

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Children can be called as our future. They will continue to live in our world as a new individual person. They also will be our heirs in every aspect. That is why, children are very important to us. We must look after them carefully. But time after time, we can see many people and cases about child abuse.

Child Abuse becomes a current issues in 21st century because society still not aware of the indicators and the kinds of it. Child abuse statistically increases every year. In U.S there are around 7.5 million children get abuses from their surroundings. Meanwhile in Indonesia there are around 32 cases of abuse until death recorded in the government each year. The worst case happens in Indonesia in 1984. It is when a boy named Arie Hanggara gets abused by his parents physically till his death. When the parents asked by the police about the reason why they were abusing their child, they said it is for a good reason such as a disciplinary act. Going through other cases happens in Indonesia, most parents were abusing their children because they want to discipline their child. It is known that many parents do not know about child abuse. Many people also unconsciously abusing children in their surroundings.

According to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in article 19, 34 and 37, child abuse means maltreatment, injury act, or abuse act, in any kinds of form to the children physically or mentally.

Christian, MD (2012) described child abuse is unacceptable actions, including castration, seduction, sodomy, forced sex, battering, physical beating, labor exploitation, child prostitution, abandonment, adult bullying, or even infanticide. Meanwhile, child abuse here means any kind of unacceptable actions, such as physical or emotional injury and abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, and adult bullying.

In real life it can be seen that many children around the world still get unacceptable actions from adult. For example, if the children are not smart enough in

Math or English, adult will insult them and said that they are stupid. Sometimes if the children have siblings and their siblings are more capable than them in any aspects, adult will compare them and insult them for being lazy. These are considered as adult bullying.

Another example is when the family is poor, many children will force to do work and earn some money. This is called commercial exploitation. In other cases, adults are not aware that if they post their smart children act to social media for money or endorsement, is also can be called as commercial exploitation.

In the *Ender's Game novel* by Orson Scoot Card, the author has reflected the issue about child abuse. The story of *Ender's Game* begun after the second invention of the alien army called Formic or Bugger. The world's government united and formed a rule to limit the world population. They were only allowed a family to have two children. If they want to have more than two children, they have to get permission from the government. They also wanted to build an army that is undefeatable to prevent the third invention. Because of that, they were gathering the world smartest children and trained them to be a genius yet heartless army in Battle School.

Before the children were brought to Battle School, there was one ordinary school in the earth to gather all of the world smartest children. In that school the government installed a small device in the back of their neck, called the monitor. The device task was like CCTV which is for monitoring their daily life. In the other words, the government will know everything that the children done, every single word that they heard, every thought that they think. Simply means everything.

Andrew "Ender" Wiggin is a third and one of the most genius children in the world. He is not only genius but also kind. He has a brother named Peter. He is also genius but very cruel. He finished his school in 5 years. Unfortunately, he failed to go to Battle School. His brother, Peter is too cruel to be chosen for Battle School. Ender has a sister too, named Valentine. She finished her school in 3 years and also failed to go to Battle School. His sister, Valentine is too compassionate for Battle School.

In Battle School, Ender trained really hard by Colonel Graft. He surrounded Ender by enemies, hard problems, and tough competition. Colonel Graft filled and manipulated Ender's environment with cruel competition, mentally and physically. Ender can overcome all the problems and be the one with the highest opportunity to go to the Command School.

Colonel Graft prepared Ender for being transferred to Command School as soon as possible. The same things were happened in Command School. Ender trained really hard, mentally and physically. He passed a lot of battle simulation with him as a commander. After the final examination (where Ender accidentally killed the entire species of Formic), Ender knew the truth that the previous simulation that he did was actually a real war with Formic. Ender was shock. He felt furious and betrayed. Since he killed the entire species, he could not go back to Earth. His presence should be gone, so all his hard work was not worth it.

At the same time as Ender attended Command School, his cruel brother, Peter, and his passionate sister, Valentine, were facing their own battle. Peter is a tricky yet cruel person. He suggested Valentine to manipulate the society opinion through media. He said that those act will prevent war world. Then they started the activity to control people through media. Peter as Locke represents negative side and Valentine as Demosthenes represents positive side. As the time goes by, Valentine was loose against Peter and being chased away from earth. Just like Colonel Graft did to Ender. 40 years later, Ender accidentally found new Formic queen (cocoon). Then he and Valentine were traveling to found a new place for the cocoon.

Public had responded really well at *Ender's Game novel*. It was in the first place of Bestselling Science Fiction Novels of 2012, Publisher Weekly US version. Marvel Comics adopted this work in 2008. It was also in the fifth place of Top 10 Sci-Fi Books of All Time in 2013, Science Channel US version. The novel was later adopted in the movie with the same title "*Ender's Game*" in 2013. Unfortunately, the movie of *Ender's Game* was not really had good response from public. They said that the movie was not really reflected the main issue in the novel.

There are several reasons why the researcher decides to analyze the novel. First, the novel had military and children background in it. The researcher believes that the combination of those topics is very extraordinary. Second, the novel is very controversial for its content. The story itself has several issues in it such child abuse, lack of trust, rebellion act, and manipulative act. The researcher wants to find out the reason why the author addressed child abuse issue in the novel. Third, the conflict in the novel, including the child abuse is worth paying for. The researcher discusses child abuse depicted in the novel that it may attract the society's attention.

Based on the reasons above, the researcher observes the *Ender's Game* novel as the object of research to analyze. The researcher analyzes the novel using the sociological approach, considering it is the most suitable approach to analyze the sociological condition of the two major characters in the novel. Therefore, the researcher entitles the research paper as **“Child Abuse Reflected in the *Ender's Game* Novel by Orson Scott Card (1985): a Sociological Approach.”**

1.2 Research Question

The major problem of the study is how child abuse is reflected in the work of Orson Scott Card, *Ender's Game*. In order to depict how child abuse is reflected in the work, the problem statements are further dissected into the following research question:

- 1) What are the indicators of child abuse in the novel?
- 2) How child abuse is depicted in the work?
- 3) Why is child abuse specifically addressed by the author in the novel?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of this study is to identify the indicators of child abuse in the *Ender's Game novel*. It is also to describe how child abuse depicted in the work is. Another objective is to reveal the reasons why child abuse is specifically addressed by the author in the work.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The researcher expects that the research which analyzes the issue of child abuse done by the main characters, Colonel Graft and Andrew Ender Wiggin in *Ender's Game* gives many benefits. The benefits will be differentiated into two kinds of benefits.

1.4.1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of the study is expected to be able to give information and contribution of knowledge to the academic reference. It can also be a reference for other researchers to conduct particularly research and literary studies on the same object.

1.4.2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience for the researcher in many things and for other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and for students of other universities who have the same interest in conducting a literary research using the sociological approach.