

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Curiosity is one of human characteristics. Everyone has it, start from old, adult, until children. It's naturally if someone has curiosity in life. Having curiosity in life, human's thinking becomes more creative. Someone feel anxious to find out something and make him try to find the way to realize his curiosities. Curiosity of someone is different each other. The older he is the smaller curiosities he has, because he has a lot of experiences.

In this life, childhood plays an important role, because in this period, people learn to know and to do something. Usually, people in this age have a big curiosity about everything. With this curiosity, children learn to know something and to do something. Curiosity is one of children's characteristics, but it will become bigger by the influences of environment. If a child life in adult environments without other children who have same age, his curiosity is about children's life. It is not like a child who life in the environment with the older people. His curiosity is about adult life. It's not proper curiosity. In real life the development psychological of child beside it is influenced by his own characteristic, also influenced by their environment.

The topic above has attracted the attention of many people, particularly psychologists and literary artists. Psychologists stated that curiosity is a part of human's psychology. Psychology and literary have

functional relationship because both of them studies psychological condition. The thing that can differentiate them is psychology is real and literary is fiction (Suwardi, 2003:97). Literary works is psychological phenomenon of authors and has psychological imagination of the readers. Among other literary artists who interests to present it in literary work is John Grisham, particularly in his work *A Painted House*. To him, Luke Chandler curiosities of adult life is one of psychological phenomenon that interested to be represented as existential problem and it can be so real in real life, because literary work is the effect of author's imagination when they experienced certain condition.

John Grisham is best-selling novelist of the 90's. He was born on 8, 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Realizing he didn't have the right stuff for a pro career, he shifted gears and majored in accounting at Mississippi State University. After graduating from law school at Ole Miss in 1981, he went on to practice law for nearly a decade in Southaven, specializing in criminal defense and personal injury litigation. He explored first novel when he overheard the harrowing testimony of a twelve-year-old rape victim. After that, he becomes an American novelist that has written a lot of novel (<http://www.msn.com/mid.term.paper.htm>: accessed on December 29, 2003). *A Painted House* is one of his best-selling novels, with 7 million copies in print, was on The New York Times best-seller list for 18 consecutive weeks. *A Painted House* is inspired by events in Grisham's own childhood (<http://www.jgrisham.com/bookreporter/A.Painted.House/html>: accessed on

April 27, 2003). The other Grisham's works are *The Firm*, *The Brethren*, *A Time to Kill*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *The Chamber*, *The Runaway Jury*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Partner*, *The Street Lawyer* and *King of Torts*. Almost all of Grisham's works are best-seller novels. (<http://www.jgrisham.com/bookreporter/abouttheauthor/html>: accessed on April 27, 2003)

*A Painted House* is the story of The Chandlers, a 1950's Arkansas farming family, as told through the eyes of the major character, a seven-year-old boy, Luke Chandler. In this novel John Grisham present the curiosity about adult life as one of dominant issue. Luke Chandler is seven-year-old boy who live in the cotton farm with his parent and grandparent in Arkansas. In his age, he always wants to know about adult life. Luke wants to know how adult does brutal thrashing. That finally he witnesses the murder. And then he witnesses a young woman gave birth from a forbidden love affair. A beautiful young woman, Tally, catches Luke's eyes. He feel fall in love with her. Quietly, he watches Tally when she was taking a bath in the river. He wants to know a woman body. After he knows that Tally falls in love with cowboy, Luke witnesses Tally and Cowboy making love.

From the fact above, it is interesting to analyze the major character in *A Painted House*, Luke Chandler, by using developmental psychological perspective. It is an approach that is used to analyze the growing and the chance in human development and to discover what determine them. And the development of people doesn't relevant with the other.

**B. Literature Review**

Actually, *A Painted House* written by John Grisham belongs to bestseller novel. As far as the writer knows, no one has analyzed this novel, at least among the students university in Surakarta. It happens because this novel is a new work, which was published in 2001.

**C. Problem Statement**

The problem of this study is how curiosity about adult life influences Luke Chandler's personality in John Grisham *A Painted House*.

**D. Objective of the Study**

The objectives that the writer wants to achieve are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *A Painted House*.
2. To reveal the curiosity about adult life in Luke Chandler personality based on developmental psychological perspective.

**E. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits of this study are follows:

1. To give information and knowledge to readers, especially the literary study on *A Painted House* by John Grisham.
2. To get better understanding of the novel, particularly from developmental psychological perspective.

## **F. Research Methodology**

### **1. Type of the Research**

This research belongs to qualitative method, which is focused on analyzing of textual data and does not include any calculation and enumeration.

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

The writer use the novel of John Grisham entitled *A Painted House* as the object of the study that is found in original novel published in New York by Dell Publishing a division of Random House, Inc copyright in 2001.

### **3. Sources of Data**

The sources of data are divided into two, there are:

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data source is from the novel itself that consists of dialogue, events, attitude of the characters, statement, the way of thinking and facts that are in the novel.

#### **b. Secondary Data**

The secondary data sources are from articles which deal with the novel, articles about the developmental psychological perspective, and form the internet website that support this research.

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

The writer use library research as technique of data collection. In this case, the writer will read the novel *A Painted House* and find the data from the sources of data that have relation with this study. Then, the writer will

write the necessary data and classify them into the categories which relevant for the analysis.

### **5. Technique of Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer use descriptive qualitative analysis. In this case, the writer will interpret the text and content analysis, to gather the needed data. The writer will use that data to analyze character of Luke Chandler by using A Developmental Psychological Perspective.

### **G. Research Paper Organization**

The writer divides this research paper into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction which includes Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Methodology, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory, which explain about A Developmental Psychological Perspective that supports the analysis. Chapter III is Structural Analysis, which includes the Character and Characterization, Plot, Setting, Point of View, Style, Theme and Discussion. Chapter IV is Developmental Psychological Analysis of the novel. It presents the application of underlying theory in analyzing the problem. Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestion for this research paper.