

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Autobiography is a retrospective prose narratively written by a real person concerning his or her own existence, where the focus is one's individual life, in particular the story of his or her personality (LeJeune, 1989). In other words, autobiography is a record of a person's life. This definition brings autobiography into four different categories. There are two forms of language used in writing autobiography; narrative and in prose. One can use both of those forms of language, or just one of them. In autobiography, the subject treated can be divided into two. The first subject is the story of one's personality and the second one is the story of an individual life. As mentioned in the definition, autobiography is written by the real person himself or herself concerning their own existence. Thus, the situation of the author and the narrator is identical. There are two positions of the author. First, the narrator and the principal character are identical. Second, the author is the retrospective point of view of the narrative. (Abrams, 1999).

There are three types of autobiography: informal autobiography, formal autobiography, and specialized form of autobiography (Kavitha, 2015). Informal autobiography includes a very intimate writing that is not aimed for publication. Letters, diaries, and journals are the example. While formal autobiography is an autobiography that offers a special kind of biographical truth: a life, reshaped by recollection of memories and is meant for publication. On the other hand, specialized form of autobiography is classified under thematic, religious, intellectual, and fictionalized autobiography.

Out of those types, this study discusses a formal autobiography called "I am Malala", written by Malala Yousafzai. Malala was assisted by Christina Lamb who helped her telling her story. "I am Malala" tells a story of a young woman named Malala who decided to fight for women's right to education when this basic right was taken away by the Taliban. Malala was born in 1997. Both her

mother and father came from a very remote part of Pakistan called Shangla. They moved to a small town called Mingora in a district called Swat Valley just a hundred miles from Afghanistan. Malala's birth was not a cause for celebration mostly because she was not a boy and also because the family was extremely poor and had no money for a big feast. Her father named her Malala after a courageous woman who led the troops in a battle against the British in 1880.

Her mother was illiterate but the father was a great speaker and he was very actively involved in many environmental, social and political causes around the region. Being a teacher, he then decided to open schools for both boys and girls, along with his friends and business partners. He encouraged his daughter to learn and be an independent woman rather than a humble wife who cooks, cleans, has children and never leaves the house.

The arrival of the Taliban brought a dramatic change to the region. They set up a radio broadcast and started telling people to burn their books, their CD's and DVD's, to keep the girls away from schools and to return to the old ways of Islam. Pakistan was very affected by a big earthquake, by huge floods and other natural disasters so people thought that they were punished by God and listened to the Taliban. Yet, Malala kept going to school and she started giving interviews in order to promote education and women's rights. She was only fifteen years old but she spoke from the heart about education under Taliban's restriction.

The most intriguing part of the book is surely Malala, the author herself. Malala's unwavering support for the important principles of liberty, democracy and freedom has inspired many people. She has also become a prime target for radical extremists and terrorist groups, and put her life in great jeopardy. That's what makes her autobiography, "I am Malala", so compelling. (Taube, 2014).

What makes the writer of this study attracted to analyze this autobiography is the courage of Malala. Her courage to pursue education had led her to become an education icon. She was given the chance to speak at United Nations in 2013 when she was only sixteen years old. The following year, she was awarded Nobel Peace Prize for her struggle against the suppression of children and young people and for the right of all children to education. In fact, until now, Malala is the

youngest person ever to accept the award. The writer believes that there are lots of factors that make Malala brave and courageous (Taube, 2014). Thus, the writer decides to analyze the personality of Malala. By analyzing these factors, the writer can learn and share the underlying factors behind the bold personality of Malala. These factors can be applied to educate students to be determined, brave, and have more critical thinking.

1.2 Statements of the Problems

In line with the title and the background, the purpose of this study is to analyze the character of Malala, the author and narrator of the autobiography, “I am Malala”, written by Malala Yousafzai. The matter under discussion is narrowed further into a specific subject – the triggering factors of Malala’s courageous personality. Accordingly, the statements of the problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the signs of Malala’s courage?
2. What are the factors underlying Malala’s courage?

1.3 Objective of the Study

In accordance with the statements of the problem, this study aims at finding out the signs and factors underlying the courage of the author and main character in an autobiography called “I am Malala”.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study will help the readers to understand characters in real life. In connection with the previous statement, this study can help the readers to raise or educate a child or student with the values that can be found in the courage of Malala based on an autobiography called “I am Malala”. The writer also hopes that this study can be a help for fellow students as a reference for studies which analyze or related to character and social – cognitive theory.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

In accordance with analyzing an autobiography, the writer uses critical theory of literature. According to Abrams, there are four critical theories. The first one is Mimetic Theory which sees literature as an imitation of the universe. The second one is Pragmatic Theory – this theory sees literature as a work that will give an impact to the audience. The third one is Expressive Theory which sees a literary work as an expression of the author – an over flow of an author’s feeling. While the fourth one is Objective Theory which sees a literary work as the work itself – with no strings to any other things. To analyze the main character – who is also the author of an autobiography “I am Malala” – one must analyze the element of literary work, such as; setting, plot, character, and theme. But, since “I am Malala” is an autobiography, which is not a fiction book. The writer will only analyze the character and theme.

To answer the problem statements, the writer needs a tool to guide her to understand deeply how courageous Malala is and what makes Malala courageous. In order to do so, the writer uses an indicator for detecting courage named Circle of Courage, under the guidance of Bandura’s Social – Cognitive Theory. This indicator and theory help the writer to find out how courageous Malala is and the underlying reasons behind her courage.

1.6 Scope and Limitation

To avoid the study getting too broad, the writer limits the scope of this study into the analysis of the factors affecting Malala’s courage. The writer uses Elements of Autobiography to analyze the author and the main character of *I am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai. Moreover, to fully comprehend the character, the writer limits the indicator and theory uses to analyze Malala Yousafzai, the writer uses Circle of Courage to guide her in analyzing the signs of Malala’s courage and Bandura’s Social Cognitive Theory to guide in in analyzing the factors underlying her courage.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Autobiography	: A record of a person's life that gives the readers information about various incidents that have happened to him/her.
Courage	: The ability to carry on something that one knows is difficult or dangerous
Courageous	: a feeling or displaying no fear by temperament
I am Malala	: I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban Hardcover by Malala Yousafzai (Author), Christina Lamb (Contributor). I am Malala is originally published by Little, Brown and Company on 8 October 2013. The autobiography used by the writer of this research is the first Back Bay international mass market edition, October 2014.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. Chapter II presents the review of the theories used in analyzing of the literary work as well as the review related literature. Chapter III views the research method of the study. Chapter IV presents the findings and the analysis of the study. Chapter V presents the conclusion of the study and the suggestions.