CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Earlier Studies

The novel of *The Bluest Eye* brings Child Abuse and Adults Failures as its main topic brings the analysis of the novel to psychological approach as well as to extrinsic approach. Those approaches are a great tool for reading beneath the lines. If Morris and Abert A. Maistro (2005) mentioned that psychology is the scientific study of human’s behaviour and mental process, Wellek and Austin Warren (1956:94) said that literature represents life and life in a large measure, is a social reality. Thus, it can be assumed that life represents society (human). In the literary work, human is known as character. So, the study of certain literary works using psychological approach as the base can be done since there’s a human, known as character that possesses behaviour that can be analyzed.

The studying which had been done by Alfina (2008) as her thesis also provides deeper understanding of how psychology enters the literature, i.e. through human’s behaviour which can be seen in the characters. Different from Alfina who only focused on kinds of Child Abuse as well as the effects of the Child Abuse to a child, in this thesis, the elements of psychology which are going to be studied is directed to the characters. The focus will be on Child Abuse and Adults’ Failure towards an adolescent and adults. Things which are befallen by them which are somehow developed their personality. Although the analysis which is going to be done is slightly different, the reading of Alfina’s analysis somehow also provides considerable assistance in understanding the term and the description of Child Abuse itself.
In Santrock (1998), Sigmund Freud as the contributor of the modern psychology believed that adolescents’ lives are filled with tension and conflict. To reduce this tension, they keep information locked in their unconscious mind (Santrock, 1998:42). According to him, human beings are not as rational as what they imagine. Human beings have “free will” which is largely an illusion. The illusion is an unconscious hidden thing which consists of a dynamic cauldron of primitive and aggressive drives, forbidden desires, nameless fears and wishes, and traumatic childhood memories (Morris, 2005:13).

In Pasotti (1977:128), Sigmund Freud divides the humans’ mind into three parts, namely: id, ego, and superego. While id is dominated by the pleasure principle, the ego is dominated by reality principle, and the superego is dominated by the morality principle. Humans need to be able to control his id using his ego and superego. It is because the failure of a person will happen when the id, such as forbidden desires, the traumatic childhood memories, etc are not be able to be controlled by ego or superego. Like what is happened to Cholly Breedlove in *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola is raped for Cholly can’t control his id.

While in Koswara (1991), it is said that Abraham Harold Maslow opposes Freud’s theory. The theory which assumes man is basically possessed an evil character. According to the view of Humanistic Psychology, man is basically a good or neutral human being. The one that damaged his goodness is his bad environment.

Maslow is then arranged his theory, which is known as Hierarchy of Needs (1970). There, he divides the level of human needs into a five level of pyramids. Starting from the bottom are the psychological needs, the safety needs, the belongingness and love needs, the esteem needs, and the need for self-actualization on the top of the pyramid. Thus, it can also be said that things which are done by
Cholly is because of his environment forces. Due to his inability in fulfilling his safety needs, where there’s still a fear of his past that keeps frightening him, he is eventually led to the disability to share his love with his family. From those of all, the compliance of the psychological needs is the uppermost for it is the main stimulus and booster of humans’ behaviours.

Adults like Cholly, or Pauline, or Soaphead Church in *The Bluest Eye* are supposed to be children safeguarding, whom children can seek for help. Hedy Cleaver (2009) stated clearly that children are easy to hurt. Thus, children need to be protected and have safe feeling, not worried or scared. However, some of the adults not only like to show the cold shoulder to children, but also become the perpetrators against children. In addition, the violence/abuses befallen by children are mostly done by children guardians or children relatives that may cause children suffering from depression or death.

Besides, through Spencer’s article (2009), an additional insight has been provided that not all children, especially the Afro-American children are treated badly. For instance, in page 74, it is shown that how Barrack Obama, the 44th president of the United States still spare some of his time to gather with his family no matter how busy he is, especially with two of his daughters, Malia and Sasha. Hence, Dacey and John F. Travers (2003) also gives the understanding of each level of human development, stating by various psychologists, e.g. Erik Erikson. There, Erik Erikson divides human development into several stages, which is going to be discussed more briefly at the next point. Nevertheless, this thesis won’t be accomplished without the understanding of the Neuman’s research method (2007).
2.2 Novel

The word “literature” derives from Latin “littera” which means letter. Literature is the art of written works. However, this term also possesses a wider meaning. Previously, when writing had not broadly been used, stories were handed down from one generation to next generation orally. The stories which entertain and teach moral lesson to listener are then turned into written works using some techniques of writing by authors.

Two kinds of writing which are likely to be applied are prose and verse. Yet, prose seems to be more typical to be used for it consists of ordinary grammatical structures and speeches. Prose is also known as the least complicated literary genre. One of its forms is Novel, which is also the form of *The Bluest Eye*.

Novel is a long fictional narrative work which somehow imitates the reality and might have certain effects to readers. The rise of the novel is in 18\(^{th}\) century. Writers at that time tried to create their works without following the traditional way that has been set. Before this century, the characters and the stories were always come from the aristocrats. Nevertheless, starting from this period, the characters and the stories start coming from the commoners, who possesses a more unique life.

*The Bluest Eye* is an African-American Modernist Fiction novel which was written in the 20\(^{th}\) century. It brings up the life of common people as well as things which may be faced by them in this modernization. Split psyche which is afflicted by Pecola, the breakdown of the modern family, the dissolving of community and an increasing of religion’s skepticism are things which could be seen in the novel. In addition, those things may also be the main problems for some Americans at that time.
In a novel, there are many elements that interconnect with one and another but the most important of all is characters. The word “character” derives from the ancient Greek “kharaktēr” which is the depiction of a person in narrative work. Character plays an important role in a story since he is the one that will determine where the story is going to go. This character may be presented either in a direct way or through action and behaviour.

Analyzing a character can be done in four ways. First, through physical such basic facts as sex, age and size e.g. Pauline is a lame-foot mother who has lost her tooth as well. Second, through social such as economic status, profession, religion, family, and social relationship e.g. the Soaphead Church is known as the pedophile and mystic fortune teller from his society. Third, through psychological such as habitual response, attitudes, desires, motivations, likes and dislikes which lead to actions e.g. Pecola desires to have the bluest eye. Forth, through moral such as moral decisions which is made in a crisis moment e.g. the rape which is done by Cholly to Pecola when she is washing dishes.

2.3 A Brief Description of Children

A child or children in plural form is a term which is given to a human being between the stages of birth and puberty. There are several stages of childhood which is proposed by Erik H. Erikson in Dacey and John F. Traver’s Human Development (2003):

1. Infancy: Birth to 1 year old

The first stage in the growth and the development of a child starts from a family. When a child begins to put things into his mouth, such as rattles, he begins to
figure out whether the world where he lives is a safe place. Roles, contacts, love, and attention given by parents, especially mothers are very important in guiding the development of the child. Still, the most important thing that a child always wants to have is the feeling that he has a right to live and to be in this world, showed by the care and the tenderness of his parents.

It is very essential to make sure every child is able to pass this stage successfully so he can grow into a man who possesses trust and confidence in the future. However, there are always obstacles to have all of children passed this stage successfully. So, if a child fails in this stage, in other words, feeling isolated or ignored, the child might experience frustration and disillusionment with life. Thus, he is going to end with the feeling of worthlessness and a mistrust of the world in general.

Many studies have shown that there’s a link between suicides or suicide attempts with the importance of the period of infancy in a child's mental development. People who are usually attempted with these cases are commonly lack of belief. The basic belief of world is as trustworthy place and every man has a right to life are not being developed well in early stages. Therefore, the relationships between children and parents or constant caregivers are significantly important in this stage. Warmth, care, and discipline should exist in thriving trust.

2. Early Childhood: 2 to 3 Years

In this second stage, children begin to learn to be independent with the guidance of parents and other adults. Children not only learn to walk, eat, and go to toilet by themselves, but also learn to distinguish right from wrong and what is allowed and is not allowed. By time, they will also acquire new skills, which can be
developed later on. Within this period, children become the master of their own minds by learning to control their own body. Besides, children learn to be more daring in expressing what they want and think too. Therefore, it is often said that children in this age are very frank and honest.

Children, who are building their self-esteem at this level, are still very vulnerable. At a time, they can be very proud of succeeding in doing something. But in the other times, they can feel ashamed and suffer low self-esteem when they fail in doing something. The most difficult thing which has to be faced by every child in this level is toilet training. Many children suffer low self-esteem because of this failure. For, the role of parents and other adults in encouraging, guiding and directing the child are needed.

3. Preschool: 4 to 5 Years

Preschool children are also known as play age children. At this stage, children tend to imitate what adults do or say. Thus, toys and games which are played often represent things that they believe are done as an adult. Games that like to be played are like Barbie and Ken or cars, etc, which represent the adulthood. When playing, they often mimic the gestures or behaviours of adults whom they know.

Meanwhile, their curiosity is also growing greater. The most frequent word which is used to explore the world is “Why”. Questions which like to be asked, excluded “What is that/this?” are “Why cannot?” “Why is it wrong?” “Why have to be like this?” etc. Those questions will sometimes make parents have a difficulty to explain. Yet, such question might somehow tighten their relationship.

However, this proximity can also be a trigger of Oedipus Complex (boys compete with father for mother’s love) or Electra Complex (girls compete with
mother for father’s love). Still, this problem will eventually be resolved through social role identification. Hence, compared to early child who will feel embarrassed in doing mistakes, play age child will easily feel guilty if he does so. Even though their most significant relationship is still with their parents and family, but friends have also taken part in it.

4. Middle Childhood: 6 to 11 Years

Children in school age period are no longer imitating adults. They start to develop themselves in order to learn, acquire, and create new knowledge and skills from the environment. Those skills which will then be used to accomplish tasks what are assigned to them. In addition, children will also learn to communicate, socialize, and compete with others. Though it seems that they are now able to finish all things by themselves, parents still play an important role in guiding them.

Even so, school and environment have a greater influence in forming children’s character. This is because most of their times are spent there. Therefore, it is very essential for a child to have the feeling of capability. If a child feels he is more inadequate than others, then he will not be able to be industrious and to compete with others. At the end, he might have serious problems in terms of competence and self-esteem.

5. Adolescence: 12 to 18 Years

If in the previous stage, a child’s development is influenced by what others have done to the child, then at this stage, the development of a child is totally depend on himself. At this level, adolescents are neither children nor adults. They are people who are seeking for their own identity. However, during the searching, there might be many difficulties which need to be overcome, such as difficulty in mingling with
others and in selecting right from wrong. These might be happened due to their inexperience.

The adolescents will also tend to spend most of their time with their peers. Gangs or peer groups will be formed. With their peer groups, they will learn about the adult world, like loyalty, devotion, hypocrisy, etc. However, not every adolescent is accepted in certain peer groups. For those who are not belonged to any group might somehow suffer lower self-esteem and role confusion due to the mockery and alienation. This is also because adolescents are very sensitive and are very concerned of people’s point of view toward them.

2.3.1 Adolescents

Adolescent is a term which refers to a human being, who is in the end of the stage of childhood and in the beginning of the stage of adulthood. It is also known as a transitional stage where both of the physical and the mental of the teenagers are changing in order to be ready for the adults’ role. For a number of adolescents, this transition stage can somehow be a very stressful stage. The stresses, which come from numerous sources, might lead them into the experiment of cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol that might also cause the suffering of kinds of mental illness.

Anna Freud in Human Development felt that latency (adolescence) is the time when children adopt the moral values and principles of people with whom they identify. Besides, adolescents tend to become more religious and devoted to God as well as more intellectual and logical about life. Meanwhile, in the same book, Erik Erikson claimed that the main task of the adolescent is to gain a state of identity, in which, they are looking for who they are by repudiating others possibilities and committing to one lifestyle. Furthermore, most of adolescents tend to have a belief
that people are looking at them for they have their own uniqueness and invulnerability. For instance, Pecola as a black adolescent who prays a lot for the bluest eyes so that people will treat her in a better way. However, since she is failed in obtaining the bluest eyes, she turns insane in her depression.

2.4 A Brief Description of Child Abuse

Child abuse is the acts of child maltreatments which are done by parents, caregivers, or other adults. It might occur anywhere, either in a child's house, or in the organizations, schools or communities the child involves in. Child abuse is an act that is physically, sexually, or emotionally harmed a child. Generally, people who become the abusers may be a victim of their own parents, a member of a distressed marriage, or a poorly educated or an economically deprived person. Nevertheless, not every act of abusing can be seen clearly in a child, since not all children and adults are aware of it.

The impact of the child abuse itself is enormous. As it has been previously disclosed, the perpetrators are used to be the victims, so if this is not stopped, this may eventually direct the children to do the same thing in the future. In addition, children who experience child abuse will be traumatized. This might also lead the children of becoming introvert. On the other hand, children may suffer depression or emotional disorders, e.g. mood swings. Prolonged depression can also make children engaged with alcohols, drugs or in criminal organizations.

2.5 Types of Child Abuse

To Widom (1989), child abuse manifests in various forms i.e. child neglect, physical abuse, child sexual abuse, and psychological or emotional abuse.
2.5.1 Child Neglect

Child neglect is the failure of adults in providing a child's basic needs, whether it is physical (adequate food, clothing, or hygiene), emotional (nurturing or affection), educational (enroll a child in school), or medical (medicate the child or take him or her to the doctor). Child neglect often happens in a family which both of parents is working. Children are mostly left with caregivers and some of children like to malinger to get their parents attention. However, parents are sometimes not there, thinking the children will just be alright with the caregivers. They thought that children will understand their bustle. On the contrary, the children feel their parents don’t love them and don’t care of them.

Child neglect is not always easy to be found out. Sometimes, a parent might have a serious physical or mental injury which makes them unable to take care of a child. Other times, alcohol or drug abuse may seriously mess up judgment and the ability to keep a child safe. Older children might not show obvious signs of neglect or might have become used to take the role of a parent. Still, at the end, neglected children will not have their physical and emotional needs met.

2.5.2 Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is physical attack which may either be the result of an intentional attempt to hurt a child or the result from strict discipline. Acts which can be categorized as an abuse also depend on the condition and circumstances at that moment. For example the act of shaking a child is one of the most frequent adults’ performances. This act will turn into a physical abuse when adults are angry for no apparent reason and go to shake the child with a great intensity as point of impingement. As a result, the child might shock and become pale because of fear.
Other acts that can be categorized as physical abuse are punching, striking, kicking, shoving, slapping, burning, bruising, pulling ears or hair, stabbing, and choking. Unlike discipline, physical abuse is done not to teach a child right from wrong. For instance, adults tend to love to use belt as one of the way to discipline the children. However, if the child was beaten in the vital places which might cause a number of long-term bruises afterward, this kind of act can also be said as physical abuse.

Many adults thought that the harder a child is hit, the higher the awareness of their mistakes is. However, this kind of understanding is wrong since children who are generally beaten don’t understand due to their limited experiences. Therefore, beating without giving the correct understanding will only leave trauma to the child. Furthermore, there are always different principles and objectives in beating a child as a disciplinary and as an abuse. While beating a child as a disciplinary is done to teach him right from wrong, beating a child as an abuse is vice versa. Thus, adults are supposed to find a better way to teach a child without having to hurt him physically, e.g. through communication.

2.5.3 Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is an abuse towards a child for sexual stimulation. It is very complicated and may leave the feeling of guilt and shame on the child. Either boys or girls might suffer from child sexual abuse. However, the violence which is experienced by girls is more since the sexual abuse of boys may be underreported due to shame and stigma. In addition, the perpetrators of child sexual abuse can come from many quarters though many of them are from children’s relatives. These
perpetrators are usually those who have a mental disorder or those who used to be the victim of child sexual abuse itself.

Exposing a child to sexual situations or material, whether or not touching is involved is also being called as sexual abuse. For instance, displaying pornography pictures to an underage school children purposely which is commonly thought as a usual but incorrect attitude. Child sexual abuse may not only cause the guilt and self-blame, but also flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia, self-esteem issues, anger, depression, etc to the children. Moreover, in the future, it may lead the child to difficulty in having intimate relationship due to the distress in trusting others.

2.5.4 Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse or emotional abuse is a type of abuse which is the most difficult to define in a child. There are several acts that can be included as psychological abuse, such as frequent yelling, threatening, or bullying, followed by constant belittling, shaming, and humiliating a child as well as telling a child he or she is “no good,” ”worthless,” ”bad,” or ”a mistake.”. These kinds of situations might not only happen in the community, but also within a family. For example: when a child is always being compared to another child constantly. Any achievements always felt less. Consequently, the feeling of restrained and depressed might appear after a certain period.

Besides, calling names and making negative comparisons to others are things which are generally happened among the peers. Name labeling like Four-eyed freak, Shorty, Weirdo, etc will hurt the children feeling and will leave invisible scars on them. Ignoring a child as punishment, giving him or her silent treatment and having limited signs of affection could also hurt children for they feel unloved. Additionally,
the act of exposing the child to violence or the abuse of others, whether it’s the abuse of a parent, a sibling, or even a pet may also produce the unrest feeling of the children. After all, at the end, the victims of psychological abuse may fight back by insulting the abuser or may probably blame themselves which can result in abnormal development.

2.6 A Brief Description of Adults

An adult (or adults in plural form) is a human being who is mature enough to vote, to drive, to drink, to marry, etc. Erik H. Erikson in Dacey and John F. Travers’ Human Development divided the stages of adulthood into three stages:

1. Young adulthood: 18 to 35 years

Entering this stage, the adolescences have become the young adults. They are no longer depending on their parents entirely. They start to support their own lives from the experiences that they learnt before. The discovery of their identities made them able to determine what they want to achieve in life. Here, their friends and marital partners will play a great role.

The young adults will initially looking for companions and love. When they find their heart desire, they will bind themselves as a partner. This relationship will last until the marriage if there is no meaningful obstacle. At this level, people who start building a family can experience intimacy on a deep level and for those who find hard in creating a relationship may get isolation or teasing from others.

2. Middle Adulthood: 35 to 65 years

At the moment, work is the most important thing for Middle Adulthood. Thus, besides spending most of the time with their family, they will spend the rest of their time with the community and the workplace. Middle Adulthood will become busier than ever, which also means an increase of creativity and sense of responsibility. It is
because they have families that also need to be nourished. In addition, they will begin to be the children role model by sharing and teaching the children with the moral’s values that they have learnt.

When the children are growing up and having their own personal life, the purpose of the Middle Adulthood’s life change gradually. Nourishing and protecting the children are not their main purpose anymore. They start seeking of the meaning of life and doing things that they can still do. People who are entering old age are usually afraid of being meaningless and inactive. Thus, there are many of them become stubborn and selfish.

3. Late Adulthood: Over 65 years

This is the last stage of the cycle of human life. There are two kinds of Late Adulthood which can be seen. First are those who feel satisfied with all his accomplishments. They feel that they have given the best contributions to life. Thus, he realized death was only the final project which is needed to cover this life’s cycle. Second are those who are afraid of death. Such people have often not yet found the purpose of living and often question if their life are worthy enough or not. Most of them may feel despair when entering this stage.

In fact, whatever is being done by people in the previous stage is merely a preparation for entering the Late Adulthood stage. Those who are in this stage are usually wiser. They are seeing the previous days as a blessing, happiness, and satisfaction day. During the end of their life, their relationship between one and another would be closer. Therefore, most of Late Adulthood likes to spend more time with family, friends, and relatives.