

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

Grateful is the attitude of appreciating everything in life that make us able to attract more good, more love, more joy as well as better health and blissful relationships in life. Surah Al-Fatihah is one way of Islam to express our gratitude to our Lord or The Counting Blessing. He has showed upon us as well as we know prayer is the one of the pillars of Islam that incomplete without Surah Al-Fatihah. Gratitude is essential to Islamic and practicing gratitude in Islam is the means to greater prosperity.

According to Robert Emmons as a leading researcher on gratitude in psychology. Emmons says gratitude “has been conceptualized as an emotion, a virtue, a moral sentiment, a motive, a coping response, a skill and an attitude”. (Emmons & Crumpler, 2000). It requires us to see how we have been support and affirm by the other person, for example accepting a good event or gift. It does not mean life is always good, we cannot ignore a burden and hassles. Gratitude is way we look life as a positive way. It encourages us to identify some amount of goodness in our life. Mitch Albom as a novelist show his concern on Gratitude by writing novel *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. He is writing some lesson of life through being grateful by his character in the novel, such as being grateful have physical health, being grateful have a kind parent and wife, being grateful for good or bad our decision because we never know what lesson and destiny will follow us, and so many other lesson of being grateful in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*.

Mitchell David Albom as well-known as Mitch Albom was born in Passaic May 23, 1958 New Jersey, USA. Albom is an author, journalist, screenwriter, playwright, radio and television broadcaster, musician and panelist, with a major in Sociology. Albom graduated his education in Brandeis University Waltham - New Jersey as a novel author. He has produced a few novels such as *The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto; The Five People You Meet in Heaven, The Time Keeper, Have*

*A Little Faith, For One More Day, The First Phone Call from Heaven. The Five People You Meet in Heaven Novel* is one of the bestselling novel by Mitch Albom, the researcher interest to analysis because it has many moral value about lesson of life to being grateful. It shows on journey of life and afterlife of Eddie in heaven.

Eddie is a maintenance in Ruby Pier. It is an Amusement Park and fantastic attraction for all ages. Eddie has been a ride operator and mechanic for many years to help his father job. On his 83rd birthday he dies while trying to save a young girl. After death, he goes to heaven and meet the five person to explain his earthly life where help Eddie understand the different part and the unseen connections of his life. They will give him lesson of life and teach him to more being grateful.

The first person meet Eddie is Blue Man. He tells him how he was indirectly responsible for his death. He gives Eddie lesson that every act we do good or bad, small or big act have a direct impact for someone else. It may not realize but someone will be affect, sometimes we think that we were alone against some event bad or pleasant in fact there are people take the same experience like us or more heavy than us. One thing we can do remain to being grateful, sincere and try to keep positive thinking; even though it's difficult, believe that there will be good things that God give. The second person meet Eddie is Captain in the Vietnam War. He gives lesson about Sacrifice, he sacrifices his life for rest his team. Sacrifice for something precious it is not really losing it but just passing on someone else. The third person is Ruby. She gives lesson to forgiving. Eddie holding anger to his father and his life. Ruby provides some explanation of the real incident so Eddie can accept, forgive his father and being grateful for his life. The fourth person meet Eddie is his wife, Marguerite. She explains about love. It still loves even someone that we love die. It just takes a different form. The last person is Tala a young girl Eddie could not save during the war. Tala sincere the incident because Eddie in his life time save many children by keeping Ruby Pier as a Maintenance, keep the game safe make kids safe to play. Eddie have sin to Tala by burned the village and she on it but his job reduces his sin to Tala. We are all right where we were supposed to

be. We should not compare ourselves to other. Focus on our work and let the faith take you where it needs you most.

The public responses are mostly positive. Generally, they had inspired after read *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Here some positive responds from the readers of this book: First, according to Charlotte May “at times hearth breaking and saddening, this story touch me... I loved following the different people Eddie spoke to finding out their connection to him”. Second, Lyn said that “Most people will either like it a lot and find inspiration and meaning, or loathe it entirely and dismiss it as drivel. This too amazed me sill; have joy ever wondered why are you here on earth? I read this book in the first place reminds me of how life needs to go on. God has purposes with us little things matter the most”. Third, Gunne said “I highly recommend this book, particularly if you’re into bittersweet life lesson and nations of death. Some have accused the book for being both preachy and boring but I don’t find that the case”. Fourth, Jamie Madigman said “this thing is so ham-fisted in its moralizing, so infused with clichés, so sentimental and so naked in its attempts to manipulate emotions that I only finished it because it was blessedly short.”

Beside the positive responses above, there are some negative response that are founds by the researcher: First, according to Inc. said that “I would get just as much insight into human condition by reading a Lee child novel! No tears, little new insight and mainly boredom. save your money or go buy, Jack Reacher or Scarpetta-at least they rattle along!”. Second, Tom Milnthrope said “Shame that the writing veers towards the lazy side of things, often feeling very bland and formulate. I would still say you should buy it, but don’t expect too much. Third, John Mellor said “...was so disappointed with this after all the good write ups. Got half way through the fourth person and just could not go further. Such a great, original idea but the storyline was weak for me”. (<https://www.waterstones.com>)

*The Five People You Meet in Heaven* was published in 2003. This novel has gained great popularity over the world. Moreover, thus novel was translated into a three-hour TV Event directed by Lloyd Kramer which was aired on December 2004

and became the most watched TV movie of the year. (<http://mitchalbom.com/d/book/3874/five-people-you-meet-heaven>)

The writer interested to find out concept of being grateful through the lead character in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel. Albom write the novel with a simple word and create this novel into a beautiful fiction that give so many lesson life to being grateful through his five character. There are two reason the writer chooses *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* as an object in this research. First the novel not only serve a good story but it also so inspiring and give many moral value how to being grateful. Second, the author has a great idea about death, life and heaven in a good storyline. According to the reason, the writer would like to find gratitude by Mitch Albom based on the Sociological Theory. The research proposed a research entitled **“CONCERN IN BEING GRATEFUL IN MITCH ALBOM’S THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN NOVEL (2003): SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY”**

## **B. Problem Statements**

According of the explanation of the background of the study above, the writer focuses on the research problem that are:

1. What are the indicator in being grateful reflected in Mitch Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel?
2. How is being grateful depicted in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel?
3. Why did Mitch Albom necessarily address the issue of being grateful in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the objective of this study are:

1. To identity the indicator in being grateful that are reflected in Mitch Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel.
2. To describe being grateful in Mitch Albom’s *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel.

3. To reveal the reason of the author, address the issue in being grateful in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel.

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

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

The result of this research can be useful for the readers in giving information and knowledge, especially the literary study on *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Alбом Albom.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

Practically this research will be useful for me as a research and the other research enrich the knowledge in writing and understanding the sociology of the literature theory. The writer hopes that this study can help the other researcher in understanding in literary field as references or previous study analyzing *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* novel.