

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a term used to describe about a written or spoken material. In the written material, literature is used to describe things from creative writing to more technical or scientific works including works of fiction and non-fiction. Literature is also a kind of human work that contains life experiences.

Literature, in this book, will refer to written works: by which I mean works whose originating form and final point of reference is their existence as written textuality – however much individual text may be performed, produced or reproduced in non written form (hence plays but non film scripts, performance poetry and poetry set to music but not song lyrics) (Widdowson,1999, p. 15).

Novel is one fictional work that contains human life. Literary analyses rely on the assumption that stories must mean something. The assumption can be formed from some questions such as, how does a story *mean* something? Isn't a story just an arrangement of characters and events? And if the author wanted to convey a meaning, would not he or she be much better of writing an essay or just telling on what he or she meant? With these questions, a reader can more or less conclude that the stories like these are reduced down to the bare elements, giving just enough detail to lead to their main points, and because they are relatively easy to understand and tend to stick in the memories, they are often used in some kinds of education. Interpretations of fiction would not be interesting if the meanings of

the stories were clear to everyone who reads them. They show different sides of a problem, and they can raise new questions.

I make the assumption that there is an area of human activity and production in which people choose deliberately to use written language in ways distinguishable from other forms of written communication: most obviously the genres of poetry, prose fiction and drama (Widdowson, 1999, p. 15).

This applies also to when the writer reads Maureen O'Brien's novel, entitled *b_mother*. Maureen O'Brien was born on 29 June 1943 in Liverpool, England, UK. O'Brien has taught writing at Trinity College, the University of Hartford, and St. Joseph College, and currently teaches at the Greater Hartford Academy of the Art. *b_mother* was O'Brien's first novel that was released in 2006. O'Brien shows the daily life in New England, U.S.A. of the 1980s and writes it up as a basis for *b_mother*.

The main character in the novel is Hillary Birdsong. Hillary is a protagonist because the whole of the story talks about Hillary's problem. The story tells about Hillary who has a difficult way of life. Hillary is the daughter in the Birdsong family. The conflict that happens to Hillary starts from her brother's death. Birdy, Hillary's brother, died in an accident when Hillary was twelve. Her parents, especially her mother cares for her brother more than her. It makes Hillary feels jealous, and makes her have frustration. To escape from that sadness she goes to a party with her best friend, Shell, who has the same experience about being ignored by her parents.

In the party Hillary meets Miles. Hillary and Miles love each other. At sixteen she finds herself pregnant and it makes the family ashamed of her. Her parents and Miles, as a father of Hillary's child, do not help her to raise the child. Hillary's life becomes more difficult when she finds no supports from the people around her. Hillary feels more frustrated, so she has difficulty in raising her child. Then her parents bring Hillary to Southern Maine family Services to save them from the embarrassment about their daughter who was pregnant without an official husband.

Because Hillary is not officially married she wants to determine who will be the mother of her child. From the choices of mothers provided by the Southern Maine Family Services, she chooses Lola as her child's adopted mother. She chooses Lola because she knows that Lola has lost her child, she believes that Lola will take care of her son. Hillary chooses Tom as the name of her child. Then, Hillary makes a deal with Lola. Hillary says that she wants to meet her son after her son is eighteen years old. However, on the day after Hillary gives her child to Lola, Hillary feels so brittle. She always waits for the day to see her child again. Besides that, she also waits for Tom's birthday, because she and Lola have made a deal that each year on Tom's birthday, Lola ought to send a letter and Tom's photo to make Hillary know about Tom's condition.

Waiting for eighteen years is not a simple and easy thing. It makes everything hard for her life because she has to lie to other people about her condition of being a mother. Finally, the long wait is over after Tom is eighteen years, Hillary meets him. She is very happy, and Tom is also happy to meet his

birthmother. Hillary knows that she cannot be his mother in real life because she only has the rights to be his birth mother.

The statement above makes the writer feels interested to analyze Hillary's individuation process from the experience of Hillary's life, i.e. Starting from the Hillary being pregnant, giving up the baby, and meeting her son. In the time after loosing her child makes her behavior change. She has to put on a mask when facing the public. She wants to save her past bad memory from the people around her. This shows that Hillary experiences the individuation process.

Besides that, starting from Hillary's brother death, Hillary actually needs something in her life. She needs care and support from other people. It also happens when she was pregnant. So, when she looses her child, she needs support to get her child back, too. After loosing her child, Hillary needs some needs in her life such as. Safety needs, love and respect from other people.

The writer is interested to know the relation of individuation process and the needs which happen to Hillary's life experience. The writer finds something unique when reading this novel, especially in Hillary's life experiences. The writer finds that Hillary uses her mask because she wants to get a safety needs in her life from her past memory. This case makes the writer wants to find the connection between individuation process and needs. So, the writer uses psychological approach from Carl Gustav Jung for the individuation process and from Abraham Maslow for the human needs in this 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

The scope of the study is Maureen O'Brien's novel, entitled *b_mother*. In analyzing this novel as the writer mentioned before, the writer uses psychological approach by Carl Gustav Jung to support the analysis of individuation process and to support the analysis of human needs the writer uses the theory by Abraham Maslow.

Carl Gustav Jung explains that the individuation consists of some elements, such as, ego personal unconscious, and collective unconscious. The collective unconscious includes archetype which consists of persona, anima, animus, and shadow. If all the elements are completed, it means someone has got the self. Jung also describes the theory of Mandala and Attitudes. Those theories are used to classify someone's type from the behaviors shown.

The writer also uses the theory of human needs from Abraham Maslow, which explains about the hierarchy of human needs. The hierarchy consists of physiological needs as the lowest needs, safety needs, and belongingness and love needs, self esteem and self actualization as the highest needs.

1.4 PROBLEM FORMULATION

1.4.1. How is the individuation process of Hillary?

1.4.2. How can the individuation process be influenced by the needs based on Hillary's life experience?

1.5 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

1.5.1. To describe the individuation process based on Hillary's life experience in that novel.

1.5.2. To explain about the influence of needs to the individuation process based on Hillary's life experience in that novel.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The significance of studying Hillary's life experience is to show about the individuation process that belongs to Hillary. Besides that, the significance of studying Hillary's life experience is to show how to apply Abraham Maslow and Carl Gustav Jung's theories in analyzing the main character of the novel.

1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS

1.7.1. Needs

Almost all behavioral scientists agree, however, that human have needs, and that the study of needs makes up a large part of what we call “motivation” (McConnell, 1974, p. 257).

1.7.2. Individuation Process

Development is an unfolding of the original undifferentiated wholeness with which human are born. The ultimate goal of this unfolding is the realization of selfhood.

To have a healthy, integrated personality, every system must be permitted to reach the fullest degree of differentiation, development, and expression. The process by which this achieved is called the individuation process (Hall and Lindzey, 1957, p. 137).

