

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Childhood is fun and happy, and every child appreciates because each just once in a lifetime. Children have to be children in general who still play and do many fun activities. Childhood is full of cares and loves from parents also the teacher in school who always can make them happy, and her/his experiences becomes nice unforgettable memories. The best teacher for children is the experience of play. Childhood is the right time to learn and know everything new. Children ask about anything and hope to have clear explanation. They can learn from society, school, and also technology. That is why parents have to give more protection and guidance from bad influence.

This situation is implied in this novel, *Totto-chan, The Little Girl at The Window*. First published in Japan in 1981, it became popular and made a new Japanese publishing history by selling 4,500,000 in a single year. In 1982 it was translated in other languages including English and Indonesia. From the royalty of this novel, Tetsuko Kuroyanagi finally can make her dreams come true, that is establishing the first professional theater to deaf people in Japan (Titi :1).

Tetsuko Kuroyanagi was born in August 9th, 1933 in Tokyo. She was appointed UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador in 1984. Over the past 16 years, her work with UNICEF for the world's children has taken her to numerous countries in Asia, Africa, the US and Eastern Europe. She undertakes a field trip each year

and does exceptional advocacy and fund-raising, and has raised over US\$25 million for UNICEF (Faiq :7).

Her popular best-selling novel, *Totto-chan, The Little Girl at The Window*, is talking about children's life, from children's point of view, and also from adult's or parent's point of view. In Japan, this novel was read as an obligation books for education. Some chapters are even included as the materials of the lessons in elementary school, such in Japanese language, etiquette and morals.

Tomoe, Totto-Chan new school have a different system with other schools in common. Tomoe sets the lesson in some outdoor and indoor interesting activities for children. There is a music class that mix with concentrating lesson, cooking class, camping, and tripping as the subject of mathematic, geography, and science. This is finally motivating Tetsuko Kuroyanagi to share her nice experiences in this novel.

Although full of moral values and life, this novel is also a fun book to read. Children's live that is full of colors deeply imply every single pages in this novel. The descriptions of children's live in this novel are very strong as if the readers are included in the story. The children readers can read it as a novel that reflects their lives in childhood. Adult and parent readers can read by memorizing their beautiful childhood experiences. They also can learn the education system and how to guide a hyperactive child like Totto-chan.

Totto-chan, a seven year old girl Japanese girl, is actually an extraordinary little girl. She is creative and always wants to know everything new around her, she explores it more. But not everyone realizes, instead, her teacher in school

thinks that she is a trouble-maker in class and she has expelled from public school.

Totto-chan, The Little Girl at the Window is an interesting novel to observe. The thing that makes this novel interesting is the main character is the author herself. She tells about her experience when she was in elementary school. Mr. Sosaku Kobayashi is the headmaster in Totto-chan's new school, he believes that every child is actually a good child. Based on his knowledge and experience, he does not apply the education system like in common, that is teacher as the central in class, and students have to do what the teacher asks and says. This system disposed to constrict children sensory perception about nature (Kobayashi :105). In Tomoe, Mr. Sosaku Kobayashi applies 'the free school' not 'free from school' for children who is labeled as a naughty child. Daily lesson starts with the favorite subject of each student, and the teacher just guides them.

Although this book seems simple and considered as a children book, but the writer chooses this book because this book contains a lot of educated things that important in daily life. After read this book, the writer also become understand that the system and method that use in public school sometimes does not appropriate for children who have same characteristics like Totto-Chan. The writer also has experience with one of her family who has the similar character as the main character in this book.

In this study, the writer will analyze the protagonist character of Totto-Chan, because even the main character in this novel is a little girl, but the author gave the story also for an adult or parent readers because this book also contains a guide that applies in daily activities. This character is a fascinating character to be

analyzed, especially from the children point of view. Moreover, the writer is interesting when Totto-Chan encounters with many obstacles of life, she was able to change her attitude and behavior even though in a slow process. She was able to develop her character, from the beginning explain that Totto-Chan always gets trouble to wake up in the morning, and others bad habit, but in the end of the story she can totally change to a nice girl.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

In the following analysis, the writer would like to answer the following questions :

1. How is Totto-Chan described in this novel?
2. How are the moral values disseminated by the story?

1.3. Objective of the Study

1. To know how Totto-Chan as the main character described.
2. To know the dissemination of the moral values in the novel.

1.4. Scope and limitation

Before doing the analysis, the writer decides the scope and limitation for the analysis, to keep it on the intended line. The writer limits the discussion only on the character of Totto-chan herself. This character is chosen as she dominantly plays her important roles in the plot of the story. The scope of the discussion is how the character appears which only happens in the main character, her basic

characteristics, her social relationship, and her appearance from various points of view focuses on her daily activities in school.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The writer is interested in making her analysis on the main character named Totto-Chan with an expectation that the writer will make a deeper comprehension and understanding on literary works especially the novel itself. Moreover, the writer hopes that she could give more information to the readers about the children's life, especially students of Faculty of Humanities. This novel is encouraging people who wants to work in relation with children's life or education so the readers will understand how to handle the problems. Finally, the writer hopes that this study can give contribution toward the study of literature, especially to the ones related to children's behavior issues.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

The writer uses close reading or new criticism approach in revealing the conflicts in the novel. According to Tyson in her book *Critical Theory Today*, in interpreting a literary work, new criticism looked at the text itself. Close reading is "closely read" all the evidence provided by the language of the text itself: its images, symbols, metaphors, rhyme, meter, point of view, setting, characterization, plot, and so forth, which, because they form, or shape, the literary work are called its *formal elements* (119)

She also said, "The text itself became the battle cry of the New Critical effort to focus our attention on the literary work as the sole source of evidence for interpreting it (118)."

1.7. Method of the Study

This study uses qualitative method. The writer mainly got information by doing many of library researches, which is concerned with literary books and essays. The primary data of this thesis was gotten from collecting books. Besides, the writer also does many internet researches.

From those researches, the writer is able to collect many important data to make further analysis of the story. After collecting the data, the writer tries to categorize the data into primary and secondary data. In order to make a good analysis, the writer must begin from the basic, which is the intrinsic element, in this case the character and characterization. Finally, the next step after making the analysis is drawing the conclusion, so that the study is complete based on the academic research requirements.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

Character: the term that uses to name persons who involve and develop from the beginning until the end of the story.

Main character: the character that become the most important and significant in the story, or as the central figure in the story.

Protagonist: a character who usually become the hero in the story.