

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter one in this study is divided into six sub-chapters. They are Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, as well as Organization of the Study.

A. Background of the Study

In a social environment, it is often found people who have feeling of inferiority. Usually people who have feeling of inferiority will assume that they do not have meaningful abilities. As soon as the individual realizes his existence, he feels inferior about his role in the environment. Individuals see that many human beings have the ability to achieve something they cannot do. This feeling of inferiority arises when the individual want to compete the strengths and abilities of others (Schultz and Schultz 132).

There are some reasons that make people feel inferiority, such as mental inferiority complex, low sense of social self, and physical inferiority. Mental inferiority complex is caused by low capture power, small talent, and little ability. Low sense of social is caused by treatments of other people or communities in the past that unreasonable, whereas physical inferiority is caused by physical defects, as what Hjelle and Ziegler state in their book entitled *Personality Theories: Basic Assumption, Research and Application*, that each individual, certain organs are somewhat weaker than other, making the person

more susceptible to illnesses and diseases involving these organs (141).

Similarly, Adler states in Feist and Feist's book entitled *Theory of Personality* that each person has their own power to create a personality and reach the goal of success. Feelings of oppression, pressure, insulted, physical deficiencies are the parts of human's inferiority. Those things activate feelings of inferiority; that feelings that motivate a person to strive for either superiority or success (70).

Feeling of inferiority can indirectly affect a person's quality of life. Someone who has feeling of inferiority will withdraw from society. They prefer to be alone and not to get along. Therefore they feel lonely. Leonard M. Horowitz, Rita de S. French, and Craig A. Anderson state in their journal entitled *The Prototype of a Lonely Person*:

When people say "I feel lonely," their intended meanings are not precise. Three people beginning psychotherapy with a complaint of loneliness may have quite distinct problems in mind: One may be experiencing an awkwardness in initiating social contacts, another may be experiencing deep feelings of inferiority and inadequacy, a third may be experiencing existential feelings of separateness and alienation (183).

The feeling of inferiority is divided into two categories: primary and secondary feelings of inferiority. The following is the explanation of primary and secondary feelings of inferiority.

A primary feeling inferiority is from the actual experience of childhood when individuals are weak, helpless, and dependent on adults. The

secondary feeling of inferiority is related to the experience of adults when an individual fails to achieve the goal (Rochemont 4-5).

In addition, people who have feeling of inferiority such as physical conditions should do many things in their life. They should prove they can be like the others. The physical defects do not make them totally weak. Hence, people who have physical defects also have chances to get success and to reach their goal in their life.

Adler explains that every people who lives in this world is blessed with small bodies, weakness and feelings of inferiority (Feist and Feist 71). Therefore, they have the desire to achieve the goal of superiority or no concern for others. People try to achieve goals and success in compensation for their feelings of inferiority and weakness. To achieve this way, people need motivation.

Richard M. Ryan and Edward L. Deci state that to be motivated means to be moved to do something (54). Motivation has two categories; they are intrinsic motivation and extrinsic motivation. Intrinsic motivation is important construct, reflect the natural human propensity to learn and assimilate, whereas extrinsic motivation is argued to vary considerably in its relative autonomy and thus can either reflect external control or true self-regulation. Therefore, motivation is very important for people who want to be successful. By motivation, people will realize that success depends on themselves.

Feist and Feist in their book states that each person has their own power to create the goal of successes. Feelings of oppression, pressure, insulted are the parts of human's inferiority. Also physical deficiencies that activate feelings of

inferiority can be source of motivation of a person to strive for either superiority or success (70-76).

The issues of feeling inferiority, motivation, and striving for success exist in *Wonder* novel. *Wonder* is a novel that provides lessons on motivation and striving for success. August as the main character of the novel shows his motivation and striving for success. As the object of this study, the novel tells about August Pullman. He is the youngest child of the Pullman family. August is a ten years old boy who opens the story of *Wonder*. August gets pressure by his condition because he has a genetic disorder. He always imagines and thinks about his current condition. His condition makes other people stare at him even bully him. Of course this is a very hard thing for a child. The problem begins when his mother has decided to try him to go to the public school and make friends with other children. This situation makes August startled. Later, he forces himself to step and fight his condition. He does not care about it. He tries to survive his entire problem. His family and friends become one of the reasons to be strong.

In *Wonder* novel, people who meet August always stare at him and get away from him. Although he has to deal with a condition that can make him oppressed, he also shows that he is a powerful figure. These conditions often occur when August tries to bounce from his problem. August tries to strive the problem that he has and tries to stop being weak. Basically, motivation deals with people encouragement to do something in order to get their purposes, like what August does.

Therefore, based on the background above, this study is entitled “Striving for Success as Reflected by August Pullman as the Main Character in R. J. Palacio’s *Wonder*”.

B. Problem Formulation

In order to analyze August as the main character’s striving for success in *Wonder* novel in details, this study formulates three problems as follow:

1. How is August’s feeling of inferiority described in *Wonder* novel?
2. How is August’s motivation described in *Wonder* novel?
3. How is August’s striving for success depicted in *Wonder* novel?

C. Limitation of the Study

Related to the background of the study, this study focuses on the analysis of August as the main character in *Wonder* novel by R. J. Palacio. This study will discuss about striving for success by exposing August as the main character of the novel, based on Alfred Adler’s individual psychology.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe August’s feeling of inferiority in *Wonder* novel.
2. To explain August’s motivation in *Wonder* novel.
3. To discuss August’s striving for success depicted in *Wonder* novel.

E. Significance of the Study

This study will give some benefits to the readers, especially, for the students of English Literature program in Faculty of Languages and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. First, this

study becomes one of references to the next researchers to find out Adler's individual psychology in any kind of literary work, novel in particular or to the next researcher who wants to understand more about correlation between literary work and psychology field by reading the novel and this research.

Second, this study will show how people who have feeling of inferiority such as physical defects in achieving success or goal. By knowing that people who have physical defects will learn that they can do many things in their life and prove they can be like others. The physical defects do not make them totally weak. Hence, people who have physical defects also have chances to get success and to reach their goal in their life.

F. Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter one is the introduction of the study which consists of 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 consists of reviews of related literature which is related to the synopsis of the novel and the discussion of the theory. The theories used in this study are individual psychology, feeling of inferiority, motivation, and striving for success as reflected on the analyzed subject. Chapter three is research method. It discusses about the methodology of the research. Chapter four presents findings and discussion of data analysis that solves the problem formulation. Chapter five contains the conclusion and suggestion.