

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Behavior is something that grows as we grew older. The environment around us and how we were raised is the most influential thing in the development of a person's behavior. Someone's behavior can change due to several factors. Usually, people who experience trauma and fear in their childhood and adolescence will later, in their adulthood, have a very aggressive attitude (Dennen 2005, 36). One of the most influential things that can impact in behavior development is family, especially parents who teach their child about morals. Because of that reason, the presence of parents and how they raise their children are very important and should be maintained carefully. Being raised in a family with many problems will be very burdensome for thoughts and feelings of a child. Building a good family through communication can help to build the behavior of individuals (DeFrain 2008, 1).

Parents, especially father, can be an important role in the development of a child's behavior, a father can make children understand and set boundaries on their environment which can help them to figure out the world. A father is a figure that is always idolized by the child and therefore, the relationship between children and father is very unique (Mackey 2001, 63). This relationship can shape the development of children and affect their values and can be an important factor for children to judge whether something good or bad. A father can be a figure who can lead the child to be a positive or negative individual (Ronald P. Rohner 2001,

388). Therefore, if the father is absence from the life of children, it will affect the growth of their children, especially their behavior (Jones 2008, 19).

The meaning of father absence is when a child is experiencing parental separation that will have an effect in child's development (E. Flouri 2015, 1090-1097). Father absence can be resulted by many causes, the death of the father, a father that is not playing his role as a father, and mostly it resulted from the parental divorce (McLanahan and Tach 2013, 400-401) Because the causes are different, then the results will also be different, and when a father has nothing to do with the unstable relationship and damage within the family, then the effects of father absence on children will reduce. (Peter S. Jensen 1989). A father absence that is caused by death usually will make the child behavior more positive, if the emotion are strong enough to accept the reality of their father already deceased (Bonnie L. Barber 1992). This study will focus on the father absence that the father is not living with the child, the unstable and breakdown relationship between the father and the child.

This study focuses on Mal'akh as the antagonistic character in the novel *the Lost Symbol* by Dan Brown. This novel is a thriller fiction novel which tells a story about ancient organization and involves some historical buildings in America. Mal'akh is experiencing Father Absence where his father never maintained good relationship with him and even abandoned Mal'akh. In the novel, Mal'akh is the son of a freemason organization's leader whose father's life always revolves around the organization without ever listening to his wishes. The father always tells him to continue his leadership in the organization until Mal'akh is

frustrated with everything and ran away from home. When he needed his father again, his father abandoned him, and this is the point where Mal'akh lost his father figure and made the development of his behavior distorted.

The Lost Symbol has a very interesting antagonist character and story. At first we might see Mal'akh as a psychopathic and aggressive person who only tries to achieve his goal without thinking about everyone around him. As the story goes on, we realize that Mal'akh became an aggressive person because his father did not maintain a good relationship with him. He used to fight and argue with his father because his father wanted his son to carry out his organization. He felt that his father never listened to him and always forced on a will that he did not want. He finally ran away at the age of 16, only carrying inheritance in the form of money. He lives freely and feels happy until the day when he used drugs that made him go to prison. On the prison Mal'akh accidentally heard his father's conversation with the warden. He felt disappointed because his father abandoned him. His father could get him out of prison just by paying money to the warden but instead of doing it his father went home abandoning Mal'akh in order to teach him a lesson.

The relationship between parents and child have been recognized as significant with the child's behavior development (Jones 2007, 8). This study will focus on how Mal'akh aggressive behavior is built up inside him due to his father absence that related to his self-protective mechanism. This study will use Karen Horney's Theory of Neurotic Needs as one of the branch of psychoanalysis by

analyzing Mal'akh Neurotic Needs and Trends and also his self-protection mechanism which contributes to building his aggressive behavior.

The first related studies out of three that this study will use is "*The Impact of Father Figure Absence Towards Illya's Behavior in Guy Ritchie's The Man From U.N.C.L.E (2015) Movie*" by Arief Rahman Fajar from Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya, Indonesia. Fajar intends to explain how important the figure of the father in human mental development. Illya, the character that he analyzed is experiencing the father absence and he is trying to move on from the death of his father. This study figures out that the movie "*The Man from U.N.C.L.E*" tries to depict the issue of father absence that will make the mental of the child grow stronger. while this study intends to find the relation of aggressive behavior and explains that the existence of a father is crucial for the child's behavior development. The main difference between this study and Fajar's study lies in the impact of father absence experienced by the character.

Another study affirming the impact of father absence to the behavior development of a child is *father absence and adolescent development: a review of the literature* by Leah East, Debra Jackson, and Louise O'Brien. In this study, the authors present a critical review of a development in adolescents that resulted from the absence of a father in the existing literature. This study found the importance of the presence of fathers in the life of a child. The authors also suggest that the father absence has an impact to children and adolescents (East et

al 2007, 289). However, this study does not provide an explanation on how and why the father absence can make child's behavior aggressive and distorted.

A study by Doyle Mccarthy "*The behavior effects of father absence*" also stated that the father absence can have an impact to the child's behavior development. Mccarthy investigates the effects of father absence by collecting one thousand samples from a family in New York City. The results indicate that a child can have an impact on the behavior development depends on what kind of father absence they are experiencing. Financial condition is also one of the effects of the development of the behavior of children who experience father absence (Mccarthy et al 2015, 11). Though, this study did not take any data of a children that experiencing father absence due to the abandonment of a father.

The studies above help the writer in understanding the role of a father in the development of a child. In the studies above there is no discussion or data regarding the impact of the father absence that can make the child's behavior become aggressive and there is no data and explanation about the child experiencing father absence due to the abandonment of the father. Thus, this study expected to fill the gaps and produce explanations that have not been explained by previous studies.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. How does the father absence cause Mal'akh's aggressive behavior ?
2. Why Mal'akh's self-protective mechanism is in aggressive behavior towards his father ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

1. To evaluate the effect of father absence to the development of a child's behavior.
2. To explore the reason why Mal'akh's self-protective mechanism is in aggressive behavior.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Until today there are many children have lost their father in their lives, whether they are left behind because they do not want to be responsible or because their father died due to illness or just about differing opinions and making the father dislike the child. This will lead into father absence and make the child do not have a role model in his life. The importance of the child to be close to the father is an important factor to the growth of a child's behavior, this has been one of the social belief in the community.

The significance of this study is to find the relation of father absence to the child's behavior development. For a common readers, this study can help them understand that he is needed by his children later, especially for a man who will become a father figure and could prevent them to abandon their child later, same goes for the researcher who will find that his presence will later be needed by his child and the case of father absence will decrease. In the context of the reader is a victim of a father absence they will gain insight and knowledge if their attitudes can deviate. Readers can also reflect on whether they want to be a figure like Mal'akh or not and guide themselves to become good individuals. This study also

can help the students of English Department of Airlangga University to develop a further research about the topic of aggressive behavior due to father absence. They can use this study as the related studies and can help them understand more about how can a father absence impact the behavior development of a child.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- Aggressive behavior:** is obvious or undercover, regularly hurtful, social connection with the expectation of exacting harm or different repulsiveness upon another person. It might happen either responsively or without incitement. In people, hostility can be brought about by different triggers, from disappointment because of blocked objectives to feeling disregarded. (Debono and Muraven 2014)
- Behavior development:** Behavior development is way of a person modifies themselves in order to deal with his environment.
- Father absence:** A separation between the child and the parents that will affect child's development. (Flouri 2015)
- Basic anxiety:** Basic anxiety is a feeling of helplessness and being lonely in a hostile world (Horney, *The neurotic personality of our time* 1964).