

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

A need is a thing that is necessary for an organism to maintain their life. To most psychologists, need is a psychological feature that arouses an organism to action toward a goal, giving purpose and direction to behavior. Maslow (1943:375) stated that people are motivated to achieve certain needs. When one need is fulfilled a person seeks to fulfill the next one, and so on.

In order to live properly humans have to fulfill not only physical needs but also psychological needs. The physical need consists of the need for food, drink, place, safety, healthy, etc. The psychological need consists of the needs to get happiness, affection, love, self-esteem, etc. Human being is a 'whole person', who not only has physic and cognition, but more importantly has feeling and emotion, Maslow (in Feist, 1985:403).

There are some literary works which tell about human`s needs. One of the literary works is memoir entitled *Breaking Night*. *Breaking Night* is a memoir written by Liz Murray and was published in the United States by Hyperion on September 7, 2010. This memoir has twelve chapters and 197 pages. Lifetime Television produced a movie about Murray`s life story entitled *Homeless to Harvard: The Liz Murray Story*, was released in 2003. This memoir is the first of Liz Murray`s literature and she does not make a work of literature again. In nytimes.com this memoir got 43.951 sales rank and

received award from New York Time (AS) and Sunday Times (UK) as the bestselling book in 2010.

Liz Murray was born in the Bronx, New York on September 23th, 1980 at the early of autumn. In 2009, Liz Murray completed high school and won a New York Times scholarship while homeless, and graduated from Harvard University. 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. Today, she travels the world to deliver motivational speeches and workshops to inspire others. Liz is the founder and director of Manifest Living, a New York-based company that empowers adults to create the results they want in their own lives (Murray, 2010:197).

Breaking Night is the stunning memoir of a young woman who at age fifteen was living on the streets, and who eventually made it into Harvard. Liz Murray's life as the child of cocaine-addicted parents. But although she seemed destined to become just another tragic statistic - by the time she was 20 years old-she had become a student at Harvard University. Liz had an extraordinarily difficult childhood, and from an early age she and her sister Lisa had to learn to fend for themselves. Her education suffered terribly, and she hardly ever attended school. When she was 11, she discovered her mother was HIV positive. After that Liz's family fell apart. Her parents split up, and her mother moved in with another man, taking Liz's sister with her. Liz was reluctant to abandon her father, and her relationship with her mother became distant. After a while she left home and began staying with friends, sleeping on their sofas or

floors and then even on the streets. The crumpled photo of her mother that Liz always carried around with her.

In 1996 her mother died, but Liz always carried a crumpled photo of her - a reminder which inspired Liz to turn her life around. She committed herself to studying and fought to go back to high school. Still homeless, she studied at friends' houses or on the train. During a trip to Harvard, one of America's most prestigious universities, Liz realized this was something she could do. Thanks to a scholarship from the New York Times she became a student there. Liz took care of her father until he also died of Aids. She graduated from Harvard in 2009 and went on to set up her own business helping others to change their lives. She has written about her remarkable life in her memoir called *Breaking Night*. Liz Murray came into the Outlook studio and told Lucy Ash about her childhood and her extraordinary success in turning her life around. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/programmes/2011/02/110207_homeless_harvard_liz_murray.shtml)

Breaking Night is a one of literary works. Literary work is a imaginative or creative writing. According to Sara Constantakis (*the study of memoir* 2010: 5), a memoir is made up of many parts interacting to create a coherent whole.

There are some responses from the readers about the memoir. The first response in September 27, 2011 was Grumpydan. He said "The story is inspirational, uplifting and thought provoking, she details how she overcame her obstacles and was able to go to Harvard". The second in October 23, 2010 was Alisha. She argued that the book was not inspiring her very much because

the movie from Homeless to Harvard that he saw before was better than it (<http://barnesandnoble.com/w/breaking-night-liz-murray/1100562304?ean=9781401310592>).

The third in August 27, 2012 was Marry Sue. She stated that the book was very inspiring because the book proves that people are in control of their own lives and their fate ([http://goodreads.com/book/show/1432370.Breaking Night](http://goodreads.com/book/show/1432370.Breaking_Night)).

Breaking night is an interesting memoir. Why the researcher is interested to study this memoir is due to four following reasons: first reason is principle of her life to avoid drugs and alcohol. Although her parents are addicted to drugs and alcoholic but she still keeps her principle that she doesn't want to try it because she knows that it makes her life worst, Murray (2010:33).

The second is the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray with all her risk. Liz's need to get better life is by working. She worked as pumping gas and bagging groceries, so that she could buy food. Her effort to reach a better life is very dramatic so that we can learn by her to face the world, Murray (2010:54).

The third 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 often stayed and ate at her friend's house, Murray (2010:144).

The fourth reason is the success of Liz Murray that she was a homeless but she could graduated from college at Harvard. When her mother died of AIDS she had determined to do life future. She wanted to go to college, but she did not have money for college. So she is looking for a suitable scholarship for her. And she found a suitable scholarship for her that is the New York Times college scholarship that more attributed for top colleges cost. Finally her scholarship is aimed at Harvard University. And she lectures at Harvard until graduation in years 2009, Murray (2010:179).

Based on the reason and illustration above the researcher will analyze the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray using humanistic psychological approach. By so doing, the researcher gives the title: “The Need to Reach a Better Life in Liz Murray’s *Breaking Night* (2010) A Humanistic Psychological Approach”.

B. Literature Review

The researcher has tried to find the literary review of the study on the memoir. There are some researchers who previously conducted different studies of this memoir. The first researcher was conducted by Morris (2012) entitled THE CYCLE: AN ANALYSIS OF LIZ MURRAY’S MEMOIR *BREAKING NIGHT*. The result of his research is the subtitle of Liz Murray's *Breaking Night: A Memoir of Forgiveness, Survival, and My Journey from Homeless to Harvard*.

The researcher explores three major themes of Liz Murray: Forgiveness, Survival, and journey, in order to illuminate her inner journey from nowhere to

somewhere. This research tells about Liz Murray as the homeless who has a life long journey and complicated. Liz had to take care of herself without any attention from her parents and struggling to get a better life.

There are similarities and differences in this research with the literature review. The similarity is analyzing literature *Breaking Night* by Liz Murray. The difference 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 the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray by using humanistic psychological approach.

The second researcher was conducted by Melinda Ayu Diyah Kurniawati in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2014), entitled “FAMILY CONFLICT REFLECTED IN *BREAKING NIGHT* MEMOIR (2010): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”. Her research belongs to qualitative research. The researcher finds the correlation between the theories, story and social background of American society in the middle of the twentieth century. This research only focuses on social aspect, economic aspect and cultural aspect which are interrelated closely with material.

The third researcher was conducted by Ovi Ariesta Ayu Andari in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2014), entitled LIS’S EFFORT TO GET BETTER LIFE IN *BREAKING NIGHT* (2010) AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH. Her aim is to describe the structural elements of the memoir and to analyze the memoir based individual psychological approach.

The similarity of previous studies with this research is the object. The difference between the researcher and previous researcher is the issue. The researcher's issue is depicting the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray by using humanistic psychological approach, while the previous researcher's issue depicts the Liz's effort to get better life in *Breaking Night* by using an individual psychological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: "How is the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* Memoir (2010) directed by Liz Murray?"

D. Limitation of the study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the researcher will make limitation to the research. The researcher will only focus on analyzing the need to reach a better life in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* (2010) directed by Liz Murray based on a humanistic psychological approach.

E. Objective 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 need to reach a better life in Liz Murray reflected in *Breaking Night* (2010) based on humanistic psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from this research are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research can contribute to the knowledge about literary study especially humanistic psychological approach toward the literary work.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the researcher and another student at 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 of this research is divided into five parts: (1) type of the study, (2) Object of the Study, (3) Type of the Data and the Data Source, (4) Technique of Data Collecting and (5) Technique of the Data Analysis.

1. Type of the Study

In this study, the researcher uses qualitative research study which is takes the source data from library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using humanistic psychological approach.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the research is *The Need to Reach a Better Life in Liz Murray's Breaking Night* (2010): A Humanistic Psychological Approach.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

Type of data is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences. In this research, primary and secondary data are used as source data. The primary data source of this research is the memoir *Breaking Night* (2010) that written by Liz Murray and the secondary data source are some material related to the data required, such as the author's biography, essay, comments, homepage, website about the memoir and other relevant sources.

4. Techniques of Data Collection

The method used for collecting data is library research by collecting and selecting both primary and secondary data. The steps are as follows:

- a. Reading *Breaking Night* memoir for several times.
- b. Identifying the topic of memoir.
- c. Determining the major and minor characters that will be analyzes.
- d. Taking note of important thing both of primary and secondary data source.
- e. Some related books to find out theory, data, and information required.
- 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.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of this paper is divided into five chapters. First is introduction that covers the 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. The second chapter delivers underlying theory, which presents of notion of humanistic psychology, basic concepts of Carl Roger Humanistic Psychology, Structural Elements of the memoir, and Theoretical Application. The third chapter covers structural analysis of memoir, consists of structural elements and discussion. The fourth chapter is the Humanistic Psychological analysis of the memoir. The fifth chapter draws of conclusion, pedagogical implication, and suggestion.