

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

In this world, people have many problems that have to be faced. Some problems that appear in human's life are social problem, economic problem, politic problem, and sometimes its problem comes from the individual itself. Problems make people think how to face the problems and he can survive in their life. People used their rational to face the problems. Their rational can create a problem solving, so they can solve their problem and they can survive in their life.

Rationality and survival are reflected in human's life. Everything that the human do can be accepted or not depends on our rational. Rationality is the characteristic of any action, belief, or desire that makes their choice a necessity. It is a normative concept of reasoning in the sense that rational people should derive conclusions in a consistent way given the information at disposal. It refers to the conformity of one's beliefs with one's reasons to believe, or with one's actions with one's reasons for action. Rationality has to do with the social and individual processes that serve to construct and maintain the objectivity of science, in the second it is about self-management. Rationality is as a property of the thinking (or lack of thinking) that goes into belief formation or decision making. In particular, it is a property of the methods used, the rules followed (or not followed), not of the outcome of the

process. Thus, we cannot determine whether an act was rational without knowing how a person came to decide on it (Baron, 1985: 5). So, rationality can be seen from what the person do.

In our life, people also try to survive from their problem that they faced. Survival is the ability to survive in a condition or state. Survival can also be interpreted as engineering (science) in the face of threats to their safety. Survival can be defined in terms of the interaction between an individual and its natural surroundings. The surroundings determine the extent to which a person is exposed to critical changes in environment, such as temperature, water, food, or oxygen (Piantadosi, 2003:1).

*Life of Pi* is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. The novel was rejected by at least five London publishing houses before being accepted by Knopf Canada, which published it in September 2001. The UK edition won the Man Booker Prize for Fiction the following year. It was also chosen for CBC Radio's Canada Reads 2003, where it was championed by author Nancy Lee. The French translation, L'histoire de Pi, was chosen in the French version of the contest, Le combat des livres, where it was championed by Louise Forestier. The novel won the 2003 Boeke Prize, a South African novel award. In 2004, it won the Asian/Pacific American Award for Literature in Best Adult

Fiction for years 2001–2003. In 2012 it was adapted into a theatrical feature film directed by Ang Lee with a screenplay by David Magee.

The book doesn't begin with Pi, but with an "Author's Note. In Part 1 and Part 2 is Pi's voice as the author has written it. Part 1 tells Pi's childhood in Pondicherry, India. His father owns a zoo and Pi spends a lot of his time thinking about animals. But zoology is only one of Pi's passions, he also loves religion. He's a Hindu from birth then at fourteen he adds Christianity to his repertoire, at fifteen he adds Islam. He is inquisitive, joyful, and an all-around wonder of a human being. Things, however, aren't so swell in India. The Prime Minister, one Mrs. Indira Gandhi, institutes martial law. Pi's parents decide to leave India. They sell most of the animals and pack up their belongings. They board, along with some of the animals they are selling to North American zoos, a Japanese cargo ship. They are headed for Canada.

All of Part 2 takes place at sea. Part 2 tells the sinking of the cargo ship *Tsimtsum*. No one survives except Pi and a menagerie of animals: a zebra, a hyena, an orangutan, and a Bengal tiger. All these creatures, including Pi, are packed into a 26-foot-long lifeboat. Before long, there's some bloodshed. The hyena kills the zebra and the orangutan. And then the tiger, whose name is Richard Parker (RP), kills the hyena. Richard Parker and Pi, however, work out an uneasy living arrangement. Pi slowly trains RP until he is more or less master of the lifeboat. Pi is often despondent, though Pi and RP seem to do well for a while. Pi catches fish and he has a few tools (like solar stills) from the lifeboat's locker. It's true that Pi's survival skills develop, but it's also true

that he's just lost his entire family. Pi is alone except for a man-eating tiger. He endures through cleverness, prayer, and willpower. At the end of Part 2, however, some strange things happen. Pi meets another castaway on this gigantic ocean who tries to eat him. Instead, RP eats the castaway. And then Pi lands on an island made entirely of algae. Pi and RP are malnourished at this point and it's not far-fetched to think Pi has gone mad. The chapter ends with Pi and RP landing in Mexico. RP bounds off into the jungle without as much as a goodbye.

Part 3 isn't long at all. Two civil servants for the Japanese Maritime Department in the Ministry of Transport interview Pi to try and shed some light on the sinking of the cargo ship. While they don't get any answers about the ship's sudden shipwreck, they do get Pi's story. When they question the more implausible portions of Pi's story, Pi delivers an impassioned defense of "the better story." To prove his point, he tells a version of his story without any of the animals mentioned above. It's an utterly ghastly story since human beings, instead of animals, literally tear each other to shreds. Pi asks the investigators which story they prefer. They prefer the story with animals.

Yann Martel was born on June 25th 1963, in Salamanca, Spain, to Emile and Nicole Martel, but spent his childhood living in a variety of different countries, including Costa Rica, France, India, Iran, Mexico, Turkey, Canada, and the United States. His parents, civil servants, were of French-Canadian descent, and their family eventually settled in Montreal. Martel attended Trent University from 1981 to 1984, but graduated from Concordia University with

a BA in philosophy in 1985. After graduating, along with writing and considering a career in politics or anthropology, he worked many different odd jobs—librarian, tree planter, dishwasher, security guard, and parking lot attendant. At the age of 27, he committed himself to writing.

Martel published his first work, *The Facts behind the Helsinki Roccamatios and Other Stories*, a collection of four short stories, in 1993. It received warm critical reception, although it did not sell well. His first novel, *Self*, was published three years later, to more mixed reviews, and to similarly small sales. It is a fictional autobiography of the first thirty years of the narrator's life and involves two spontaneous gender changes. After these two disappointments, Martel traveled to India to work on a third novel and figure out where his life was headed. He quickly realized the novel he was working on was going nowhere - but then he remembered something he had read about years before, and the idea for *Life of Pi* came to him. *Life of Pi* was published in 2001 to warm, although somewhat mixed, critical reception, and, along with winning the Man Booker Prize, became an international best-seller. Martel is currently based in Montreal, although he frequently lives internationally. In 2002 and 2003, Martel worked as a professor in the Department of Comparative Literature at the Free University of Berlin, Germany.

There are at least four points of interest of this novel which are seen from the theme, character and characterization, plot.

The first reason is *Life of Pi* is the adventure novel that interesting because the story has great messages for the readers about human life. It tells the main character who can survive in the middle of Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger. This novel gives the lesson about rationality, the survival, and the spiritual of human's life because it's rational to survive in the middle of sea if the human have a great effort, the confidence and believe to God. So the readers can see the effort of Pi to survive. The second is *Life of Pi* novel described the major character that has a great confidence. The major character has a little problem of confidence with his name when he was child, and he tries to be confident. The major character also believes in three religions and he does not care although he looks strange. The major character believes that he can defeat and master a Bengal tiger, he also believes that he can survive because he believes God. The third is *Life of Pi* novel describes such as the true story because the author is also one of character in this novel. The character of the author in this novel is described like Yann Martel because he also comes from Canada. Even in the author's note, Yann Martel says thank to people who also has the character in this novel such as Mr. Patel, Mr. Adirubasamy and Japanese Embassy in Ottawa. The last reason is the present writer will be a teacher later and this project is necessary to be carried out to widen, enlarged, insert more knowledge about this novel. This novel gives an example of the effort to be alive when we have a problem, defeated the fear, surrender and bitter memory for his survival.

*Life of Pi* novel is the novel which can be analyzed by an individual psychological approach. According to Mozak in Johnson and Lokey, individual psychology is an approach developed by Alfred Adler. It is a holistic approach to therapy which stresses social interest, style of life, responsibility, superiority and inferiority, and relationships. Individual psychology contends that humans have an innate interest in contributing to others and are invested in the success of their society. People create their own style of life as a way to achieve goals, and therefore are responsible for their actions in life and for making changes in themselves. Finally, individuals seek a sense of power or accomplishment, resulting in feelings of inferiority or superiority. The individual's sense of inferiority or superiority will affect the means they choose to achieve their goals. Individual psychology also places importance on the therapeutic relationship between the therapist and client and gives credence to the client's subjective experience (Johnson and Lokey).

The story of the novel tells about the rationality and survival that can be seen in life of Pi, so it can be studied by using an Individual Psychological approach. Therefore the researcher proposed the study entitled **RATIONALITY AND SURVIVAL OF LIFE OF PI REFLECTED IN YANN MARTEL'S *LIFE OF PI* NOVEL (2001): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## B. Previous Studies

In this part, the researcher gives some literature reviews that have been done toward Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. Hopefully these studies are going to help the reader to understand the weakness and the greatness of Yann Martel's work from different point of view. To prove the originality of the study, the writer presents the previous studies that have been conducted in the different studies.

The previous researcher is Stewart Cole (2004) who analyze Believing Tigers:Anthropomorphism and Incredulity in Yann Martel's *Life of Pi*. According to Cole, there are the uses of anthropomorphism in Martel's novel *Life of Pi*. "I suddenly felt I was in heaven," Pi here invokes "heaven" amidst earthly surroundings, attributes language and kinship to the various elements of those surroundings, and shows a willingness to place himself, prior protestations notwithstanding, and however coincidentally, thus demonstrating that while Pi may oppose anthropomorphism as it applies to animals, Pi is willing to indulge in the fallacy as it applies to his surroundings while in the grip of religious exaltation. That this rampantly anthropomorphic passage is one of the book's most convincing evocations of Pi's religious fervor is no accident. Given the prevalence of anthropomorphism as a strategy for combating perceptual uncertainty, disbelief or doubt, Pi's tendency to humanize the animals that surround him. Pi and his author-narrator show their conception of God in a defiance of doubt made all the more vehement by their



roles as storytellers. *Life of Pi* demonstrates, by dramatizing and employing anthropomorphisms, and by refusing to distinguish poetic from religious faith.

The second researcher is about Hollow at the core: Deconstructing Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* by Florence Stratton (2004). The story in question is one the young man of the title, Piscine (Pi) Molitor Patel, tells about how he survived for 227 days, at which point he found himself sharing a lifeboat with a hyena, a zebra with a broken leg, an orangutan, and an adult male Bengal tiger. Pi provides an alternative version of his tale of survival, a version that replaces animals with people. Pi then puts a question to the investigators that which the better story is, the story with animals or the story without animals, both officials choose the story with animals. The story is better because: first, considering "better" as an aesthetic valuation, the first story display a unity of form and Content called a "tiger aesthetic", the first story falls into the same aesthetic category as the hyena. However, as the researcher hopes his reading of the novel has indicated, *Life of Pi*, as a whole, does lend itself to a New Critical reading. But in his implicit, as well as explicit, endorsement of New Critical principles, Martel undermines the logic of his own deconstructive project. For New Criticism's conception of the study of literature is a positivist one: the New Critical conviction that literary studies needs to attain the objective status of science. Pi's second story, on the other hand, seems to have the potential to expand our knowledge of human nature and to interrogate established habits of thinking and feeling. It is a narrative of self-discovery, one that tells the readers that the most religious and idealistic of men can be

led into savagery and brutality by the allure of power that such men can be found to be “hollow at the core”. The deconstructive project of *Life of Pi* is to replace the Enlightenment belief in the power of reason to liberate humanity with a belief in the transforming power of story. That Pi shows little or nothing in the way of personal growth or development over the course of the narrative seriously compromises this project.

Based on the previous studies, the researcher has the same object of research, which is Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* novel. The differences of the first and the second researcher is the approach, the researcher uses individual psychological approach to analyze the data using *Life of Pi* novel (2001) as an object. The writer analyses rationality and survival of life of Pi in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* : an individual psychological approach.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the research, the writer proposed the problem statement. The problem statement of this research is “How are the rationality and the survival of Pi’s life reflected in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* novel by using an individual psychological approach?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher only focuses on analyzing the rationality and survival of life of Pi reflected in Yann Martel’s *Life of Pi* by applying an individual psychological approach.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze *Life of Pi* novel based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze *Life of Pi* novel based on Individual Psychological Approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from the study as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. The study is expected to give a new contribution to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary study on Yann Martel's *Life of Pi* novel.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other Universities who have interest in literary study on the novel from Individual Psychological Approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this study, the writer applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using an individual psychological approach.

## **2. Object of the Study**

The object of this study is *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel and was published in September 2001.

## **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

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

### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data source is the Novel of *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel.

### **b. Secondary Data**

The secondary data are taken from other sources which are related to the primary data such as books, and website, and journal that related with *Life of Pi*.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The techniques of data collection are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel several times until the researcher get some information and data to be analyzed.
- b. Taking notes of important part both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant 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:

- a) Analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel.
- b) Analyzing data based on individual psychological approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of rationality and survival of life of Pi.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The writer divided this paper into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction that consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II delivers underlying theory, which covers the notion of individual psychology, basic concept of individual psychology, structural elements of novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III is structural analysis, which presents structural element of novel and discussion. Chapter IV discusses individual psychological analysis, and chapter V draws the conclusion and suggestion.