

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of The Study

Social skill is an important part of the ability of human being which is naturally social. Without these skills, the human being is not smooth in interacting with other people, so the life will be less harmonious (maladjustment). According to Mazarin, Social skills is a person way to deal with others that provide healthy and positive interactions (as cited in Little, Swangler, & Akin-little, 2017). Then, dictionary.com defines social skills as a person ability that is needed for having successful communication and interaction. Gresham and Elliot (1984) defines as ability that allow an individual to connect with others in many ways that bring out positive responses and help in avoiding negative responses (cited in Little, Swangler, & Akin-little, 2017). According to Cook et.al's opinion which is cited in Little, Swangler, & Akin-little, 2017) social skills are those skills that enable individuals to function competently at social tasks. So it can be said that social skills is an art or ability of a person in dealing with social life. Therefore possessing social skills becomes essential fo human being for the succesfull adaptation.

Social skills do not only become attention of psychology, sociology, education, but also author such as Natsume Soseki. Natsume Soseki is one of greatest japanese author, novelist, and literary expert who has interest in discussing social skills in his novel. His works are *Wagahi wa Neko de Aru* (1905-1907), *Maboroshi no Tate* (1905), *Koto no Sorane* (1905), *Ichiya* (1905), *Kairoko* (1905), *Syumi no Iden* (1906), *Botchan* (1906), *Kusa Makura* (1906), *Nihya kutoka* (1906), *Nowaki* (1907), *Gubijinso* (1908), *Kofu* (1908), *Yume Juya* (1908), *Sanhiro* (1909), *Soerkara* (1910), *Mon* (1911), *Higan Sugi Made* (1912), *Kojin* (1914), *Kokoro* (1914), *Michisuka* (1915), *Meian* (1917). Most of them have been translated into many labguages.

One of his novels entitled *Botchan* is his novel that specially discusses about social skills. *Botchan* was written by Natsume Soseki in 1906 and become the

most popular novel that is read by many Japanese. *Botchan* is one of the novels by Soseki which is widely translated into other languages such as in French (*Autemps de Botchan*), Italian ('*Ai tempi di Botchan*) and Spanish (*La epoca de Botchan*), all of them published by Coconino Press. A new translation also appears in Spanish published by Editorial Impedimenta. There is also the 1935 adaptation film of the anime television series classics of Japanese literature released in North America by Central Park Medi.

*Botchan* novel tells about the life of a young man from Tokyo named "Botchan" who went to a small town to become a teacher. Because of his characteristics and his artless social skills, he had many problems and conflicts experienced by him with the people around him. Natsume Soseki tells the story by Botchan as major character and from the first point of view.

At the beginning of the story, the novel tells about Botchan's childhood, naughtiness and his relationship with Kiyoko the elderly maid who loves him so much. Graduated from the Tokyo School of Natural Sciences, Botchan got an offer to become a mathematics teacher at middle school in Shikoku. This is where such a story really began where the figure of a Botchan deals with new environment and first job as teacher and also conflicts. In the story, because of his longing to Kiyoko added the situation of that town that was far different from Tokyo, the frequent conflicts between Botchan and his naughty students, the system of the school that was unfair and also frequent conflicts between him and his fellow teachers, made him tired and revolted to stay and work longer there. For the reason, Botchan decided to stop being a teacher at that school and came back to Tokyo. In Tokyo, he got a job as a mechanical assistant with salary that was actually less than the salary he earned before as a teacher and stayed with Kiyoko but no longer then she passed away.

There are five characters told in this novel. Botchan, Kiyoko (Housemaid for Botchan's family, the head teacher (Red Shirt), the principal (Badger), English teacher (Hubbard Squash), mathematics teacher (Porcupine), and art teacher (Clown).

There are always positive and negative responses of the readers to the novel. Based on the readers' responses found in [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com) a reader named Endah, said that honesty will always confronted with cunning. This novel told about black and white things, but the way Soseki delivered the moral values, is very good without being patronizing. He delivered the messages with humor, as the results this novel becomes nice novel. Then, a reader named Leli said that this is a kind of satire novel. But the thing that made me feeling dissapointed is the its plot, the plot is not clear like roller coaster.

For the researcher, there are several exciting reasons for researching this novel and the issue. The reason why the researcher studied this novel is because the novel is a classic japanese and also that this novel is definitely not an ordinary novel because it is one of works of greatest novelist from Japan named Natsume Soseki. Then, after reading the biography of the author, the setting of place that the story of the novel took place is also a place where the author had become a teacher. The last essential reason is the reason why the researcher studied the issue, because based on previous studies, there were no researchers who have researched the issue in this novel. Besides, for researcher as a teacher to be, it is necessary for having knowledge about the issue of social skills as one of education elements by conducting this research.

Related to the approach used to analyze, researcher used sociology of literature approach, because the issue has close relation with what happened in the social reality. So based on the explanation above, the researcher conducted a research entitled **THE NEED FOR SOCIAL SKILLS AS REFLECTED ON NATSUME SOSEKI'S *BOTCHAN* NOVEL: A SOCIOLOGY OF LITERATURE APPROACH.**

## **B. Problem Statements**

Related to the background study, the researcher formulated 3 problem statements that will be discussed in this study, as follows.

1. What are indicators social skills as reflected in the *Botchan* novel?
2. How is the social skills described in the novel?
3. Why is the need of social skills addressed by the author in the novel?

## **C. Objectives**

Based on the research questions, the objectives of this research are:

1. To identify the indicators of social skills in the *Botchan* novel.
2. To describe the social skills depicted in the novel.
3. To reveal the underlying reasons why the need for social skills is specifically addressed by Soseki in his novel.

## **D. Benefits of The Study**

This research is expected to give some educational benefits either directly or indirectly. The benefits are:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. Theoretically, the study is expected to be reference to enrich knowledge and insight in studying japanese literature and history.
- b. The researcher also hopes that this study is able to give contribution to literature theory and sociology of literature approach.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

- a. Practically, the researcher hopes that this study help the reader to get deeper understanding about the object being researched.
- a. That this reasearch is expected to help reader or other researchers in understanding how analyze literature by using literary theories especially sociology of literature approach.

## E. Research Paper Organization

In this part, the researcher describes the outline of this research. These following are how the research organized:

### a. Chapter I – Introduction

This chapter provides the research foundation including

1. The background of the study that describes the issue, short biography of the author, summary of the novel, readers' responses, and then the underlying reason why the researcher has interest in analyzing the need for social skills in this novel by using sociology of literature approach.
2. Problem statement that describe what problems will be analyzed.
3. Objectives of the study that describes the aims of the study.
4. Benefits of the study.
5. Research paper organization that describes how the researcher organized the research

### b. Chapter II - Literature Review

- a. Underlying theory, the researcher provides the knowledge or the theory related to the topic such as the notion of sociology of literature approach, major principle of sociology of literature approach, the notion of social skills, the importance of social skills, the review of Meiji era, and then Natsume Soseki's Biography.
- b. Previous study, the research presents the studies that have correlation with the topic.
- c. Novelty of The Study.

### c. Chapter III - Research Methodology

- a. Type of the study that describes which type belongs to this study.
- b. Object of the study.
- c. Type of data and data source.
- d. Technique of collecting data describes what technique used to collect the data.
- e. Technique of analyzing the data describes what technique reseacher used to analyze the data.

- d. Chapter IV - Finding and Discussion
  - 1. Indicators of social skills
  - 2. Depiction of the issue
  - 3. Underlying reasons of the author
  - 4. Discussion
- e. Chapter V- Conclusion, Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication
  - a. Conclusion
  - b. Suggestion
  - c. Pedagogical Implication