

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

When someone or something that we love leaves us, we will feel hurt and disappointed. Hurt caused by the experience in the past will cause a traumatic effect. Rangell said “traumatic events, traumatic process, and traumatic effect, accompanied by painful effect” (Hurvich 1). When someone has a painful experience, sometimes he imagines about someone or something near him. He often thinks and sees that someone or something still exists, whereas it is not exists again. It is called as a hallucination.

Hallucination is when you see, hear, feel, smell, or even taste something that does not exist (Parkinson’s UK 1). Hallucination concerned with our sensor. When we see, it is concerned with our eyes. When we hear, it is concerned with our ears. When we feel, it is concerned with our skin.

Causes of sensory hallucination are schizophrenia, post traumatic stress disorder, the manic stage of bipolar disorder (Christensen, “what are sensory hallucinations”). People who had post traumatic stress disorder, have the possibility to experiences hallucination. For example children who experience post traumatic stress disorder usually retain detailed memories of the event for a long time. No matter how much a child may try to forget, these memories remain vivid. Unlike regular memories, these are uncontrollable; they intrude into their day-to-day activities and can interfere with play, school, and family life

(American Academy of Child Adolescent Psychiatry. "Your Child-Childhood Trauma and Its Effects").

From the example above it is clear that someone who retains detailed memories of the event for a long time or can be said as post traumatic disorder has experiences hallucination. Losing someone whom we love could give us a trauma. Therefore hallucination appears when we have a trauma. That is happened with main character in *Tinkers*. He experiences hallucination because of his traumatic experiences. Hallucination in here is an example of catharsis process. That is because we found catharsis in it. Many clients who have experienced such a hypnotic hallucination find catharsis in it (Patrick, "on hallucination"). After the clients experienced hallucination, there is purification in them. Catharsis itself is a concept of psychoanalysis theory.

The word catharsis itself is the Greek word which means 'cleansing' or 'purification'. Aristotle used the word catharsis to describe the emotional release and purification engendered in the audience during their viewing of a tragic drama (Heller 41). Another definition of catharsis suggested by Powel based on Breuer and Freud description is an "involuntary, instinctive body process, for example crying" (Powel 1).

The phenomenon of human's catharsis is not only seen in real life but also in literary works, such as *Tinkers* written by Paul Harding. Theory of psychoanalysis, particularly catharsis concept suggested by Sigmund Freud is used as main theory in this study. In addition, the writer also uses supporting theory which is catharsis classified with psychodynamic theory.

Psychodynamic is study of human behavior by looking for the hidden meaning in the things that people think or said (Sammons 1). Schultz and Schultz (2004) followed theory psychodynamic tradition and defined catharsis as the process of reducing or eliminating a complex by recalling it to conscious awareness and allowing it to be expressed (Powel 1).

In the explanation above Schultz sisters believe that catharsis is the process of reducing and eliminating a complex thing such as stressful events like losing someone whom we love, and recalling into consciousness. After doing the process, the complex things in someone who did it are reduced and eliminated. And its process must be in form of consciousness. It is because the process is recalling the complex thing into consciousness level such as hallucination.

The level of consciousness here can be hallucination because it happened in our consciousness and sub consciousness. The designation between subconscious and conscious or reality and dreamlike states seems to be cut and dry. However altered mindsets confuse the line and cause hallucinations (Krishna, "hallucination and human consciousness"). The hallucination appears when we do not realize it is real or not, that is between our consciousness mind and sub consciousness mind.

Moreover the writer uses theory of psychoanalysis because it is related to unresolved childhood conflicts in the novel. The theory of psychoanalysis proposes that problems arise from unconscious desires and unresolved childhood conflicts (Heller 184). Unresolved childhood conflicts can be traumatic events, and it is related to catharsis theory.

Therefore the writer is interested to discuss the catharsis experiences by George Washington Crosby as the main character in this novel. He had Hallucination often particularly at the end of his life and he had Parkinson's diseases. Moreover George's hallucination appears after his father leaving him and the family. George's father namely Howard Aeron Crosby has an epileptic illness. That illness makes Howard leave his family. He is shy with his illness. Nevertheless, George still searches his father. He does not want to lose his father like in his dream. When George was child, he got a dream about his father death. George's dream makes him traumatic about losing the man whom he loves. George's trauma makes him search his father because he does not want to lose his father. Finally he still searches his father until he had grandchildren. Traumatic event in George's case makes his hallucination appears.

The writer also sees this condition happened to George Washington Crosby as the main character in *Tinkers*. The hallucination appears of George psychological phenomenon. *Tinkers* won the 2010's Pulitzer Prize for fiction. This novel was written by Paul Harding, it's his first novel. Official website of *Tinkers*, informed that Paul Harding has an MFA in fiction from the Iowa Writers' workshop (2000) and was a 2000-2001 fiction fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center, in Provincetown, MA. He has published short stories in *Shakepainter* and *The Harvard Review*. And he taught creative writing at Harvard University (Bellevue Literary Press).

George Washington Crosby's experiences before his death are really important to analyze. It is because this study uses psychodynamic as

psychological approach. George experiences in the past can explain his condition. The condition is the emergence of hallucination in his life.

Based on the explanation of human hallucination, the hallucination is related to Catharsis experience that occurs in the novel *Tinkers* by Paul Harding. The writer is interested to analyze the existences of George Washington Crosby's existences of catharsis and its process by uses psychoanalysis theory particularly catharsis theory.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

From the introduction above, the writer could propose research questions that help to understand that phenomenon more clearly. The following:

1. What indicates George Washington Crosby's catharsis in his life?
2. How does the process of George Washington Crosby experienced catharsis?

1.3 Object of the Study

The aim of this study is to reach several objectives that are expected. The following objectives will be intended to answer every question proposed in the statements of the problem, those are:

1. To find out the existence of George Washington Crosby's catharsis in *Tinkers* novel.
2. To analyze the process into George Washington Crosby's catharsis in *Tinkers* novel.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study attempts to give contribution to the study of Literature particularly in English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Airlangga University. The writer hopefully could enrich the study of literary works using psychoanalysis theory, particularly as the application of catharsis concept. Therefore, the writer expects through this study, he could inform more knowledge in the study of catharsis in literary works as seen in the main characters George Washington Crosby, in Paul Harding's *Tinkers*. Finally, after reading this study, the readers expectantly will get more benefits and experiences related to catharsis.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are many issues, problems, events, and conflicts in Paul Harding's novel entitled *Tinkers*. However, the writer limits this study only on George Washington Crosby's character. This study focuses on George Washington Crosby experience of catharsis because of his traumatic experience. The involvement of other characters and the dialogue also become the supporting sources of this study. Other subjects outside the limitation will not be considered in the process of analysis.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

The theory that the writer used in analyzing George Washington Crosby's development is catharsis. Catharsis is derived from Greek term which is translated as "cleansing" or "purifying". There are many definition of Catharsis. Freud said

catharsis as involuntary, instinctive body process (Powel 1). After someone doing catharsis, there is something cleansing in his feel or in another word catharsis process can make positive change in him.

The writer has explained above that in this study he uses catharsis classified with psychodynamic theory as supporting theory. Psychodynamic is study of human behavior by looking for the hidden meaning in the things that people think or say (Sammons 1). To analyze the existences and the process of psychological phenomena, we must look at until the hidden meaning in someone psychological phenomena

American Psychological Association in 2007, followed by Freud definition theory, defines catharsis as psychodynamic theory which is the discharge of affects connected to traumatic events that had previously been repressed by bringing these events back into consciousness and re experiencing them (Powel 1). Catharsis with psychodynamic theory means stopping the trauma in the past by bringing it back into consciousness and repeats it again in the present.

Moreover, psychoanalysis theory is used to support catharsis theory in the study. The theory of psychoanalysis proposes that problems arise from unconscious desires and unresolved childhood conflicts (Heller 184). Unresolved childhood conflicts can be traumatic events, and it is related to catharsis theory.

When we look through a psychoanalytic perception, it means that we have to look back also at individual's childhood experience in the family until they are adult. And it constitutes the effect from early experience. The goal of

psychoanalysis is to help us resolve our psychological problems (Tyson 14). Psychoanalysis also divides human's mind into two categories which are conscious and unconscious.

Freud said conscious mind includes everything that we are aware. In this aspect, we can think and talk about rationally. Our memory includes in part of conscious mind, which is not always part of consciousness but can be retrieved easily at any time and brought into our awareness. But in unconscious mind is a collection of feelings, thoughts, urges, and memories that are outside of our conscious awareness. Most of the contents are unacceptable or unpleasant, such as feelings of pain, anxiety, or conflict (Cherry, "the conscious and unconscious mind").

1.7 Method of the Study

The primary source of the study is the novel entitled *Tinkers*, written by Paul Harding. This novel is 191 pages of length, which is divided into four chapters and published in 2009. This novel is about the son desire to meet his father until he grows up and got grandchildren. He got hallucination about his father in his life.

This research is a qualitative research. The data are in the forms of written dialogues and sentences in the novel which have explicit and implicit meanings. In collecting data, the writer of the thesis takes some steps in analyzing the novel, namely:

1. **Conduct close Reading:** Reading the novel is the basic step in data collection in literary study. The writer thoroughly read the novel several times in order to understand the whole content of it, especially elements which are related to the topic of this thesis.
2. **Collect the data information:** The writer collects the data from some theories, books, journals, articles, commentaries, other printed and unprinted materials and the internet sources using library and internet online.
3. **Apply Freudian Psychoanalysis to answer the statement problems:** First, the writer identifies George's catharsis experiences which support his psychological phenomena in his life until he is getting older. A hallucination experience is the way he does catharsis process. This process is determined during childhood until he is getting older. Second, George process into he is getting catharsis process. Defense mechanism theory such as repression is used too.

Furthermore, the writer of the thesis uses descriptive analysis through events and actions that are described in the novel relates to the statement of the problems which are analyzed. Psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud is applied in the analysis to find out catharsis experiences in George's life and also how George's process into catharsis.

1.8 Definition of the Key Terms

Catharsis : involuntary, instinctive body process.

Defense mechanism : Unconscious strategies of the ego to distort reality and prevent anxiety.

Hallucination : when we see, hear, taste that does not exist

Psychodynamic : The study about human behavior.

Repression : Kind of defense mechanism to repress the trauma.

Schizophrenia : Mental illness.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW