

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*The Kite Runner* is a novel written based on true story firstly published by Bloomsbury, London, 2018. It has been the third bestseller novel and translated into more than seventy different languages across the world. The novel consists of twenty-five chapters describing an Afghan, the main character, who lived in the United States. There are two different cultures. Afghanistan is Islamic country and United States is secular reflecting different culture, way of life, point of view, and education.

*The Kite Runner* is Khaled Hosseini's debut novel, which not only shows a person's spiritual growth, but also the history of the soul of a nation, and of a country's suffering. It is about a journey of salvation and return of humanity. This journey can be viewed as going beyond religious, social and economic acceptance; it is a journey of self-discovery while accepting the past (Du, 2017: 90).

*The Kite Runner* presents unique story about identity, betrayal, loyalty, courage, and deception, where friendship is precious. It tells about traumatic childhood experienced by Amir, the main character, and Hasan, his friend.

The novel figures the social condition in Afghanistan, particularly, social stratification leading to social gap among the citizens. The society is divided into two class, those are Phastun and Hazara. Phastun is the higher class and Hazara is the lower one.

In the novel, author Hosseini succeeded in portraying a narrow, selfish Amir. The author's real intention was to describe the current life situation of the ordinary Afghans, and made the readers know Afghanistan (Yuan, 2018: 58).

The author, Khaled Hosseini, was born in Kabul on March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1965. After PDPA (People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan) seized its control of the government in 1978 and Soviets occupied Afghanistan shortly after, the Hosseini's family decided to seek political asylum in the United States instead of returning to Kabul. They lived in San Jose, California. Here, Hosseini graduated

from High School. He attended Santa Clara University and earned Biology degree. After college, Hosseini decided to become a physician and attended the University of California-San Diego's School of Medicine, where he completed his M.D in 1993. He served his medical residency at the well-respected Cedars-Sinai Hospital of Los Angeles and become an internist. Hosseini started writing *The Kite Runner* in 2001 while he was practicing physician. He is an Afghan able to write a novel telling intertwined of personal conflict and tragedies against a historical background of national and cultural trauma.

In 2006, Hosseini received a humanitarian award of the United Nations, and was invited to serve as the UN Refugee Agency UNHCR goodwill ambassador because of the international influence of his works. With its vivid characters and moving and amazing plots, the novel draws considerable publicity and comments from the critical world after its publication. Tony Sims from Wired Magazine wrote that the book “reveals the beauty and agony of a tormented nation as it tells the story of an improbable friendship between two boys from opposite ends of society” (Sims, 2011).

This traumatic background in childhood influences human future life. Amir, the main character, has dilemma in his childhood and it makes him taking best wise decision in his adulthood. Shortly, someone background influences his or her personality in the future life. A literary work reflects human life with all complex problem such as political, social, cultural, and religion. The novel presents traumatic background of the main character, Amir, which influenced his life.

Personality distinguishes a person to other people and defines his or her general nature. Overall personality is composed of a collection of psychological characteristic or traits, which determine personal preference and style of behavior (Opatha, 2014: 2). The characteristic or traits can be innate or acquired and they vary among individuals based on the degree of influence that the environment has on them.

Erik Erikson's theory of the stage of development emphasizes the sociocultural determinant of developments and present them as eight stages of

psychosocial conflicts or known as Erikson's stages of psychosocial development, which states that individual must overcome or resolve successfully in order to adjust well to the environment.

Of the elaboration above, the writer realized that his or her environment influences individual's characteristic or traits. Thus, the writer is interested to analyze the personality development of a person viewed from psychosocial theory. The title is "Amir's Personality Development in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* (2018) Psychosocial Approach".

## **B. Literature Review**

*The Kite Runner* novel is interesting to analyze due to the cultural background, which is Moslem background in Afghanistan. The national and cultural traumatic background influenced the personality of the main character who lived in different setting of life, which is in non-Moslem country.

There are several researchers investigating the similar topic with the current study. First, the study conducted by Willey (2004) entitled "*Introduction to The Kite Runner*". It revealed the two social classes existing in Afghanistan, which are Phastun and Hazara. Phastun is the higher class and Hazara is the lower one. The author described setting of the novel in the two different culture as well as country, where he lived.

Another research is Andrew (2002) entitled "*The Psychology Approach on The Kite Runner*" revealed the extrinsic elements of the novel, including the biography of the author and the way author wrote the novel considering political, social, and economic condition in Afghanistan.

Research by Mulyono (2010) entitled "Amir's Personality Development in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* (2004): A Psychosocial Approach" (UMS) revealed that Amir's personality development is influenced by two factors, internal and external. They are crisis he faced in stages from infancy period to adulthood, family, ethnic and culture, gender and intimacy.

Ula (2015) in her research entitled "The Ambivalence of The Main Character in *The Kite Runner* novel" found that 1) the main character's psyche

can be explained by using psychological model by Sigmund Freud called tripartite model which consists of id, ego and superego. 2) the ambivalence in the novel is described by the ambiguity of Amir and his dependence on his close friend 3) the impacts of the ambivalence on him and also on Hassan as his close friend.

In this study, the writer analyzes the personality development of Amir, the main character, by using Erikson's psychosocial theory.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The writer formulates the problem of the study as how Amir's personality development reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* novel based on psychosocial approach.

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer limits the study to carry out the study. The writer is going to analyze the main character's personality development and the factors influencing it in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini viewed from psychosocial theory.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The study aims to analyze the personality development of Amir, the main character, in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini.

### **F. Benefits of the Study**

There are two benefits expected from the study. It is described as follow:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of the study is expected to enrich information and knowledge of personality development of character in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini, which is viewed from psychosocial theory.

## 2. Practical Benefit

Practically, the result of the study is expected to contribute the enrichment of writer and readers' understanding of the main character's personality development in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini, which is viewed from psychosocial theory.

## G. Research Method

### 1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is novel of *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini published by

### 2. Data and Data Source

The data are facts and description of the personality development of the main character, Amir, in *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini.

There are two data sources. Primary data source is the *The Kite Runner* novel by Khaled Hosseini. Secondary data source is taken from other source contributing the primary data such as author biography and other supporting references.

### 3. Technique of Data Collection

The data are collected by reference study. The data, both primary and secondary, are collected and recorded as documents relating to personality development. The techniques for collecting data are:

- a. Reading the novel.
- b. Identifying the topic of the novel.
- c. Determining the major character going to analyze.
- d. Reading textbooks and online articles to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of important information from both primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Coding data found.
- g. Arranging and developing the selected data into the unity toward the topic going to discuss.

#### **4. Technique of Data Analysis**

The writer reads the novel, the primary data, repeatedly to improve understanding of the personality development studied. Then, the writer takes, compares, quotes, and reads other data to reach compact information about the topic. Finally, the writer classifies the data supporting the topic of personality development based on psychosocial theory and draws conclusion.

#### **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper consists of Chapter 1 supported by title, background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter 2 consists of Underlying Theory of Personality Development and Psychosocial Approach. Chapter 3 is the Structural Elements of *The Kite Runner* novel. Chapter 4 is Research Finding and Discussion. The last chapter, Chapter 5 is Conclusion and Suggestion, and the last bibliography.