

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human is created by God to do activities in the world. They have a lot of characteristics to complete each others. There is a wise utterance, “No Body is perfect”, and those words are familiar in a life. Everyone lives in the world has the own specialitie. It just likes as diffability. Generally, they look different than others. Diffability or called as different ability is identical with the word “Autism, Disability, or Abnormality”.

Autism is the word that comes from Greek *autos*, meaning-self was first employed by Dr. Eugene Bleuler on 1911 who was a director of Burghozly Hospital in Zurich on that time (Feinstein, 2010:5). Kanner in Feinstein (2010:53) found another abuses of the term Autism in 1950. He said that pseudo-autism to mean condition with autistic-like features, rather than true autism. Autism was not synonymous with psychosis, nor did indicate the specific type of mental illness. Autistic thinking and actions were a primitive form of behavior, a part of the normal developmental process which might persist and become represent by withdrawal, a defense against disorganization and anxiety in someone with many different type of pathology in their genes, brains, and social relationship.

Disability in Oxford (1980:118) defined as something that disables or state being disabled. Related to the autism in health term disability mostly

found on the children who have special needs. They have some difficulties in language and learning, called language and learning disabilities which is associated with medical, genetic, and behavioral syndromes (Nelson et al, 2009:262).

Every one lives in the world exactly has a hope. It does not matter whether they live with normal or abnormal condition, they still have hope to motivate their life. Hope can be called as a nebulous, elusive concept which has been variously defined in the psychological, sociological, theological, and health care literature (Kinghorn et al, 2004:118). Hope has been described as spiritual power which is providing a sense of meaning and purpose to life (Averill in Kinghorn et al, 2004:118). Hope has also been identified as an essential component of the unique human capacity to respond to adversity with the potential for personal growth and achievement (Carson and Fehring in Kinghorn et al, 2004:118). According to Kinghorn and Gamlin, hope is multidimensional in character and dynamic in nature and that is provides an energizing force which allows individuals to survive at their current life situation and also provides the opportunity for personal growth.

There are some factors on the raise of hope, Kinghorn et al (2004) stated that developmental process is partly derive to the foundational or generalized hope. Physical factors have also been found to influence hope. In study of Flemming in Kinghorn (2004) proven that patients who maintained

well on their physical condition identified clear links between physical comfort and the sustenance of hope.

Other things that influence the raise of hope are mental pressure or life pressure. So many people do great effort in their life to escape from such of depression of life. *Soul Surfer* movie is the movie which tells about this phenomenon. It is the movie that based on the true story in 2003, This film is directed by Sean McNamara. He was born on May 9, 1962 in Burbank, Sean McNamara has been involved in the entertainment business since the early 1980s. In 1984, he produced the popular *Kids Incorporated* series that launched the career of young actors such as Jennifer Love Hewitt. A decade later, he was writing and directing for the popular Nickelodeon children's series *The Secret Life of Alex Mack*.

In 1997, he casted 10-year-old Hilary Duff in the movie *Casper Meets Wendy*, and effectively launched her career. In 2000, he casted Shia LaBeouf in the Disney Channel's sitcom *Even Stevens*. La Beouf became a great star, and moved on to lead roles in featured films, while McNamara received three Directors Guild nominations and a BAFTA children's award for his work on the popular series.

Just two years later, he began serving as executive producer and writer or director on *That's So Raven*, which soon lead it into Disney Channel's highest rated program. McNamara has also directed several featured films, including *Race to Space* (2001) starring James Woods, which won several

awards at international film festivals. He reunited with Duff for the big screen and released *Raise Your Voice* (2004), which tells about a small town girl who attends a performing arts summer school.

McNamara received the fourth DGA nomination in 2007 for directing the children video production *The Cutting Edge: Going for the Gold*, starring Christy Carlson Romano, whom McNamara knew from when she played the older sister in *Even Stevens*. McNamara found time from his busy TV directing schedule to helm the big screen featured *Soul Surfer* (2011), starring AnnaSophia Robb in the true life story about a champion teenage surfer who lost an arm to a shark.

Soul Surfer movie is an inspirative and attractive movie. The story is about a teenager Bethany Hamilton (AnnaSophia Robb) who lives in Kauai, Hawaii with her parents Tom (Dennis Quaid) and Cheri (Helen Hunt), and two brothers, Noah (Ross Thomas) and Timmy (Chris Brochu). All of them are surfers, but Bethany and her best friend Alana Blanchard (Lorraine Nicholson) have grown up with a passion for the sport and enter a competition. Her church youth ministry leader, Sarah Hill (Carrie Underwood), was so disappointed when she had to withdraw from a planned mission's trip because of the contest.

Bethany and Alana placed first and third, respectively, while the second place winner was Malina Birch (Sonya Balmores), she was so dissapointed and resentful. Bethany invited both girls to the winner's box with

her, but Malina ungraciously refused. The Rip Curl surf wear company offered sponsorship to Bethany and Alana in competition.

The night before Halloween, Alana and Bethany sneaked off with some friends to go surfing. Later while Tom was going to the hospital for knee surgery, both girls went surfing with Alana's father Holt (Kevin Sorbo) and her brother Byron (Jeremy Sumpter). As Bethany dangled her left arm in the water, a tiger shark appeared out of nowhere and sank its teeth into her arm, biting it off near the shoulder. Holt got Bethany out of the water and putting a tourniquet on her while Byron called 911. An ambulance met them on the way to the hospital. Just before starting Tom's knee surgery, Dr. David Rovinsky (Craig T. Nelson) is called to the emergency room to treat Bethany. Besides losing her left arm, Bethany also lost 60% of her blood and David called her survival a miracle.

The onslaught of paparazzi also proves to be a great strain on her family and their privacy. The Hamiltons are grateful to Holt for his quick thinking and decisive action that saved Bethany's life. However Bethany's injury prevents her participating in the Rip Curl photo shoots, but she wished Alana well. *Inside Edition*, a television program, offered to provide a prosthetic arm that is cosmetically perfect and has bendable joints, in exchange for an interview. Bethany angrily rejected it when she learnt that it will not help her surf as it is not weight bearing, due to the size of her arm stump.

Bethany perseveres and, after a recuperation period, Bethany got back in the water and learnt to surf with one arm, and re-entering the competition. She told her rival Malina not to take easy on her, and rejected five-minute head start offered by the judges. Unfortunately She did not perform well because she could not stay on the board long enough to go out and catch a competitive wave and finally Malina won. Disheartened, she decides to give up on surfing competition.

Bethany watched the effects of the 2004 tsunami on television, which made her think about her problems in different perspective. She decided to surprise Sarah by joining the youth group on another mission trip to help the devastated people in Phuket, Thailand. Those people were so afraid of the water, including a little boy. Bethany decided to go into it with a surfboard, hoping this will coax him into it. It worked. She realized that she can use her gift to inspire people, and it motivated her to surf again.

Tom rigged a handle on her surfboard which can be used to prevent her from falling off while paddling out to the waves, and it is not prohibited by the competition's rules. Tom believed that Bethany possesses a great surfer's instinct to sense when the best waves will form. She entered national championship. Malina treated her as a serious competitor, and performed respect. Suddenly, when there was only several minutes left on the clock, the waves died down and the entire surfers can only loitered around the area, waiting for the waves to start back up. Tom's believed in his daughter's

instinct was proven when she was the only one who sensed a big wave formed, and she was alone who paddled out. When it was formed, the others couldn't get in time however she caught it just as the horn sounded. If it was in time, she would win, but the judges decided that the time has out. Malina then be the winner, but she has finally gotten over her differences with her, she invited her up on the platform to share first place.

Subsequently, Bethany let the reporters interviewed her. One asked her what she would do if she was given the chance to undo the loss of her arm. She said that she would prefer to lose it because she can embrace more people now than she ever could with both. The film ends with real video of Bethany surfing after the attack. Also showing video of interviews and special appearances that she has made.

Based on the story of movie above *Soul Surfer* has a lot of values that teach us something really important. There are five reasons that make writer interested to analyze this movie. The first is the movie tells about the true story based on the tragedy about Bethany as an athlete of surf who was attacked by a shark so then she must get amputation on her arm. But she still has ambition to be a normal person and never give up by the condition. She continues her surfing. She tries hard everyday. She is an optimism girl.

The second reason is, *Soul Surfer* tells us about an interesting life of surfer family who live beside the Hawaii Beach which is a very popular place in the world because of the beach view. It can be proven by of a lot of people

visit there. So the movie provides the beautiful scenes on each setting. It makes audience really enjoy the movie.

Third reason is, beside of the good story of this movie, this movie also provides so many famous and great actors and artists. Such Bethany Hamilton (AnnaSophia Robb), Tom (Dennis Quaid), Cheri (Helen Hunt), etc. They are not only great actors but also great surfer. Almost every scene shows how they surf in the beach.

The fourth reason is the story gives viewers many values of life. It is about the optimism, religious, family, love and ambitious of the girl in keeping her hope. People can get lesson that in every problem there is always a solution. They also believe that there is always an ease on every trouble because God always with us.

The last reason is, the present writer is a student in Department of English Education of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta from Teacher and Training Faculty. This study is necessary to add insight and insert more knowledge to her professional competence as teacher later. And complete the thesis as the requirement of graduation program.

Based on the reasons above and the meaning or message that we can find from the story. The researcher is interested with the Bethany's individual psychology, so the writer will focus on hard effort of Bethany to achieve his desire to be professional athlete in surfing although in abnormal condition.

The story gives knowledge to people that they do not give up easily in achieving the hope. If there is a will of course there is a way. So a power or motivation is needed in a life. It likes a statement of Adler (1997:2):

“The science of Individual Psychology developed out of an effort to understand the mysterious creative power of life - the power expressed in the desire to develop, to strive and to achieve, and to compensate for defeats in one area by striving for success in another. This power is teleological - it expresses itself in the striving for a goal, and in this striving every physical and psycho- logical attribute co-operates.”

Therefore, in this study the writer wants to analyze DIFFABILITY AND HOPE REFLECTED IN SEAN MCNAMARA’S *SOUL SURFER* MOVIE (2011): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

Soul Surfer is the true story of teen surfer Bethany Hamilton, who lost her arm in a tiger shark attack and courageously overcame all odds to become a champion again, through her sheer determination and unwavering faith. To guide this study, the researcher found literature review from internet that conduct a study which used this movie as object analyzed.

First is by Huntley on April 20, (2011). He focuses on the content of the film. Because the story based on the real life so it can give many lessons for other people. It is bursting with heart, inspiration and positivity, and it evokes a message about faith (not necessarily the religious kind) that anyone - child or adult - would be wise to heed (Huntley, 2011). The film is good for people in all of age especially for kids. Huntley also said that most Hollywood

movies smother us with conflict and misanthropy but here is one that tries to charm us with optimism. Perhaps it does go overboard with its high spirits, cheerfulness and hopeful dialogue, but such exaggeration could be a good thing for the film's target audience, which is mostly families.

Second is by Kidzworld on April 08, 2011. He also analyzed the film and focuses on the true story of it. But in here, he pays more attention on the psychological of the girl who got shark attack at 13 years old, Bethany Hamilton. After the accident she got depression. She ever gave up on her life dreams. But she realized that life must go on. The day and weeks following the accident, she must learn to face many obstacles in her new life without a left arm. She decided to have surfing again after had gone to Thailand in social activity. She got new perspective of live by seeing the victims of tsunami there. So Bethany Hamilton shows how hope and passion can build strength in the human spirit. *Soul Surfer* is about overcoming great obstacles and becoming a better person in the process.

The similarities that deal with two previous studies above are they have the same object of analyzing. That is *Soul Surfer* movie, mainly on the message of the movie. Because, there are so many lessons that can be taken from this movie.

But there are some differences about them. The first review focuses on the content of the movie. The second review concerns in the physical condition of one of character on this movie, Bethany Hamilton. And the last in

this research, it gives attention on the efforts which shown by the main characters, Bethany Hamilton who is never give up to her abnormal condition and keep fighting to reach her hope. So the writer conducts an Individual Psychological Approach as theory to analyze it.

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the object by focusing more on Bethany Hamilton as the major character in *Soul Surfer* movie by Sean McNamara on 2011, and analyzes it by using an Individual Psychological Approach.

D. Problem Statement

A writer proposes two problem statements in this study. The problem statements are:

1. "How is the structural element of the *Soul Surfer* movie?"
2. "How does Bethany Hamilton as the main actor in *Soul Surfer* movie achieves her hope in surfing Olympiad with her diffability or abnormality?"

E. Objective of the Study

According to the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze *Soul Surfer* movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze *Soul Surfer* movie especially for the main character of this film, Bethany Hamilton by using an individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer expects this research to be useful for other by deciding the benefits of study into two, they are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to larger body of knowledge or the development of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Sean McNamara's *Soul Surfer* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of writer and other students at UMS or other universities which are interested with literary studies.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study the writer applies a descriptive qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. The writer analyzes the data by using individual psychological approach. The steps to conduct the research are the following 1). Determining the type of the data, 2). Determining the object of the study, 3). Determining data and data sources, 4). Determining technique of the data collection, and finally 5). Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Soul Surfer* movie by Sean McNamara and was produced in 2011 by Hollywood studios and released on April 08 2011 in United States.

3. Type of Data and Data Sources

There are two types of data, called primary and secondary data, as follows:

a. Primary Data

The primary data source is the movie of *Soul Surfer* produced by Hollywood studios.

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the hope and diffability or abnormal girl that supports the individual psychological approach.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes of important part both in primary or secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts which considered as important and relevant data for analysis.
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: firstly, analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the movie. The second step is analyzing data based on individual psychological approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of hope and disability or abnormality of the girl.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “*Disability and Hope Reflected in Sean McNamara’s Soul Surfer Movie (2011): An Individual Psychological Approach*” consists of five chapters which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, previous studies, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of the notion of Individual Psychological, basic assumption of Individual Psychological Approach, theory of disability and hope. Chapter III is the structural elements of the movie by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, theme and style of the movie and a brief discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological Analysis dealing with the problems in the movie. Chapter V contains conclusion and suggestion.