

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence is a book written by Nabila Sharma. *Brutal* is the first book that the author wrote and she hoped to write the second follow up one. This book is about Nabila Sharma's memoir, the sexual abuse that happened to her at seventh years old by the leader of her Muslim community. She got a bad fall at the hands of someone in a position of trust within Muslim community but she didn't feel it. She could not tell anyone what was happening. Muslims have to fear for their lives if they ever speak out like she has done. She has had to do the book under a false name to protect herself and her family. Nabila Sharma wrote her first book by the title *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence*, published by HarperCollins, at UK 26th April 2012. She tells her memoirs in this book by 304 pages and there are 26 chapters in it.

Nabila Sharma was born and grew up in the Midlands, England. Nabila Sharma was a typical Pakistani girl growing up in Birmingham. She is the youngest of five siblings and the only daughter in a strict Muslim home. *Brutal* is the first book that the writer wrote and she hoped to write the second follow up one. She took a long 12 months from start to finish the book. She said that it was extremely hard talking about it. It was tough reliving

everything that she had long-buried and put behind her but actually the book helped her come to terms with what had happened.

Nabila was just seven years old when the sexually abuse happened to her by her Imam at her local mosque. Almost daily and lasted for four years, the abuse happened on Nabila. She was terrified of him. The Imam was a man that is powerful in Muslim Community. He told to Nabila, that she was special one, a young beautiful girl and clever student; therefore she is not necessary to follow the study Qur'an like other children. Even in time of learning the Qur'an, Nabila gets special tasks to do. It helped her getting away from her prayers, but it also makes Nabila separated with her friends. At first, she felt special, different from others, but soon, it makes other children anger to Nabila – She is already being the chosen one by the Imam. He made rules of the mosque with a fear atmosphere.

As the first one student who comes to the mosque, Nabila is always suggested by her Imam to begin her prayers before others children arrive. It was cunning of the Imam to get her up into his private room, his bedroom. It located at the second floor of the mosque. Only the Imam was allowed at there, no one else, and again, she felt special. She thought that she would be saved because he was the important man she knew, and he is the teacher. Whereas all that happened to her have a reason, Nabila was mistakes, and he was pedophile. In the beginning he treated her with approbations but it was just a trick to give way to sexual abuse. She was too scared and too embarrassed to tell what had already happened to her.

As the progress of the abuse, Nabila was obsessed to figure on the time that how long she would have to be alone at the mosque, before the other children arrived; it is only Nabila and the Imam in the mosque. She would elude of the time until the last minute for going into the mosque to decrease her time with him. Occasionally, she spent her night time at the outside of the mosque but she was always too worried, because if people saw her on street corners, it was not a good behavior of a Muslim girl who either.

She almost went to the secondary school at the age of nearly twelve years old, and the abuse still continued. As the fact about the abuse that Nabila felt, and like the Imam always told to her that how pretty she was so, she would try to disfigure her face more and more. She hoped on herself if only she had bad face and body, he would not like her any more. She hoped it would make a stop sexual abuse, but it was wrong. She was depressed and spent a lot of time alone and crying in her bedroom. She felt she had none to believe her. She does not have the self-confidence and self-esteem had no. He ruined everything.

The day she left the mosque was the day in which she had to return to her religion, culture and beliefs. On the contrary, she revolted and experimented with drink and cigarettes. Next day, Nabila's parents found out about the abuse but they choose silent, as if they did not know and prevent to do anything. As though she had shamed her family and was 'damaged goods', it made she felt worthless. She was always haunted by nightmares about what the Imam was done to her. Someway, she tried to bury deep inside of her

mind and disappear. She felt very anxious if the Imam would sexually abuse again to another children like he did to her, it will become a regret of her. After 26 years old, after so many years she felt those abuses, now she can breathe freely.

Brutal has many positive reactions from the public. Victims have come out and congratulated Nabila on this. They said what Nabila had done was amazing thing by coming out and telling her story. Coming out and telling the stories are the only way that people will take notice. None of them will speak out. Nobody will say anything even though another people have tried to encourage them. But they say Nabila is brilliant, she has done this, but she always say to them she need us to do it as well. She can understand how hard it is. So far, Nabila does not have any negative feedback at all from anyone whoever has read her book.

This memoir had been translated and released in five countries; they are Estonia, French, Holland, Indonesia, and the Czech Republic. During this book published by HarperCollins in 2012, she has not received an award from the industry, but she is getting a very satisfactory feedback from the Asian communities, they provide a very positive response, even none to give a negative response to this book.

There are five reasons why the writer is interested in studying this memoir; first reason is the character and characterization of this memoir, Nabila Sharma. The memoir was based on the real memoir of Nabila Sharma 26th years ago. It is like a semi-biography book that tells a story when she was

a young girl, and sexually abuse happened to her. The abuse happened almost every day at the mosque when she studied Qur'an and it is lasted for four years. Whereas Nabila, as long as 26th years of heartache, pain and subsequent counseling, she tried to utterance her feeling and past traumatic experience. She is able to portray almost a whole of the characters in detail.

The second reason is the setting of this memoir. Mosque is the sacred place of Muslim community, the place of religious services of Muslim to ask and pray to God Allah SWT. A local mosque in the Midland, England is the place that Nabila, her sibling and other Moslem children studied Qur'an. Nabila was just seven years old when the sexually abuse happened to her by her Imam at her local mosque. She feels frightened, worried, and depressed of her Imam, when she and other children went to the mosque to study Qur'an. She is just an innocence little girl that has time to playing and looking for bliss like other children had.

The third reason is simple plot. This memoir uses a traditional plot, therefore it is easy to understand the story, because it began from introduction from the character, and then the conflict of the story, and last the problem solving of it. This memoir is not difficult to be understood, because Nabila tells the readers with the easy words to be understood. She started her memoir by telling the readers when the sexual abuse happened at seven years old at the hands of someone in a position of trust within Muslim community, her imam. The past traumatic that can be the bad effect by personality development of someone in the growth of themselves.

The fourth reason is style. Nabila uses the easy word to tell her story in this memoir. Nabila Sharma narrated this story well and touched the readers'

heart. She also leaves an important message to the reader, moreover a young girl that has not a human behavior as a child. Nabila tells the detail that happened on her when she was a young girl, the abuse that happened on seven years old. Her words can make the readers imagine as if they were in the story of the memoir. This memoir also translated to another language to five countries, are Estonia, French, Holland, Indonesia, and the Czech Republic, as a mean to send the message of this memoir to all the children in the world.

The fifth reason is subject. Nabila is a young girl who was seventh years old. Where she had to play and enjoy the happiness like other children. When she was seventh years old, her sexually abuse of her Imam that she considers very important people in the Muslim community and no one knows about it. More than twenty six years, she suffered depression and nightmares, it was very hard to forget it, the effect of traumatic experience on the personality development of her, and finally she found the way to fix it in the light of her future.

Based on phenomenon above, the writer is interested to choose *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* (2012) Memoir wrote by Nabila Sharma as the object of the study. Considering the thing above, the researcher wants to conduct a further research entitled **THE INFLUENCE OF PAST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE ON THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT REFLECTED AT NABILA SHARMA'S BRUTAL: THE HEARTBREAKING TRUE STORY OF A**

LITTLE GIRL'S STOLEN INNOCENCE (2012) MEMOIR: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

There is no literature review related to *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* (2012) Memoir written by Nabila Sharma at least among university in Central Java such as UMS, UNS, UNDIP, UAD, UNY, UGM, UMY, etc. and also several website such as ProQuest, Questia, Cambridge University. The writer uses psychoanalytic approach to analyze the data and using *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* Memoir as an object. The writer cannot find the related research because this data source is the newest memoir that was released on April 2012. So that the writer cannot compare this research with other research because this is the first study of Nabila Sharma's book, *Brutal*. The writer analyzes **THE INFLUENCE OF PAST TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE ON THE PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT REFLECTED AT NABILA SHARMA'S *BRUTAL: THE HEARTBREAKING TRUE STORY OF A LITTLE GIRL'S STOLEN INNOCENCE (2012) MEMOIR: A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH.***

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writers proposed the problem "How is the influence of past traumatic experience on the personality

development reflected in *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* (2012) Memoir wrote by Nabila Sharma?"

D. Objectives of the Study

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

1. To describe *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* Memoir based on the structural elements of memoir.
2. To analyze the influence of past traumatic experience on the personality development reflected in *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* memoir (2012) based on a psychoanalytic approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The writer really hopes that the research on *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* Memoir (2012) 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, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* memoir.

2. Practical benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another literature study that have interest with literary study on the memoir from psychoanalytic approach.

F. Research method

1. Type of the study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze memoir using psychoanalytic approach. The steps to conduct this research are a) determining the type of the study, b) determining the object of the study, c) determining data and data source, d) determining technique of data collection, and e) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the study

The object of the study is *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* Memoir (2012) has written by Nabila Sharma.

3. Type of the data and data sources

- a. The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *Brutal* Memoir by Nabila Sharma.
- b. There are two data sources that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources.

1) Primary data source.

The primary data source of this research is the story of Nabila Sharma's memoir, *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* (2012).

2) Secondary data source.

The secondary data sources from other sources related the research, such as: website, dictionary, some books that support the analysis.

4. Technique of data collection

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

- a. Reading the original memoir for several times,
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed,
- c. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source,
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data,
- e. Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with memoir, such as memoir's story, identity, response of the public, etc.

5. Technique of data analysis

The technique used in analyzing data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural element of the memoir on the Influence of Past Traumatic Experience on the Personality Development Reflected in

Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence Memoir (2012) written by Nabila Sharma.

G. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “the Influence of Past Traumatic Experience on the Personality Development Reflected in *Brutal: the Heartbreaking True Story of a Little Girl's Stolen Innocence* Memoir (2012) wrote by Nabila Sharma” that consists of five chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which contains of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter comprises of the underlying theory, which presents notion of psychoanalysis, system of personality, anxiety, traumatic experience, and theoretical application. The third chapter is consisting of structural analysis, which analyzes the structural elements of the story and discussion. The fourth chapter consists of the data analysis and discussion. The last chapter is conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication.