

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Self- acceptance is an early form of action when we do not like something that is in ourselves and our lives. Reflection of the act of self- acceptance in daily life can be started from the small things that are in our lives. For example, start to accept deficiencies that exist in us and focus on our strengths. It is the reason of the author cares about one's self- acceptance, because self- acceptance is an important feature of mental health and provides calm effect.

True self- acceptance is very influential on our lives, if we can accept all that is in our lives with sincerity then our lives will run better but if on the contrary then we only continue to regret life. Anderson (2008) argues that "self- acceptance is very influential on how a person lives life" (p. 6). The key if you want to have a happy life then you have to start all the conditions in your life. In addition, the notion of self- acceptance also comes from Hurlock. Hurlock (1974) define self- acceptance as the degree to which individuals have their personal characteristics, are able and willing to live them. This personal characteristic can determine how a person can accept his condition and live his life. From the explanation above, the researcher can conclude the definition about self- acceptance. Self- acceptance is how a person can accept what he is like and sincerely lives his life.

Self- acceptance can be any form, one of which is by accepting limitations in the body, for example someone is blind and deaf. One of the famous figures who experienced this was HELEN KELLER. Helen Adams Keller was born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. In 1882, she was stricken by an illness that left her blind and deaf. Beginning in 1887, Keller's teacher, Anne Sullivan, helped her make tremendous progress with her ability to communicate, and Keller went on to college, graduating in

1904. In 1920, Keller helped found the ACLU. During her lifetime, she received many honors in recognition of her accomplishment. She wrote several famous books such *World I Live In* and *The Story Of My Life* which became classic literature in America and translated into 50 languages.

The memoir is about a short story based on her life experience. This is the beginning of a life that makes she feel in the darkness without having the meaning of life, but that didn't last long when Anne Sullivan came to Helen Keller's life. Anne Sullivan was a kind woman who was brought in at the suggestion of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell by Helen Keller's parents, Arthur Keller and his mother Casaper Keller. Anne Sullivan was assigned to guide Helen for the better as she taught her to spell the word, even though at first Miss Sullivan's arrival was not expected by Helen to lock Miss Sullivan in her room. But as time went on Helen Keller's heart began to soften because of the kindness and patience Miss Sullivan taught her to spell words, and that is when Helen for the first time missed the coming of tomorrow. Helen Keller's childhood that are cheerful and spirit character was overwhelmed by a problem that made her traumatized to write and pour her thought in writing. This incident began when a short story made by Helen Keller entitled *The Frost King* which was sent to Mr. Anagnos and successfully published in a Perkins Institution report turned out to be the same as the story titled *The Frost Faires* written by Ms. Margaret T. Canby and it has become a book entitled *Birdie and His Friends*. The book had been already before Helen was born, the contents of the book were very similar with the story written by Helen Keller so Helen Keller was called copying the work of others. It turned out that the story made by Miss Margaret had been told by Miss Sullivan to Helen. This incident made Helen traumatized to write until she was traumatized to write a letter to her mother, because Helen could not distinguish between her own thoughts and other. And this caused Helen to be afraid of arranging words. But with the encouragement of Miss Sullivan and support from her family, Helen can get

through it all. But still Helen had to be careful in pouring her thoughts in a story so that incident is not happened.

The memoirs written by Helen Keller received many responses from several readers. Based on data from www.amazon.com the response consisted of positive response and there was also negative response. We can see these positive responses from Paul on September 2, 2018, he said that to read these books are to become one with the characters. The stories & spiritual insight speak so directly to the lives we live. It's as if God is continually guiding us to be better understanding of what he wants for us. I love these stories. Not only positive response but the negative response can be seen from Amazon Customer on October 17, 2018, he said that the copyright page states that this is a work of fiction??? "This book is a work of fiction and any resemblance to any person, living or dead..." What's with that? Also, this copy has no dedication to Alexander Graham Bell. It is poorly put together as one has to pull the pages back as the type disappears into the binding. Is this a pirated copy? Shame on Amazon!

There are many reasons why the writer chose this memoir and made this as research. First, because this memoir is very well known and the best seller, making it easier for the researcher to search for data. Second, because the author of the memoir is very famous and the memoir tells a true story about her shortcomings so that that it makes the reader more motivated to live his life. Third, because the memoir is presented in a language that make easily understood by the reader so it is no difficult to obtain information or data.

From the explanation above the researcher were very interested in the life of Helen Keller who has a limitation and how to live her life. So, the author wants to raise the issue about self- acceptance of Deaf- blindness using sociology theory. So, the title of this research is SELF-ACCEPTANCE OF DEAFBLINDNESS REFLECTED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF *THE STORY OF MY LIFE* MEMOIR (2014): A SOCIOLOGY of LITERATURE.

B. Problem Statement

From the explanation of the background study, so the researcher found the main problem

1. What are the indicators of Self- acceptance of deaf- blindness faced by the main character story of my life memoirs?
2. How Helen Keller's efforts are in self- acceptance?
3. Why is self- acceptances addressed by the author in the story of my life memoirs?

C. Objective of the Study

The researcher tries to explain some objective studies are:

1. To explain the indicators of self- acceptance faced by the main character story of my life memoirs
2. To explain about efforts by Helen Keller to accept the limitations in the story of my life memoirs
3. To discuss about the reason of self- acceptance's Helen Keller in the story of my life memoirs.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher did this research by analyzing self- acceptance and deal with self- acceptance in the story of my life memoirs by using sociology of literature.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hopes that with this research, it will provide several benefits:

1. Theoretical Benefit

It is expected that this research can be used as a reference for other researchers who also want to examine the story of my life memoirs and also want to know more about the author Helen Keller.

2. Practical Benefit

By using sociology of literature, the researcher studies about The Story of My Life Memoirs wrote by Helen Keller and the researcher can understand about that memoirs.

F. Paper Organization

The paper organization from this research consists of five chapters are: Chapter I named introduction explain about the background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study and benefit of the study. Chapter II is about literature review that contains previous study, the notion of sociology of literature, basic principle of sociology of literature, the notion of self- acceptance, the aspects of self- acceptance, the stages of self- acceptance, and the notion of Deaf-Blindness. Chapter III explains about research method consist of type of the study, object of the study, type of the data and data source, technique of data collection and technique of data analysis. Chapter IV deals about the analyzing data. It explains about the sociological in the memoir. Chapter V is the last chapter that explained about conclusion and suggestion.