

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human beings are not individual creature; their fate is to live on earth within society. Human is also blessed with mind and thought. They are also blessed with the capability of communicating and having social relation with other, therefore every people have their own problem in the society. The problem solving skill is very important to overcome that problem.

Problem solving is the area of cognitive psychology that studies the processes involved in solving problems cognitive psychology – an approach to psychology that emphasizes internal mental process, or in other word the thought processes involved in solving a problem cerebration, intellection, mentation and thinking. In answering the problem people can find the solution with closely observe the condition and carefully analyze the relation between the problem and the solution.

According to McCarthy and Worthington (1990) problem solving is “forms part of thinking that considered the most complex of all intellectual functions, problem solving has been defined as higher-order cognitive process that requires the modulation and control of more routine and fundamental skills.”

The literary work can generally focus on people with the problem and how they conduct the action to overcome the problem, which may arise.

People have their own problem. The problems are their destiny that should be answered. It lies upon the conflict among classes, group or even individuals. People see this problem not merely in a simple form but also in a more complex situation. This condition makes people overcome their problem by making a strong effort and risks to overcome the problems. Finance, social stratification, politic position and belief are believed as the basic aspect of human problem.

When Defoe published *Robinson Crusoe* on April 25, 1719 or in early eighteenth century, England was in the revolution. The society was rejecting the government policy and rule. So the society become oppressed and rise many problem near them, from politic, social, religion and also cultural problem make the society become frightened. In this case, the problem solving skills are very needed to overcome the problem above. *Robinson Crusoe* was the novel that reflected the real society in England in early eighteen century.

Daniel Defoe was born in London in the year 1660. He was the son of a butcher and had very little education. When he was nearly sixty Defoe begin to write novels. In 1719 *Defoe* turned to writing fiction. He published his first novel, *The Life and Strange Surprising Adventures of Robinson Crusoe of York: Robinson Crusoe* (1719). This novel is based on fact story of *Alexander Selkirk*. This book was followed by several others including *Captain Singleton* (1720), *Journal of the Plague Year* (1722), *Captain Jack* (1722), *Moll Flanders* (1722) and *Roxanda* (1724). He also wrote a three volume travel book, *Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724-27) that provided

a vivid first-hand account of the state of the country. Other non-fiction books include *The Complete English Tradesman* (1726) and *London the Most Flourishing City in the Universe* (1728). Defoe published over 560 books and pamphlets and is considered to be the founder of British journalism. Daniel Defoe died in 1731.

Robinson Crusoe focused on how Crusoe as the major character can solve all the problems that arise in the novel. Defoe also creates the conflict very complex in the novel. It begins with his parents especially his father, and also when he was alone in an uninhabited Island on the coast of America, until he meets his new black friend called Friday. Many conflicts happen in all part of the story. To overcome that problem he needs the skills that can solve the entire problem.

In this research, the researcher wants to analyze the Daniel Defoe's novel entitled *Robinson Crusoe* using Sociological perspective. The writer is interested in analyzing the novel with that approach because the novel is very complex in providing the internal and external conflict among the characters. When sociological approach is applied in this research, the researcher can find the answer of how the need of problem solving skills is very important to overcome the problem in the early eighteen century in England in the novel. The story is tells about *Robinson Crusoe*, an English castaway, who spends 28 years on a remote island. He encountering savages, captives, and mutineers before being rescued. From the resume above we can imagine it is very difficult to someone if he is lonely in strange island with many problems.

Some opinions tell that social status can cause someone's problem. It has becomes stereotype among English society that wealth, material, and social status will determine one's problems while other aspects are ignored. Therefore, it is suitable and valid when the writer applies sociological approach in this novel

B. Problem Statement

Problem statement is significant for any research; it makes the research clearer. Based on the title and the background of the study, the researcher takes the problem of this research: "How is the need for problem solving skills reflected in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*?"

C. Literature Review

As the writer knows, there is only one researcher that ever writes the paper among Muhammadiyah University. Ronny Yonatha (2004) wrote the paper entitled "Discrimination and Persecution in Daniel Defoe *Robinson Crusoe*" using Genetic Structuralism approach. Therefore, the writer tries to analyze the novel using different perspective that is sociological approach.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements, by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot and theme.

2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological perspective, by identifying social background of the early-eighteenth century English society.

E. Benefits of the Study

By researching Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*, two benefits can be gained:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the development larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary study of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.

2. Practical Benefit

To provide additional information to the readers about the human life at the 18th Century as reflected in Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*.

F. Research Method

- 1. Type of Study**

The type of this study is qualitative research, which takes the form of library research.

- 2. Type of Data and Data Sources**

- a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is taken from the text of *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, published by Penguin Popular Classic.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source is taken from some references including books and other materials relevant to the analysis.

3. Data Collecting Method and Technique

In this research, the writer uses library search. In collecting data, the present writer follows such steps as the following:

- a. Reading *Robinson Crusoe* novel repeatedly
- b. Reading some related books to get the theory, data, and information.
- c. Underline the important parts or data in the novel and related books.
- d. Writing the data on certain papers
- e. Classifying the data into groups according to categories elements of literary study.

4. Data Analyzing Technique

The technique of data analysis used by the writer includes two techniques. The first technique is descriptive in which the researcher explores some information stated implicitly within both of primary and secondary data. While the second one is hermeneutic which involves the writer's efforts in interpreting the text of the novel.

G. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of six chapters. It begins with Chapter I that comprise of the introduction, which includes Background of the Study,

Literary Review, Problem Statement, and Objective of the study, Limitation of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. In Chapter II, the writer presents the Underlying Theory of Sociological perspective. The biography of the author and historical background of English society is presented in Chapter III. While Chapter IV consist of structural analysis of the novel *Robinson Crusoe* and Chapter V composes Sociological Analysis. Finally, the writer concludes the paper in Chapter VI.