

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People's life in the world has a goal, which can motivate someone to survive in the world. They must work hard and struggle to get better. They have the same opportunity to get their happiness. They can change their destiny and make a better life as they wish. The way to change their destiny and to hope their wish is called struggle for life.

Struggle for life is "the object of a human being in this world is to attain to the perfection of humanity, and therefore it is necessary that man should go through". It is because struggle for life means "continual battle, one's success, failure, happiness, or unhappiness mostly depends upon one's knowledge of this battle"

Purwaningrum (2006: 1) states that in the struggle to find a life, people's personality and lifestyles change. People will try to be better to reach the goal in life. When someone has the goal to reach his obsession, he needs internal motivation in order to reach his dream. Sometimes, in reaching his dream, someone has weaknesses called inferiority feeling. He struggles to leave it through the hard efforts. Consequently, the efforts of someone can influence his behavior.

To cover all of the weakness people usually do all the order and try to minimalist all of human error to avoid the punishment. Such as in *A Child*

Called "it". This autobiography is created based on the true story of the author itself. This book was written by Dave Pelzer. He was born on December 29, 1960, in Daly City, California.

David James (Dave) Pelzer (born December 29, 1960 in San Francisco, California is an American author, best known for his 1995 memoir of childhood abuse, *A Child Called "It"*. Pelzer is the son of a San Francisco fireman, Stephen Joseph Pelzer (1923–1980), who was of Austrian descent, and Catherine Roerva Christen Pelzer (1929–1992).

Pelzer was born in San Francisco, California, and was the third of five boys. He is now living in a different state with his second wife and kids. Pelzer wrote in his book that as a child, he was continually abused, mistreated, and beaten by his mother, who thought of it as a game. The book describes how his mother starved him, forced him to drink ammonia, stabbed him in the stomach, burned his arm on a gas stove, and forced him to eat his own vomit. His teachers stepped in on March 5, 1973, and 12-year-old Pelzer was placed in foster care. He joined the Air Force in 1979 and later became an author.

When he turned eighteen he joined the U.S. Air force. During his years of service he played a pertinent role in Operation Just Cause in Desert Storm and Desert Shield. Ever since Dave has continued to lead an inspiring and amazing life for which he has been recognized by the last three Presidents of the United States: Reagan, Bush, and Clinton. In 1990 named him the California Volunteer of the year. In 1993 Dave was named one of the Ten

Outstanding Young Americans. In 1994, he became the only American to be named one of Outstanding Young Persons of the World. In 1996 he was honored at the Olympic Games in Atlanta by being selected to carry the Centennial torch.

As an author, David has received literary acclaim. *A Child Called "It"* (published in 1995) has been nominated for the Pulitzer Prize. After he finished his first novel, he wrote the sequel of this book entitled, *The Lost Boy, A Man Named Dave*. David's book included into New York best seller. He travels more than 250 days a year throughout the nation speaking to large groups of youth and adults on the topics of resilience and overcoming obstacles. He has appeared on the *Oprah Winfrey Show*, and *Larry King Live*, among other national shows.

A Child Call "it" :One Child's Courage to survive written by Dave Pelzer in September 1, 1995. It is the story of Dave Pelzer, who was brutally beaten and starved by his emotionally unstable, alcoholic mother. A mother who played tortuous, unpredictable games that left him nearly dead. He had to learn how to play his mother's games in order to survive because she no longer considered him a son, but a slave and no longer as a boy, but an "it".

This is an entirely true story written by the author himself. David was rescued from the torment his mother, Catherine Roerva Pelzer at age twelve and then lived in foster care until of legal age. This book is written as a memoir which covers physical and emotional abuse between Dave Pelzer and

his biological mother, which leads to Dave having a stutter and being unsure of himself later in life as an adult.

David then begins on a journey through his childhood. He recalls some good times when he went with his mother to a park and had some frightened moments thinking that he might fall into the pond. She had comforted him by taking his hand. One day during kindergarten he had also felt her hug him from behind and he had felt great pride security and love.

David's life began to change. He had become the child that seemed to behave the worst and had a voice that carried. His mother's discipline went from punishment to verbal, mental, and physical abuse. His mother's physical appearance had also changed. She looked rough and would spend time on the couch in her robe and seemed very unhappy. She yelled at the kids a lot, but targeted David. If David make a mistake, he will get a punishment from his mother. She repeat to strike David if David didn't make a mistake or didn't finish a core.

David was finally reduced to living in the basement of the house. David must follow all the rule and game wich his mother made to get some meal to fulfill his stomach. He was given very little food and spent most of his time going through trash cans in search of food. The physical abuse increased significantly. Everyday David must replace his mother to cleaning all of home. Washing dishes, and wash all of familly clothes. The more his father traveled at his job, the worse the abuse seemed to become.

David came to realize that he was not wanted. He no longer received Christmas gifts nor was he included the family events or holiday activities.

For David, school was not much better. He was mocked by other students and had no friends. He was isolated from others and had no where to turn. Finally, he was freed from his life and taken to a better life where he could be free from abuse. After the school staff call a police officer to pick up dave and rescue dave from his mother.

Based on the story of novel *A Child Called "it"* has a lot of value that teach us much of life aspect. There are four reason that make the researcher interested to analyzing this novel.

First reason is this story is true story from David James Pelzer who never give up to get a better life, even he everyday get a hit from his mother just for some cereal to eat in the morning. And now he become a better man having family and get a good job as a writer. Thesecond reason is this novel has ability to portray the human spirit in order to overcome remarkable odds. David's mother progressively treats him worse and he becomes stronger and eventually survives from the abusive game. The third reason is this novel is inspirative. Because this novel tell to the reader about human spirit to overcome remarkable odd. The last reason is, present the writter is student of Department of English Education in Teacher Training and Education Faculty in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. This study is necessary to add more knowledge to his profesional teacher. And also to complete te thesis as the requirement to graduation program.

Based on the reason above the researcher are interested in Dave Pelzer individual psychology, so the researcher will focus on hard effort to life free and become a success man. therefore, in this study the writer want to analyze STRUGGLE FOR LIFE REFLECTED IN DAVE PELZER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY *A CHILD CALLED "IT": ONE CHILD'S COURAGE TO SURVIVE (1999)*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

B. Previous Study

"A Child Called "It" is the account of terrible abuse experienced by the author, Dave Pelzer, when he was a child. and with his spirit to overcome remarkable odds and become a free man and having family and happy life. To guide this study, the researcher found some previous study from the internet.

A Study on Premature Adulthood of the Main Character in Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called 'It* by Marshella Olivia Rumengan (2008). She focused on the main character of the story from the Psychological aspect. That shows David traumatic experiences may lead to the development of his premature adulthood (Rumengan, 2010). Rumengan also said that David's Mother is bad and mean treatments to him have turned him into a child who has premature adulthood. This is because David must be responsible for all "new task" that are not suited for a child at his age. And from that abusing Dave experience have made him become a child with premature adulthood personality.

Second is “**Alcoholism On Roerva In Pelzer’s “A child Called It”** by Lucy Irawati Anwar (2012). She focuses on Dave mother, Roerva Pelzer who is becoming alcoholic. She tells that the causes of alcoholism on Roerva, can be divided into; several psychological factors, including: a need to relief for anxiety, ongoing depression, unresolved problem and low self-esteem, and social factor, including: social acceptance of alcohol, availability of alcohol, and stressful lifestyle.

Whereas, the impacts of alcoholism on Roerva cover; first, physical impact; in the form of memory disorder, second, emotional/psychological factor, including; marital and relationship, difficulties, depression, and child abuse, third, social impact, including; violent crime and lost work activity (Irawati Anwar, 2012)

For this research, the researcher analyze the struggle for life in *A Child Called “it”* novel using an Individual Psychological Approach.

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer will limit the object of the study focusing on Dave Pelzer as the main character in *A Child Called “It”* novel by Dave Pelzer on 1999 and will analyzed using Individual Psychological Approach.

D. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the problem is “How is struggle for life reflected in Dave Pelzer’s Autobiography *A Child Called “It”: One Child’s Courage to Survive?*”

E. Objective of the Study

The aims of the research are follows:

1. To analyze the novel on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the main character with Individual psychological approach

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study gives contributions to the development of the larger body of knowledge, especially in the study of *A Child Called "It" novel* and the aspects of psychoanalytic study.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other Universities Interested in Literary Studies.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study/research, the writer/ the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using Individual Psychological Approach. The step to conduct the research are as follow/ the following :1). Determining the type of the study, 2). Determining the object of the study 3). Determining data and data source

4).Determining technique of data collection, and finally 5).Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is a novel *A Child Called "It" : One Child's Courage To Survive* by Dave Pelzer and was written in 1999 by : Health Communications, Incorporated California.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

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

- a. Primary Data : the primary data source is the novel *A Child Called "It" : One Child's Courage To Survive* by Dave Pelzer and was written in 1999 by: Health Communications, Incorporated California.
- b. Secondary Data : The secondary data source are books or anymaterials related to the works of "*Struggle For Life Reflected in Dave Pelzer's Autobiography A Child Called "It" : One Child's Courage To Survive*"that support the Individual Psychological Approach.

4. Technique of the DataCollection

The method the researcher uses to collect data is both documentation by collecting and recording the primary and secondary source, library research by

summarizing, paraphrasing and wording. The researcher uses note taking as technique of data collecting. The researcher takes the following steps such are:

a. **Intensive Reading.**

The researcher intensively and repeatedly reads the script of the novel until it is understood completely.

b. **Identification.**

After the novel is thoroughly understood, it is read once more accompanied with identification step.

c. **Hand Writing.**

The marked parts of the scripts as the result of identification are then written down on a card and given a certain code as the data to be analyzed.

d. **Giving Description.**

The cards that have been encoded are given a sufficient description based on the researcher's interpretation guided by the theories.

e. **Verification.**

The data resulted is verified by referring to the resource book if available or copied material.

5. Technique of the DataAnalysis

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data

based on Individual Psychological Approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning on Struggle for Life of the main author Dave.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “*STRUGGLE FOR LIFE REFLECTED IN DAVE PELZER’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY A CHILD CALLED “IT” : ONE CHILD’S COURAGE TO SURVIVE (1999) : AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH*” consists of five chapters which are presented as follows : Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes a background of the study, previous study, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of the notion of Individual Psychological, basic assumption of Individual Psychological Approach, struggle for life. Chapter III is the structural elements of the novel and a brief discussion. Chapter IV is Individual Psychological analysis dealing the problems in the novel. Chapter V is conclusion, pedagogical implication and suggestion.