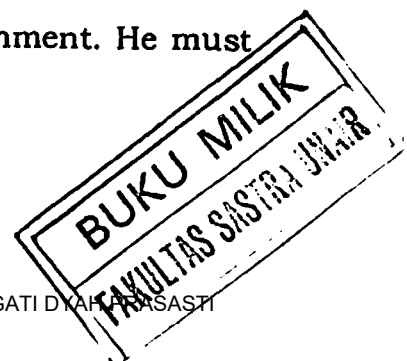


CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Friendship is one among the good things children's books have shown their readers. Friendship is one of the essential factors in the development of children's attitudes. It is as a means for children to learn that they live in society. By having friends, they learn how to appreciate and respect others. They will also learn how to share their happiness with others. When they have problems, they do not want to discuss them with their parents, instead, they prefer to talk to their best friends to look for the best solution. A child who has close friends will know his weaknesses since he will always be criticized every time he does something in a bad manner. From his interaction with the others, he will learn much how to respect other people so that he will be respected. From the early friendship he builds with his schoolmates or neighbours, he becomes to know that living in the society means that he cannot be selfish and has to behave properly since he cannot live alone. It will make a child be able to adapt with his peers in the society where he lives. It is important for him to understand that he must also have a good relationship with other living creatures and their environment. He must



let wild animals live freely on their habitat and try to learn how to maintain the lives of the plants for they provide fresh oxygen which is very useful for people's health. In short, he has to know that he should participate in keeping the continuity of the nature. Beside children may have pets for, sometimes, they can be best friends who understand them that they listen to every problems without cutting the story, and also protect them from danger.

Children have their own way to communicate to one another. They convey their ideas to their friends with simple words for they have simple minds. They share their happiness to one another by playing, laughing or running and chasing one another. They have their own world adults sometimes cannot enter. It is necessary for them to be friends with other children of their age so that they will be able to share their interests that are probably the same. They might make friends with adults but it will not be the same. The superiority of adults will be an obstacle to maintain the friendship. Adults sometimes take them for granted. Sometimes, children are difficult to communicate with adults since their way of thinking are different. Beside, children's needs are different from the adults'. However, children are supposed to learn good things from adults since they have experiences worth to be taken.

The friendship among the children has been brought up to the literary works. It is depicted in *The Secret Garden*, a novel written by one

of the famous writers of children's literature Frances Hodgson Burnett (1849-1924), an Anglo-American novelist. She was born in Manchester. She lived there for sixteen years before she emigrated to America. However, she was not to forget her life in her motherland since her first novel *The Lass O'Lowries* tells of working-class life in Manchester. Hodgson Burnett was also instrumental in establishing the legal precedent which gave American authors control over the English publication of their works. She is a prolific author who wrote many novels and other books for adult besides books for children. Although she became popular with her first book, *The Lass O'Lowries* (1877), Frances' reputation rests on her three children books : *Little Lord Fauntelroy* (1886), *The Little Princess* (1905), and *The Secret Garden* (1911). The latest, written in Long Island, is probably her best-written, most enduring and most popular work.

The Secret Garden is one of the great classic story telling, which presents an exciting plot in a mysterious setting. It is a sensitive portrayal of the world seen through children's eyes. The novel has made Frances Hodgson Burnett consider a distinguished English artist who has a real knowledge and feeling for the moors and gardens in England. Her many black and white pictures are exactly right for this much-loved story. In it, garden acts as a means of health and as a symbol of growing

personality. *The Secret Garden* was first published by Stokes in 1909. (The Children's Catalog Tenth Edition)

The Secret Garden is widely admired children classic book. It has an interesting story about friendship which causes the shifts within the main characters. The children characters in the novel have important roles in the development of the whole story. Mary, Colin and Dickon are three major characters who have developed and changed because of the friendship they build up together. Each of the characters has different background of family, habit, manner and attitude before they meet one another, however, they are able to build their relationship. Mary is an orphan after her parents have passed away because of cholera. She is very selfish and bad-mannered ten-year-old girl. She has no friend at all for her selfishness. She has to move to her uncle's manor in Yorkshire, England and tries to make friends with some local people for she needs to know more about her new environment. One of her new friends is Dickon, a twelve-year-old boy who lives in the moor near her uncle's house. He has a habit to spend most of the time on the moor by himself or with wild animals occasionally. As they become friend, she begins to know how important a friend is. One day, she encounters her sickly and hysterical cousin, Colin. He is very selfish and ill-tempered ten-year-old boy. After a while, the three children have become friends. The friendship

gives them something valuable they have never had before. It has become the new beginning for all of them.

The Secret Garden shows that childhood is the best time for people to start learning much about good things and moralities. It also shows how important for children to socialize with the others. They may learn from their interaction, especially how to share and not to be selfish. It will give children a lesson how to respect their friends. The friendship of the children and how it affects their behaviour and habits have made the writer interested in analysing the novel in her thesis.

B. Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the study written previously, the writer tries to formulate the problems to be analysed into :

1. How is the attitude of each child towards friendship, either with other people or with nature ?
2. How does the children develop their friendship ?
3. How does friendship give an impact to each child's behaviour and habit ?

C. The Objective of The Study

Related to the statement of the problem mentioned before, the objective of the study are :

1. To reveal the attitude of child towards friendship, either with other people or with nature.
2. To convey the way the children develop their friendship.
3. To explain an impact caused by friendship to each child's habit and behaviour.

D. Significance of The Study

Hopefully, this thesis can enrich readers' literary knowledge and also give better appreciation and understanding on literary works, especially on *The Secret Garden* and its writer Frances Hodgson Burnett. By having better knowledge and appreciation, readers will have more enjoyment in reading and understanding every literary works. The writing may give contribution to literary department especially to its students.

The other purpose is to give readers a view about the importance of early socialization for children so that they are able to behave properly when they grow up. Readers may take some lessons from it to be applied in daily life.

E. Scope and Limitation

In order to make the analysis clearer, the writer will concentrate on the friendship among the three children in the novel and its importance to change the behaviour of Mary and Colin and to make Dickon finds the way to get along with his peers. To make the writer easier to analyse that, she focuses her attention on three important elements those are characters, setting and plot. The characters to be analysed are limited only on the three children : Mary, Colin and Dickon. These elements are considered to be representative enough for the writer to obtain the purpose.

F. Theoretical Background

Related to the topic that will be discussed, the writer is going to use structural approach to analyse it. This approach concerns with the intrinsic elements of the novel. It is used to obtain the description of the elements of literature being analysed. The main subject that is going to be analysed is the children characters Mary, Colin and Dickon, and their relationship to one another. The analysis will also be supported by some other intrinsic elements that are setting and plot.

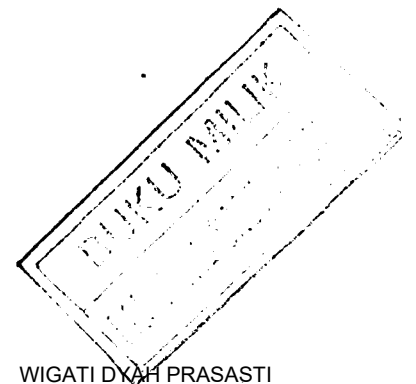
The analysis of the topic will be supported by the psychological approach especially the one which concerns with the psychology of the

content of the work. The writer will use Social Learning Theory formulated by Walter Mischel, a theory concerns with the development of children's personality, to make the analysis clearer and more significant.

G. Method of The Study

This thesis is preceded by a library research, which is a process of finding information and data from various books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, articles, and any other printed materials dealing with Frances Hodgson Burnett's works especially *The Secret Garden* which are important to help directing the process of writing. The novel is the main source of the study for sure. The writer uses some relevant theoretical books to support her understanding about literary theories to be used as the basis of the analysis. There are more references used which can be found in the bibliography.

The writer intends to use descriptive-analysis method in conveying her ideas. There will be a descriptive explanation of the problems found in the novel through the events, action and dialogues in the story. The method is applied based on the work and will be supported by data and information which has been accumulated by reading books related to the topic .



H. Definition of Key Terms

Childhood : An early time when one is a child. It is an essential stage for a child since it is the time when he goes through some development. He is able to absorb many things either good or bad. It may give strong influences to the next phase of humans' life.

Friends : People who one knows very well and like to spend time together; they are willing to help and support him as well.

Friendship : A relationship between two or more people who like each other and enjoy spending time together.

Secret : A fact known by only a small number of people closed one another, and is not told to anyone else. It is a mark of a close relationship

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK