

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Childhood is a very important period in development of human behavior. Children are born innocent. They are formed by the society around them. Maier (1978: 5) states that child development is not merely a matter of individual growth; social affair affects a lot on it. And the first society for children is their family. Thus, children are formed by their family, especially their parents. The way parents educate their children affects one's behavior very much. However, orphans' childhood period is more complicated.

It is more complicated because orphans are not educated by family, but by institution. Many children from unknown parentages assembled in one place called orphanage, are in care of institution which is not rarely treat them in the same manner. Pappas (2012) says, the research finds that institutionalization in the early beginning of childhood can change a child's brain and behavior on eventual. Children need not only food, but also psychological nurturance from adult caregivers. But in the orphanage, they get less psychological nurturance. Otherwise, they have to eat at the same time, bathe at the same time, and go to bed at the same time. Moreover they have to wear same clothes which sometimes are second-hand clothes.

Childhood period in orphanage can result unhappy childhood. It worsens since unhappy childhood can affect one's life for a long time. Some

traumatic and unhappy events cannot be vanished easily by them which can make them afraid of doing or facing something in the future. One's behavior in coping for their unhappy childhood is important in order to make better future for them.

*Daddy-Long-Legs* is one of novels which draws about an orphan's life. "It is often included in discussions of other books of the era that focused on orphans, such as *Pollyanna* and *Anne of Green Gables*" (Phillips, 1999: 1). This novel describes how Jerusha Abbot, as the main character of the novel cope her unhappy childhood inside the orphanage to face the real world outside the orphanage. She had to strive and deeply burry her past moments in order to get normal life outside the orphanage.

Jerusha or Judy Abbot was an orphan who grew in a house of orphans called John Grier. John Grier was an old-fashioned asylum which the defrayal of it was depended on charity from benefactor. The children were badly fed and they had to wear second-hand clothes. The asylum took care of orphans until they reach the age of 16. And Judy had reached the age of 18 which meant she had lived in the orphanage two years longer than it should be. Whereas, the fact that she worked hard to help younger orphans in the dormitory since she was the eldest orphan was neglectful.

Fortunately, one of the trustees in the orphanage offered her opportunity to continue her study in the collage. The trustee said that Judy had talent in writing. She had originality in her writing. So she was sent to English Literature Department to deepen her skill. The trustee however gave

her unusual requirement. She had to write letters once a month, as if she wrote it to her parents if they were living. She had to send the letters to the trustee named John Smith. His real name was not John Smith, his identity remained unknown.

Judy named the trustee Daddy-Long-Legs because of his tallness. Tallness was the only thing Judy knew about him. Through the letters she sent to Daddy-Long-Legs, Judy told about her experiences in college which drew about how she adapted with college environment and how she compete the academic achievement with other students. It was not easy since most of her friends had family. They accustomed to get what they want easily, meanwhile Judy not. She also had difficulty in participate some lectures because of the lack of her education in orphanage. She also never told anybody that she was an orphan, because she hated the feeling of sympathy from other people.

Jean Webster, the author of this novel was born on July 24, 1876 in Fredonia New York and died on June 11, 1916. Her real name was Alice Jean Chandler Webster. She came from well-known family. Her great uncle was the prominent author Mark Twain, and her father was the publisher Charles Webster. She attended Fredonia Normal School and graduated in 1894 in China Painting. Then she attended the Lady Grey School in Binghamton. In 1897 she entered Vassar College, majoring in English and Economics. Webster interested in social work and woman's suffrage which inspiring her works (Vassar Encyclopedia, 2005).

*Daddy-Long-Legs* was not her only work. She also wrote *When Patty Went to College* (1903), *Wheat Princess* (1905), *Jerry Junior* (1907), *The Four Pools Mystery* (1908), *Much Ado About Peter* (1909), *Just Patty* (1911), *Daddy-Long-Legs* (1912), and *Dear Enemy* (1915). *Dear Enemy* was the sequel of *Daddy-Long-Legs* and also her last novel she wrote before her death in 1916. From the beginning it was published, *Daddy-Long-Legs* had been became an adored novel. It had never been out of print since its first publication in 1912 and had been extensively translated. The New York Times Review of Books regarded it “a whimsical wisp” and admired its “delightful sense of drollery”. James D. Hart (301, 312) placed *Daddy-Long-Legs* and *Dear Enemy* on his list of “books most widely read in America in the years immediately following publication” (Keely: 2004: 1). *Daddy-Long-Legs* was also adapted into play, movie, and musical comedy play. Webster herself adapted it into a stage play that debuted in 1914.

However there were also critics on *Daddy-Long-Legs*. The cons affirmed *Daddy-Long-Legs* as a traditional and antifeminist fairytale. It also had spoiler alert ends when a fatherly figure of *Daddy-Long-Legs* turned into a boyfriend for Judy. It seemed surprising for Judy and yet queer for the readers. The others criticize for its compelling heroine and entertaining plot. Critics had noted that that *Daddy-Long-Legs* is an epistolary novel. However Marino (1997: 2) stated that epistolary novel format had some shortages. The spaces created by epistolary novel were huge, and the breadth of the originating idea occasionally weakened the personal arguments within the

whole. Although *Daddy-Long-Legs* is a lovable novel for women in all age, but it is quite uninteresting for men.

There are some essential points why the researcher interested in analyzing *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel. Firstly, *Daddy-Long-Legs* has unusual format. It is an epistolary novel which 95 percent of it told through a series of letters. It is unusual since this format is infrequently used by authors though it is not the only one. Phillips (1999: 1) asserted that “*Daddy-Long-Legs* was perhaps the most enduring example of a popular epistolary tradition of the nineteenth and early twentieth century that emphasized female voice and female education”. Webster wrote it brilliantly. We can observe from the beginning to the end of the story that there was improvement made by Judy from time to time in writing her letters. We can grasp the upgrading through her writing style, vocabulary, and format of the letters which altered gradually from being simple to perfection. It also proven that her academic improvement encouraged her writing skill.

Secondly, Jerusha Abbot as the protagonist of the novel had a dazzling character. She was funny, witty, honest, and vigorous personal which made her likable. Although she experienced unhappy childhood in the orphanage, she grew into a lively and attractive young woman which can take enormous delight from her imperfect live. She was always enthusiastic about everything which is new for her. She also had admirable sense of humor which reflected in her letters. She endeavored to accomplish her college years with lots of achievement though it was not easy. She had to chase after her

left-behind education in order to make it true. Although she was fund by a benefactor, she desired to become an independent woman.

Thirdly, *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel has many moral values. It often included critics implicitly or explicitly, especially in education and social case. Through Judy's letters, it gives details of young girl's perspective on how education in orphanage affects one's life. Judy's character also takes part in enriching the moral values. Although she was fund by her benefactor, but it did not make her desire to become independence overcast. She did her best to succeed in academic and being enthusiasm to each new experiences and lessons she got.

And the last is Jean Webster as the author of the novel. Jean Webster was a politically and socially active lady and authoress many books. Her sense of humor exposed well in her books. She mainly produced stories of a lively and enterprising lady protagonist who come from age intellectually, morally, socially, but with enough humor, snappy dialogue, and gently biting social commentary. It made her books enjoyable to contemporary readers. In *Daddy-Long-legs* novel, she went through her writing proficiently. The young women college live presented in the novel was still relevant related to young women today, although it was first published in 1912. It proves how Webster wrote it cleverly and honestly.

Jean Webster is also a social activist who fights for woman suffrage and social reform for orphans and prisons. "She was also a suffragist and an active advocate of social reform for orphans and prisons" (Vassar

Encyclopedia, 2005). In writing her novels she often includes critics implicitly or explicitly, including in *Daddy-Long-Legs*. She criticizes on education in orphanage and woman suffrage. According to Karen Alkalay-Gut, Webster's work, though light and witty, were subversive commentaries against the patriarchal Victorian society of the early 1900's when women still did not have the vote. Many of Webster's works addressed social ills of the day, such as the state of orphan asylum in the country. *Daddy-Long-legs* directly challenge this issue (Vassar Encyclopedia, 2005).

Supported by the reasons mentioned above, the researcher will analyze *Daddy-Long-legs* novel on the issue of coping behavior for unhappy childhood by using Individual Psychological perspective. And the title composed is **COPING BEHAVIOR FOR UNHAPPY CHILDHOOD IN JEAN WEBSTERS'S *DADDY-LONG-LEGS* (1912): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

## **B. Literature Review**

The researcher has not found any literature review of *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or other universities. However there are several journals presented in *Proquest* which reviews about it. First of all is by Anne K. Phillips (1999) entitled "*Yours most loquaciously*": *Voice in Jean Webster's Daddy-Long-Legs*. In this journal, the author examined *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel which explained an orphan sent to

college by unknown benefactor. It provides detailed review of *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel.

Secondly is by Karen A. Keely (2004) entitled *Teaching Eugenics to Children: Heredity and Reform in Jean Webster's Daddy-Long-Legs and Dear Enemy*. In this journal, Keely provides a prudent historical contextualization of the ways in which Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs* and *Dear Enemy* use the adventures in home for orphans to enter public discussion and debate relating to the use of eugenics. She also illustrates how Webster was a moderate in her approach to eugenics and sought to improve environments, but also supported laws mandating involuntary sterilization and segregation of the mentally disabled.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this study is how Jerusha Abbot copes with her unhappy childhood in the orphanage to face the real world outside the orphanage as reflected in Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel.

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

In focusing the research, the author uses Individual Psychological perspective to analyze Jerusha Abbot's behavior in coping for her unhappy childhood in the orphanage which reflected in Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel.

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

The objectives of the research are:

1. To explore *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel based on its structural element.
2. To describe coping behavior for unhappy childhood reflected in *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel based on Individual Psychological perspective.

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

The result of the study is expected to give a clear understanding on how Individual Psychology perspective analyzes coping behavior for unhappy childhood in *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel.

### **2. Practical Benefits**

The result of the study is expected to enrich the researcher's expertise on Individual Psychological perspective and to give a deeper comprehension in literary field which can become reference to other researchers in analyzing *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel using different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

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

The type of the study is descriptive qualitative research. It needs library research and the sources are taken from words and other written texts.

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

The object of the study is *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel wrote by Jean Webster in 1912. In analyzing the novel the researcher uses PDF version of the novel so that the pages presented in the research may be different from the pages of original novel.

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

### a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel by Jean Webster published in 1912 PDF version.

### b. The Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from other sources such as books, articles, reviews, comments, and other relevant data.

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

The methods of data collection of the study are as follows:

- a. Reading the novel for several times.
- b. Discovering and collecting the secondary data sources.
- c. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data sources.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the novel and the analysis.

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

The technique in data analysis is descriptive analysis. It analyzes the structural elements of the novel and the individual psychological perspective of the work.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory which covers the notion of individual psychology, the basic assumption of individual psychology, structural elements of the novel, and theoretical application. Chapter three consists of the structural analysis of the novel and discussion. The structural analysis of the novel covers the characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme. Chapter four is Individual Psychological analysis of *Daddy-Long-Legs* novel which covers the analysis of the issue of the novel related to the theory, and discussion. And chapter five incorporates the overall discussion which covers conclusion and suggestion.