

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays, there are many things occur in people's life. Happiness, sadness, anxieties, even abusive can come in people's life every time and everywhere. As we know, in this era, we can see abusive action published in various mass media. News on television, newspaper even on a television programs like serial, advertising, and movies shows abusive incidents. It may begin from light abusive until heavy abusive which causes fatality.

Abuse can be physical, emotional, financial and material or sexual. Physical abuse means any form of violence such as hitting, punching, pulling hair, and kicking. Abuse can occur in both dating relationship and friendship.(kidshealth.org/teen/.../family_abuse.html)

Emotional abuse (stuff like teasing, bullying, and humiliating others) can be difficult to recognize because it doesn't leave any visible scars. Threats, intimidation, putdowns, and betrayal are all harmful forms of emotional abuse that can really hurt — not just during the time it's happening, but long after too.

Financial or material abuse is the illegal or improper exploitation or use of funds or recourses.

Sexual abuse is non-consensual sexual contact of any kind with the older person. can happen to anyone, guy or girl. It's never right to be forced into any type of sexual experience that you don't want.

Appreciating a literary work has the same significance and meaning as understanding human existence along with his entire mental inerrability problem. “Since literature is the exposition of man’s mental life, it can be said that literature has a tight relationship to psychology. Literature and psychology have the same object of research, that is human being” (Wellek and Warren, 1984: 91).

Stimulated by the fact clarified above, Sara Gruen shows the psychological problem of abusive in her novels *Water for Elephants* published in 2006.

The abusive nature of the *Water for Elephants* novel is reflected in the character of August Waltz. Abusive seen from the way he manages the business of circus, where he train the animal to cruel, an important animal to tame a short time, the abusive nature of August is also very apparent when he was getting rid of people who have no use for him.

August is part gentleman, part brute, and by far the most complex and fascinating character in the novel. August, the circus owner, is head animal trainer, and Marlina's husband. Endowed with a charming smile that guarantees he always comes out the winner and cursed with a fiery temper that he does little to control, he’s so menacing yet attractive that it’s almost hard to pry one’s eyes off the screen whenever he’s on it.

Water for Elephants novel is told as a series of memories by Jacob Jankowski, a ninety three years old man who lives in a nursing home. Jacob is told what to eat and what to do.

As the memories begin, Jacob Jankowski is a twenty-three year old Polish American preparing for his final exams as a Cornell University veterinary student when he receives the devastating news that his parents were killed in a car accident. Jacob's father was a veterinarian and Jacob had planned to join his practice. When Jacob learns that his father was deeply in debt because he had been treating animals for just beans and eggs and had mortgaged the family home to provide Jacob an Ivy League education, he has a breakdown and leaves school just short of graduation. In the dark of night, he jumps on a train only to learn it is a circus train belonging to the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. When the owner of the circus, Uncle Al, learns of his training as a vet, he is hired to care for the circus animals. This consequently leads Jacob to share quarters with a dwarf named Walter (who is known as Kinko to the circus) and his dog Queenie. A few weeks later Jacob is summoned to take a look at Camel, an old man who, after drinking Jamaican ginger extract for many years, can't move his arms or legs. Fearing Camel will be "red-lighted" (referring to the practice of throwing circus workers off a moving train as either punishment or as severance from the circus to avoid paying wages), he hides him in his room.

The head trainer, August, is a brutal man who abuses the animals in his care (such as the new elephant Rosie) and the people around him. Alternately,

he can be utterly charming. Jacob develops a guarded relationship with August and his wife, Marlana, with whom Jacob falls in love. August is suspicious of their relationship and beats Marlana and Jacob. Marlana subsequently leaves August and stays at a hotel while she's not performing. Uncle Al then informs Jacob that August is a paranoid schizophrenic and then utters a threat: reunite August and Marlana as a happily married couple or Walter and Camel get red-lighted.

A few days later after discovering that August has tried to see Marlana, Jacob visits her in her hotel room. Soon after he comforts her however, the couple sleep together and then eventually declare their love for each other. Marlana soon returns to the circus to perform, but refuses to have August near her, which makes Uncle Al furious.

One night Jacob climbs up and jumps each car, while the train is moving, to August's room, carrying a knife between his teeth intending to kill August. However, Jacob backs out and returns to his car, only to find no one there but Queenie. He then realizes that Walter and Camel were red-lighted and Jacob himself was supposed to be too.

As the story climaxes, several circus workers who were red-lighted (thrown off) off of the train come back and release the animals causing a stampede during the performance.

In the ensuing panic, Rosie the elephant takes a stake and drives it into August's head. His body is then trampled. Jacob was the only one who saw what truly happened to August. As a result of this incident, which occurred

during a circus performance, the circus is shut down. Soon after, Uncle Al's body is found with a makeshift garrote around his neck. Marlena and Jacob leave, along with several circus animals (Rosie, Queenie and others), and begin their life together.

Ninety three year old Jacob is waiting for his family to take him to the circus. It is revealed that Jacob and Marlena married and had 5 children spending the first seven years at the Ringling Bros, circus before Jacob got a job as a vet for a Chicago zoo. Marlena is revealed to have died a few years before Jacob was put into a nursing home. After finding out no one is coming for him, elderly Jacob goes to the circus on his own. He soon meets the manager Charlie and begs to be allowed to accompany the circus by selling tickets. Charlie agrees and Jacob believes he has finally come home.

Despite the story of novel which includes and shows about abusive that compatible with Psychoanalytic Theory above, there are some reasons that caused the writer chose this novel. The first reason why the writer chooses this novel is this novel gives people knowledge and learning about the meaning of friendship and building trust with friends. Such as friendship of Marlena and Rosie. The second reason is *Water for Elephants* gives moral value that everything will become happy ending if we work hard. The last reason why the writer chooses this novel is because this novel has gotten many awards. Those awards include the 2007 Book Sense Book of the Year Award, the Cosmo Fun Fearless Fiction Award, and the Bookbrowse

Diamond Award for Most Popular Book, the Friends of American Literature Adult Fiction Award and the ALA/Alex Award 2007.

In a brief, Psychoanalytic theory also could be used as a way to know more about the work of literature knowing the way out or over in the problem, the mental illness and self-defense on facing the problem. As one of the psychoanalytic principles, abusive is part of psychology study. The foremost investigator of the psychoanalytic is Vienna neurologist and psychologist Sigmund Freud. Freud (in Feist, 1985: 25) theorized that the root of human problems was psychological, not physical. He divides the psyche into three parts: *id*, *ego*, and *superego*.

Freud was the progenitor of psychoanalytic theory in the early one of the best-known figures in all of psychology Sigmund Freud, in 1990s. The structure of personality consisted of three separate but interacting parts, the *id*, the *ego*, and the *superego*. This is what the writer wants to expound from the major character's personality, August in *Water for Elephants* novel.

Based on background above, the writer interested in analyzing the major character using psychological approach by Sigmund Freud. The title chosen **AUGUST'S ABUSIVE ACT REFLECTED IN SARA GRUEN'S WATER FOR ELEPHANTS NOVEL (2006): A PSYCHOANALYTIC CRITISISM.**

B. Literature Review

The study on *Water for Elephants* is first being conducted in this research, although this novel has published in 2010. The writer has researched through local and digital libraries and found none of it. Library of UNS, UMS, UNY have reported zero call on the research of *Water for Elephants*. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in UMS.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study are:

1. How is the main character's personality using an individual psychoanalytic approach?
2. How is August's abusive act reflected in Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephant* novel?

D. Objective of the Study

According to the problem statement above, the objective of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the main character's personality using an individual Psychoanalytic approach
2. To analyze August's abusive act reflected in Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* novel?

E. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study are :

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give new contribution and new information to the large body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Water for Elephant* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to give deeper understanding and enrich both knowledge and experience of the researcher, generally for other student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and also can be used as a reference by other universities that are interested in literary study on the novel based on an individual psychoanalytic approach.

F. Research Method

1. Types of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. It is library research while the data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the novel using individual psychoanalytic approach. The qualitative data is based on the novel *Water for Elephant* by Sara Gruen .

2. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Water for Elephant* novel. This novel is written by Sara Gruen.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research

a. Primary Data

The primary data source of the study is *Water for Elephant* novel which is written by Sara Gruen and published by Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill

b. Secondary Data

The secondary data source consist of the other data such as articles, books of literary, internet and reference which are relevant with this study to get other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of collecting data is the library research, it can be obtained by some steps as follows:

- a. Reading some related books and articles related to the object of study
- b. Accessing internet to get several information.
- c. Taking notes of important parts in both the primary data and secondary data.
- d. Arranging the data into several categories.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher employs descriptive qualities analysis; in which the data will be collected, described and analyzed. The

researcher concerns with the relationship between the novel and the individual psychoanalytic theory to analyze the major character reflected in *Water for Elephant* novel.

G. Research Paper Organization

The researcher is going to organize this research in order to give clear understanding the content of this study. This research is divided into five chapters. *Chapters I* is introduction of research. In this chapter the writer divides it into introduction, background of the study, object of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of study, objective of the study, benefits to the study, research method and research paper organization. *Chapter II* is the underlying theory that consists of notion of individual psychology, which contains the notion of psychoanalytic theory, the main principles of Sigmund Freud's theory and theoretical application. *Chapter III* deals with the structural analysis of the novel, which contains character and characterization, setting, plot, and point of view theme. *Chapter IV* contains data analysis and discussion. *Chapter V* contains conclusion and suggestion.