

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

The writer chose the novel *The Time of Her Life* by Robb Forman Dew because the writer is interested in the cover and the title of this novel. First, from the cover because in the cover there is a picture of an angel who is playing violin, but her face looks so sad. So, the writer thinks that it is quite interesting to know what is happening in the novel. Second, from the title, the writer can know that *The Time of Her Life* novel was going to discuss about the problems of a person's life story. So just by looking at the title "*The Time of Her Life*", the writer can determine the approach that can be used for this thesis.

In the story, the writer is introduced to the Parks family - Claudia and Avery, who are childhood sweethearts, and their daughter, Jane. She is an eleven-year-old girl. Jane is a lonely child; she does not really fit in with her age group, although she does have one good friend, Diana, who lives across the meadow behind her house. Here is the summary of the novel according to David Selvadurai:

Claudia and Avery Parks, lovers since high school, are now in their thirties. Intelligent, charming, sympathetic, they seem to be the ideal couple, the perfect dinner-party guests, almost everything people should be-except responsible. They are casually yet cruelly oblivious to the ways in which their words and actions affect other people, most particularly their talented eleven-year-old daughter, who suffers

the misfortune of being treated by her parents not as a child but as an equa (Selvadurai, 2010).

In this novel, although Claudia and her husband are seen harmonious by their neighbors, actually Claudia seems to be a wife and mother who is psychologically ill. One of her actions of treating her daughter as an equal rather than as an eleven year old child is interesting to find out. Maybe it is because Claudia is not ready to have a child. Maybe it is also because Claudia wants to work but is not allowed by her husband. There are other interesting characters in the novel with their own problems, but the writer is more interested in Claudia's character and her problem.

Claudia as the main character in *The Time of Her Life* novel is a person who cares only about herself. She does not care about her husband and her daughter. It makes her husband do not like her. The problems become bigger when Avery leaves her and she becomes depressed.

This study analyzed and viewed the maturity development of Claudia, a woman who, does not care for her family. During the time she was left by her husband, somehow, Claudia could then give some attention to her daughter. So, it means that Claudia is experiencing a maturity development. In trying to find out why this happens, the writer sees that the maturity development theory is within the discipline of psychology, so to analyze this novel the writer will use psychological approach. Maturity is a term used in psychology to indicate that a "person responds to the circumstances or environment in an appropriate manner. The response is generally learned

rather than instinctual, and is not determined by one's age" (Rosenfels, 2010, ¶.4).

So for this thesis, the writer uses the Jungian theory of the individuation process, because, this theory can help the writer analyze Claudia's maturity development. With Jungian theory the developments of Claudia's character and what she has done to achieve her dream can be analyzed. In addition to Jungian theory, the writer sees that the behavioral theory used by psychologist Watson and Skinner is also appropriate to investigate Claudia's maturity development. This is because the behavior and actions of Claudia can be analyzed in detail. So, this is why the writer decided to write about "The Maturity of Claudia's Character in *The Time of Her Life*" for her thesis.

## 1.2 Field of the Study

The field of this study will be focused on literature, especially novel.

## 1.3 Scope of the Study

In this research, the main purpose is to analyze the personality of the main character in *The Time of Her Life* novel, with the use of Jungian and behavioral perspective of Watson and Skinner's psychological approach.

#### 1.4 Problem Formulation

How is Claudia's character development according to Jungian theory and behavior theory of Watson and Skinner?

#### 1.5 Objectives of the Study

To analyze Claudia's character development according to Jungian theory and behavior theory of Watson and Skinner.

#### 1.6 Significance of the Study

By reading the analysis of *The Time of Her Life*, the readers, especially the students of literature class can have some benefits which can make them know about the process of how people become mature through family problems in marriage life. So, by reading the novel and the analysis of this thesis we can learn about how to solve those family problems.

#### 1.7 Definition of Terms

Some terms that will be frequently used in this thesis are as follows:

### 1.7.1. Psychological approach

Psychological approach is the concept of human psyche and to see the people maturity (Macleod, 2007, ¶.1).

### 1.7.2. Jungian theory

Jungian analysis is a realignment of conscious and unconscious aspects of the personality with an ensuing creation of new values and purpose (Sundara, 2005, ¶. 5).

### 1.7.3 Behavioral perspective

The behavior is basically to respond to the stimulus that comes. In simple terms it can be described in a model stimulus – response. This means that such a reflex behavior (Demar, 1989, ¶. 4).

