

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Pollyanna is a best-selling novel by Eleanor H. Porter which was first published in 1913. The novel is now considered a classic of children's literature. The title character's name becomes a popular term for someone with the optimistic view. The novel tells about Pollyanna, an optimistic young girl who, after the parents' death, goes to live with her bitter aunt. Pollyanna's optimism is influenced by the "glad game" which her father taught her and soon she spreads the game to people around her. The game teaches everyone that no matter how bad the life is, there is always something to be glad about. Pollyanna optimism is put to the test when she gets accident that makes her legs paralyzed.

Pollyanna is a novel that tells about an optimistic child. Optimism is the principle that future events will have positive outcomes. Optimism is a faith that leads to achievement no pessimist ever discovered the secret of the starts, or sailed to an uncharted land, or opened a new doorway for the human spirit (Keller in Parashar, 2008). Hellen Keller's words reflected the popular upbeat concept of the word which has been gaining ground since the 1960's as an increasing body of research has demonstrated a consistent tendency of healthy successful people to thing in generally positive ways

(Parashar: 2008). Optimism is related to various aspects of psychological and physical well-being in adults (Schweizer, Beck-Seyffer, & Schneider, 1999: 67).

According to Seligman (1992: 15), optimism is changing the destructive things you say to yourself when you experience the setbacks that life deals us is the central skill of optimism. The optimism characteristic is that tend to believe bad events will last a long time, will undermine everything they do, and are their own fault: circumstance, bad luck, or other people brought it about. Such people are unfazed by defeat, confronted by a bad situation, they perceive it as a challenge and harder. Furthermore, Seligman (1998: 55), as a psychologist, states that optimistic people experience less depression and increased enjoyment in social interactions. This is due to their ability to expect positive future outcomes based on positive past experiences. Because the optimistic view of life is a psychological phenomenon, so the researcher uses the psychology theory, namely Humanistic Psychological Approach.

So, the researcher concludes that optimism is the tendency to look at bright side in any situation and expect the best possible outcome from any series of events. People who feel optimism live their life expecting positive outcomes and events. Optimism is powerfully motivational. Optimism is one of the foundations of the success.

Pollyanna novel is one of a work of literature. According to Wellek, literature is a part of our life. It is divided into three parts, namely poetry,

prose, and drama, and these part are product of society. Literature cannot exist without language. It is the result of the author's thinking, experience and imagination that is poured into language as its medium of expression (Wellek and Warren, 1963; 75).

To understand a work of literature, the researcher uses some approaches. This research analyzes the optimistic view of life which is related to a psychological phenomenon. According to Wellek, The psychology of literature has four meanings, namely, the study of writer as type or individual, the study of the creative process, the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, and the effects of literature upon its readers (audience psychology) (Wellek and Warren: 1963: 75). This research belongs to the study of the psychological types and laws present within works of literature, so that the researcher has some underlying theories. The theories that will be used by the researcher are A Humanistic Psychological Approach of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. It is because in the novel there are some psychological phenomena which are shown by the author.

The Humanistic psychology regards humans as free will. They are able to make choice and free of what they want, as and addition, Humanistic also regards that human strive for growth. They have desire to develop their potential reaching the goal in life (Zimbardo and Ruch, 1980; 25-27).

Rogers states that a person's unique subjective experience of reality and self are central to any dynamic understanding of personality (Dworetzky,

1988: 428). The center concept of Carl Rogers is self-concept. Rogers states that self-concept is an important thing in the society to make an action that can be understood what the people character is. Carl Rogers in Ryckman (1985:420) states that people interact with significant others with their environmental. They begin to make a self concept that indeed to make a characterization of them in the society. It means that every person has their own identity and character which make people understand about their self concept. The self concept influences people to determine the right choice of life.

The self-concept includes not only our perceptions of what we are like but also what we think we ought to be and would to be (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992:499). It means that every person have their own concept and able to be the ideal self. For Rogers the ideal self reflects those attributes that the person would like to posses but currently doesn't (Hjelle and Ziegler 1992:499).

Maslow states that Humanistic Psychologists emphasize the potential of human beings for growth, creativity and spontaneity. They stress the uniqueness of the individual and her or his freedom to make choices (Bootzin, Bower, Zagonc and Hall,1986: 485). In other words, humanistic believes that human beings have potential to develop and ability to make choices.

Need for Self-actualization is the highest human needs in Maslow's theory. Maslow states that self-actualization is the desire for self-fulfillment,

to realize all one's potentials, to become everything that one can, and to become creative in full sense of the world (Maslow in Feist, 1985:381). It means that everybody has to develop their potential with their capability. A person will have desire to be a suitable person with his or her own potential to reach self-actualization needs. They will try to execute their own potential to be an ideal person for themselves or another. They also will try to actualize themselves in their life to be better in the future and get prestige in social life as the best human.

Eleanor Hodgman Porter was born on 19th of December 1868, in Littleton, N.H. She married with a businessman, John L. Porter, in 1892. Porter was an excellent singer who performed in concerts. She studied for several years at the New England Conservatory of Music with church choirs. She had given up her singing career in early 1900s for writing, and after a series of her stories becomes popular in magazines and newspaper, she published her first novel, *Cross Currents* in 1907. Her first really successful novel was *Miss Billy* in 1911, and *Miss Billy's Decision* followed in 1912. *Pollyanna* was a sentimental story of an optimistic little girl who facing difficulties became a popular phenomenon. The novel was immediately popular. One million copies were sold in 1913, the year when it was first published. Two years later Porter wrote a sequel, *Pollyanna Grows Up*, in which the spirited heroine travels to Europe and discovers adult challenges. *Pollyanna* was adapted for Broadway in a production starring Helen Hayes in 1916 and then into a motion picture

starring Mary Pickford (America's Sweetheart) in 1920. The 1960 Disney version made a star of Hayley Mills and is still popular today. Porter died on the 21st of May, 1920, in Cambridge, Mass. Several *Pollyanna* sequels were written by other authors after her death.

Pollyanna tells about an orphaned girl who must start a new life with her strict spinster aunt in the sleepy village of Beldingsville in 1913. The wealthy Miss Polly Harrington is less than pleased at the thought of taking in a child to live in her home, but following the death of Pollyanna's beloved father; she is the 11-year-old's only living relative.

Aunt Polly is bitter and stern woman after years living on her own. Pollyanna, on the other hand, is loving, big hearted and full of life. Aunt Polly, cold and unwelcoming, instructs the maid to prepare a small, dank attic room for her niece. Despite this, *Pollyanna* refuses to see any bad in her aunt. When he was alive, her father taught his little girl how to play the 'Glad' game -- finding a silver lining in every cloud. With only Aunt Polly to care for her now and a harsh daily regime of study and no play, Pollyanna has to rely on her Glad game more and more to survive.

Among the locals that Pollyanna encounters are Mrs. Snow, a bed-ridden hypochondriac and the grim-faced loner Mr. Pendleton. The other villagers have long-since written both off, but Pollyanna works her magic and brings out the best in them. Gradually the little girl transforms the inhabitants of the joyless community and even brings love into the life of her aunt.

Tragedy strikes when Pollyanna has a terrible accident which leaves her paralyzed. Suddenly, it is her aunt who has the chance to give something back and to turn her own life around.

Pollyanna novel tells about the optimistic child who tries to be always happy although some condition sometimes makes her sad. To analyze the novel, the researcher uses humanistic psychological approach of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow, it is because there are some psychology phenomenon in the story.

The researcher has the following reasons to choose *Pollyanna* novel as the subject of the study. The first reason is the novel itself. *Pollyanna* is a classic novel which is firstly published in 20th century. Eleanor H. Porter, the author of *Pollyanna* is a famous American novelist. She has succeeded publishing *Pollyanna* novel and inspired the addition of a new word into the English lexicon: "Pollyanna"—a noun describing a person who is blindly optimistic.

The second reason is the character and the characteristic of the *Pollyanna* novel are interesting to be analyzed. Pollyanna is the title of the novel and becomes the major character's name in the novel as well. Pollyanna has unique character. She is an orphan girl who has optimistic mind. She has ability to look for the goodness in other people and life, in general. She searches for light in the shadows of darkness and finds happiness, despite all her struggles and the demeanor of people around her who are not playing

The Glad Game. Pollyanna's optimism dominates her personality, even though she has endured poverty, deprivation, initial rejection by Aunt Polly, and a tragic automobile accident that threatens to make her an invalid for life. Because Pollyanna is a naive eleven-year-old, she sometimes seems tactless in her conduct of the Glad Game.

The third reason is about the setting of the novel. Eleanor H. Porter is successful creating the setting of the novel which makes the readers easily describes and imagines the situation and condition of the story. The author sets *Pollyanna* novel on several seasons. The novel begins the story at the summer and ends at the spring. The story takes place in a New England village, namely Beldingsville, Vermont, in where many people live in the big house on the hill. Almost all of them are dealing with tragedies and obstacles of their own life, here Pollyanna brightens their life. The setting of place and time makes the story of *Pollyanna* novel more interesting.

The fourth reason is about the plot. The plot of *Pollyanna* novel is chronologically order which makes the readers understand the story easily. The novel tells how *Pollyanna* gets some bad treatments from her aunt, but in the end of the story, their relationship becomes better due to *Pollyanna's* accident.

The last reason is the theme of *Pollyanna* novel is about optimistic. A story which has a positive theme always warms up and gives hope to the readers. The optimistic on this story can persuade the reader to be always

optimist in any situation and condition. Optimism can help people to approach the world in an active fashion: not taking things as they come—and becoming depressed about them—but trying to mend the situation in a different, better way.

That is why the researcher is interested in analyzing the major character, *Pollyanna*, because she has a very important role in the plot, and gives information about psychological phenomenon. She has optimistic when she meets everything. The researcher uses Humanistic Psychological of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow to analyze this novel and takes a title for her research: Optimistic View of Life in Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna* (1913).

B. Previous Studies

Related to the topic and the focus that the researcher adopted, there have been several researchers who conducted the research with a similar discussion. Some of these studies are:

The first researcher is Wati Purnama Sari (2012). The title of her research is "The Character Analysis Of *Pollyanna* Whittier In Eleanor H. Porter's Novel Entitled "*Pollyanna*" By Using Psychological Approach From Carl Jung's Theory". In this research, the writer analyzes characters of *Pollyanna* Whittier with a popular psychological approach from Carl Jung's Theory about "General Attitude Types". Problem formulation of this research are, what are characters of *Pollyanna* Whittier and what is *Pollyanna*

Whittier's attitude based on Carl Jung's Theory about General Attitude Types. Aims of the study are figuring out characters of *Pollyanna* Whittier and figuring out the attitude of *Pollyanna* Whittier based on Carl Jung's Theory about General Attitude Types. In this research, the writer uses qualitative method. The method of data collection is library research and technique of data collection is descriptive technique. In the writer's evaluation *Pollyanna*'s characters are curious, enthusiastic, argumentative, friendly, and optimistic. According to Carl Jung's psychological approach, *Pollyanna*'s characters which are curious, enthusiastic, argumentative, friendly, optimistic, have showed that *Pollyanna* is an extrovert.

The second researcher is Hamidayanti (2013). The title of the research is "An Analysis of moral value of the main character in *Pollyanna* a novel by Eleanor H. Porter". The objective of this research describes moral values of main character in novel *Pollyanna* by Eleanor H. Porter. She would like to state that the topic of the research is the main character's moral named *Pollyanna*. In the novel the main character is a cheerful little girl. Therefore, she is curious to find out how is the main character's moral. Literary works can roles as a medium of communication in delivering the rule of moral values to its readers; young children, adolescents, and adults. This research used a qualitative method in which the method of data collection is library research and descriptive technique to analyze the data. The results of this research are description of moral values of main character in novel

Pollyanna: (1) the behavior of main character to her family, (2) the relationship of main character with her friends, and (3) the action of main character to her environment. The approach discussed in this study is related to the concept that was formulated by the general public in determining the moral values of good and bad.

The third researcher is Cynthia Wishell (2005). The title of her research is “Stylistic and emotional analyses of Eleanor H Porter’s Novel *Pollyanna* Using the New Dictionary of Affects”. The research describes the result of stylistic and emotional analysis of the adolescent novel *Pollyanna*. There are two questions driving the stylistic and emotional analyses performed on the novel, first let to a search of the emotional language in the novel for an objective and reliable description of the warm, optimistic, and helpful (or sweetly sentimental) tone perceived by readers, and the second is led to an examination of development within the novel itself and an identification of patterns of movement across chapters. This research belongs to quantitative research, in which the researcher uses scoring words on a chapter by chapter using the computer program TEXT.NLZ (Whissell,1994) and the New Dictionary of Affect. Words have been selected for inclusion on the basis of their likely emotionality. Based on the analysis, the findings described in the research refer to an emotional coloring of the language rather than an emotional dominance of language. It is true beyond levels of chance that

Pollyanna included more “nice” words than normal, and that it was passive and pleasant in emotional tone.

The fourth researcher is Randri Wibowo (2007). The title is “The optimism of Julia Stanford in Sydney Sheldon’s *Morning, Noon, and Night: An Individual Psychological Approach*”. The major problem of this study is to elucidate the optimism of Julia Stanford reflected in Sydney Sheldon’s *Morning, Noon, and Night*. The objectives of this study are: to analyze the structural elements of the novel and to analyze the character of Julia Stanford based on individual psychological perspectives. In conducting the study, the researcher uses qualitative research in which the data are based on primary data, the novel Sydney Sheldon’s *Morning, Noon, and Night* itself, while the secondary data are Sydney Sheldon’s biography and other data which deal with the research. In analyzing the data, she applies some approaches. Firstly, structural analysis approach is used to analyze the elements of the novel. It consists of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, and theme. Secondly, individual psychological approach is used for analyzing the optimism of Julia Stanford that influences her daily activity and behavior toward life. These approaches are applied in order to get the appropriate analysis and answer the problems. The researcher finds that Julia’s optimism feeling lead her to an autonomous personality that has a great self confident in life.

The fifth researcher is Susi Susanti (2013). The title is “Optimism of Larry Crowne Reflected in Tom Hank’s Larry Crowne Movie (2011): An Individual Psychological Approach”. This study is aimed to show Larry’s character in Larry Crowne movie (2011) by using individual psychological approach. It is finished by establishing three objects: the first is analyzing the movie based on structural elements, the second is analyzing the movie based on the individual psychological approach, and the last is analyzing the movie based on the theory issue optimism. This research is descriptive qualitative research. Type of the data of this study is text and image taken from two data sources: primary and secondary. The primary data source is the Larry Crowne movie directed by Tom Hank released in 2011. The secondary data sources are other material taken from books, journals, and internet related to the study. Both data are collected through library research and analyzed by descriptive analysis. This study comes three following conclusions. First, based on structural analysis of each element, its shows that the character and characterization, casting, plot, setting, point of view, theme, mise en scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related to each other and form of unity. Second, based on the individual psychological analysis reflected in the character and characterization in fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving superiority, social interest, style of life, and creative power, all of these, have the meaningful goal in human’s life. The last is based on the theory optimism are dispositional optimism, unrealistic optimism, situational optimism,

strategic optimism, realistic optimism, optimism bias,, all of the theory can be standard human's life.

The sixth researcher is Joseph Rabiega and Brooke J. Cannon (2013).

The title of their research is The Relationship of Optimism with Psychological and Physical Well-Being. The problem statement of the research is to discuss the relationship optimism has with various psychological (i.e., depression) and physical factors (i.e., preventing or recovering from an illness). The objective of the research is the first to analyze how optimism is defined and studied, the development of optimistic thinking (biological and environmental), and the differences between unrealistic optimism and dispositional optimism and the second is to analyze the specific ways optimism influences psychological and physical well-being. Type of the research is qualitative research in which the researcher uses field-note method in collecting the data and interpretative method in analyzing the data. Sources reviewed for the research include scholarly journals, books, and websites. Based on the analysis, In terms of psychological well-being, optimism has been shown to be instrumental in reducing and/or preventing depression. In terms of physical well-being, the physical well-being is influenced by optimistic thinking in many ways. From recovery of heart surgery to coping with cancer, research has shown that optimistic people deal with these life stresses better than pessimists. Also, optimistic people tend to be more motivated and consistent with healthy behaviors which allow them to remain healthier.

The seventh researcher is William N. Dember and Larry Penwell (2000). The title is "Happiness, depression, and the Pollyanna Principle". The main purpose of the study is to confirm the hypothesis of Matlin and Stang (1979) who suggest that the deviants from the Pollyanna principle may come from a minority subgroup whose outlook on life is essentially pessimistic. The second purpose of the study is to determine the degree of correlation between the happiness and depression scales. The research belongs to quantitative research. The method of data collection is testing and the method of data analysis is experiment. The subjects were 59 students enrolled in an introductory psychology class designated for potential psychology majors. The students knew that they were participating in what were both a demonstration and an experiment, but they were not aware of the purposes of the experiment. Participation was voluntary and anonymous. Subjects indicated gender by writing "M" or "F" on the test booklet, but otherwise they were identified only by number. The researchers have demonstrated modest correlations between the Pollyanna tendency on an antonym pair generation task and two happiness measures; a list-generation task yielded Pollyanna principle results, but the two tasks were uncorrelated, and the list task was not correlated with happiness. Scores on the Beck Depression Inventory correlated negatively with happiness but not with either Pollyanna measure.

The eighth researcher is Arief Mono Nugroho (2008). The title is “The important of self-concept in Charles Dickens novel’s *David Copperfield: A Humanistic Psychological Approach*”. The major problem of this study is the importance of self-concept of David in the Charles Dickens novel’s *David Copperfield*. The study is focused on the major character, namely David Copperfield. The researcher employs qualitative method in which there are two data sources, namely the primary data source is the novel itself, and the secondary data sources are the books about the psychology, some books about self concept, the autobiography of the author and the other sources which are related to the analysis. The researcher uses Carl Rogers’ Humanistic Psychological Approach to analyze the self-concept of the major character. The method of data collection is library research and the technique of data collection is descriptive technique. Based on the analysis, the outcome of this study shows that the importance of the major character self concept is the way how to solve the problem faced and how to develop self concept in major character’s life. Then, there are elements of self concept in the David characteristic which is shown by Dickens and to be a fully functioning person. The problem in David life can be solved by showing the good self concept and the characteristic of fully functioning person. So, his ways to develop his self concept makes David solve his problem to become a fully functioning person and reach the happiness in his life.

The ninth researcher is Nanik Rosita (2004). The title is "Motive and Its Influences on the Major Character's Behavior in Danielle Steel's Remembrance: Humanistic Psychological Approach". This study deals with the influences of motive in individual's behavior. This study aims to identifying the relationship between the motive and the behavior. This study uses qualitative method. The primary data source is Danielle Steel's Remembrance. The secondary data sources are other materials which are relevant to the topic of the study. Technique of collecting data is library research. The technique of analyzing the data is descriptive. The researcher uses Abraham Maslow's Humanistic Psychological Approach to analyze the major character's behavior. The outcome of this study shows that motive influences human's behavior. Generally, human's behavior is almost always motivated and motive is a goal of human's behavior. It shows that every person always strives to reach self-fulfillment. The problem appeared on the person shows that the major character is motivated to live glamorous life in order to actualize herself to be a popular model.

The tenth researcher is Munfarida (2009). The title is "Self-Actualization in William Somerset Maugham's of Human Bondage: Humanistic Psychological Approach". The problem of this study is how the major character, Philip Carey actualizes himself in William Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage*. The objective of this study is to analyze William Somerset Maugham's *Of Human Bondage* based on the structural element and

Maslow's humanistic psychological approach. This study belongs to qualitative research in which there are two types' data sources which, namely the primary data source is the novel itself, and the secondary data source is taken from books and other sources which support the analysis. The method of data collection is library research and technique of data collection is descriptive technique. Having analyzed the novel, the writer draws that Philip Carey, the major character of the novel can actualize himself although he is cripple. It can be known from his life that he can pass the four basic needs (Physiological needs, Safety needs, Love and Belongingness needs, Self esteem needs) and has the fifteen characteristics of Self-actualization.

Those previous studies are used by researcher to show the differences and similarities of this present research with the previous researches, so that this present research will not be a plagiarism research. The differences and the similarities are on the object of the research, the objectives, the method, and the theory which are used in to analyze the problem of the research, and also the results of the research. The previous studies are also used to help the researcher in analyzing the data.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of this study is "How is the optimistic view of life being reflected in Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna* (1913)?" . The major problem of the study is broken down further into the following questions:

1. How is Pollyanna portrayed in Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna* novel?
2. How did Pollyanna build her self-concept in novel?
3. What needs and motives underlie Pollyanna's behavior?

D. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the researcher makes a limitation to the research. The researcher analyzes the optimistic view of life that appears in the personality of the major character, namely Pollyanna, in Eleanor H. Porter's *Pollyanna* based on A Humanistic Psychological Approach of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. *Pollyanna* novel tells about Pollyanna, an optimistic young girl, who must survive living with her bitter aunt. Because the novel contains a psychological phenomenon, namely optimistic of a human, so the researcher uses Humanistic Psychological Approach of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow. Carl Rogers' theory is used to analyze the self-concept of Pollyanna, while Abraham Maslow's theory is used to analyze the needs and motives underlie Pollyanna's behavior.

E. Objective of the Study

The researcher is interested to answer how the optimistic view of life is reflected in Eleanor Porter's *Pollyanna* (1913). The details objectives are as follows:

1. To describe Pollyanna portrayal in Eleanor H.Porter's *Pollyanna* novel
2. To explain Pollyanna's self-concept in novel
3. To describe needs and motives underlie Pollyanna's behavior

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is proposed to give a contribution to literature researches dealing with Eleanor H Porter's *Pollyanna*.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding about the content of the novel, especially from the psychology aspect.

G. Thesis Paper Organization

The study consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction; it deals with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, and paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory that consists of the explanation of humanistic psychological approach of Carl Rogers and Abraham Maslow; notion of the humanism and characteristic of humanism psychological, theoretical application. Chapter III is research method. Chapter IV is the

portrayal of Pollyanna, which includes the physical qualities, mental qualities, moral qualities, and social qualities. Chapter V is Positive Self Concept. It deals with the explanation of Rogers' model, namely need for positive regard, condition of worth, unconditional positive regard, openness to experience, existential living, organismic trusting, experiential freedom, and creativity. This chapter also deals with discussion. Chapter VI is Needs and Motives. It presents about Maslow's model, namely physiological needs, safety need, belongingness and love needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization, and also presents discussion. The last is Chapter VII which contains conclusion and suggestion.