CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

“A Beautiful Mind” is one of the movies that discusses the issues of mental disorder; schizophrenia. The movie is directed by Ron Howard in 2001, and the movie script is written by Akiva Goldsman in 2000. This movie is adapted from the true story of John Forbes Nash, Jr. which is made into a biography by Sylvia Nassar. The story depicts about the struggle of a genius mathematician named John Forbes Nash, Jr., who succeeded in creating an economic concept that is used as the basis of contemporary economic theory. During the Cold War, Nash got a mental disorder; schizophrenia, which made him live in hallucinations and always be overshadowed by fears that he had to fight hard to recover. At the end of the story, he won the Nobel prize in 1994, as he entered his old age.

The story starts with young Nash who started the first days of lectures at prestigious university, Princeton University in 1947. Since the beginning, Nash described as a loner, shy, humble, introvert and strange person. Despite of all its shortcomings, Nash also described as an arrogant man who was proud of his cleverness. It was showed when he refused to follow the class because he thought that the class just wasted his time and made his brain became dull. He chose to spend his time outside the classroom to get his original ideas and increased his creativity in order to receive his doctoral degree and accepted at the prestigious research center, Wheeler Defense Lab in MIT.

In the middle of his competition with his friend, Nash got a roommate, Charles Herman who has a niece named, Marcee. Nash was very obsessed with mathematics,
that he wrote formulas in the glass window of his room and the library school. He accidentally found a new concept that was contrary to the theory proposed by the father of the modern world economy, Adam Smith. The theory of equilibrium by Nash drove him earning his doctoral degree. Nash's dream came true. Not only he get a doctoral degree, he was also accepted as a researcher and lecturer in MIT.

Nash life began to change when the Pentagon asked him to decode the secret messages sent by Soviet troops. Where, he met a secret agent named, William Parcher. Who later gave him a job as a spy. He was obsessed with his new job that he lost the time and lives in his own world. It is until he met Alicia Larde, a beautiful female student, he realized that he also needed love. After they got married, his disorder became more severe. He kept feeling that his job as secret agent put him in danger. He kept becoming weird and scared for no reason. It was Dr. Rosen, a psychiatrist whom he met at a seminar in Harvard, who took him to a mental hospital. From there it was revealed, Nash suffered schizophrenia. Some events experienced by Nash were just hallucination. The figure of Charles Herman, his roommate, his adorable nephew, Marcee or the secret agent, William Parcher, actually never existed. Fortunately, Alicia was a devoted wife who never tired of encouraging her husband. With the encouragement and love that never runs out from Alicia, Nash got up and fought against the disease.

All the explanations above show that the main character has mental disorder; schizophrenia. Schizophrenia is a mental disorder often characterized by abnormal social behavior and failure to recognize the reality. People with schizophrenia usually can not live like other normal people. They love being alone and afraid to dealing with others. They often live in their own world because they have delusion, they also often hallucinate the things that can not be seen by other
normal people. People with schizophrenia have difficulties in distinguishing reality and the imaginary, so it can have a negative impact for them and the people around them. Like in this story, the main character almost killed his baby due to his hallucination. The causes of schizophrenia is still a mystery. Some sources said that the structure and brain activity of patients are abnormal. However, in addition to genetic causes (biological), it is possible that schizophrenia is caused by social and psychological factors. Schizophrenia is also often related with a split personality. Split personalities is a condition in which an individual's personality split into another personality. That other personality is usually an expression of the main personality emerged because the real personality can not realize the things it wants to do. Sometimes the patient does not know that they have a split personality. The two personalities that exist in one body do not even know each other, the worse part is that these two personalities has a conflicting personal nature. Split personality is different to schizophrenia. It is one of the characteristics of some patient with schizophrenia.

Another example of schizophrenia is also found in the novel “Genesis” by Ratih Kumala. This novel tells a story of a child, Pawestri who has a forbidden love. She ended up getting pregnant and later evicted from the house by her father. Her mother is a woman who scared of her husband in which she could only hide her pain away. She was unable to do anything against her strong husband. She felt more lonely after her daughter was gone. The pain of losses and pressures from her husband made Pawestri mother mental health became worst. She became insane and acted strangely everyday, as if Pawestri was there. Eventually she was taken to the mental hospital. The mental disorders experienced by the lead character's mother are depression and schizophrenia. As shown in lines below:

"Pergi! pergi! pergi!” ibu mulai histeris. teriak-teriak. Dia mulai menggeleng-geleng kepala keras-keras lalu menjambak-jambak

The deviations of behavior of the lead character’s mother caused by her depression after losing her daughter and mental pressure that she had. Another example is a true story about William Tennese sister named, Rose. She also had schizophrenia caused by threats and violence from her father. Rose often had wild hallucinations, and she could not control her anger. So from the explanation above, it can be concluded that each sufferer showed different characteristic. This thesis discusses about what are the abnormal behavior of John Nash and what the efforts done in order to recover his mental disorder. The writer assesses that this problem is important to discuss because it can provide information to the reader about what are the characteristics of people with mental disorders, particularly schizophrenia and the way to cure them. Therefore, when we meet someone with this kind of disorder we can minimize the risks that could possibly happen. Because there is no medicine to cure disorder that has been found yet. But “A Beautiful Mind” gives new hope that the schizophrenic can live like other normal people and get a successful life such as winning nobel prize. The movie teaches the reader that if we want to succeed, we must have deep intention and struggle started from ourselves.

In doing the analysis, the writer will use library research method. Some related references, such as books and thesis are used to support the theory. The data’s are obtained from “A Beautiful Mind” movie script and the other book that related with the problem. This analysis deals with descriptive qualitative method. It refers to a research which explain the analysis of a research.

In order to answer the problems above, the writer will apply psychological approach and the theory of psychoanalysis. Psychological approach can focuses on the
author, the characters, the audience and the text. For author, the theory is used to
analyze the author and his/her life, and the literary work is used to supply evidence for
this analysis. This is often called "psychobiography." For the characters, the theory is
used to analyze one or more characters; the psychological theory becomes a tool to
explain the character’s behavior and motivations. The closer the theory applied to the
characters, the more realistic the work appears. For the audience, the theory is used to
explain the appeal of the work for those who read it; the work is considered
embodying universal human psychological processes and motivations, to which the
readers respond more or less unconsciously, and for the text, the theory is used to
analyze the role of language and symbolism in the work.

Psychoanalysis is a theory related to the function and development of human’s
mental. It is a comprehensive system in psychology which is developed to handle the
people who have neuroses and the other mental problems. Psychoanalysis is a theory
proposed by Sigmund Freud. Sigmund Freud was born in 1856 in Freiburg, Moravia.
The early emersion of the psychoanalysis theory is due to the efforts of Freud in
analyzing the world of unconsciousness. As explained by Brenner:

"Psychoanalysis is a scientific discipline which was begun some
sixty years ago by Sigmund Freud. What we call psychoanalytic
timey, therefore, is a body of hypotheses concerning mental
functioning and development in a man. It is a part of general
psychology and it comprises what are by far the most important
contributions that have been made to human psychology today”
(Brenner, 1969:11)

The writer uses this theory because, the purpose of psychoanalysis theory is to
treat mental aberration and nerve, to describe how the personality of human’s
development, work, and to serve the theory about the way individu can function in
personal relationship and community. By applying Freud's theory as a basis of
analysis, solving the problem of mental disorder of the main character can be bridged
gradually.
So from that explanation the writer interested to choose this title because to increase the knowledge of the readers about the characteristic of the schizophrenia sufferer and the efforts that he did until he gained success.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Followings are the problems of analysis in the thesis:

1. What are the abnormal behaviour of John Nash in “A Beautiful Mind”?  
2. What are the causes of schizophrenia of John Nash as found in “A Beautiful Mind”?  
3. What are John Nash’s treatments in the process of recovery from schizophrenia as found in “A Beautiful Mind”?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the abnormal behaviour of John Nash in “A Beautiful Mind”?  
2. To describe the causes of schizophrenia of John Nash as found in “A Beautiful Mind”?  
3. To describe John Nash’s treatments in the process of recovery from schizophrenia as found in “A Beautiful Mind”?

1.4 Scope of the Study

In order to avoid an excessive discussion, based on the identification of the problem, the scope of the study is to analyze the abnormal behaviour, the causes of the mental disorder, and the solution to recover the mental disorder of the main character in “A Beautiful Mind” movie script, according to the psychology of literature. Scope
of the study is necessary in order to make a research become specific and well managed.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1. For writer

Expected to generate information that can be used as references for developing literature and additional knowledge for English Department of Universitas Sumatra Utara

2. For readers

To get information about the characteristic of mental disorder, particularly schizophrenia

3. For further research

This research is expected to increase knowledge about mental disorders for people who are interested in studying about schizophrenia