

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

My Sister's Keeper is a family novel written by American author Jodi Picoult. The book was published in Great Britain in 2004 by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK Company. It was Picoult's publication after *Second Glance* novel. *My Sister's Keeper* novel has 407 pages and 10 chapters.

My Sister's Keeper was written by Jodi Picoult. She was born in 1966. When she was young she had an ambition to be a writer. She got a designation A.B for the creative writing from Princeton University and master in Harvard University. In 2003 Jodi Picoult got esteem New England Book Award for her fiction. In 2006 she had made 13 novels and most of them talked about family, privacy, and love. At present Jodi Picoult lives in New Hampshire together with her husband and her children. Jodi Picoult had created a hugely successful career writing high-octane dramas about families ravaged by events straight off the CNN ticker: date rape, school shootings, the sexual abuse of children and teen suicide.

Novel *My Sister's Keeper* tells about the relationship and the child rights in the family. There is a problem in that family. By

this problem it makes another problems can be appear. In the novel *My Sister's Keeper* tells about the sacrifice of the young sister for her old sister.

Mrs. Sarah Fitzgerald and Brian Fitzgerald are family. They also have three children. The first child is Jesse then the second is Kate and the last is Anna Fitzgerald. All of their child's name use of Fitzgerald. They live in America. In *My Sister's Keeper* tells us about the family of Mrs. Fitzgerald especially about Kate Fitzgerald.

Kate Fitzgerald was a beautiful girl but she suffered of leukemia when she was two year old. The doctor ever said to Mrs. Fitzgerald that Kate would not life for a long time, but in the reality she could live until sixteen years old. Since she was two years old she suffered this disease. Mrs. Fitzgerald and Brian always tried everything to make Kate to healthy. Even the doctors ever said to her mother that she could get a helped from her brother Jesse. It could be a way that it could help her from this disease. She should get leukosit donor, the main cell, and the marrow of the bone. The function of it was to make a lay for her body to think that her body was in a health condition. They tried to rake through of Jesse, but Jesse could not help Kate. The reason was that Kate's need was not suitable with Jesse. They made a decision to have a child, and they

could get it. Mrs. Fitzgerald had a new baby. Her name is Anna Fitzgerald. It means that they had a child to help Kate.

Luckily Anna Fitzgerald could help Kate. When she was born in this world she had helped Kate Fitzgerald. Now, Anna is thirteen year old and she studies in junior high school in the second grade. Anna always helps Kate to make her healthy. If Kate was being sick Anna also sick. Even if Kate was in the hospital Anna also would be there. She always becomes a perfect person that could help Kate. When Annan was thirteen year old she made a big decision. She collected money to rent a lawyer to help her. She wanted to get a freedom for her body and her health. She thought that as the human and as a child she also had a human right in her life. She asked Campbell Alexander to be her lawyer. Anna wanted to prosecute her mother. Unfortunately it made Sarah Fitzgerald was shocked. Anna Fitzgerald was being in the court session with her mother. Anna wants to get the medical emancipation and she did not want to give one of her kidney for Kate. Beside that Sarah asked Anna to help Kate to give one of her kidney for Kate. The adjudicators have a good decision for their family. The adjudicator gave medical emancipation for her because as the human and as a child she also had the human right about her life and her health. After going to the court Anna Fitzgerald went to hospital with Mr. Alexander. He wanted to take her up to go to the hospital, but on

the way when they went to the hospital they got an accident. By that accident a beautiful girl had gone. Before Anna died her mother asked to the doctor to take Anna's kidney. She wanted to give it for Kate. Finally, Anna passed away. In another way Kate could live as well. She grew up to be a beautiful girl. All of the condition in their family changed. Jesse becomes a good person and all of their family could take the positive effect from what had happened.

My Sister's Keeper is a novel that has many public responses. The responses come from readers, critics, market, and book industries. This novel has been reviewed in some mass media. Mominseattle wrote his review in New York Times, June, 6th, 2010. He said that "as a parent who has lost a child, I must say I loved this novel. According to me, it was very realistic and heartbreaking. Sarah Fitzgerald wasn't a villain, she was a mom put in a horrible situation trying to do the right thing. It is very hard to let go." Another review also delivered by Eugene Lalerson, July, 19th, 2009. In the book the unexpected tragedy at the end was the ironical twist. To have the cancer patient die as expected and allow the donor to survive completely changes the talented Picoult's ending. "I would not recommend this movie to anyone who really enjoyed the book. Very disappointing."

The review also delivered by Palmodo in the Guardian website, January, 21th, 2010. According to her is that "I have read the first 92 pages as assigned and concur that it is a very touching peace of literature."

The author uniquely writes this book in the first person from 4 different people in a way that flows perfectly. I agree as that this book makes you think a lot about your life and the life of those with cancer in the world. It makes you search your soul and your outlook on life if you put yourself in a similar situation that Ana and her family are in. I also like that you added the you tube clip to show people a visual of the book because a lot of people are visual learners and it will help them like myself relate. I am very excited as you are to read on and finish *My Sister's Keeper* because of the way the author writes as well and how interesting this tragic story is going to be as i read more and more. And like you said maybe learn a little about myself at the same time.

In another review for *The Washington Post* in 2009, Katherine Arie described some of the characters as unconvincing, such as Brian, who is "too good to be true", Jesse, "a poster child for self-destructive behavior", and Kate, who is "as weak and wispy on the page as she's supposed to be in life", but ultimately called the book "a thrill to read".

There are pros and cons about the novel. The pros, said that *My Sister's Keeper* is a good novel because it tells the real story in social life and it is also tells about family. Palmodo, in the Guardian website on January, 21th, 2010, states that "I am very excited of the novel *My Sister's Keeper*, because of the way the author writes as well and how interesting this tragic story is going to be as I read more and more."

There are contrasts about this novel. The contra, said that “novel *My Sister’s Keeper* has a strength ending because the novel tells that Sarah is a good mom. In this novel Sarah very love her daughter Kate and she has different way to Anna. It makes the reader disappointed. It is delivered by Eugene Lalarson, on July, 19th, 2009 by *New York Times*. According to the reader this novel has the strange ending. Other response delivered by Aliventi Asylum in *Washington Post* on May, 27th 2009, she said that “some issues not explored thoroughly, confusing structure for some, ending.”

My Sister’s Keeper does not follow the novel before, even though Jodi Picoult often writes novel about family. Novel *Second Glance* tells about the story of love. Novel *My Sister’s Keeper* becomes the best seller. The books has been out a while and according to the author the film adaptation, released back in 2009. In 2009 the American Library Association (ALA) and the office for Intellectual Freedom named *My Sister’s Keeper* the seventh most frequently challenged book in the US. Schools and libraries attempted to ban the book for the following reasons: Sexism, Homosexuality, Sexual Explicitly, Offensive Language, Religious Viewpoint, Unsuitability to Age Group, Drugs, Suicide, and Violence.

There are five interesting points on the novel to be researched. The character and characterization in this novel are very unique to be a research. Mrs. Fitzgerald has emphasis character in this novel and Anna Fitzgerald has a strong principle to get a freedom for her life and she wants to get a human right. She does not want to give one of her kidney for Kate. It is interesting case to be researched about the reason why Anna doesnot want to do this.

Second, the novel is set inUpper Darby. Upper Darby is a beautiful small city in America. The interesting side of Upper Darbyin the novel is that it portrays a real life, not imaginary. Everybody can imagine this city so all of the reader can imagine and describeit easily.

Third, this novel has unique plot. Jodi Picoult use jumping plot to tell story in the novel. Eventhough it makes the reader confused to understand the plot, the conflict on the novel can be found and it can give the strong memories. It also makes the reader know the important point of this novel. The hanged ending gives an interesting perception for the readers, because the readers can imagine and conclude the story by their own opinion.

Fourth, the language of the novel can be understood. Novel *My Sister's Keeper* is published on 2004, so the language used in the novel is modern English and it is easy to understand. Jodi

Picoult uses pop language in delivering her story. The character and characterization on this novel can be shown in their conversation and narration that delivered by the narration of the author. Most of the story in the novel uses Standard English language. But Jodi Picoult also uses some slang language to show the attitude of the characters. Jodi Picoult uses dialect or Non Standard English. Jodi Picoult also applies long narration in describing something or someone then she uses short sentences in dialogue. The author, Jodi Picoult dominantly uses American-English language. Image is something that can be caught by the five senses. Jodi Picoult uses many images to describe place, time or events. The author also uses symbol in showing the characters.

The last points, the novel has the crucial and interesting theme that can be discussed. The theme of this novel is a child has the right for medical emancipation.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as follows, "CHILD RIGHTS REFLECTED IN JODI PICOULT'S MY SISTER'S KEEPER: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE".

B. Literature Review

My Sister's Keeper novel (2004) by Jodi Picoult is an interesting novel. As far as the writer concerns, in

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and some universities in Central Java, there are many people have analyzed it before. Based on the reason, the writer tries to make a new issue about this novel that no one ever analyzed it before. The writer tries to analyze implication of child rights in *My Sister's Keeper* novel by sociological approach. Studies on Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* were conducted by several scholars. They are as follows:

First, Kari Kjos's "Savior Siblings: A Case Study Based on *My Sister's Keeper*" (2010). She found that medical emancipation is allowed to save the child's right. Everyone has own body to save. Nobody can interfere what our body will be made. Medical emancipation is the movement to show that human's organ is not commercial thing to buy by everyone as they want.

Second, Herawaty in Psychological Dilemma of the Major Characters in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* (2010). She investigated the dilemma of Anna Fitzgerald in her life. Based on theory of personality by Sigmund Freud, Anna has strong Id and ego to possess her life. The conflict started when Anna was confused in conducting her superego. Dilemma commonly starts in human's life. The solution is created to make it balanced.

Third, Ratnasari in her thesis wrote "Struggle for Right in Jodi Picoult's *My Sister's Keeper* an Individual Psychological

Approach” (2011) to discuss the importance of human right. *My Sister’s Keeper* explores the medical, legal, ethical and moral issues related to long term-illness, a complicated subject in the contemporary world.

The object of the research is *My Sister’s Keeper* novel and the important of child rights. While the differences are the theory used in that research is in sociological, while the theory used in this research is sociological approach. That’s why this research is crucial to be conducted.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “how is the child rights reflected in *My Sister’s Keeper* Novel (2004) using a sociological approach?”

Based on the major question, the research questions can be seen as follows:

1. What aspects of child rights are reflected in *My Sister’s Keeper*?
2. How is the child rights expressed in the *My Sister’s Keeper* novel?
3. Why does Jodi Picoult adreesee the issue of child rights?

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research the researcher analyzing the child rights reflected in *My Sister's Keeper* (2004) based on a sociological perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are the followings

1. To identify the aspects of child rights. There are three aspects of child rights:
 - a. The child rights to a healthy social environment.
 - b. Participation and the evolving capacities of a child.
 - c. Social anchoring
2. To identify the characteristic of child rights in *My Sister's Keeper* novel.
3. To describe the child rights in *My Sister's Keeper* Novel.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in literary devices and to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to fulfill the final project of the writer for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department of UMS.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In the study, the writer applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using sociological approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows:

- a. Determining the type of the study
- b. Determining the object of the source
- c. Determining data and data source
- d. Determining technique of data collection
- e. Determining technique of data analysis

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult published in 2004 by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK Company.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. The Type of Data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *My Sister's Keeper* (2004) by Jodi Picoult.

b. The Type of DataSource

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

1) Primary Data

The primary data source is the novel of *My Sister's Keeper* published by Hodder and Stoughton An Hachette Livre UK Company.

2) Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the child rights that supports the sociological perspective.

4. Technique of Collecting the Data

The technique of data collecting is note-taking, and the steps are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of important parts 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 Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach.

The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows:

- a. The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel.
- b. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective. Focus will be paid on the child rights.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make it easier to understand. The research paper is divided into six chapters. Chapter 1 is introduction which consists of the Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Paper Organization. Chapter II deals with Underlying Theory, it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Perspective of Sociology of Literature, Literature and Society, Notion of Child Rights, The Cultural Politics of Human Rights, The Child Rights to a Healthy Social Environment, Participation

and the Evolving Capacities of a Child, Social Anchoring, Structural Element of the Novel, Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Historical Background of the American Society in the Late Twentieth Century and the Early Twenty First Century which covers social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, science and technology progress, cultural aspect, religious aspect. Chapter IV is structural analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. It covers (1) Structural elements of *My Sister's Keeper* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *My Sister's Keeper* novel. It consists of the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, religious aspect, science and technology aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion. In the last chapter, the researcher draws Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.