CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work is the result of imaginative creation of a literary man. It is a picture of man’s life experience that contain the values of humanity either the good or the bad one. Thus, literary work is basically the picture of social life or society. Wellek (1981:1) has stated that literature is a representation of life. What it means by this statement is the picture of life learned through the works of literature. Abdoel Moeis’ *Salah Asuhan* contains moral teaching that children must respect their parents. Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet* expresses how life is more precious than love. Chairil Anwar’s *Sia-sia* is a sort of instruction that deals with man’s patience to endure life as the way it is. It is said so because no one is in perfection to have anything in life.

The three examples above have made literature sensible in life. Each of them has much in common even though they are slight different. The first is novel in its literary genre, the second is drama, and the third is poetry. The word “novel” is derived from Italian word “novella” that used to describe a short, compact, broadly realistic tale popular during the medieval period. Novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense while reading and it contains the experience of actual life. The novel reflects a move away from an essentially religious view of life towards new interest in the complexities of everyday experience. Most novels are concerned with ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they find themselves (Peck, 1984:102).
Novel is a narrative form of writing that tells what happens in real life through writing. The story or the narration of a novel or novels tend to deal with time. When it is related to war, the novel is closely connected with war. When it is about romance, the novel also deals with romance or love, to say some examples. In short, novel offers its readers life understanding and insights. Therefore, novel is basically the mirror of the man’s face in terms of looking nearly the good side or the bad side of the man himself. That is why novel is also regarded as a kind of experienced teacher that will ever be.

Psychology comes from two words, psyche and logos. Psyche is the Greek word which means soul or spirit, loosely translated as mind. Logos means knowledge or study. So, Psychology was originally defined as the study of mind. Psychology is about understanding people and the mind as the mental processes. The main point of the psychology is dealing with the life of human psychology. It can be shown in the hope, ambition, sadness, joy, needs and respect. They show that humans have a unique thing inside of them. The term mental processes refers to the thoughts, emotions, feelings and motives.

There is a very strong correlation between literature and psychology for the fact that both of them deals with human beings and their reactions, perceptions of the world, miseries, wishes, desires, fears, and conflicts. An author represents life according to his or her objectives, perceptions, ideologies, and value judgments and opens the doors of the unknown and invisible worlds to readers not only by arousing feelings and emotions but also by helping them to discover the meaning of life and existence.

There are three noted changes in psychology. They are psychoanalysis which presents human as form of the instinct and conflict, then behaviorism which defines
human as a flexible victim, passive, and submissive to the environment stimulus. And the third is humanistic, or often called as the third force that will be analyzed here. (https://m.simplypsychology.org/perspective.html)

The humanistic approach is often called the third force in psychology after psychoanalysis and behaviorism. Humanistic is a term which studies the whole person, and the uniqueness of each individual. Humanistic refers to the recognition of the nature, value of the human being. Humanistic psychology is centered on the people who have free will. People are basically good, and have an innate need to make themselves. This approach emphasizes the human values, and the creative, active nature of human beings. The approach is optimistic and focuses on noble human capacity to overcome hardship, pain and despair. Carl Rogers (1902-1987) was a humanistic psychologist who stresses the importance of the self concept in determining behavior.

In this thesis the researcher would like to analyze positive regards through August Pullman in Wonder by R.J. Palacio.

Pervin (2005:167) states that there are three important components of Rogers’ self concept theory. They are the self or the self concept, ideal self (how the person want to be), and the need for positive regard. The self is the humanistic term as the key structural concept in the Rogers’s theory. The self is the inner personality of a person, influenced by the experiences a person has in their life, and out interpretations of those experiences. The individual perceives external objects and experiences, and attaches meaning to them. The perceptions and meanings make up the individuals phenomenal field which seen by the individual as “self,” “me,” or “I” make up the self. Self includes the influence of individual’s body image. In other
words, a person might perceive him or herself as a good or bad person, beautiful or ugly, etc.

Ideal self is how the person who he would like to be, his perceptions of what he should be and want to be. It consists of the goals and ambitions in life. In some case it is dynamic, or forever changing, the ideal self in childhood is not the ideal self in teens or late twenties. The ideal self is how an individual would most like to possess.

When the self develops, a person wants love and acceptance, there is a need for positive regard from others. Rogers suggested that this need for love and affection is innate (Nye, 1975:105). Rogers believed that every individual need to be regarded positively by others, need to feel valued, respected, treated with affection and loved. Need for positive regard includes seeking warmth, liking, respect, sympathy, and acceptance and is seen in the infant’s need for love and affection.

Humanistic approach sees people as rational, free to make their own choices about how to live. People in this world want to be appreciated and regarded positively by others and abnormal person was no exception. Carl Rogers’ view of people was very positive. He believed people are unique and has basic need for positive regard. It is mean nobody can be denied even if they are abnormal or deformed, they still human and need positive treatment by others.

Wonder, is a novel by Raquel Jaramillo Palacio under the pen name R.J. Palacio, published on February 14,2012. Palacio wrote Wonder after an incident where she and her three-year-old son were waiting in line to buy ice cream. Her son noticed a girl with facial birth defects. Fearing he would react badly, Palacio attempted to remove her son from the situation so as not to upset the girl or her family but ended up worsening the situation.
The story is about a young boy who has so much to overcome, not only his physical appearance but also starting a new school. August Pullman is a ten-year-old boy living in the fictional neighborhood of North River Heights in upper Manhattan. He has a rare medical facial deformity, which he refers to as "mandibulofacial dysostosis". August Pullman (Auggie to his friends) is not an ordinary ten-year-old boy. He has a condition that makes him different. And in an obvious way, it is his face that is not ordinary. It is the type of face that scares kids and makes people stare. August is pretty good natured about it all. This is the way he is, after all, and while he does not like that people stare, there is not much he can do about it. He struggles to get the other kids in his grade to accept him and to understand that there is more to him than the way he looks.

The saying man is far from being perfect does not mean every individual may accept one another completely. If it is so, the world is free for conflict for everyone seems to care one another truly. Psychological matter takes place when the mind has some kind of disturbance or abnormal to think. The story of the novel deals with the disable kid. On his existence, he is trying to build up his spirit and mind to be the same to those who are normal. The inner conflict within himself by knowing he has the restriction, and those who treat him unfairly has resulted psychological matters on the character. This is one reason as well as background why psychological concern discussed in this thesis.

The self is not only owned by the normal people. Self concept that deals with the hope of an individual also exists in the disable person. There is no reason to put aside the kid because he seems not normal or lack of ability to interact. This psychological phenomenon brings another reason as well as the background of this thesis writing. In relation to self concept of the leading character, the kid has also
certain principle to reach the better dream in life. Such an ideal dream that involves the person and other persons has been related to ideal self.

The leading character’s ideal self in this thesis analysis is directed to understanding the kid with deformed perspective about world reality. The cruelty of the world does not mean to weaken him to surrender facing the life. The spirit of moving on has been the notice of how to settle down psychological self matter. This sort of life struggling is also the urge that makes the title of this thesis available. This definite explanation has been the main reasons why psychology becomes the core of the thesis analysis.

The main reason of discussing positive regards through the leading character of the novel is the fact that as members of the human race, people have similar needs throughout the world, and the abnormal person was no exception. Just like the normal people, the leading character who has defects also has need to be regarded positively by others, need to feel valued, respected, treated with affection and loved. In the story, the leading character feel the warmth, liking, respect, sympathy and acceptance that he gets from his family members, and some others character. In Wonder, through all his struggles along the way, Auggie’s family is always there to comfort him, to shore him up, to encourage him and support him to be brave, they also help him to deal with his reality. Not only his family, some other characters also respect him, sympathy to him and accept him no matter how he looks. With that positive regard by the other people, the kid will be able to think positively to himself, he will feel ‘prized’, and he can move forward for being a better person in facing the real life. When the leading character feels that he will only receive love for always being loved, he will deny all feelings of hate and struggle to preserve a picture of the self as loving. But the fact, the leading character not always treated positively by the
other people. He faces many more problems and barriers than the normal people that restrict him in the society. By the normal people, he is very different, including being different in how he is with defects issues. Because of his different looks, sometimes normal people treat him negatively, such as being alienated or even humiliated. Later, this negative treatment caused the leading character fall down with his condition. In this case the feeling of hate not only is incongruent with the self-concept but also threatens a kid with the loss of positive regard.

1.2 Problem of the Study

Based on the background of the analysis above, the problem of analysis may be recognized as follows:

1. How does love as positive regard develop the personality of the leading character?
2. How does sympathy as positive regard sustain the personality of the leading character?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the questions on the problem of the study, the writer tries to find out the answer of those questions. They are:

1. To describe how love as positive regard develops the personality of the leading character.
2. To describe how sympathy as positive regard sustains the personality of the leading character.
1.4 Scope of the Study

In doing an analysis, it is essentially needed to limit the fields which are going to be analyzed. In this thesis, the researcher would like to analyze positive regards such as of love and sympathy in developing the personality focus on the deformed leading character named August Pullman in Wonder by R.J. Palacio.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By writing this thesis, the researcher expected to be able to give significance for the reader. Theoretically, this analysis is to add the literary study of literature and also positive regards such as love and sympathy through the novel. Practically, this thesis can be lessons especially to know about how love and sympathy as positive regards develops and sustains the personality of the leading character in the novel, and also can be used as reference to be more cited for everyone who wants to understand the positive regards of the novel.