

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Shack is a popular book in Christian circles, at least at the time this article was written in May of 2008. It is a fictional story of Mr. Mackenzie Allen Phillips, written by William P. Young and published in 2007 with 256 pages. *The Shack* novel was self published but became a USA today best seller, having sold 1 million copies and has been translated into 30 different languages (Slick, Matt. 2008. *The Shack*. Accessed by <http://carm.org/shack>).

Young was the eldest of four, born May 11th, 1955, in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada, but the majority of his first decade was spent with his missionary parents in the highlands of Netherlands New Guinea (West Papua), among the Dani, a technologically stone age tribal people. These became his family and as the first white child and outsider who ever spoke their language, he was granted unusual access into their culture and community. By the time he was 6 he was flown away to boarding school (<http://www.last.fm/music/William+Paul+Young/+wiki>).

As the story in the novel, Mack is the first main characters. Mack was born somewhere in the Midwest, as the son of a farmer in the Irish-American family that is committed to a rigid rule. Mack's father was a church elder who looks pious but he was an alcoholic who always beat his wife when drunk. For nearly two days Mack tied in a large tree behind the house. Mack beaten up by his father can not wake up. Two weeks later, after Mack was able to walk,

Mack finally decided to go out from home. But before that Mack put poison in his drink bottle and left a message for his mother that contained an apology.

At the early age of 20th, Mack entered the seminary in Australia. After that, he returned to the United States to make peace with his family. Later, he moved to Oregon and met Nanette A. Samuelson. Mack and Nan had been married more than 33th. Mack is someone who is more reticent, thinking and acting. He has a distinctive view of others. Mack and Nan have five children. Two of her five childrens had lived alone. Jon recently got married and worked as a salesman. Tyler just graduated from college and went on a master's degree. Josh and Kate were in college diploma. While Missy, their youngest child is still small.

At one time, Mack family's filling holiday with camping with her children in the campground forest. At that time, not only Mack family's who were camping, but some families also camped in the same place. Mack took her three childrens, namely Kate, Josh, and Missy. Soon, they were familiar with each other. They have fun together and play well together. At one time, they played together in the river. They play Kano. While playing Kano, suddenly the second of three Mack's children nearly drowned. While, Missy, so busy with her book to coloring. Mack tried to save her son to the point of ignoring Missy. And it turns out, Missy disappeared without a trace. All the families in the camp trying to help Mack to find Missy.

Finally, they called the local police. Police conduct crime scene and eventually found some evidence. And after more searching, police found the

same evidence in the disappearance of the children in the camp ever. Police eventually took the decision that the people involved in the disappearance of Missy were wanted by police over the same case. For days, the police, Mack and Mack friends always did a search. And then, they did not find anything. However, a few years later, Mack did a search again and get enlightened about it. Finally, Mack and his family be able to accept what has been outlined by God.

There are some public responses from readers, markets, and industry. Sue Bohlin (Probe Minister: 2001) said that, “this is a good book for Christians who feel guilty for not doing or being enough, who fear they will see disgust in God’s eyes when they meet face to face, who can’t give themselves permission to rest from their “hamster treadmill” for fear of disappointing God. It is for those who love Christ’s bride, but wonder what it would be like for the church to be vibrant, grace-drenched, and warmly affirming the sin that breaks God’s heart. It is for those who are not satisfied with a cognitive-only. “Christianity from the neck up,” but want a relationship with the Lord that connects the head and the heart”

(http://www.probe.org/site/c.fdKEIMNsEoG/b.4217953/k.5B5D/Response_to_The_Shack.htm).

Tim Challies (Book Reviews: 2008) also said that, “I am certain that there is no other book I’ve been asked to review more times than William P. Young’s *The Shack*, a book that is currently well within the top-100 best-selling titles at Amazon. The book, it seems, is becoming a hit and especially

so among students and among those who are part of the Emergent Church. In the past few weeks many concerned readers have written to ask if I would be willing to read it and to provide a review. Because I am always interested in books that are popular among Christians, I was glad to comply” (<http://www.challies.com/book-reviews/the-shack-by-william-p-young>).

In the market, *The Shack* was the top-selling fiction and audio book of 2008 in America through November 30. *The Shack* novel also implemented on the movie which released on 2010 (<http://www.last.fm/music/William+Paul+Young/+wiki>).

In industry, *The Shack* novel has award and rank from several institutions. With 10 million copies in print, *The Shack* continues on the NY Times Best Seller List for the 172nd consecutive week, including 52 weeks at #1. It has been on the USA Today Top 150 List for 188 weeks and was ranked by USA Today as the 6th Best-Selling book of 2008 and 2009. *The Shack* was ranked by Nielsen as the Top Best-Selling book of 2008 and the 2nd Best-Selling book of 2009. *The Shack* also continues to make waves in foreign markets. It has been translated into 34 languages. In Brazil, over one million copies have now been sold and in Germany, the book currently sits at #3. *The Shack* has also become a bestseller in Canada, the U.K., South Africa and South Korea (<http://windblownmedia.com/news-releases/56-the-shack-continues-at-1-on-the-ny-times-best-seller-list.html>).

Point of interest based on *The Shack* novel can be indicated in several items, such as from the character, setting, style, and theme. First, from the

character. The main character on *The Shack* novel is Mack, who dominates to discuss in the story. And then, from the setting, *The Shack* happened in many places, at home and a campaign forest that include the shack. Especially the shack, that place can make someone curious, so someone freely imagines about that place. Style language in the novel is understandable enough, although there are many grammatical language which are confusing to understand, style language here can make the readers curious more to know what they mean. The last, “The Nature of Happiness” becomes theme in *The Shack* novel, because the end of story is dominated by the varieties of point of light on the search and discovery of the loss Missy.

There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in explaining more in this novel. First, because it is the true life of story. Second, because in the novel the story is dominated by the happiness as the result. Third, it is interesting to explain more about the nature of happiness. The last it is interesting to relate with the theory.

The researcher uses the psychology of religion approach to analyze this novel because in the story of the novel there is mutual relationship between the individual character on experience of life with experience of religious. A psychology of religion explanation of the role of religion in the personality has been part of a more broadly based effort to explain the personality as a unity and in all its parts (Maddi, 1972). By so doing, the writer gives the title: ***THE NATURE OF HAPPINESS REFLECTED IN THE SHACK NOVEL BY***

WILLIAM P. YOUNG (2007): A PSYCHOLOGY OF RELIGION APPROACH.

B. Previous Study

In the previous study, the researcher takes three examples of journals about *The Shack* novel. First, the researcher found a trade journals about *The Shack* novel at New York, by Marcia Z. Nelson in 2012 with the title after '*The Shack*': 'Cross Road': William P. Young. It discusses the struggle of protagonist by describing the great sadness because of controversy about the shack. And then, the other one is a scholarly journal, with the title Christian Scholar's Review by Larry Poston in 2009 in Holland, US. It is about the long distance patriarchal traditions associated with the Bible and historical Christianity which is never clear. And the last, the researcher found a study guide in Milford, Michigan-USA by Rev. Galen Lowery with the title '*The Shack*' in 2009. It shows how he is grouping each parts of the story of *The Shack* novel according to the theme inside.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study the researchers proposed the problem "What is the nature of happiness reflected at *The Shack* novel by William P. Young (2007)?".

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focused this research on analyzing the nature of happiness reflected at *The Shack* by William P. Young (2007) using a psychology of religion approach.

E. Benefits of the Study

The researcher hoped that this research on *The Shack* novel by William P. Young (2007) has more benefits. The benefits of this study are divided into two:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and contribution to the development of the knowledge in literary study, especially in *The Shack* novel.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another University students who have interest in literary study on the novel from a psychology of religion Approach.

F. Objectives of the Study

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follow as:

1. To describe the Nature of Happiness Reflected at *The Shack* based on structural elements of novel.

2. To analyze the Nature of Happiness Reflected at *The Shack* by William P. Young (2007) on the script of novel based on a psychology of religion approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative research. This purpose is to analyze novel using descriptive method. There are steps to continue the research, such as (1) determining the object of the study (2) determining object the study (3) determining data and data source (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the Nature of Happiness Reflected at *The Shack* novel by William P. Young (2007). It is analyzed by using a Psychology of Religion Approach.

3. Type Data and Data Source

There are two types of data sources needed to do this research, there are primary data source and secondary data sources.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is *The Shack* (2007) by William P. Young.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are sources related to the study, such as website and some books that support and related with the analysis in the novel.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of collecting data, consist of the following steps:

- a. Reading the original novel for several times,
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed,
- c. Taking notes of important points,
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data,
- e. Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with the novel, such as novel's subtitles, identity, response of the public, etc.
- f. Searching the other sources which are related to the novel.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with structural elements of the novel *The Shack* by William P. Young (2007) and it concerns with a psychology of religion approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of "The Nature of Happiness Reflected in *The Shack* by William P. Young (2007)" is as follows:

Chapter I consists of introduction that includes background of the study, previous of the study, 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 includes the notion of psychology of religion, the aspects of psychology of religion, structural element of novel, 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 psychology of religion analysis. *Chapter V* consists of conclusion and suggestion.