

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1. Background of the Study

In social life, there are many relationships among people. They emerge because each person in one society socializes or has a relationship in certain purposes. For example, at working place when people have something to do in finishing their business they simply will talk to their work mates. In personal life, a serious relationship between a man and a woman while dating will be continued to a serious marriage; mutually, it happens because they share affection and commitment to each other. These are the facts that some relationship will emerge if there is something related with emotions or gaining advantages. But, there is one of relationships that encompasses emotion and needs; it is the relationship in family.

The relationship in a family is stronger than any other relationship in society. It is because family consists of people united by ties of marriage and blood. This bond will stand stronger if both of the parents have a strong commitment to love the family. Even roles and background of the family will not be a problem as long as the member of the family shares the affection toward each other. As David M.,Newman and Elizabeth Grauerholz state in their book, *Sociology of Families*, that “The families’ members more intense than in other

group. The range of activities shared with family members is much boarder than contact with friends, co-workers, or other people (7)''.

This is the reason why family is very important for human being in life. However, it cannot be replaced by any other groups that exist in society. This relationship exists because parents as the main role have a responsibility in nurturing and become the breadwinner for the children. Moreover, J. Ross Eshleman states in his book, *The Family: An Introduction*, that there will be some interactions and sharing among the members accordingly to their social rules, father and mother, son and daughter (70). However, this relationship is emotionally strong in everyday life, especially the ties among both parents and children. The ties between parents and their children are increasingly based on attention and affection.

Traditionally, in a family, both parents have their own roles. Father is the head of the family which means he is a breadwinner and mother who is a housewife who has to stay at home and nurture the children. On the contrary, today this role of parents has changed. Both parents can exchange their main roles. For instance, the mother is a breadwinner and father has to stay at home in order to take care of the children, or maybe, both can be in the same roles.

The complete parents in a family, mother and father, are emotionally good for children. It is because they can work together in propping them with love, care, and giving them affection. Otherwise, it would be difficult duties for a single parent, especially for men. In one time he has to stay at home in order to nurture

his child and in other time he has a big responsibility to be a breadwinner for his child and manages his life as well. Nevertheless, every single father must be feeling so hard because he has to do the different jobs, but still he gets involved in raising his child.

Some of men today might get accustomed being a single parent. However, those men can be seen in these modern days. They can prove to the society that they also can become single fathers who survive in parenting children, especially in breadwinning and nurturing. They even do not need a woman or nanny to take care of the children. Instead, they do it all by themselves without feeling pressure by the circumstances.

Furthermore, being a single father is not easy. Since children need the love and concern of both parents. Father has to complete the mother's absence and fill the void left by a mother. Besides, father has to make some efforts in raising the children without any complaints. Moreover, as a single father, he has a responsibility in order to raise his children.

Related with the responsible father, however, the writer concerns to study how a father is portrayed in the novel entitled *Man and Boy* written by Tony Parson. There are some values that he needs to learn in order to categorize him as a good father. The issue of father appears in the novel as a process from a man who learns from what he did. Moreover, father and son relationship is also depicted in the novel as the major story.

Tony Parsons was born on November 6, 1953 in Romford, Essex, London, United Kingdom. He began his career as a journalist and broadcaster. He wrote for the *Daily Telegraph*, before becoming a columnist for the *Daily Mirror*. He also became a regular guest on the *BBC Two* art review program *The Late Show* as well as, hosted a series called *Big Mouth*. Moreover, he had written many novels including *The Kids* (1976), *Platinum Logic* (1981) and *Limelight Blues* (1983). He also has published a series of best-selling novels which are *Man and Boy* (2001), *One For My Baby* (2001), *Man and Wife* (2003), *The Family Way* (2004), *Stories We Could Tell* (2006), *My Favorite Wife* (2007), *Starting Over* (2009) and *Men From the Boys* (2010).

His novel interestingly tends to reflect the typical of relationship background which deal with problems, emotional dramas, and the traumas of men and women in society. One of the novels that portray such issue, can be seen in *Man and Boy* (2001). The novel depicts a process of how being a good father that faced by a married man named Harry Silver. Through some conflicts such as broken marriage, affair relationship, and single parent he also learns being mature as well as, respecting his family life. Tony Parsons' Novel *Man and Boy* is awarded British Book of the Year award (2001). British Book of the Year award is a kind of British Literary award that give for the best UK writers and their works which also selected by the academy of members from the British book publishing industry. (Goodreads Online)

Furthermore, *Man and Boy* novel tells about Harry Silver as the main character. He is depicted as a successful television producer and also a married man. Harry has a wife named Gina and a four-year-old son named Pat. In the beginning of the story, it is told that Harry's family life seems fine and they live happily. But, the picture of happy family seems fall apart because Harry has an affair with a young girl which happens to be his assistant producer. His wife figures it out that he has an affair. Gina accidentally read a short message sent by Siobhan in Harry's phone. After all, Gina left him and moved to Japan to pursue his career. However, from the first conflicts with his wife, there are sequences of conflicts that he has to overcome. First, he has to be a single-parent which makes him struggle for the responsibility. Second, he has to lose his job in the middle of difficult times as a single parent. And the third, he has to accept the fact that his father is about to pass away.

This occurrence makes Harry have to learn to be a mature person in everything he does, especially as a single father in nurturing and becoming the breadwinner of his child. The figure of Harry as a responsible father appears when Harry has a strong feeling not finding a job and instead, he is taking care of his son. Meantime, his wife, Gina wants to have the custody of their son. It is because Gina is afraid of something terrible happens to their son. While coping with the stress of being a single parent Harry meets another woman named Cyd. In the end, Harry finds a new job and eventually moves on with his life. But at the end of the

story Harry, after struggling of his child custody, he gives in the custody of Pat to his wife.

As the main character, Harry Silver which is also a father, reflects his own true characteristic. After separating with his wife because of his stupid mistake, he makes a lot of changes to be a good father and also a mature man in understanding a serious lovely marriage. Instead, when he and Gina are not separated, he tends to be a selfish guy who only cares about his work and his co-workers. After all, Because of obstacles that he faces while growing up his son, he becomes more mature in caring the family and not being selfish anymore. Therefore, he learns to be a good responsible father.

The main focus of the story is about a loving and caring of a father toward his son. The novel that shows an immature man who becomes a responsible father while nurturing and breadwinning his son as a single father is really interesting to discuss. Besides, the novel also carries a short of problems in society; and the moral message which is being a good father is portrayed by the main character after getting some conflicts. In this case, the writer can state that the main character learns being a good father through process. Therefore, based on reading that, the novel encourages the writer to examine about the theme of the novel related with the title about being a good father.

1. 2. Statement of the Problems

The background of the study leads to some statements that are going to be analyzed in this study. The following statements are formulated to make a clear focus on the analysis:

1. How is the process of being a good father portrayed in Tony Parsons' *Man and Boy*?
2. How is the characterization of Harry Silver Portrayed in the novel?
3. How do the formal elements support the theme in the novel *Man and Boy*?

1. 3. Objective of the Study

There are several objectives that writer wants to achieve. The objectives of the study are intended to answer every question which come out, as it has been mentioned in the statement of the problems by using the chosen theory as the tool to analyze them. Therefore, the writer tries to answer the above questions in order:

1. To analyze how the process of being a good father is portrayed in Tony Parsons' *Man and Boy*.
2. To analyze how the characterization of Harry Silver is portrayed in the novel.
3. To analyze how the formal elements support the theme in the novel *Man and Boy*.

1. 4. Scope and Limitation

Basically, in writing this study, the writer limits his analysis by analyzing the character, particularly Harry Silver as the main character in this novel. Yet, in some sections, the writer will also analyze other characters to support his analysis on the process of being a good father. The several elements of the novel such as characterization, plot, conflict and theme will be concerned. The writer will also analyze the works on the relationship of father-son within the family along with Harry's efforts in struggling as a single parent and in other conflicts. After all, with understanding the conflicts that the main character faces and the father son-relationship portrayed in the novel, the writer will be able to analyze the theme of the novel which is clearly illustrated through main character's life and all off his interactions with both father and son and other characters.

1. 5. Significance of the Study

The aim of this study is to reveal the the process of being a good father in the novel *Man and Boy*. The story is full of love from a father toward his son and also about the process of being matured. The writer hopes that the readers can learn much about the effort of a father in nurturing and breadwinning his son which is hard for him to take both of the obligations. Even though he has to struggle to cope with the difficult situation, he never gives up to live his life.

Moreover, the father also has the feeling toward his son, wholeheartedly; he will do whatever his son want and take care and nurture him like what common women do. Overall, the writer hopes that this study would be useful for the

contribution toward the study of literature, particularly in English Department of Airlangga University, especially for those who want to make a further study about the topic.

1. 6. Theoretical Background

The writer would apply the New Criticism theory that focuses on certain elements of fiction. However, in elaborating the analysis, the writer used Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs' concept of structure in fiction.

Moreover, the importance of using New Criticism theory is to understand how the main character behaves, speaks, socializes with other character and so on, which only focusing on the text as well. Essentially, it is intended to analyze the certain elements of literature that according to the writer concerns, which are plot, conflict, characterization and theme.

According to E. M. Forster in his book *Aspects of Novel*, character is categorized into round and flat. This will help the writer to examine the characters, but especially, the main character. For the Plot, the writer will break down the story to some sequences and the writer will chose some based on the conflicts. The conflict has two types; internal conflicts and external conflicts. The writer will analyze the conflict that features with stating the quotation according to the story.

The focus will be on the discussion of the conflict, and from the conflict it supports to outcome the theme of the story. The theme which is a controlling idea of the novel will be analyzed according to the previous elements that have been

mentioned by the writer. And after all, the unity of the elements which is supporting by some experts' ideas will help the writer to interpret the story of the novel.

1. 7. Method of the Study

The main technique that the writer used is close reading. Therefore, it is important for the writer to pay attention to the novel itself. Close reading will assist the writer to focus in clear reading in order to find out the meaning of the texts content and to analyze the text by interpreting.

Moreover, the first step in analyzing is reading the novel and understanding what inside the text is. After that, the writer categorizes the novel into three parts which represent the minor issues in the novel. The writer continues to observe the plot in the each part in order to find the conflicts that happen to Harry Silver, the main character. Second, the writer examines Harry Silver's characterization by explaining the portrayal of him in the story. In addition, the writer also examines the elements of literature in the novel which are characterization, plot and conflicts, that support each other to create the theme of the novel.

The data collection in this study is conducted by doing close reading in the novel *Man and Boy*, as a primary source. However, it is also supported by secondary sources such as online sources, printed books and some articles. And for the data analysis, the explanation concerns on the process of being a good father from the main character's portrayal. In addition, the explanations in the

story whether indirect or direct form intends to prove the plot, conflict and characterization are part of the formal elements to make an organic unity to support theme of text.

Moreover, formal elements; plot and conflict are elaborated by the writer in the structure of the novel itself and for the characterization the writer focuses on how the main character's traits represent in the novel itself. Hence, these formal elements create an organic unity that can be understood as the theme of the novel.

1. 8. Definition of Key Terms

Characterization: The way fictional characters in the fictions are created and shaping their traits by the author.

Conflict: A clash situation which happen in one character life as it represent in social or family life.

Plot: The arrangement of event and actions within a story.

Theme: The main idea of the story which conclude the whole part of a story.