

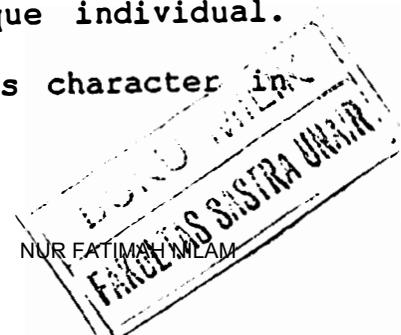
## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study.

Human is destined to be a social and individual creature. As an individual creature, Human has his or her own peculiarities that differ them from others. The peculiarities can be their interest, talent, personality, or specific physical features. Whereas as social creatures, human lives with others, and therefore, they have to follow norms and values of the social system in they live. In their spiritual development - as human grows since their birth until their death - humans go through a phase when they question and struggle to find their peculiar identity, despite the reinforcement of social and cultural values in their environment. In this attempt human works with his or her consciousness, the crucial possession of human being which enables one to think - in a critical manner - about oneself and one's surroundings.

An artist is usually known as unique individual. There are some stereotypes about artist's character in



addition to his ability in creating aesthetic works. One stereotype is social alienation. Some artists prefer to take a distance from social and cultural values that is imposed on him by environment. They choose to live in the condition that enables them to achieve a maximum endeavor of their consciousness and creativity. In doing so, they are not restricted by cultural and social values anymore; they can develop one's excellent achievement is called autonomy.

In literature, a novel that tells about the spiritual development of a young person is called bildungsroman. In bildungsroman, a character is undergoing stages of spiritual development. The most important stage is when he is looking for his own peculiarity as an individual. He begins to think, in this stage, what kind of person he is, what he wants and does not want, what he can and cannot do (Adams, 16). A Psychologist Joseph Nuttin suggests that in the influence and condition of social and cultural environment, individual awareness of life grows and one will have to take a stand for oneself, create one's own meaning; to

have an examined life, an authentic existence, a deliberately chose or created life-project ( Tageson,26).

One prominent bildungsroman of the twentieth-century is James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. It tells about the spiritual development and struggle for autonomy of Stephen Dedalus, a young man who has a talent to become an artist. Stephen grows with his family in Ireland. In the beginning, specially during his childhood, he is firmly attached to his family and to the institutions of his country. They continue to put forth claims on Stephen throughout the period of his growing up. However, Stephen develops to realize and decides at last, that his destiny is to be free of all these claims and isolate himself by leaving his country. Here we can see that Stephen leads his life - in his process of spiritual development - to a dissociation rather than integration with the society, in order to achieve an autonomy as an artist, a life project that he chooses.

James Joyce published *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* in 1914. This bildungsroman is the recast version of *Stephen Hero*, a long autobiographical novel that he wrote in 1904, the main character of which is

Stephen Dedalus (who reappears again in *Ulysses* in 1918). James Joyce shares the major theme of twentieth-century literary works that criticize values and beliefs in a changing society. Joyce expressed his concern about his country Ireland and its culture, primarily in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*. The novel describes that Stephen Dedalus has a critical thought that he has to keep a distance so that he can stand on his own thoughts. His role as an artist obliges him to leave his homeland in order to confront the wider world and work through the spectrum of conscience.

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is an autobiographical account of its author, James Joyce. By thorough examination, there can be found similarities between Stephen's life and James Joyce's. For example, both Stephen and Joyce as an artist share the same personality of an introspective, bookish, and rebellious young man. The turbulent background of the emerging Irish nation state in this novel is the environment and condition in which James Joyce grew. These identical qualities prove that there is a close relationship between the author's life and he life of the main

character, Stephen. Therefore, in order to understand the novel and its underlying idea(s), the reader might as well know James Joyce's life.

Regarding the prominent aspect of spiritual development and achievement of autonomy on the main character Stephen Dedalus, under the title of: STEPHEN'S ACHIEVEMENT OF AUTONOMY IN JAMES JOYCE'S A PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A YOUNG MAN, the writer will try to reveal the significance of autonomy to the main character and the process that the character must go through in order to achieve the autonomy.

### **B Statement of the Problem.**

After reading and rereading the novel a number of times, the writer is interested in studying Stephen's struggle to achieve an autonomy. To begin the study, the writer formulates the following questions as a statement of the problem:

1. What is the significance of autonomy for Stephen?
2. How does he achieve his autonomy as an artist?

### **C. Objective of the Study.**

In relation to statement of the problem above, answers shall be prepared as the objective of the study as follows:

1. To point out the significance of autonomy for Stephen as an individual human being with peculiar characteristics as well as consciousness.
2. To describe Stephen's achievement of his autonomy as an artist.

### **D. Significance of the Study.**

This study shall be useful for students of English Department of Airlangga University as well as others interested in English literature. It shall give knowledge and depth dimension understanding toward James Joyce's works since *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* bears many similarities with his life. The description of Stephen's achievement of autonomy in the novel and an analysis about it can help us discern the significance of autonomy to a human being as a conscious creature with the capacity of rationality. Also, as we learn the major character as a writer and an artist in this novel,

hopefully we can gain understanding of literature as the product of man.

#### **E. Scope and limitation.**

In order to avoid misleading and pointless analysis, the writer will focus the analysis on Stephen's character and his environment while making a comparison with Joyce's character when he was young and his Irish background. Therefore, the elements of fiction analyzed in the study are characters, setting and plot.

#### **F. Theoretical Background**

*A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is mostly identical to its author's life when he was young. Regarding this, in studying the novel the writer employs Expressive Theory as the main theory supported by Mimetic Theory.

Sometimes, to have a thorough understanding on a literary work requires knowledge of another fields of study. In this study, Stephen's spiritual development in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* can be explained and clarified by psychological approach about character

development. Whereas Stephen's achievement of autonomy can be explained in the humanistic concept of autonomy suggested by Stanley I. Benn.

#### **G. Method of the Study.**

Regarding the Expressive and Mimetic Theory being used, the writer will point out Stephen's character, his conflicts, as well as his background and find their conformity with James Joyce's character, conflict, and background when he wrote the novel as an autobiographical account of himself.

Library research is conducted beforehand in order to get as adequate and relevant references as possible to support the arguments in the study.

#### **H. Definition of Key Terms**

portrait : A description of a character's mind, feelings, and action in words.

artist : A person practising and having natural skill and in arts.

authenticity : Being true to a norm discoverable from within an individual person.

**autonomy** : An ideal condition in which one is free to think and express one's thoughts and feelings so that one can attain whatever degree and kind of excellence of which one is capable.

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**