

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains six parts that will be discussed, starting from study background, problem statements, study objectives, originality and significance, study limitations, and definition of key terms.

### **1.1 Background of the Study**

Day by day, during the phases of life, human will always show changes in term of their ability to express emotions or even react on something. Human development can be identified as the growth of human's physical, mental, and social activity over the entire life span (Kagan, Lerner & Bornstein, 2020). Those changes are related to anything that happens to each person's biological and social status. It can be the family, the workplace, school, and society in general. This theory builds perception of personality development as both individual and social phenomenon. Behavior is also influenced by every decision made by each person. Everyone has their own principles and needs in making any choice, starting from deciding what to eat, what to buy and other important decisions (Berger, 2016, p. 1).

Initially, we are pretty sure that we as human have the confidence to do something based on our personal preferences, tastes, and opinions toward something we found attractive. However, believe it or not, our society has a huge influence towards almost every aspect of our life. Social influence affects most every decision we make, we will buy things that are currently being talked in

society, or even eat something people like to eat these days. People will tend to try to meet others' expectations and even try to make the loved one feel satisfied and calm. This circumstance makes them unconsciously change their way of thinking and acting based on their surrounding (Berger, 2016, pp. 2-4). According to a study done by Muzafer Sherif (cited in Berger, 2016, p. 14), there was a fact that people might rely on others when they were uncertain.

Besides analyzing human development in real situation, people can find endless phenomenon represented through literature. Literature represents or reflects almost every aspect of life. It reflects how people will organize their emotion into action or behavior, it also shows different side of people who are going through certain circumstances. Literature can be perceived in many ways based on social, cultural, or even intellectual background of people who watch, listen, and read the works (Ahmed, 2017). Literature also plays a significant part in human life, since it is one of education sources that can influence life with its direct or implied moral. Literature reflects reality, ideology, knowledge, or everything that happens within a society that can be written, recorded, and learned.

Literature has many different types, it can be an oral literature, written literature, technical literature, and many more (Ahmed, 2017). The differences make each literature has a different level of interpreting the meaning and moral message. Literature will usually reflect the real pattern of any society and give us new perception about the lives of others. Literature also emphasizes many different topics starting from human tragedy, tales, romance, and other life

experiences. The words that are arranged to build the story written in literary work enable us to see and imagine through the lenses of people, or even inanimate objects, the story invites us to visit different places, events, or even meets people and circumstances (Ahmed, 2017).

*Kimi no Suizo wo Tabebai* or *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* is one of literary works that reflects human behavior while going through unusual circumstance. It is a novel written by Yoru Sumino, a Japanese novelist that was published in 2015 by Futabasha. This romance novel tells a story about the journey of the main character, Haruki Shiga, a quiet high school student who has difficulty in making friends. He always expects that his life will remain this way, which is living forever by his own without thinking about his surroundings. Haruki Shiga does not like meeting and talking to anyone until there comes a day when he accidentally meets a cheerful girl named Sakura Yamauchi, his classmate who was diagnosed with fatal pancreatic disease. Initially, Haruki Shiga tries to push Sakura Yamauchi away from him because he does not want to get involved in such social interaction. Time flies, many things happen and finally change his behavior and perception about life since he became closer to Sakura Yamauchi. She brings different atmosphere for Haruki Shiga and other people around her. Her personality creates a new journey for both of them (Sumino, 2015).

The title of this story was taken from the statement “I want to eat your pancreas” that was uttered by both Sakura Yamauchi and Haruki Shiga in two different scenes of the story. One day, Sakura Yamauchi tells a story about the myth saying that people with bad or unhealthy organ would be cured once they

eat others' healthy organ. And it said that the soul of the death people would live in the one who eat the organ. This story is unique because it does not only focus on the love story between Haruki Shiga and Sakura Yamauchi. This story also shows an interesting side of Sakura Yamauchi, the female main character who behaves in a unique, fun, and unexpected ways amidst her struggle battling with her deadly pancreatic disease. *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* also has more than one adaptation form such as manga, anime, and live-action movie. The writer has watched the anime version and the story line was very interesting. Therefore, the writer wants to go deeper into the characterization and try to find the core issues of Sakura Yamauchi from the original version of this work, which is the novel. The writer will try to analyze the novel to find how the characteristic of Sakura Yamauchi is represented and leads to the core issues using other related literary theories applied.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

In this study, the writer wants to discuss four questions related to the works, the questions are:

1. How is Sakura Yamauchi represented in the novel?
2. How does Sakura Yamauchi react after she was diagnosed with pancreatic disease?
3. What are the basic motives of Sakura Yamauchi's making Haruki Shiga her friend for the rest of her life?

4. How can the motives and reactions of Sakura Yamauchi help in finding the core issues and self-defense mechanisms that she might experience?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

By doing this study, the writer wants to analyze the core issues of the female main character based on its original version of *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*'s. The writer will analyze the journey of Sakura Yamauchi, as the female main character. By doing this analysis, the writer will find the characterization of Sakura Yamauchi, that will be continued further to identify her personality development and find the reasons or causes behind her attitude and decision with the help of Psychoanalysis theory. The finding supported by Psychoanalysis theory will help the writer to figure out the core issues of the Sakura Yamauchi by paying attention to her behavior throughout the story. Through this research, the writer hopes that the readers will find some aspects that have not been thought of before from this work. The readers will become more aware of the reason behind the decisions made by the main characters, followed by the explanation behind it.

### **1.4 Originality and Significance**

This paper is the writer's original work and written with her knowledge and findings from her research through books and internet. The writer has confirmed that the core issues of Sakura Yamauchi in *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas* and its connection to Psychoanalysis theory have not been conducted by previous

researchers. The writer also has presented the acknowledgement referred to every party supporting the writer in completing this paper.

For the significance, this study contributes a discussion of the core issues of human in relation with the novel's main character. This study presents how the core issues of human can be revealed by analyzing how the way a character of literature work reacts and decides something.

### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

Literature can be perceived as the reflection of the way humans think and react about their surroundings. There will be many ways that will be used according to each person's preference as time goes by. Character and characterization in literature was made in order to help the audience to learn more about human behavior. Since characters in literature are usually made according to the real situation in our lives, it will enable us to figure out the cause of any decision people make. It can be based on people's past or experience, and other events that might influence the way people think about things in the future.

In this study, the writer only focused on discussing the character development and Psychoanalysis theory to figure out the core issues of Sakura Yamauchi in *I Want to Eat Your Pancreas*. The analysis was restricted to the character and the attitude of Sakura Yamauchi throughout the story. The writer tried to find any hint and evidence from the novel to make claims that were used to answer the problem statements.

## **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

The following words are the key terms written by the writer in order to avoid misinterpretation and find this study easier to comprehend.

### **1. Core issue**

A self belief that is usually influenced by negative life experiences (Fulshear Treatment to Transition, 2016).

### **2. Psychoanalysis theory**

A literary criticism established by Sigmund Freud with purpose to investigate the interaction of conscious and unconscious elements in the mind of human (Tyson, 1998).

### **3. Motives**

The behavior that reflects the wants and desires of people to fulfill their needs or goals (Sharma, 2015).

### **4. Self-Defense Mechanism**

Any behavior people use in order to separate themselves from unpleasant events, actions, or thought (Holland, 2019). It helps people to keep all the repressed feelings to avoid knowing something they cannot handle (Tyson, 1998, p. 15).