

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

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

The right of human, throughout the history, serves an essential role in the development of human being. It determines certain standards of human behavior, and is regularly protected as legal rights in national and international law. Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever the nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language, or any other status is. The history of human right started in 539 B.C., the armies of Cyrus the Great, the first king of ancient Persia, conquered the city of Babylon. He freed the slaves, declared that all people had the right to choose their own religion, and established racial equality.

Children, as members of society, are also endowed this right and in order to be good members of society, parents must teach their children to respect and obey the society rules and correct their mistakes and tell their children what important is. When a family breaks up, it is usually difficult for everyone in the family to cope with the situation; however, children are often the worst victims of family breakup. There are powerful reasons to be alarmed about the impacts of family breakup on children (Aktar, 2013; 01).

Declaration of the Rights of the Child was proclaimed by General Assembly Resolution 1386 (XIV) of 20 November 1959. This was the basis of the basis of the Convention of the Rights of the Child adopted by the UN General Assembly 30 years later on 20 November 1989. The Convention on

the Rights of the Child was entered into force on 2 September 1990. The researcher uses the PDF version of this declaration with all rights reserved for Steven T. Walther 2003. The child shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. Every child, without any exception whatsoever, shall be entitled to these rights, without distinction or discrimination on account of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, whether of himself or of his family (Declaration of the Rights of the Child, Principle 1. 1959).

*The first phone call from heaven* is written by famous American writer Mitch Albom. The researcher uses *the first phone call from heaven* novel published by *HarperCollins* publisher 195 Broadway New York, International Edition. Story takes place in Coldwater, Michigan, USA. However, Mitch states in the novel note that it was a fictional town even though there is an actual Coldwater in Michigan. Coldwater actually is in Southwest Michigan but Albom gives it a Northern Michigan, about 90 miles west of Alpena. The time setting of the novel is between recent years, but it is not precisely mentioned the exact year of the novel but the researcher believe it is on recent year due to the presence of high technology of communication, like cellular phone as the continuity invention of the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876.

*The First Phone Call from Heaven* tells the story of a small town on Lake Michigan that gets worldwide attention when its citizens start receiving phone calls from the afterlife. An allegory about the power of belief--and a

page-turner that will touch your soul--Albom's masterful storytelling has never been so moving and unexpected (<http://www.goodreads.com/-the-first-phone-call-from-heaven>).

The story starts from Katherine, who told people in the church that she was getting a call from heaven. However, some people doubt about what was said by Katherine including Pastor Warren, he considers that Katherine's confession is a serious problem and should not be discussed in public. However, people shocked when a man named Elias Rowe claims that he also got call from heaven. Katherine's confession in the church obtained attention of television station in Alpena. They sent Amy Penn to proclaim the news. The news soon spread to the world media. Within a few weeks, Coldwater is congested by foreign visitors who want to know more about it or even who wants to also get a miracle like Katherine including the citizen of Coldwater.

However, Sully Harding, who does not believe in God as well as life after death in heaven, did not believe what was happening. The dead can talk back to the people who live over the phone is impossible for Sully. Now working for the small-town newspaper, Sully finds that the inner workings of the print business provide access to information that just might find the missing link that ties all these phone calls together. It involves cell phone carriers, amount of time since death, and a few other things that are too similar to ignore. He's so sure that there is someone behind all these events. He also wants to convince his son, Jules, that people who have died cannot be

contacted by telephone, including his mother, wife Sully, who died during Sully's imprisonment.

Various religious leaders convene for a round table discussion about the validity of the calls as well as what to do next. Some of the religious readers are more concerned with exactly which faction was first to get a call and less concerned with investigating the legitimacy of the calls. News outlets are encouraged to report on the phenomenon in Coldwater. Amy Penn, who arrives first, is a veteran reporter who hasn't had the career she hoped for, but this story stands to be the one that makes her a national name. Eventually, she gets to the point where she has to decide about her own ethics, whether she is covering or exploiting a story and the people behind it. In the end of the story it is not revealed whether the phone calls are truly from heaven or just a hoax. There are pretty much the characters in the novel that seems to be the main actor. But many of the characters in this novel are able to provide perspectives of beliefs based on each character. As the calls increase, and proof of an afterlife begins to surface, the town—and the world—transform. Only Sully, convinced there is nothing beyond this sad life, digs into the phenomenon, determined to disprove it for his child and his own broken heart (<http://mitchalbom.com/first-phone-call-heaven>).

*The first phone call from heaven* is a virtuosic story of love, history, and belief. It contains 336 pages and a little more than 82,000 words. It is 1# *New York Times* bestseller and the winner of 2014 Religion Communicators Council Wilbur Award. It was published in November 12, 2013. “A

beautifully rendered tale of faith and redemption that makes us think, feel, and hope--and then doubt and then believe, as only Mitch Albom can make us do” —Garth Stein, New York Times bestselling author of *the Art of Racing in the Rain*. The researcher uses *the first phone call from heaven* novel published by HarperCollins publisher 195 Broadway New York, International Edition.

Mitch Albom is an internationally renowned and best-selling author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster and musician. His books have collectively sold more than 35 million copies worldwide; have been published in forty-nine territories and in forty-five languages around the world; and have been made into Emmy Award-winning and critically-acclaimed television movies. He was born on May 23, 1958 in Passaic, New Jersey, the middle of three children to Rhoda and Ira Albom. The family moved to the Buffalo, N.Y. area briefly before settling in Oaklyn, New Jersey, not far from Philadelphia. After attending high schools in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, he left for college after his junior year. He earned a bachelor’s degree in 1979 at Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, majoring in sociology, but stayed true to his dream of a life in music, and upon graduation, he worked for several years as a performer, both in Europe and America. In his early 20’s, while living in New York, he took an interest in journalism and volunteered to work for a local weekly paper, the Queens Tribune.

He eventually returned to graduate school, earning a Master’s degree from Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism, followed by an

MBA from Columbia University's Graduate School of Business. Mitch eventually turned full-time to his writing, working as a freelance sports journalist in New York for publications such as Sports Illustrated, GEO, and The Philadelphia Inquirer. His first full time newspaper job was as a feature writer and eventual sports columnist for The Fort Lauderdale News and Sun Sentinel in Florida. He moved to Detroit in 1985, where he became a nationally-acclaimed sports journalist at the Detroit Free Press and one of the best-known media figures in that city's history, working in newspapers, radio and television. He currently hosts a daily talk show on WJR radio (airs Monday through Friday, 5-7 p.m. EST) and appears regularly on ESPN Sports Reporters and SportsCenter. In 1995, he married Janine Sabino. That same year he re-encountered Morrie Schwartz, a former college professor who was dying of ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. His visits with Schwartz would lead to the book Tuesdays with Morrie, which moved Mitch away from sports and began his career as an internationally recognized author. (<http://mitchalbom.com/bio>).

There are several reasons for the researcher to analyze this novel. First, the most interesting about the novel is how Albom able to mix beautifully on the plot of the novel, telling the conflict of each characters and the historical background of the telephone with Alexander Graham Bell, world widely known as the inventor of telephone, as the character. It is often spotted in the first paragraph of the chapters. As stated in the novel, Albom himself is unsure whether Alexander Graham Bell is the inventor of telephone as he wrote

“no one is certain who invented the telephone. Although the U.S patent belongs to the Scottish-born Alexander Graham Bell, many believe he stole it away from an American inventor named Elisha Gray” (Chapter the forth week, page 22, paragraph 1).

The second is that the plot of the novel flows beautifully even though it is quite uneasy to follow. Many people believe that one of Mitch Albom’s strength as a writer is in creating strong characters. His characters feel real, as real as Coldwater. The plot contains several main characters, each with their own dependent plots but perfectly integrated using the bond of heavenly phone call and the lost of beloved one. There is Katherine Yellin, the real estate agent mourning her sister who is stuck in the middle of much of the media’s attention. Jack Sellers, the local police chief who lost his son in Afghanistan, and Sullivan Harding an ex-navy pilot who is struggling with his own demons. His wife died in a car crash on the day he crashed a plane and he blames himself. Yet, the researcher encourages to analyze the novel as Sully Harding as the object because he Sully Harding, is the only main character who disbelieved and determined to find out the issue of heavenly phone call. Those characters, with all their problems and anxieties, are beautifully linked into the same concern which is the heavenly phone call.

Because of those reasons above, the researcher encourages to conduct research entitled **“RIGHT OF CHILD IN BROKEN HOME FAMILY AT MITCH ALBOM’S *THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN* (2013) NOVEL: INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH”**

## **B. Literature Review**

*The first phone call from heaven* is the latest novel from Mitch Albom and as far as the researcher's knowledge there is no such kind of research analyzing this novel especially in University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta. Thus, this research is more likely to be the first research that examines *the first phone call from heaven* by Mitch Albom.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study is how the right of child in broken home family is reflected in Sully Harding character of *the first phone call from heaven* novel.

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

The study analyzes how the right of child in broken home family in Sully Harding character of *the first phone call from heaven* using individual psychological approach is.

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

Appropriate to the problem statement above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. Analyzing the structural elements of *the first phone call from heaven* novel by Mitch Albom.
2. Analyzing the novel based on the individual psychological approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are as follow:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study will beneficial to contribute the knowledge of literary study on *the first phone call from heaven* by Mitch Albom.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The researcher hopes that this research will be able to give a deeper understanding about this novel especially from the aspect of individual psychology. Researcher hopes that there will be another researcher who is interested to analyze this novel.

## **G. Research Method**

This point is divided into four sub-points, they are:

### **1. Object of the Study**

This research uses Mitch Albom's *The first phone call from heaven* as the object of study. Researcher takes individual psychological approach to examine the object.

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

#### **a. Type of the Data**

The type of the data of this research is written data consisting words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs and dialogues. This research is uses qualitative research to analyze the novel.

#### **b. Source of the Data**

There are two types of the data sources in this research namely:

#### 1) Primary Data Source

The primary data source of this research is *the first phone call from heaven* of Mitch Albom.

#### 2) Secondary Data Source

Secondary data source is taken from the biography of Mitch Albom, individual psychological books and other relevant information related to the study and virtual reference of *the first phone call from heaven* by Mitch Albom.

### 3. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection is library research. The steps are :

- a. Reading the novel several times.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- c. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other sources related to the novel.

### H. Technique of the Data Analysis

There are two techniques used by the researcher in analyzing data, they are as follow:

- a. Analyzing the structural elements of the play including the narrative elements and technical elements.

- b. Analyzing the right of child in broken home family at Mitch Albom's *the first phone call from heaven* novel using descriptive qualitative analysis.

## **I. Paper Organization**

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction including the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. The second Chapter is underlying theory. This chapter examines notion of psychoanalysis theory, basic concepts of Psychoanalysis and theoretical application. The third chapter is structural analysis of the play including narrative and technical elements. The fourth Chapter deals with the analysis of right of child in broken home family at Mitch Albom's *the first phone call from heaven* novel using individual psychological approach. Finally, the last chapter is conclusion and suggestion of the research.