

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the Study**

Humankind has the desire of being accepted within all of their various behaviours. The acceptance can be from inner oneself and their environmental circles: family, friend, and community of their surroundings. The acceptance of oneself and surroundings were determined based on how oneself would take the attitude of their choices; the consequences to live their lives as they wished it to be. Humankind wanted to be accepted regardless of their any behaviours in any conditions that beset within the live. It was further discussed in Psychology, a scientific discipline which has several branches study about human based on their seen and unseen behaviour as an individual and social. Humanistic psychology is one of the branches that has the perspective of human inner self deserved to growth and develop their potential living or tendencies to possess positive aspects in life (Ewen, 2009)

Humanistic Psychology perceived on how to understand human based on an individual's view of himself as a person rather than from the environment. This branch of discipline also focused on a healthy humankind can strikes for oneself achievement through self-actualization. Self-actualization built through several aspects, as Abraham Maslow stated in his Hierarchy of Needs, there were five important aspects from the low part until the higher part of humankind needs; physiological needs, safety needs, belongingness and love needs, esteem needs and the peak of it is, self-actualization. If the needs are fulfilled then human can strives for the goals in their live, to be able to pursue their achievement and develops the ability to improve their skills.

The higher-level of needs to be fulfilled, the physiologically needs are lower needed while the opposites, once the lower-level needs to be fulfilled, the psychologically needs are lower needed (Schultz & Schultz, 2013) Self-

actualization meant to be actualizing of oneself wanted to be and needed to be. Self-actualization is equal to both of the strengths and weaknesses of oneself instead of denying it is rather meant to accept, to be a person who eager to develop and emphasize their skill to be the better person. The acceptance in self is the key to be aware and strengthen ourselves in order to life happily and peacefully. These kind of acceptance came from inner and outer factors, from the one self and their environment. It is explained as well through self-concept theory by Carl Rogers, the acceptance in self when a person pushed by their inner motivation mostly the positive ones it can be the wipe of themselves to give their best at anything they would do; one aspects of self-concept.

This study conducted to elaborate the theory of self-concept which reflected in the novel of *Forrest Gump* by Winston Groom, an American author. Winston Groom was born in Washington D.C. on 1943. He started his earlier life to study law as his parents were hoped him to be, as he graduated in 1965 then he was enlisted to serves as US Army for the Vietnam War around two years until 1967 and became a captain at that time. He became a reporter for *Washington Star* soon as he finished the military service around 1967-1976. Groom developed his writing and interest on literature ever since he studied in university, he started to write his novel: he wrote fiction and non-fictional novels based on his life experience in military camp of Vietnam War and earlier life in Southern America, one of them was *Forrest Gump*. This novel written in 1986 and published by Double Day, the storyline had the genre of life, drama and comedy that won best fiction award from Southern Library Association. *Forrest Gump* were sold of 40.000 copies on the first publish. The novel became a hit and adapted to screenplay with the same title: *Forrest Gump* by Robert Zemeckis in 1994 with Paramount. In the same year it was happened to re-publish and were sold to the number of 1.7 million copies.

The plot story was the life adventure of main character, *Forrest Gump* narrated by himself who named after General Nathan Bedford Forrest who is told a hero in America. Aside from his condition with the IQ that only about 70, lower

than any normal average, he lived his life with many great careers such as being a professional from get into the school, play football, enrolled into military and sent to Vietnam war, ping pong, saved the Chinese chairman and almost being killed at that time, became a NASA-astronaut, chess player, wrestler, Hollywood actor, almost elected to be the State's senator, did the one-man-band until he made his dream come true to have a Shrimping Boat business (Groom, 1986).

This study assured that is not a plagiarism but to provide the previous studies which had been mentioned above. The main character of this novel has the uniqueness of himself, to be open to new experiences which tells one of the characteristics of self-concept from Carl Rogers. Rogers stated, an individual who open to new experience, understanding, accepting and making decision of one's life, fully living in the present time and trying to developing one's personality.

This study mainly focused to find and analyse the portrayal of main character with his self-concept, thus, as the paper entitled: **SELF-CONCEPT PORTRAYED IN THE MAIN CHARACTER OF WINSTON GROOMS' *FORREST GUMP* NOVEL: HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Problem Statements**

Based on the background study above, the problem statements that will be analysed are:

1. What are the characteristics of self-concept of the main character in *Forrest Gump* Novel?
2. How did the main character *Forrest* use the self-concept to overcome his problems?
3. Why Winston Groom as the author specifically addressed the self-concept in *Forrest Gump* Novel?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem statements above, the researcher will mention the objectives of this study as follows:

1. To identify the self-concept which portrayed by the main character of *Forrest Gump* Novel.
2. To find and elaborate the self-concept applied by *Forrest* to overcome his problems.
3. To acknowledge Winston Groom messages in *Forrest Gump* Novel.

### **D. Benefits of the Study**

This study expected to present the benefits which divided into theoretical and practical as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefits**

The benefits of this study theoretically were intended to be the another literary references for reader or audience to get to know more about Winston Groom's *Forrest Gump* Novel also hoped to help for another researcher who wants or interested to analyse this novel in the future.

#### **2. Practical Benefits**

The benefits of this study practically were intended to spread an insight for the reader or audience of *Forrest's* life choices and its value with the perspective of humanistic psychology and could be learned by the reader.

### **E. Paper Organization**

The organization of this paper divided into three chapters: first chapter is the general information about background of the study that will be analysed, problem statements, objective of the study, the benefits or advantages of the study

and paper organization. The second chapter is the explanation of literature review to strengthen the analysis of this research such as previous studies and underlying theory in perspective of humanistic psychology. The final chapter is the method of this study as follows: type of study, object of study, type and source of data, and method of collecting data.