CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Bullying is one of actions or behavior that often occurs to children and adults, bullying occurs verbally and non-verbally. Bullying occurs because of the imbalance power between the suspect and the victim. Bullying is common in children who are weaker or different from others. Bullying is done repeatedly to disturb the victim. This is one of negative behavior that still occurs in community, at school or at work (for adults) using seniority that are still rampant. Victim who experienced bullying tended to keep silent and bury everything alone, they are also didn’t dare to tell it to someone who could help them. Many of bullying case happened around the world of education. For example, as quoted from www.cnnindonesia.com, UNICEF said that there were many cases of bullying in schools, as many as half of students aged 13-15 years old, equivalent to 150 million teenagers in the world had experienced bullying. On average 50% of teenagers in every country in the world experience violence in school. UNICEF reported that there were around 720 million children living in schools that did not protect them from physical punishment in the world of education. In 2019 itself, as quoted from www.okezone.com there were 6 cases of bullying that had occurred, there was even one victim who lost his life. Some adults consider a bullying behavior as one of the lessons, so that children become strong individual, but this thought is not accordance with the negative effects that occur due to bullying. Many cases have become news, both in Indonesia and abroad, this has become something that should be considered.

This negative behavior can harm the victim, both in the long or short term. The victim will experience a mental disorder or depression if they get bad behavior in place that they go every day. Other bad influences, the victim can try to commit suicide because they think as themselves as
someone who failed. Even so, there are some victims of bullying who use it as a power to be better person, as a place to prove that they have something to be proud of.

There are so many people who get an achievement in this world, not only ‘normal’ people but also ‘special’ people. In Indonesia, there are many ‘special’ people who get an awards and have many kinds of ability which isn’t different with ‘normal’ people. For example in education, music, gymnastics, arts, software, computer, photographer etc. Not only in Indonesia but all over the world, there are ‘special’ kids who get an award for their achievement that not all of people realize about it. Angela Bachiller, the first person with down syndrome who became a member of the Spanish city council for Valladolid and a member of the People's Party. Madeline Stuart, she is a model with down syndrome. Another example is from a sports week event which is specifically for disabled children, ASEAN Para Games for parts of Asia. Here there are lots of disabled athletes who managed to get many awards. Taken from the Liputan6 news portal, Rostami Roohallah an Iranian athlete who managed to break the world record with 72 kg powerlifting for men. Sandeep Sandeep from India with javelin throwing. Abdul Latif (long jump) and Mohamad Ridzuan (100 meters run) from Malaysia in athletic sports. While from Indonesia, Michael Rosihan Yacub is the youngest golfer with down syndrome. Indriani Syuci a swimming athlete with feeble minded who managed to donate a gold medal to Indonesia in ASEAN Para Games 2018. David Jacobs with Table Tennis Sports. Saipul Anwar in cycling etc. This is some proof that everyone always have big dream and special talents that maybe not everyone has it. A dream can be achieved with hard work and self-confidence.

One of the authors who has concerns about bullying is Sharon Draper. Sharon M. Draper is a professional educator and writer. She lives in Cincinnati, Ohio. She received the highest honor in education as Teacher of The Year. Her first book is *Tears of a Tiger* in 1994 and now she has written so many novels that spread all over the world. She got a lot of awards and
achievement, she has been honored at white house at six times and was chosen as author who speak at the National Book Festival in Washington D.C and to represent United States in Moscow at Book Festival. She has been a guest in television and radio discussing about education, literature etc. She is a public speaker who reviews education and literature at all ages nationally and internationally.

One of Sharon Draper’s works that explicitly discusses bullying is *Out of My Mind* which was published in 2010. Sharon Draper wrote this novel because he has a daughter who disabled. She believes that her daughter is very smart. She also tried to speak to the world that ‘special’ people are like the other kids that want to be accepted, have friends, also to be included in social life of the school. ‘Special’ people also have a big dream like others, they are also thinking like ‘normal’ people do but sometimes they cannot share what actually they think. This novel is based on the books of disabilities that the author have ever read, this book is about children and adults out there who have strengths but they cannot prove it because their bodies cannot be cooperated with. This novel also tried to remind us the sense of humanity among others. Sharon Draper also have other novel with almost the same theme, which is about someone who tried to be accepted by people around them, the title is *The Battle of Jericho*. It published on June 2003 with 352 pages, the publisher is Simon & Schuster. This book is made with place settings in high schools with many issues of discrimination, social interaction, peer pressure, support, and sexual tension. This novel tells the story of a child who follow a club that contains most popular children in school. The club carried out many activities and even the club received praise from the public but there are many secret club activities that no one knows except the members. The main character of the novel is faced with variety of difficult choices. Gathering with the club or go tryouts for college, left the club and lost his girlfriend. He experienced some pressure that he have to solve.

This novel tells the story of a young girl named Melody Brooks who is ‘special’ kids. She thinks like other children, she can taste music and
hear color. She has dreams and hope like others do but she trapped inside her body. She cannot talk, she cannot walk, she cannot write. Everything that she does always get help from their parents. She get Medi-Talker, so she can talk even sometimes not all of the word. Melody wants to be like others children, her parents send her to school. In there, Melody met her new friends and some of them feel uncomfortable with ‘special’ kids. They are treat her differently, some of them often tried to make her give up, but she do not. In school, she joins a quiz team that will represent her school in Washington D.C. She is the only ‘special’ kids in that group. By following this quiz, she can show that ‘special’ kids aren’t different with them. They win on the first round, so it means they will go to Washington D.C for the next competition but when the day comes, she was deliberately abandoned by his friend. They left Melody on purpose and it makes her angry.

In the end of the story Melody came back to school, when she entered the classroom, they look like guilty. Melody already accept anything and the quiz group lost, they are at the ninth place. It makes her feel better because they deserve it. For the following days, she did the usual things that she did before. Like, studying, school, listening music etc. She has everything in her mind, she has a lots to say and she just need one thumb to say with it. The ending of this novel is not happy ending nor sad ending but it is like a fact that whatever happened in her before become a motivation to continue her life in the future.

From the story presented by the author, she received several different response. Both positives and negatives, as quoted from a website www.goodreads.com. The positive’s view from this novel is most of them are happy with the way author describes that ‘special’ kids are not different with ‘normal’ kids. Some of them feel emotional and cry when they read this novel. There are also readers who love the plot and also the characters that appear in book. It makes them realize about social negative action that happens around them. This book also became a motivation to not give up when life does not work as planned. Besides the positive comments there are
also negative comments. The negative comments from this novel is many of them says that this novel is unrealistic and over. Readers thought that this novel should read by ‘special’ kids like Melody because it can make them open their minds and heart so they have to keep moving. This novel cannot be recommended to the ‘normal’ readers because it only cause a pity. The characteristics of main character are arrogant and unlikeable, so some of the readers hate it. The ending of the story make some readers confused because it does not explain whether this story end or not. That means, the end of the story in the novel doesn’t give special impression for some readers.

Novel ‘Out of My Mind’ is one of New York bestselling novel for almost two years (www.amazon.com). Based on Sharon Draper’s web, Out of My Mind was named as one of Outstanding Children’s Book of 2011 by Bank Street College, as well as a 2011 Notable Children’s Book in The Language Arts. It was also in Indie National Bestseller List. This novel has been translated into many different languages, there are at least 20 languages including Arabic, Chinese Complex, Catalan, Chinese Simplified, French, German, Georgian, Korean, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazil), Portuguese (Portugal), Hebrew, Romanian, Russia, Spanish (Latin America), Spanish (Mexico), Turkish, Polish and Vietnamese.

Out of My Mind also gets various awards from different countries, mentioned by www.goodreads.com. Such as ‘Jossete Frank Award’ by the Children’s Book Committee of the Bank Street College of Education, Buckeye Children's Book Award for 6-8 (2011), Pennsylvania Young Readers' Choice Award for Grades 6-8 (2013), Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award Nominee (2012), New Mexico Land of Enchantment Award for Young Adult (2013), California Young Readers Medal for Middle School/Junior High (2013), Washington State Sasquatch Award (2013), Bluestem Book Award (2013), Goodreads Choice Award Nominee for Middle Grade & Children's Books (2010), Intermediate Nutmeg Book Award (2014), Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award Nominee (2013), The Black-Eyed Susan Book Award from Maryland, the Beehive Book Award
from Utah, the Virginia Reader’s Choice Award, the Sakura Award from the children of Japan. ‘Out of My Mind’ appear on July issue in Time Magazine and Ladies’ Home Journal.

Characters in this novel are described very well by author. Each characters has their own roles that appropriate with the story. Both the main character or not. The way author describes the character who is ‘special’ kid is well conveyed also the antagonist and tritagonist characters from the story. The language use in this novel is understandable. The author use simple words for making sentence. A simple and easy-to-understand style of writing become one of the interesting things from this novel.

The reason why the researcher choose this novel because the language use of this novel is quite understandable. The story is easy to understand and there are great moral value that can we get from this novel. The characteristics also make this novel special, how the writer describes the characters in this novel perfectly. Simple representation also the characteristic of character that maybe as the same as in the real world.

B. Problem Statement

This research tries to identify some question from this novel, Out of My Mind. There are following problems that found by researcher.
1. What are the indicators of bullying in novel Out of My Mind?
2. How did the major character cope with bullying?
3. Why does the author address bullying in the novel Out of My Mind?

C. Objectives of The Study

After read the whole novel, the researcher found the objectives of the study from this novel. There are:
1. To identify the indicator of bullying.
2. To describe the ways the major character cope with bullying.
3. To reveal the underlying reasons why the author write novel about disable child.

D. Benefits of The Study
The research result of this study can provide benefits for other researcher:

1. The result of this study can be used as reference for other researcher in literature analysis with same problem.

2. The result of this study can also be used as reference for other researcher in descriptive qualitative method.