

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Literature is a kind of written works that has a connection with art, which performs the beauty of style or expression to tell stories, to dramatize situations and to reveal thought and emotions. It may also entertain readers, especially novels, plays and poems. Taylor (1981) states that literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, an act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life experience. This argument is supported by what Muller (1994) argues that literature is writing in prose or verse that contains complex yet coherent ideas and meanings; deals with significant or universal issues; contains original and imaginative writing; and interests a large number of educated readers.

From the definitions above, it is clear that literature is written works that can be used as a means of communications for people to express their minds, emotions and ideas. It is writing in prose or verse that deals with imaginative writing and entertains readers by some ordering and interpreting life experience of the writer. There are three main genre of Literature: namely poetry, drama, and prose.

Prose is the only genre that is meant to be written down for private reading, although a work may be read out to an audience. Drama and poetry, on the other hand, are conceived for public performance although they may also be written down

and read privately. According to Taylor (1981) narrative fiction is basically a story or meaningful sequence of events. Characters and actions are so organized and presented that an idea or attitude becomes evident. Of the prose, novel is the most sophisticated form. Taylor (1981) maintains that novel is a prose work with quite some length and complexity attempting to reflect and express qualities or values of human experience or conduct.

The very reason why novel is chosen in this study is because novel is an image of real life. In reading a novel, good values from its story such as truth, honesty, maturity and courage are the reflection of those from the real life. The novel used in this study is *Dream Spinner* by Bonnie Dobkin. The short information about Bonnie Dobkin can be seen below:

Bonnie Dobkin grew up in and around Chicago, and now lives in Arlington Heights. She was a frighteningly ordinary and hideously well-behaved child. To compensate, she often tried to escape normalcy through music, acting, and of course, writing. By day, she is an editorial director for a well-known educational publisher, the mother of three semi-grown and very handsome sons, wife to a dentist who wishes he were Doc Holliday, and love object of a ninety-pound mutt of dubious heritage. *Dream Spinner* is her first novel (Retrieved on July 10, 2010 from http://www.wikipedia.org/bonnie_dobkin).

Dream Spinner is an adventure novel that tells a story of kids who become trapped in a tapestry woven from their dreams. Although the deal comes at a terrible price, the kids enter to a magical world where their dreams become reality; where the chance to live out of fantasy is so enchanting, especially when compared to their hard real life. From the story, the writer finds out a lot of good values such as friendship,

truth, maturity, sacrifice, betrayal, and missing. In this study, the character that the writer wants to highlight is Jori.

Jori is 14 years old, she is the protagonist of the story whose life is no longer as wonderful as it was, due to the tragic car accident that killed her father and left her physically and emotionally traumatic. Jori must walk and try to ignore the stares and whispers that always haunt her. Her life is bitter; she is also betrayed by her best friend Marisa just when Jori needs her most. Meanwhile, Jori and her mother anxiously wait for the return of Jori's younger sister, Lisa, who has been missing for months. Jori begins to wonder that everything in her life will never get any better. She loves her father and her sister very much. Home is so quite without Lisa's laughter and her father's ridiculous stories. She misses them both, but nothing she can do to make them back home. Her study at school is also very hard. She is isolated by Marisa, the person she had once called her best friend. The other students also do the same thing to her as Marisa does. These hard situations make Jori angry. She does not trust people anymore.

Then, she meets an old man who offers her the chance to enter a mysterious tapestry, the gateway to a magical world where dreams become reality. She is tempted. After all, who would not want the chance to live out of fantasy, especially when real life is so hard? But as Jori comes closer to trading away her real life for a dream, she finds out that the deal comes at a terrible price. She must be strong enough

to struggle and leave the magical world where anything even reuniting with her father is possible.

The great experience that Jori must face then is when she enters the magical world where her sister is trapped. In the magical world, Jori learns to make decision and to take control under pressure when facing some difficult situations. She goes to the magical world to save her sister. It is hard for her to survive at the first time and she has to keep her self conscious while she and her friends are controlled by magical power. In that difficult situation, under a spell bond, she manages herself to make decisions and solve problems.

The writer is interested in Jori's maturity, especially the process of her maturity from the beginning until the end of the story. According to the story, Jori's life is not easy. It is hard for her to live without any people around her when she needs them to support her. There are many problems she must face in her life. Amazingly, she is just about fourteen years old and she grows mature fast because of the problems in her life. However, she does not enter the magical world only to reach her dream and live in fantasy, but to rescue her sister and friends that are trapped in the magical world.

Magic is the special power in the story that offers Jori the chance to enter another world and to live out of fantasy where dreams become real. In this case, the writer expects to understand more about magic as a special power which is intended

to fulfill individual needs. In the story, individual needs are explained by showing the needs of Jori and her friends and her sister to reach their dream, even they must deal with magic to reach it.

Considering the strife qualities Jori has, the writer decides to analyze the maturity of Jori in reaching her goal to rescue the people she loved in the magical world. In analyzing the study, Carl Gustav Jung's individuation process theory is used.

Having considered the above facts, the writer decides to write a thesis entitled: **Magic and Maturity related to Jori's Life in Bonnie Dobkin's *Dream Spinner*.**

1.2 Field of the Study

The field of the study is focused on literature, especially novel.

1.3 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study focuses on the magic as a special power which is intended to fulfill individual needs and maturity of Jori in Bonnie Dobkin's *Dream Spinner*. In this case, the writer makes use of Jung's individuation process theory to describe and analyze about the maturity of Jori in her journey to rescue the people she loves.

1.4 Problem Formulations

The problem formulations of the study are as follows:

1. How is magic as a special power intended to fulfill Jori's needs?
2. To what extent do Jori's needs influence her maturity process?
3. Is Jori finally matured in reaching her goal to rescue people she loves in the magical world as explained by Jung's individuation process theory?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To explain how magic as a special power is intended to fulfill Jori's needs.
2. To explain how Jori's special needs influence her maturity process.
3. To explain how Jori is finally matured in reaching her goal to rescue people she loves in the magical world as explained by Jung's individuation process theory.

1.6 Significance of the Study

In this study, the writer hopes that readers can understand how magic as a special power is intended to fulfill the individual needs of Jori in the story. Moreover, the readers are expected to understand more about the maturity of Jori in the magical

world of Bonnie Dobkin's *Dream Spinner*. The writer also hopes that this study will give some new insights and motivation for readers to study the novel further.

1.7 Definition of Terms

a. **Magic**

The use of special powers to make things happen which would usually be impossible, happening in an unusual or unexpected way, or easily or quickly (Good, 2008, p.861).

b. **Maturity**

The quality of becoming more developed mentally and emotionally and behaving in a responsible way (Good, 2008, p.885).

c. **Psychological**

Science, study of the mind and its process (Jonathan, 1995, p.675).

d. **Unconscious**

The part of mind that contains feelings and thought that you do not know about, and that influences the way of behave (Good, 2008, p. 1581).