1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Analysis

Literature is the expression of feeling, passion, and emotion caused by a sensation of the interestingness of life. A literature work has an element of entertaining. It can affect our feeling and emotions. A literary work gives more lesson through the aspect of human life such as social, cultural, moral and religion aspects. According to Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* (1956: 94), literature represents ‘life’ and ‘life’, in a large measure, is a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been object of the literary imitation. It means that literature expresses life reality without ignoring the environment which influences the writing.

Wellek and Warren (1956: 227) point out that literary genre is originated from drama, epic and lyric. As literary genre developed, epic become prose, lyric become poetry, and drama has retained its own name. The three modern genres are classified as imaginative literature. Robert and Jacobs (1995: 2) say that prose is classified into two, fiction, and nonfiction. Fiction is based on the author’s imagination. It included myths, romances, novels, and short stories. In this thesis, novel is the main material.

According to *Merriam Webster’s Encyclopedia of Literature* (1995: 819), “Novel is fictional prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience through a connected sequence of events involving a group of person in a specific setting.” The statements in novel are not literally true. It may provide the image of every day reality but its character differs from a figure in real
life. He has no past no future and sometimes no continuity of life. Time and space are not those of real life, it obviously describes fiction as world of imagination.

These days, we often hear the news about child abuse. Many films and articles in magazines, or newspapers report on the problem but the cases are often reported sensationaly, so that we progressively do not understand what and how the real fact of child abuse is, and what is really experienced and suffered by a child who becomes the victim.

The US Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) No. 42U.S.C.A§51106g), defines child as:

A person who has not attained the age of 18, except in case of sexual abuse, or the age specified by the child protection law of the state in which child resides.

Simply stated, child abuse is a bad treatment of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caretaker, someone living in their home, or someone who works with or around children. According to WHO, Child Abuse Prevention (1999) states that:

Child abuse or maltreatment constitutes all forms of physical and/ or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment or commercial or other exploitation, resulting in actual or potential harm to the child to the child’s health, survival, development or dignity, in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power.

A Child Called ‘It’: One Child’s Courage to Survive is David J. Pelzer's 1995 autobiographical account of his maltreatment as a child by his alcoholic mother, Catherine Roerva, who singled him out much more so from among her other children as an object of abuse. He writes about his struggle to stay alive in a home where he is
treated like a slave and an animal. The book begins with the people at Dave's school finally report Dave and his condition to the authorities. The whole book is a flashback, except for the very beginning, when a police officer is taking the boy away from his mother, to freedom.

He does not create his material in the literal sense of the word, he simply digs them out of his accumulated experiences. This book, the first part of the trilogy, based on the child’s life from ages 4 to 12, depicts language that was developed from a child’s viewpoint. The tone and vocabulary reflect the ages and wisdom of the child at the particular time.

*General Comments* by Shelliec on 20th July 2006, this heart warming book is an horrendous true story. Dave was a young child when he was brutally abused by his unfit mother. She is one of the cruelest people that I have ever come across in my life whether it be in a book or not. What shocked me the most about this book was the fact that she never treated her other two children this way. Dave's story will warm your heart, because he was very brave from the off, he never seemed to want his mother to win; he fought for survival often having to eat scraps of food, sometimes frozen as he had to steal it from the school canteen. He ate dog food out of desperation, and rummaged through bins just to get the odd scraps. That was without all of the beatings that he endured. The abuse this brave little child endured at the hands of his own mother was so far unbelievable that I actually thought it was fiction. This heart-breaking book will not fail to reach your heart!

These are the reasons why I am interested in analyzing Dave Pelzer’s novel “*A Child Called ‘It’: One Child’s Courage to Survive.*”
1.2 The Statement of the Problem

Dave Pelzer’s novel “A Child Called ‘It’: One Child’s Courage to Survive” deals more directly with Dave’s experience as a victim of child abuse.

The problem is to be analyzed in this novel that are below:

1) Some types of abuse that inflict child suffering.

2) The relation between alcohol and child violence.

1.3 The Objective of the Analysis

The objective of the analysis stands for the object that is going to analyze based on the problem of the analysis. The objective of the thesis is to find out and to prove whether the types are child abuse as well as to prove whether alcohol is link to violence.

1.4 The Scope of the Analysis

In doing the analysis, we need to limit the fields that are going to be analyzed. It is to make sure that the analysis is not out of context. I focus only on the types of child abuse and the relation between alcohol and violence as reflected in Dave Pelzer’s novel, not other aspects of novel.

1.5. Theoretical Approach

Abrams (1984) divides Literary Research into four different kinds. They are Expressive Approach; deal with the internal point of view of the author, because it is believed that art is the result of images. Objective Approach, stress on the text of the literary works itself, Mimetic Approach, literary research deals with the universe, and Pragmatic Approach, literary research deals with receptive mind of the reader toward the literary text. By the classification, I use mimetic theory. It focuses on the relation
between the literary text and the extra–textual universe. Abrams in *A Glossary of Literary Terms* (1984: 97) says that mimetic views the work as a true imitation, reflection, or presentation of the world and human life.

Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* (1956: 75) state that there are two approaches in analyzing the literary works. They are intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach is a kind of approach, which analyze literary works based on the text and the structural points of literary works, characters, plot, setting, style, point of view, etc. Extrinsic approach is a kind of approach, which analyzes the relationship between the content and the other discipline of knowledge such as history, religion, psychology, biography, etc.

In this thesis, I use extrinsic approach by relating the story with psychology. Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* (1956: 8) say that by psychology of literature, we may mean study of the psychological types and law present with works of literature. Psychology is a scientific study of behavior, both external observable action and internal thought. Feldmen gives the definition of psychology in his book *Social Psychology* (1985: 63):

“Psychology is the study of the mind and its process, human behaviours, as the member of the society, love between parent and their children, love between men and women, hatred and marriage.”

I relate this story with health and safety in child care. All children need protection from injury and infection, both of which can lead to discomfort, disability, or event death. Aronson in *Health and Safety in Child Care* (1991: 2) states that:

*Health and safety issues in child care are identified by looking at the most significant risks to the health of children and adults in the child care setting.*
I also relate it with sociology that interferes with deviant behavior, which inflicts social problem. Goodie (1977) states that social problems refer to deviant behavior, such as crime and juvenile delinquency, alcoholism, mental illness, drug addiction, sex offenses, divorce and suicide.

1.6 The Method of the Analysis

In writing this thesis, I use the library research by collecting the data from books. I use Dave Pelzer’s novel “A Child Called ‘It’: One Child’s Courage to Survive” as the main source. The novel contents the important information for the subject matter that is being analyzed. I also use some other books and resources as references related to this thesis. In analyzing Dave Pelzer’s novel “A Child Called ‘It’: One Child’s Courage to Survive,” I follow the procedure as follow:

a. Data Collecting

In this first step, I collect and underline the important things from the novel. I do the same thing with the related books and references.

b. Data Selecting

The second step is to select all the information that has been collected and only the significant data are used in the process of doing this thesis.

c. Data Analyzing

The last step, all the selected data are being analyzed to achieve what has been planned in the objective of this thesis and finally a conclusion can be drawn from this thesis.
1.7 Review of the Related Literature

I use several books in supporting this thesis. The following are the title and the review of the books. Some of them can be mentioned as follow:


The writer of this book says that health risks are identified by cause of death, disease, disability, and discomfort. A child does not to suffer pain, terror, embarrassment, isolation, restraint, or corruption to learn how to behave in civilized society.


Carmen Germaine Warner and G. Richard Braen point out that the cause of child maltreatment has been attributed to many different factors. Certain characteristics of individual child may make that child more “abuse able” than another child. It is believed that the greater the stress upon the family, the more likely it is that abuse will occur as well as abuse of drugs or alcohol, absence of strong family bonds, individual mental illness, and lack of education in “mother crafting” have all been mentioned as parental factors in etiology.


Hafen with Brog explain that alcohol quickly enters the bloodstream and affects the central nervous system, removing some of the “controls” that generally operate on individuals.