

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A Child Called "It" is a memoir book by Dave Pelzer published by Health Communication in 1995. It was the first book written by Dave. The book consists of 157 pages, it was trilogy book written by Dave. Beside *A Child called "it"*, Dave also wrote *A Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*.

Dave Pelzer is an author in New York Times bestsellers. His full name is David James Pelzer. He was born in San Francisco, California on September 29th, 1960. He was the second of five boys. Dave Pelzer is son of Stephen Joseph Pelzer (1923-1980) and Catherine Roerva Christen Pelzer (1929-1992). His father died early and his mother abused him. His mother abused him for eight years, since he was 4 years old until 12 years old. When he was 12 years old in 1973, he was in foster homes until the age of 18. During that time period he was able to overcome some of his mental anguish, fear, and become determined to educate the world. In 1979, Dave gets out from the foster homes and joined to U.S. Air Force.

Dave Pelzer has written many New York Times Bestsellers, travels the country promoting understanding, resilience, and inspires the individuals who listen to him speak. Pelzer is also the first American to ever win the "Outstanding

Young Person of the World Award.” Although an entrepreneur is making money from his history, he is a man that overcomes abuse and is inspiring others out there that they do not have to suffer in silence and that they too can overcome.

(<http://www.bizography.org/biographies/dave-pelzer.html>)

Many books are written by Pelzer. Some of them are *A Child Called “It”*, *A Lost Boy*, *A Man Named Dave*, and *Help Yourself* is the book that reflected his own story. Moreover he also wrote *The Privilege of Youth*, *Help Yourself for Teens*, and *Moving Forward*. Pelzer won many awards and personal recommendations from President Reagan, Clinton, and George W. Bush. *A Child Called “It”* and *Help Yourself* book were also nominated in Pulitzer Prize.

A Child Called “It” book tells about a child that struggles to live although his mother always tortures him. His mother treated him like a game. Many unpredictable games that his mother did until he nearly died, cleaning the house, glass punishment, forced to drink ammonia, deprived of food, forced to eat feces of this brother, even stabbed with a knife.

At school he was hated by his friends because he always stole his friend foods. But if he did not do it, he will die because he deprived of food by his mother. No one could help him because his mother always told other that David was a brat. His father and his brothers cannot argue what his mother said. He got that torture for 8 years until he was 12 years old. In 1973, finally he can get away from his mother with a help from his staff school, his teachers, a school nurse, and a police.

There are some public responses about this book from readers and market. From readers, many people give good responses for this book. One of people said “After reading this book, I simply pitied Dave Pelzer for being born under a mother who was psychologically disordered, and blamed all her misfortunes on her son Dave. Especially when parent’s care and love is important at such a young age like in Dave’s case, Dave had went under severe tortures and unfortunate events in a way a little child should never get treated. Considering how physically and psychologically damaged, it was fortunate for Dave to be taken under foster care and was helped to take the right path of his own life. Although I feel pity for Dave who had to go under such horrible circumstances, I also feel respect at the same time for Dave who had to suffer from his awful memories and experiences, but stepped up to create a life of his own”.

(<http://seniorphillip.wordpress.com/2009/05/13/book-report-a-child-called-it-by-dave-pelzer/>)

This book also has many negative responses. Laura is the one of many people who gave negative response. She said “This book is very likely made up from start to finish. The events in it read like Pelzer imagined the worst child abuse possible and then said, "And it all happened to me!" Yeah, right. His brother and grandmother said in an interview that it was all rubbish, too, which casts more doubt upon the whole thing. Pelzer also bought his own book in bulk so the sales numbers would put it on the bestseller list -- he just does not have a whole lot of credibility. Perhaps worse than the fact that Pelzer is, shall we say, probably somewhat fluid with

the truth, is the fact that he's a dreadful writer. I no longer own the book (didn't put it through a shredder, like I did with "A Million Little Pieces," but I got rid of it as quickly as I could), so I can't list any examples here, but I do recall that I've seen better writing in sixth-grade themes". She also said "After deleting I don't know how many comments calling me names, I'm adding this note, because it will save both me and a bunch of other people from wasting time: I'll delete any comments that I consider abusive or that I think constitute ad hominem arguments, so do keep that in mind if you're thinking about composing a long screed. Thanks".

(https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/60748.A_Child_Called_It)

A Child Called "It" is a great book. Until now, this book has good rating from many booksellers. This book is New York Times bestseller for over six years and International bestseller.

(<http://www.davepelzer.com/books/childcalledit.html>)

There are five reasons why the researcher analyzes this book. First is from the character especially the character of David. Second is from the setting, third from the plot of this book, fourth is the style and the last is from the theme. First is from the character, character of David here is good character because in his childhood he had encounter many tortures from his mother, but he is still calm, strong and still struggle to get love from his mother like his brothers although finally he leaves his family.

Second is from the setting, this book takes the setting in San Francisco at 1973. Dave Pelzer tells how the condition of San Francisco at that time. He tells

about many places, buildings, vacations. Dave Pelzer makes us feel that condition.

Third is from the plot of the book. Dave Pelzer does not use traditional plot like other book writer. He uses flash back plot and that plot makes this book different with other memoir and other book. Because of that storyline, it makes this book so interesting.

Fourth is style, Dave Pelzer uses simple style in this book. This book is easy to be read, easy to understand this book. May be because of that so many people like this book besides the story of this book that is so tragic.

The last is the theme of this book. This book tells about the struggle of a child that always gets tortures from his mother during eight years. Because of that the researcher is interested to analyze what the influence of his childhood to his development of individual personality.

From the previous reasons, the researcher will analyze Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* by using behaviorist approach. So the researcher constructs the title ***THE INFLUENCE OF CHILDHOOD ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF INDIVIDUAL PERSONALITY REFLECTED IN DAVE PELZER'S A CHILD CALLED "IT" (1995): A BEHAVIORIST APPROACH***

B. Literature Review

For this study the researcher found so many researchers of Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"*. From Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta the researcher finds Yuniati Kholifah (2011) from School of Teacher Training and Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta with the title *A Child Struggle to Survive in A Child Called It Novel By Dave Pelzer (1995): A Humanistic Psychology*. She focuses to analyze about the struggle of David to live although he always gets tortures from his mother. Endang Sumiati (2011) also from School of Teacher Training and Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta with the title *Child Abuse in Dave Pelzer's A Child Called It: A Sociological Approach*. She focuses in child abuse that experienced by David.

From Gunadarma University the researcher found Lucy Irwati Anwar (2008). Different with others, she does not analyze about David but she analyzed David's mother Chaterine Roerva. The title is *Alcoholism on Roerva in Pelzer's A Child Called "it"*. Ruruh Handayani (2005) also from Gunadarma University. The title is *The Psychological Analysis on Dave in A Child Called "It"*.

From North Sumatera University, Hendrik Tambunan (2007) with the title *The analysis of Child Abuse in Dave Pelzer's A Child Called "It": One Child's Courage to Survive*. Sahruman (2013) from Brawijaya University with the title *Dave Pelzer's Psychological Condition as a Child Abuse Victim in Dave Pelzer's*

A Child Called "It". In scholarly journal the researcher finds Jennifer Percival (2003) with the title *Nursing Standard*.

Here the researcher analyzes *A Child Called "It"* focusing in the influence of childhood on the development of individual personality using a behaviorist approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of study, the researcher concerns to analyze "The Influence of Childhood on the Development of Individual Personality Reflected In Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* (1995)."

D. Limitation of Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of The Influence of Childhood on the Development of Individual Personality in Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"*, published on 1995.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is the following:

1. To analyze The Influence of Childhood on the Development of Individual Personality in Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* (1995) based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze The Influence of Childhood on the Development of Individual Personality in Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* (1995) based on Behaviorist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study is divided into two parts;

1. Theoretical; to give contribution to other researchers about the knowledge and information especially for literature researchers.
2. Practical; to give information, understanding, and additional knowledge to literary research especially about this book

G. Research Method

1. Type of Study

In this research, the researcher applied qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using individual psychology. The steps to conduct the research are as the following:

- a. Determining the type of the study,
- b. Determining data and data source,
- c. Determining technique of data collection, and finally,
- d. Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of Study

The object of the research is The Influence of Childhood On The Development of Individual Personality Reflected In Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"* (1995): A Behaviorist Approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The data of this research is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences. The data sources of this research is categorized into primary data sources and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data sources are taken from Dave Pelzer's *A Child Called "It"*.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are taken from literary books or any information related to conflicting desires that support the behaviorist approach.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The researcher used note-taking technique as the method of collecting data in this research. The steps are as follows:

- a. Reading comprehension the book repeatedly.
- b. Reading translation book to get more understanding.
- c. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information.
- d. Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- e. Making a summary and determining (title, issue, topic, theory) about that book.

- f. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique to analyze the research is descriptive analysis, in which the researcher identifies the relationship between the story of the book and the childhood that influence personality development in behaviorist approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. *Chapter I* consists of introduction that included background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, , benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. *Chapter II* consists of underlying theory that included the notion of behaviorism, basic assumptions of behaviorism, structural element, and theory applications. *Chapter III* consists of structural analysis based on character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme and discussion. *Chapter IV* consists of behaviorist approach analysis. *Chapter V* consists of conclusion and suggestion.