

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Life is like a dark jungle where every people must work hard to pass it. According to the free dictionary (2013), life is “the property or quality that distinguishes living organisms from dead organisms and inanimate matter, manifested in functions such as metabolism, growth, reproduction, and response to stimuli or adaption to the environment originating from within the organism.” Every people may have the same hope to get a better life. They also have to fulfill their needs, such as life for eat, life for education, life for work, life for healthy, life for survive, life for freedom and life for love. But life is not as easy as turning the palm of the hand. They need to make an effort to get it.

Effort (in the free dictionary, 2013) is the use of physical or mental energy to do something; exertion. The term “effort” can also be defined as: (1) An exertion of strength or power, whether physical or mental, in performing an act or aiming at an object; more or less strenuous endeavor; struggle directed to the accomplishment of an object; as, an effort to scale a wall, (2) A force acting on a body in the direction of its motion, (3) To stimulate (<http://www.brainyquote.com/words/efforteffort158526.html>). In doing their efforts, every people must belief to themselves that they can

make it happens in their life no matter what other people done. It is what Liz Murray wants to show in her novel; *Breaking Night*.

Liz Murray is the writer of *Breaking Night* novel. She was born in September 23th, 1980 on the first day of autumn. She completed her high school and won a New York Times scholarship while homeless, and graduated from Harvard University in 2009. She has been awarded The White House Project Role Model Award, a Cristopper Award, as well as the Chutzpah Award, which was given to her by Oprah Winfrey. Lifetime Television produced a film about Murray's life, homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story. The founder and director of Manifest Living, a New York-based company that empowers adults to create the results they want in their own lives, today Murray travels the world delivering motivational speeches and conducting workshops to inspire others. Murray is also active in the foundation of Covenant House International and she is a founding member Broome Street Academy, one of the first high school for the homeless in America, based in New York City (Murray, 2010: 196).

According to Wikipedia, Murray was born in the Bronx, New York on September 23, 1980 to poor and drug-addicted parents, both of whom would later contract HIV. She became homeless just after she turned 15, when her mother died of AIDS, and her father moved to a homeless shelter. Despite personal adversity, Murray began attending the Humanities Preparatory Academy in Chelsea, Manhattan. Despite her late high school start and lack of a stable home, Murray graduated in two years. She was

awarded a *New York Times* scholarship for needy students and was accepted into Harvard University, matriculating in the fall semester of 2000. Her older sister Lisa graduated from Purchase College in New York State and is a school teacher for children with autism. In late 2006, her father died of AIDS. She returned to Harvard in 2006 and graduated in June 2009. As of August 2009, she began taking graduate courses at Harvard Summer School with plans to earn a doctorate in clinical psychology and become a counselor. She is the founder and director of Manifest Living and a motivational speaker. A made-for-TV film about Murray's life *Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story*, was released in 2003. Liz Murray's New York Times (USA) & Sunday Times (UK) bestselling memoir "Breaking Night" was released in September 2010. On May 19, 2013, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of public service and gave Commencement address at Merrimack Collage in North Andover, MA.

*Breaking Night* Novel begins on September 7, 2010, originally published in the United States and Canada by Hyperison. *Breaking Night* is (urban slang) staying up through the night, until the sun rises. It is the stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray was born to loving but drug-addicted parents in the Bronx. In school she was taunted for her dirty clothing and lice-infested hair. At age fifteen, Liz found herself on the streets when her family finally unraveled. She learned to scrape by, foraging for food and riding subways all night to have a warm place to

sleep. When Liz's mother died of AIDS, she decided to take control of her own destiny and go back to high school, often completing her assignments in the hallways and subway stations where she slept. Liz squeezed four years of high school into two, while homeless; won a *New York Times* scholarship. *Breaking Night* is an unforgettable and beautifully written story of one young woman's indomitable spirit of survive and prevail, against all odds.

According to the explanation above, literary work has a close relationship with human life. Literature is an important thing in people life because literature happens around them. In general, there are three genres of literature. They are fiction, poetry, and drama. According to Kennedy (1983: 180), novel is "a booklength story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life."

There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel; first is Liz's effort to get better life with all its shortcomings. Second is Liz's struggle in the face of drug-addicted parents, both of whom would later contract HIV. Third is because Liz's motivation in her life changes very alluring and trickery with the help of her friends who are kind. Fourth is Liz is a homeless woman who successfully graduated from collage at Harvard University.

The first reason is Liz's effort to get better life with all shortcomings. Liz's effort is getting life by working as pumping gas and

bagging groceries, so that she could buy food. Because her parents are unemployed and use their SSI checks to buy drugs. It is a very sad situation in this novel.

The second reason is Liz's struggle in the face of drug-addicted parents, both of whom would later contract HIV/AIDS. Although her parents use their SSI checks to buy drugs, but Liz still loves and takes care of them. Their parents' disease is very dangerous, a HIV/AIDS until death. Memorable in a novel situation the fault of her parents, but she still loves her parents.

The third reason is Liz's motivation in her life changes very alluring and tricky with help of her friends who are kind. Since her mother and old sister left Liz to live with Brick and her father moved to a homeless shelter, she lived alone. She lived with the help of her friends who are kind. Because she lives with all her shortcomings, she often skipped school, eventually she moved school and was determined to finish her education with a score of A. This is an interesting aspect in the novel.

The fourth reason is Liz is a homeless woman who successfully graduated from college at Harvard. When her mother died of AIDS she had determined to do life's future. She wanted to go to college, but she did not have money for college. So she is looking for a suitable scholarship for her. And she found a suitable scholarship for her that is the New York Times college scholarship that more attributed for top colleges' cost. Finally her

scholarship is aimed at Harvard University. And she lectures at Harvard until graduation in years 2009.

From the reason and illustration above the researcher will analyze Liz's effort to get better life using individual psychologically. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: **“LIZ’S EFFORT TO GET BETTER LIFE IN *BREAKING NIGHT* NOVEL (2010): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.”**

## **B. Literature Review**

After the researcher has looked for several literature reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and in University in Central Java at least, she has not found the research about *Breaking Night* novel by Liz Murray done by the other researcher. So that the researcher cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of *Breaking Night* Novel. In this research, the researcher uses an individual psychological approach to analyze the data and using of *Breaking Night* novel as an object. The researcher analyzes “Liz’s effort to get better life in *Breaking Night* novel (2010): An Individual Psychological approach.”

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is “How is Liz’s effort to get better life reflected in *Breaking Night* Novel (2010) directed by Liz Murray?”

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

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing Liz's effort to get better life reflected in *Breaking Night* novel (2010) directed by Liz Murray based on an Individual Psychological approach.

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows are:

1. To describe *Breaking Night* novel based on structural elements of novel.
2. To depict Liz's effort to get better life reflected in *Breaking Night* (2010) based on the Individual Psychological.

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

The researcher really hopes that this research on *Breaking Night* (2010) has benefits. The benefits of this study will be distinguished into two benefits:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Breaking Night* novel.

##### **2. Practical Benefits**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another University

who have interest with literary study on the novel from an individual psychological approach.

## **G. Research Method**

The research method is divided into five parts:

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

In this research, the researcher uses a qualitative research. The qualitative data based on the novel *Breaking Night* by Liz Murray.

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

The object of this study is Liz Murray's *Breaking Night* Novel.

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

In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data, namely primary and secondary data sources.

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

The primary data source is taken from *Breaking Night* novel itself, by Liz Murray.

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

The secondary data is some books, author biographies, comments, website searching about *Breaking Night* novel.

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

The researcher uses the technique data collection in this study by library research which is conducted by collecting both the primary data and the secondary data. The steps are as follows:

#### **a. Reading *Breaking Night* Novel for several times.**

- b. Identifying the topic of novel.
- c. Determining the major and minor characters that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking note of important things both of primary and secondary data source.
- e. Some related books to find out theory, data, and information required.
- f. Reading comprehensively the primary and secondary data sources and taking a note.
- g. Accessing internet to get several information
- h. Arranging the data into several categories
- i. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

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

In analysis data, the researcher employs descriptive analysis, the data will be collected, described and analyzed. The researcher concerns with the relationship between the novel and the individual psychological theory to analyze the major character reflected in *Breaking Night* novel.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

To make this study clear, understandable, and systematic, this study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of Background of Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it

consists of notion of Individual Psychology, Basic Concept of Individual Psychology, Theory of Issue, Structure Elements of Novel, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is the Structural Analysis that consists of Structural Elements of the Novel that includes Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, style and Theme of the Novel and Discussion. Besides that, this chapter also contains discussion of the Structural Elements of the Novel. Chapter IV is about Individual Psychological Approach toward the novel. Chapter V is divided into two parts namely Conclusion and Suggestion.