is an author who is very identic with immigrant

and culture. When it comes to her short story, she as an immigrant would depict the best as possible about the issue of immigrant. Second of all, this short story is portrayed the self of Mrs. Shaila Bhave as the main character who faces a grief but she can manage it well. Those elements make this story is full of moral values since it is inspired from real event.

B. Problem Formulation

1. How are the conflicts of Mrs. Shaila Bhave during her deep grief portrayed in *The Management of Grief* short story?
2. How is the resolution of Mrs. Shaila Bhave in fighting against deep grief depicted in *The Management of Grief* short story?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this undergraduate paper, the study is highlighted on the struggles of Mrs. Shaila Bhave in managing her deep grief through conflict resolution by identifying the conflicts then finding the resolution. The aim of this study is to analyze Mrs. Shaila Bhave's grief management based conflict resolution theory. In term of data, this study would like to limit it into textual source by analyzing the short story.

D. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze Mrs. Shaila Bhave's conflict during her deep grief.
2. To describe the resolution of Mrs. Shaila Bhave in fighting against deep grief.

E. Significance of the study

A literary work always gives moral values and comfort to the readers or viewers. It also gives some important information and reflects the society *The Management of Grief* is one of literary works that contains information and as the mirror of society. The study is expected to give the readers many benefits and rich knowledge as well after reading this study. By doing this study hopes that everyone can use it as reference in their proposal writing or final project for further study using conflict resolution theory related to this topic, especially the students of College of Languages and Communication Science Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang majoring literature.

F. Organization of the Study

This final project is systematically organized into some chapters. Each chapter discusses different points as follows:

Chapter one provides introduction that consists of these matter: the Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study and Organization of the Study. Chapter two is about Reviews of the Related Literature that covers Synopsis and Conflict Resolution theory. Chapter three contains Research Method, which deals with Types of the Data, Data Organizing, and Analyzing the Data. Chapter four contains Findings and Discussion and Chapter five provides Conclusion and Suggestions.