CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Lefevere (in Yapi, 1997:15) states that literature is a description of human experience that has personal and social dimensions. The means were about existential knowledge which is equivalent to life. According to Lefevere, literature is very important to learn because literature is used as a place to sharing experiences in seeking the truth about humanity.

In literature, the result of literary works is aesthetic qualities. People can understand literary works independently because the work is clear. Literary work is process of communication. Literary work is delivered for transferring the author's thoughts and feeling for the reader. In literature, language uses as the main requirement for the delivery of literature work. A literary work is created through imagination and phenomena around the author. Through imagination and phenomena, the author can make literary works such as novels. A novel is a literary work that is written into a narrative form to expresses the side of human life to create an impression for the reader.

In this study, the researcher used the *Wonder* novel by R.J Palacio. This novel is one of the novels that emphasize the main character, where the main character in this novel gets bullying behavior. Olweus (in Smith & Ananiadou, 2003: 189) stated that bullying is aggressive behavior. Olweus (in Smith, Pepler & Rigby, 2004: 5) also added that bullying is a negative behavior that aims to hurt the victim of bullying. O'Moore (2009) stated that bullying is an aggressive behavior where the bully using the body as an object to cause the injury for the victim. Bullying is negative actions which are conducted physically and verbally. So that it causes pressure on victims of bullying.

Bullying is one of the most common social problems among teenagers today. Bullying can happen to anyone and at any time. Bullying has an impact on mental health. For example, in Indonesia recently there was a case of bullying in Junior High School. A female student at Junior High School 3 of Kudus became a victim of bullying from 9 students from three schools, which are Junior High School 3 of Kudus, Junior High School 2 of Kudus, and Istiqlal Junior High School. The victim of bullying was slapped by one of the bully. One of the bullies is her senior in school. Steven (in Astuti P. R, 2008: 7) affirmed that bullying will often occur because of the lack of attention from parents and teachers. They often let the case of bullying rather than doing an action, because they consider that bullying not a serious thing.

Based on the problem above, the researcher is interested in identifying more about the behavior of bullying which is conducted to August in the *Wonder* novel by R.J Palacio that entitled **BULLYING IN *WONDER* NOVEL: A PSYCHOSOCIAL PERSPECTIVE**. The researcher chose the theme of bullying because there are now many cases of bullying that occur in children and most occur in the school and play environment.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the explanation in the background above, the researcher submits several problem statements as follows:

1. What are the types of bullying experienced by August in *Wonder* novel?
2. How bullying impact August's psychosocial condition?
3. What is the solution given by the author concerning with bullying in *Wonder* novel?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the researcher focuses on analyzing bullying. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses the theory of psychosocial development by Erik Erikson.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statements and problem limitation above, then the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe the types of bullying experienced by August in *Wonder* novel.
2. To find out how bullying impact August's psychosocial condition.
3. To explain the solution that given by the author concerning with bullying in *Wonder* novel.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Practically
   a. For researcher

      Benefits for the researcher in this study are to help the researcher in understanding about bullying and how bullying impact August's psychosocial condition.

   b. For students

      The benefits for students in this study are the students can use this research as a reference for further research that would like to discuss *Wonder* novel by R.J. Palacio.

   c. For society

      The benefits for society in this study are society can add insight about bullying and how bullying impact psychosocial development.

2. Theoretically

   The results of the research are expected to add insight for the researcher in the research methods to analyze the novel, bullying, and psychosocial. And also are expected to contribute to understanding the psychosocial development of children caused by bullying by using the novel as a medium.