

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In the nineteenth century, Americans had to deal with expansive changes in almost every aspect of life. The advent of the industrial revolution was one of massive evolution that has broken up many families. It was social changes that increased the growth of the working class and poverty. With such rapid growth, many people from rural areas moved to large urban centres just to perceive the economic advancement (Coleman, Ganong, & Warzinik, 2007; Giovannoni, 1989; Abbott, 1938).

As the industrialisation improved, this phenomenon incidentally brought a new darkness era for lower classes (McCoy & Keen, 2014). Growing industries created many job opportunities, but simultaneously it was not equally available to all social classes. Those born to wealth were placed in the highest rung of the social hierarchy. Meanwhile, those who were born poor are generally placed in a very disrespectful situation. Consequently, almost everyone who was a part of the generation of the nineteenth century that grew up as the working class had to make a living through manufacturing (Coleman, Ganong, & Warzinik, 2007).

As men were known as the masters of their household and primary breadwinners, the majority of them went into the laborious world to earn money for a better life. They have also increased their competition in women dominated sectors ever since the society proclaimed that a man without a job is not a man (Coleman, Ganong, & Warzinik, 2007; Haines & Yaggy; 1876). As a result, the

alteration of gender roles began to emerge. Women were no longer needed to work in industries and domestic services, unless they were part of the working class.

Working class women needed to work in domestic services to support their families. They were also competing for the same position with men in factories. However, the competition for those jobs increased with cheap labour. Their wages were less important than men's wages. On the other hand, the industrial revolution not merely affected adults but also children. Many of them were forced to work in awful conditions and exposed to occupational injuries (Giovannoni, 1989; Hanway, 1785). Thus, numerous issues concerning child maltreatment have begun to rise and be portrayed in children's literature.

Children's literature is a written text which includes experiences of childhood that are still relevant to the child of today (Lynch-Brown, Tomlinson, & Short, 2011). It can help the children to separate values into personal and academic gains. Additionally, children's literature as a reflection of cultural beliefs and values aims to explore issues within the family. One of children's literature that portrays family issues is "The Bad Beginning" by Lemony Snicket.

"The Bad Beginning" is one of well-known children's literature that was written by Lemony Snicket and was published in 1999. The story revolves around the unfortunate life of the Baudelaire children that goes from bad to worse due to the brutality of their legal guardian. Contrary to most other children's literature, Lemony Snicket wrote his literary works in a unique way which is a far cry from what we often witness. He depicts his novel as an unconventional narrated story that includes child maltreatment.

Child maltreatment is a crucial source of trauma that can affect psychological and physical development with an extremely complex socio-legal system to deal with (Watts & Iratzoqui, 2019; Chen, Propp, deLara, & Corvo, 2011; Widom, Czaja, & Dutton, 2008). The term of maltreatment often involved behaviour and situation which can lead to detrimental effects for both sexes, such as physical abuse, neglect, and emotional abuse (Watts & Iratzoqui, 2019; Desai, Arias, Thompson, & Basile, 2002; Dube et al., 2005). There are actually various risks of internal factors that have been associated with the issue, such as single parenthood, poor parenting skills, and domestic violence. Even though child maltreatment happens at the level of an individual family, there are also socio-contextual factors that give rise to it. For instance, high levels of poverty, social inequality, and societal norms that glorify violence towards others (Wells, et al., 2016; World Health Organization, 2010).

The definition of child maltreatment can be divided into two specificities; medical and social service. As for medical definition, child maltreatment is a category that limits physical injury to children. In other words, it is a medical judgement about whether a given situation and condition require medical intervention. Nevertheless, this judgement is not merely obtained based on medical knowledge, but also the social values (Giovannoni, 1989; Gelles, 1979). On the contrary, the social service definition concerns more on the child's development. For instance, a condition where a caregiver fails to provide the love, care, guidance, or even protection a child requires for the development of physical and

psychological capacities (Giovannoni, 1989; Polansky, Hally, & Polansky, 1975; Welfare League of America, 1973).

Indeed, neglected children who experience child maltreatment are at risk for developing multiple difficulties across psychological domains (Costello, et al., 2016; Alink, Cicchetti, Kim, & Rogosch, 2012; Norman, et al., 2012; Runyon, Deblinger, & Thakkar-Kolar, 2004). Besides, children who are victims of child maltreatment can also be placed at an increase of various negative behavioural and psychological outcomes. For instance, depression, anxiety, suicide, post-traumatic stress disorder, disruptive behaviour problems (Costello, et al., 2016; Poole, Seal, & Taylor, 2014), and negatively affect children's physical brain development and functioning (Costello, et al., 2016; Hart & Rubia, 2012). Although this phenomenon may seem trivial, the long-term consequences of it may be more harmful. They are causing internalised problems, such as low self-esteem, depression, social withdrawal, or even helplessness. Additionally, neglected children may lack the ability to engage in society as adults (Watson, 2005; Colman & Widom, 2004).

Talking about child maltreatment, the writer intends to analyze the portrayal of child maltreatment and give insights regarding the effects of child maltreatment. In order to do that, orphan archetype by Carl Jung and attachment theory by John Bowlby are deployed in this study to find out the effects of child maltreatment upon the Baudelaire children.

1.2 Research Question

According to what has been discussed in the background of the study, the writer aims to answer these following questions:

1. How is child maltreatment portrayed in “The Bad Beginning” by Lemony Snicket?
2. How are the effects of child maltreatment upon the Baudelaire children?

1.3 The Objective of Research

This *skripsi* aims to:

1. Reveal the portrayal of child maltreatment in “The Bad Beginning” by Lemony Snicket.
2. Investigate the effects of child maltreatment upon the Baudelaire children.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be useful for reference to those who are interested in studying the tremendous effects of child maltreatment on the Baudelaire children. Furthermore, this study aims to give academic input in the children’s and young adult literature field.

