

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Breaking Night is a memoir by Liz Murray and was published by Hyperion in 2010. The book is first published in United States and it is the first memoir written by Liz Murray. The memoir consists of 197 pages and has twelve chapters. In 2003, *Breaking Night* was adapted into a film with the title *Homeless to Harvard* produced by Michael Mahoney.

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 a 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.

Liz Murray is the daughter of drug addicts who died of Aids. They neglected her, scandalously, but loved her in their own hopelessly dysfunctional way. By the age of six she was accustomed to watching her parents shoot up (her mother was almost blind, so her father had to help her do it). She left home at 15, carrying with her a crumpled snapshot of her

mother, taken at a similar age – a girl with a storm cloud of hair and an unnervingly absent stare. It is the only picture reproduced in the book – her talisman.

Murray's parents usually burned through their monthly welfare check within a week, spending the money on cocaine, while Murray and her older sister, Lisa, scrambled to stay alive. They subsisted on eggs and mayonnaise sandwiches, occasionally splitting a tube of toothpaste and a cherry-flavored ChapStick to dull their hunger pangs. Once, her mother left them alone with a child molester, a man who also supplied their mother with drugs. Despite such appalling, reckless behavior, Murray loved her mother and admired her father, a graduate-school dropout who kept *The New Yorker* by his bed and read voraciously, continually renewing his library card in a new name because he never returned the books.

By age 6, Murray knew how to mainline drugs (though she never took them) and how to care for her strung-out parents. She showed uncanny maturity, even as a child, and later managed to avoid that malady of teenagers and memoir writers, self-pity. It was a luxury she could not afford in her crime-ridden neighborhood, where she spent her nights looking out the window to make sure her parents returned safely from scoring drugs. Murray's stoicism has been hard-earned; it serves her well as a writer.

Murray's mother was dying of Aids while her daughter rode the subways at night for warmth, slept in stairwells on marble floors, camped in friends' houses, scavenged in rubbish bins and played truant from school.

Murray fell into a relationship with a teenage coke dealer – slippery and charismatic – who put her up in a series of dodgy motels. But remarkably, by focusing on her parents' bad example, she managed to avoid drugs herself. And, at 17, she motivated herself to return to high school – making up a year's work with every term. It was not the role of friends, she suddenly understood, to pay her rent. Murray set herself the highest goals and won a New York Times scholarship that led to the place at Harvard. Now she devotes herself to running her own company, Manifest Living, which "empowers" others to change their lives.

There are some responses from the readers about the memoir. The first response in August 22, 2012 was Marry Sue. She said that the book was very truly an amazing and inspirational story. The book was inspired her because the book proves that people are in control of their own lives and their destiny. The second in October 23, 2010 was Alisha. She said that the book was not inspiring her very much because the movie *from Homeless to Harvard* that he saw before was better than it. (www.barnesandnoble.com)

Although *Breaking Night* is the first literary works by Liz Murray but she gets some achievements in her literary works. One of the achievements that she got is come from the printing industry. She got good response from printing industry about her *Breaking Night*. Liz Murray, as well as a number of other interesting authors attended at the annual New England Independent Booksellers Association conference and *Breaking Night* by Liz Murray was received for free by the Boston Book Bums. (www.nytimes.com)

Breaking Night is the first of Liz Murray's literature and she does not make a work of literature again. But the *Breaking Night* by Liz Murray got 43.951 sales rank and received award from New York Time (AS) and Sunday Times (UK) as the bestselling book in 2010. She has been awarded The White House Project Role Model Award, a Christopher Award, as well as the Chutzpah Award, which was given to Liz by Oprah Winfrey. (www.nytimes.com)

There are five reasons why the researcher is interested to study this memoir: first reason is the character of this memoir is interesting to study, Liz Murray is a girl who has parents who addicted to drugs and alcohol. Liz has principle that she does not want to be like her parents that addicted to drugs and alcohol. She is also a homeless but she could be accepted in Harvard University.

The second is setting, this memoir is written by drawing the time in the late 20th until early 21st century. Here the main character of Liz moved from her apartment at University Avenue to be homeless to continue her life. She slept everywhere, sometimes she slept over in her friend's house.

The third reason is the plot of the memoir. It tells young girl who moved from University Avenue to homeless to continue her life. She could school although she was a homeless. Every summer's holiday she works at *The Door* to get money to suffice her needs. She gets scholarship from The New York Times because of her achievement and in the same time she accepts in Harvard University.

The fourth reason is the style of the memoir. The style of the memoir is very interesting to study. Liz wrote some incidents with indirect sentence. She wrote her accidents and feelings with some letters inside the book. So the readers could interpret what Liz meant.

The fifth reason is the theme of the memoir. in *Breaking Night* it describes life, struggle, and love. Liz tells that life must go on and look forward whatever the situation. Everybody knows that people cannot make their situation better if they do not move on. Liz proves it and she becomes a success woman and gets what she wants.

Based on the reason and illustration above the researcher analyzed the positive self-concept in Liz Murray using humanistic psychological approach. By so doing, the researcher given the title: **“POSITIVE SELF-CONCEPT IN LIZ MURRAY’S *BREAKING NIGHT* (2010) A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”**.

B. Literature Review

In this study, the researcher summarizes relevant literature review to prove the originality of this study, by this literature review, the researcher hopes that the reader can understand the differentiation and the similarities this study with the other relevant research

The previous study is a research conducted by Morris entitled *the Cycle: An Analysis of Liz Murray’s Memoir Breaking Night* (2012). The research is an analysis of the subtitle of Liz Murray’s *Breaking Night: A*

Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard. In this research he explores three major themes of Liz Murray consist of forgiveness, survival, and journey, in order to illuminate her inner journey from nowhere to somewhere. The research tells about the survival of Liz Murray to survive her life and struggle to get better life. The journey of Liz Murray's life is very long and complicated because when Liz was an adolescent she had been a homeless. Liz Murray is a woman who always forgives her parents although they never care about her but she very loves them.

The similarity of this research with the literature review is analyzing the same literary work by Liz Murray's *Breaking Night*. The differentiation between the literature reviews with this research is the researcher before focuses on analyzing subtitle and the issues the *forgiveness, Survival and Journey of Liz Murray* While in this research, researcher focuses on searching for positive self-concept in Liz Murray by using humanistic psychological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is "How is positive self-concept in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* (2010) directed by Liz Murray?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing positive self-concept in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* (2010) directed by Liz Murray based on a humanistic psychological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the researcher focuses the objective below:

1. To analyze Liz Murray in *Breaking Night* memoir based on the structural elements of the memoir.
2. To depict the positive self-concept in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* memoir (2010) based on a humanistic psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The writer 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

This research will give contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing the objective criticism about Liz Murray in memoir *Breaking Night* (2010) using Humanistic Psychological Approach.

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 *Breaking Night* (2010) from a humanistic psychological approach.

G. Research Method

The research method is divided into five parts:

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher applied qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using humanistic psychological approach. The steps to conduct the research are as the following: 1) determining the type of the study, 2) 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 research is Positive Self-Concept in Liz Murray's *Breaking Night* (2010): A Humanistic Psychological Approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *The Breaking Night* (2010) by Liz Murray.

b. Data Source

The data of this research are primary and secondary data.

- 1) Primary data source of this research is the memoir *Breaking Night* (2010) that written by Liz Murray

- 2) The secondary data sources are the author's biography, essay, comment, homepage, and website about the memoir and other relevant sources.

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 follow:

- a. Reading *Breaking Night* memoir for several times.
- b. Identifying the topic of memoir.
- c. Determining the major and minor characters that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking note of important thing both of primary and secondary data source.
- e. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information.
- 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 memoir and the humanistic psychological theory to analyze the major character reflected in *Breaking Night* memoir.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of this paper is; Chapter I consists of Background of the Study, Literature review, Problem statement, Limitation of the study, Objectives of the study, The benefits of the study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It consists of Notion Self-Concept, Three Different Component of Self-Concept, Congruence and Incongruence, Structural Elements of The Memoir, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Structural Analysis of Memoir, consists of structural elements and discussion. Chapter IV is the Humanistic Psychological Analysis of The Memoir. Chapter V is Conclusion, Pedagogical Implication and Suggestion.