THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-CONCEPT
IN CHARLES DICKENS DAVID COPPERFIELD:
A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

RESEARCH PAPER
Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

By
ARIEF ADHY MONO NUGROHO
A. 320.040.040

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2008
A. Background of the Study

People in this world want to be appreciated and regarded by the others. That’s why people like to do another thing that comes out of their character. They want their life and their attendances to be useful and see by the others. For those, people want their existence to be regarded. That’s the reasons why people like to do things out of the character. That’s one of the reasons why people like to be regarded in this life. It is related to the human psychology. The main point of the psychology is dealing with the life of the human beings. It can be shown in the hope, ambition, sadness, joy, needs and respect. They show that humans have a unique thing inside of them. It makes people have different dreams, hopes, desire, needs and the way to make all of it work in life. People have a different style and problem that face in life.

Roger states that a person’s unique subjunctive experience of reality and self are central to any dynamic understanding of personality (Dworetzky, 1988: 428). Every person has his/her own character and identity. They show the identity to people in order to understand about their self concept. If the people are able to control and understand the self concept it will make the people take a right decision and determined their choice of life. If their self concept are consists and stable it makes the people have a strong character and able to make the right choices. It also makes the person never feel neglect to
the choice that he/she take. If the self concept changed readily that makes the person lack of the consistency of character personality in life.

One of the literary novels that are related to self concept is *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens, a British writer (1812-1870). He was born in Portsmouth, England in February 7, 1812. He lived in with the people in under condition as a worker in the factory. He takes this situation and the conditions of the working-class people as major themes of his works. Dickens wrote, "No advice, no counsel, no encouragement, no consolation, no support from anyone that I can call to mind, so help me God!", Journalism Dickens became a journalist, reporting parliamentary debate and traveling Britain. His journalism informed his first collection of pieces. Most of his novels first appeared in serialized form. In his early twenties he made a name for himself with his first novel *The Pickwick Papers*. Novels Among his best known works are *Great Expectations*, *David Copperfield*, *Oliver Twist*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, and *A Christmas Carol*. *David Copperfield* is argued by some to be his best novel it is certainly his most autobiographical. He was a fierce critic of the poverty and social stratification of Victorian society.

*David Copperfield* is a novel that has a major theme throughout, the discipline of the emotion and moral life. We learn to go against "the first mistaken impulse of the undisciplined heart", a theme which is repeated throughout all the relationships and characters in the novel. The characters are those who have disciplined hearts, those who lack disciplined hearts, or those who develop disciplined hearts over time.
David Copperfield character is a person who ever makes a mistake and learns how to make a better situation. In this novel David is able to develop his life and able to control the needs, dreams and desire of something. In this novel David is a major character that has a complicated problem in his life, which is able to be solved and not yet solved.

The novel makes the researcher interested in David’s life, in the way he makes the decision in the different situation and different solution without leave his self-concept. The problem faced and the reaction of the environment to David is also interesting. So, the researcher is interested in how David makes his life better. The self concept of David is the point why he is able to make right decisions. Beside that if David makes mistakes, he is able to make it better, not only make a better decision but also make a better situation from the first decision. Self concept is the mental and conceptual understanding and persistent regard that sentient beings hold for his existence. The overview of self-concept theory has focused on the describing the ways people organize and interpret their inner world of personal existence.

The approach which is used to analyze the novel is humanistic. In the humanistic psychology the environmental situation, social life and the self conflict are the basic element of self concept. The life of David and the choice of David life is a unique one. It is also supported with this great writer of the novel. That’s why this research is interesting to study. It is complete that the researcher has the right method and background of the study, then the
researcher uses a title “The Importance of Self-Concept in Charles Dickens David Copperfield: a Humanistic Psychological Approach”

B. Literature Review

The researcher found a research related to the study about David Copperfield by Charles Dickens. In Muhamadiyah University of Surakarta, the research was conducted by Ulfatul Khasanah entitled: The Struggle for Life in Charles Dickens David Copperfield: Individual Psychological Approach. The problem in her research was about the aims of David Copperfield life based on the Individual Psychological approach. She also analyzed the struggle of David to get his aim in the novel. In Sebelas Maret University (UNS) the researcher did not found the research related to the study. The research believes that there must be other researchers who have developed and analyzed the novel, because it is a great author and novel in the literature.

C. Problem Statement

The problem that the researcher wants to study is about the David Copperfield’s life described in Charles Dickens novels. Through the way and the condition of the major character, the researcher formulated the major problem in this study that is the importance of self-concept of David in the Charles Dickens novel’s David Copperfield.

D. Limitation of the Study

In conducting the research, the researcher limits the problem on the self-concept of David as the major character in the Charles Dickens, David
Copperfield. The researcher uses the humanistic psychological approach that is related to the way of life in the major character in the novel.

E. Objective of the Study

Considering the problem statement above, the objectives of the study in the research are:

1. To analyze the novels based on its structure elements
2. To analyze the novels based on humanistic psychological

F. Benefit of the Study

This study will give the benefit as following:

1. Theoretical Benefit

For the academic benefit, the researcher hopes that this research can give the additional information to the large body of the literature view and structural elements such as: the characterization, plot, setting, style, etc.

2. Practical Benefit

For practical benefit, the researcher hopes that the research can give the deeper understanding in the novel based on humanistic psychological approach.

G. Research Method

The research method used by the researcher is described as follows:

1. Object of the Study

The researcher took the Charles Dickens novel David Copperfield as the object of her study.
2. **Type of the Data and Data Source**

   a. Type of the Data

   The type of the data is a text that consists of sentence, clause, phrase and word.

   b. The Data Source

   The researcher uses two kind of data source. There are:

   1) Primary data source: the Charles Dickens *David Copperfield* novel.

   2) Secondary data source: the data taken from the other sources related to the research such as: autobiography of the author, books in psychology and the website that are related to the research in humanism psychological approach.

3. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The method of the data collection is library research. The procedures are: reading the novel repeatedly and trying to imagine understanding the novel, identifying its element, taking note in the important point, classifying the sentence and word, selecting the material.

4. **Technique of Data Analysis**

   The data-analyzing technique of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and psychological analysis. The data will be interpreted and analyzed in the appropriate approach, in this case is
humanistic psychological approach to show the Charles Dickens

*David Copperfield.*

**H. Research Paper Organization**

To make the reader easily understand the content of this research the
researcher organizes this research paper. The research paper will be divided
into six chapters. Chapter I is the introduction that consist of the background
of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study,
objective of the study, benefit of the study, research of the study and research
paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory that consists of notion of
the humanism and characteristic of humanism psychological. Chapter III is the
structural analysis of the work, which includes the elements of Charles
Dickens *David Copperfield* novel, such as the character, characterization, plot,
setting, theme, point of view, etc. Chapter IV is Humanistic Psychological
analysis. Chapter V is the conclusion and suggestion.