

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is an introduction chapter that presents some important points, they are; background of the study, identification of the problem, focus of the study, formulation of the problem, objectives of the research, significances of the study, and operational definition.

A. Background of the Study

In life, human might feel happy, sad, angry, jealous, anxious, pity, hate, fear, or the mix of all of those feelings. These kinds of feelings can be felt on a daily basis, and oftentimes they come and emerge suddenly and without any reasons. Moreover, these feelings can also change as the time goes by, along with the experiences and the problems they faced in life. This uncertainty is something that makes human's live more colorful and meaningful. Without this kind of surprise, human might find that their life, their relationship with others, and what they are doing as something that are boring, undesirable and meaningless. They might also lose their motivation to do anything or even to go through with their life.

Niedenthal and Ric (2017) in their book entitled *Psychology of emotion* mentioned that most scientists nowadays believe that human could not survive without emotion as they are something that is absolutely essential in human life. This statement might be right, because throughout their life, humans always use emotion to express or to deliver meanings they meant to convey when they are communicating and socializing with each other. As human is a social creature, they could not be separated from emotion, like how they cannot be separated with communicating and socializing. The example of how human use their emotion in communication and socializing is the way their voice, facial expression, and attitude or behavior change when they are sad, happy, anxious, angry and so on. When they are happy, they might talk in a higher pitch with a smile in their face and sometimes they become kinder and more excited. Alternatively, when they feel anxious or nervous, their voice might quiver with a face as pale as a white sheet of paper. Oftentimes, their body would unconsciously tremble with weakened feelings in their legs and hands.

When talking about emotion, then of course there is a need to also mention psychology. Psychology is a field that study and distinguished about different types of human mental states and their associated behavior. Emotion is also one of the topics that are being studied as a type of human mental states. Niedenthal and Ric (2017) mentioned that emotion is an

ability to perceive something then remembering and realizing it as a way to express or escape. They also mentioned that according to Pollak (2013), human genes (nature) and life experience (nurture) can make a full differentiation and elaboration of human emotional life. By looking at these two theories, the researcher believes that emotion is something that come and formed from within. It is something that come through the perceptive and memory of our life experience, supported by our nature, and then realized or expressed as a way to deliver meaning or purpose. As emotion is something that is formed from human nature and life experience, each human would have different kind of emotions. Each of our emotions, which are developed according to our nature and life experience, is discussed in the field of Emotional Development.

Talking about emotional development, the purpose of this research is to analyze the emotional development of the main character and its causes that can be seen in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi. The novel tells us about Zélie's childhood experience where their people were slaughtered by the king as the king felt wary and threatened by their magic. In that event, Zélie's mother becomes one of the many victims that were slaughtered by the King. By reading the novel, it could be seen that Zélie's emotional condition and the development of her emotions is influenced by the event in her childhood and other events that she experiences while growing up. Even though sometimes subtle, her emotional conditions can be seen by analyzing her behaviors, monologues, and dialogues in the novel.

There are three reasons for the researcher to choose the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi as the subject of the research. First, according to the author's official website of people's reaction toward her debut, Tomi Adeyemi is one of the modern writers who have a successful debut. She is the winner of not only Nebula award, but she is also the winner of Hugo award. She was named as one of TIME magazine's hundred most influential people. Second, *Children of Blood and Bone* which is the author's debut novel, was said to be "a debut novel that is nearly impossible to put down" by USA Today as it was stayed in the New York number one bestseller list for over 120 weeks. This novel was chosen as hundred best fantasy books by TIME magazine, was sold for over 500 copies, and has been translated to more than 32 languages. Not only that, her second series of this novel with the title *Children of Virtue and Vengeance*, also got into the New York bestseller list as a number one bestseller novel for over 25 weeks and hundred best fantasy books by TIME magazine. With a great success with both of her books, she is one of the

modern writers who have a successful debut with these achievements. Third, as the main reason, the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* contains many interesting topics. The major plot of this novel tells the story on how Zélie, his brother and the princess of the present king go through a journey to solve the mystery on how the magic is gone and search for an answer to bring the magic back. Throughout the journey, they will face many obstacles as the King want to prevent the return of magic. While it is a story of an adventurous journey of the main character, it also has some sub-plot that contains the elements of authoritarian, discrimination, intimidation, unfairness, insecurity, friendship, kinship romanticism, and some cultural references. The novel contains many psychological elements that can be seen by analyzing the characters, the monologue of the characters, the relationship between characters, the dialogues between characters, the author's description, the events in the novel and the progress of the novel. One of the psychological aspects in the novel is about the emotional condition of the main character that is caused or developed because of the events that happened to the main character in the past and present, which is also the main topic that will be discussed in this research.

B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, there are some topics in the novel that are interesting, they are:

1. The experience of the main character where she loses her mother.
2. The personality of the main character.
3. The emotional instability of the main character.
4. The resentment of the main character.
5. The condition of the main character after the incident in her childhood.
6. The insecurity of the king toward those who possessed magic.
7. The complicated love story between the main character and the son of her enemy.
8. The complicated thought of the main character's love interest.
9. The friendship between the king's daughter and her maid.
10. The cultural reference toward the Yoruba mythology.

C. Focus of the Study

Based on the identification of the study, this research is focused on 3 topics. They are:

1. The portrayal of the main character in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi.
2. The main character's emotional development and its causes in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi.
3. The moral values presented in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the three topics in the focus of the study, the problems of the research are formulated as followed:

1. How does Tomi Adeyemi as the author portrayed the main character in her novel *Children of Blood and Bone*?
2. How does the condition of the main character's emotional development and its causes in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone*?
3. What are the moral values that are presented in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone*?

E. Objectives of the Study

To answer the questions that are formulated in the formulation of the problems, the objectives of the research are as followed:

1. To explain the portrayal of the main character in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone*.
4. To explain the main character's emotional development and its causes in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone*.
2. To explain the moral values presented in the novel *Children of Blood and Bone*.

F. Significances of the Study

The researcher hope that this research can benefit many people and give them more knowledge and information about what are being discussed in this research. The researcher also hopes that the knowledge and information that are learned through this research can be applied into real world. Thus, the significances of the study are divided into two as followed:

- 1. Theoretical Significances**
 - a. Emotional Development

This research is hoped to help the researcher gain more understanding about the things that could influence children emotional states that would lead them to develop negative emotions. Through this research, it can be seen that there are certain events that could affect human and leaves a permanent scar that would not be healed. The result of this research also shows that there are two factors that could disturb children's development, in which in this research is their emotional development, they are family and environment.

b. Moral Value

This research is hoped to provide an insight on what moral value that can be learn and need to be changed or avoided through the novel *Children of Blood and Blood* by Tomi Adeyemi. This novel can be said to be a dark novel, as it contains some topics that are not too pleasant to imagine. The researcher hope that this novel can remind us that even in unfortunate situation, we can still learn and receive something valuable.

2. Practical Significances

a. To Readers

The researcher hope, that by reading this research, the reader would gain knowledge about the things that could affect children's emotional development and what kind of stimuli that can affect its development. Furthermore, the researcher also hopes that the reader can learn from the moral values contained in the novel.

b. To Parents

The researcher hope that parents who has young children can learn through this research about the danger of negative stimuli from both the children's family and their environment than could potentially affect their development. The researcher hope that the parents, after reading this research, will start to pay attention to what they have experienced and communicate with their children about their unpleasant experience, their fear, and their trauma that could possibly became a permanent scar that cannot be cured.

c. To Educators

The researcher hopes that this research will provide the teachers some insight of the children's development that could help them in teaching at school. The researcher also hope that this research would give them materials to teach moral values to their students. Although the story of this novel is quite hard and dark, it is

still containing moral values that can be learnt by the students from the age of 15 and above.

G. Operational Definition

There are four terms that are being discussed in this research, they are:

1. Emotional Development. According to Niedenthal and Ric (2017), emotional development is a preprogrammed in the organism which recognized that all aspects of emotions are responsive to the context of which the child is developing.
2. Character. According to Aminuddin, in Amidong (2018), it is the life of literature, the one who carries the events of the story.
3. Moral Value. According to Abidin (2013), it is the mandate or message in the story that the author wants to deliver to the reader.
4. Psychological Approach. According to Semi in Tambunsaribu (2018), it is an approach of literature criticism which focus on the psychological aspects in literature work.