

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

An intimidation, harassment, and abuse toward powerless people often happen over time in many countries in the world, including bullying. Bullying is a conduct or behavior carried out by a person or a group involving the use of force to intimidate, to abuse, or to dominate aggressively other people who are powerless. Bullying is often used by the aggressor to maintain status in community she/he/they live. The act is usually done repeatedly (Glew, Rivara & Feudtner, 2000; Pellegrini, Bartini & Brooks, 2000). The act of bullying includes 'harmful' attitudes such as bad name-calling, hitting, kicking, stealing, fighting, destroying properties, etc (Nansel, Overpeck, Pilla, Raun Simmons-Morton, & Scheidt, 2001). Bullying can result on injury, depression, anxiety, and even other hazardous impact such as mental illness and death on the victim (Roberts, 2000).

The explanation above is also emphasized by a research by Nansel et.al in *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* (2001) that bullying has three components namely: 1) Bullying is carried out by one person or a group who intend to do harm, and the behavior always tends to be aggressive. 2) This behavior is done repeatedly and over time. 3) The target of behavior is someone powerless.

Oliver Twist is a classic novel from a point of view of a young boy, written by Charles Dickens. *Oliver Twist* takes set in England and shows about an orphan's life in Victorian era in 1830s in Britain. *Oliver Twist* is a portrayal of children's exploitation and bullying. He was an orphan boy, and lived humiliated in a miserable condition of workhouse.

Upon this, the parish authorities magnanimously and humanely resolved, that Oliver should be ‘farmed,’ or, in other words, that he should be dispatched to a branchworkhouse some three miles off, where twenty or thirty other juvenile offenders against the poor-laws, rolled about the floor all day, without inconvenience of too much food or too much clothing, under the parental superintendence of an elderly female, who received the culprits at end for the consideration of sevenpence-halfpenny per small head per week. Sevenpence-halfpenny’s worth per week is a good round diet for a child; a great deal may be got for sevenpence-halfpenny, quite enough to overload its stomach, and make it uncomfortable (Dickens, 1838.Chapter 2).

Oliver Twist illustrates the life of the child labor during the Industrial Revolution. Child labor is a shamefully significant history in England. Dickens himself is also one of those who take part in that dark history. A huge number of children, especially from the orphanages and workhouses, “were bought by factory owners,” thus the children “became known as pauper apprentices” (“Workhouse Children”).

Mistreatment faced by the main character, Oliver, shows that the novel shows children bullying. Children bullying in a *Oliver Twist* happens mainly in its main character, Oliver. In the novel, Oliver is described repeatedly hit, kicked, mocked, and even being mocked by other characters, who are portrayed more ‘powerful’ than Oliver.

The first bullying faced by Oliver happened when he worked in Mr. Sowerberry’s workhouse. One of his mates, Noah Claypole, bullied him. Noah made disparaging comments about Oliver’s mother as it can be seen below.

Yer know, Work’us’, continued Noah, emboldened by Oliver’s silence, and speaking in a jeering tone of affected pity: of all tones that most annoying” ‘Yer know, Work’us, it can’t be helped now; and of course yer couldn’t help it then: and I am very sorry for it; and I’am sure we all are, and pity yer very much. But yer must know, Work’us, yer mother was a regular rightdown bad ‘un.’ (Dickens, 1838, Chapter 5)

Being insulted, Oliver attacked Noah and hit him on his head. Feeling desperate, Oliver run away from Mr. Sowerberry's house and headed London. The next bullying toward Oliver happened in London. When Oliver reached outside London, he felt starving and exhausting.

Fortunately, Oliver met a young boy of Oliver's age named Jack Dawkins. He helped Oliver and gave him a shelter of his master's house, Fagin. In fact, Fagin is a bad person who always conducts crime such as stealing, pick-pocketing, and robbery. Even, he made use his power to force and train children or some orphan boys to pickpocket for him. After several days of being trained to be a pickpocket by Fagin, Oliver was asked in pickpocketing mission with two other boys. Here, Oliver was forced to be a criminal. The novel portrayed the dark side of London. There was a portrait of misery, pain, and sorrow of children at a parish workhouse and crime life of London streets, as Fred Kaplan's critics about *Oliver Twist* that *Oliver Twist* is a powerful work fiction telling about miseries, general condition of poverty, corrupt and stupidity goverment and its agencies in daily life of London's dark (Kaplan, 1993).

The entire story-flow in the novel explores issues of bullying, crime, pain through a portrait of dark side of London in the life of thieves, prostitutes, and children workers. The psychological aspect of character in a literary work is so various. One of the psychological topics which are very interesting to discuss is the neurotic personality and its cause. In the field of psychology, the neurosis is caused by many factors. One of them is caused by the disturbances in interpersonal relationship of human in his childhood. Apparently, this disturbance is very responsible to the later development of someone personality, since its influence needs and the strategies that adopted to cope those needs. It explains clearly in the *Dictionary of Behavioural Science* that each person as individual has two aspect in his/her

life, namely safety and satisfaction. The satisfaction needs without safety and acceptance fulfillment will result on basic anxiety. Anxiety will lead to neurosis development (Wolman, 1973: 28).

The researcher thinks that this novel is very interesting to be analysed. It is a unique drama which offers a personality of Oliver Twist and bullying. The researcher is interested to search Oliver's effort to cope the bullying. Therefore, to get better understanding of the subject matter, the researcher applies An Individual Psychological Approach Theory.

For the background above, researcher intends to conduct a study on psychological approach. By doing so, he gives a title "**COPING WITH CHILDREN BULLYING REFLECTED IN CHARLES DICKENS' *OLIVER TWIST*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH**".

B. Problem Statement

The statement of problem of this study are:

1. What are characteristics of children bullying in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*?
2. How is children bullying depicted by Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*?
3. How did Oliver Twist cope with bullying?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher will focus on the analysis of Coping With Children Bullying Reflected in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*: An Individual Psychological Approach.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of study are described as follows.

1. To analyze characteristics of children bullying in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.
2. To analyze children bullying depicted by Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.

3. To analyze how Oliver Twist coped with bullying.

E. Benefits of the Study

The research has 2 (two) benefits, namely theoretical benefits and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefits

- a. This study provides a better understanding of Charles Dickens's *Oliver Twist*.
- b. This study can give more information about children bullying and its impact life through the characterization of *Oliver Twist*.

2. Practical Benefits

- a. This study will give a reference for other researcher who is interested in Charles Dickens' works.
- b. Hopefully, this research will become an inspiration, input and foundation for the next research.
- c. The readers of this research is expected able to grasp moral values portrayed in the flow of its story and also give better understanding on Charles Dickens's typical way of writing.

F. Organization of Research Paper

The organization of this research paper is structured as follows: Chapter I is Introduction. It includes Background of the Research, Limitation of the Research, Problem Statements, Objectives of the Research, Benefits of the Research, and Organization of Research Paper. Chapter II contains Underlying Theories, while Chapter III is Research Methods. Chapter IV is Psychological Analysis of *Oliver Twist*, and Chapter V is Conclusion, Pedagogical Implication, and Suggestions.