

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The term Alienation is a process of estrangement of their “self-essence” because of living in a society of stratified social classes (Marx, 1970). In other words, it is like make ourselves different from the other. This condition is automatically happening if we feel our deficiency got better of ourselves. Other cause that will trigger self-alienation is because the wrong parental treatment. When children reject their father and claim abuse of their father, it will establish self-alienation from their family (Gardner, 1992). In this novel’s case, we can see it when Kafka could not stand with his father behavior and decided to run away from home.

Although Marx’s theory of alienation is a non-psychological concept and has to do with the relation of the worker to the means of production or it has nothing to do with how one feels, psychological and philosophical analyses place a greater interest upon the individual’s expression of alienation (Camus, 1956; Keniston, 1965; Kierkegaard, 1959; Sartre 1953; Seeman, 1959). Still, these conceptualizations also appear to be static ones; alienation is viewed either as disposition or as an *a priori* condition of human existence.

Alienation used to be a rebellion, a refusal to participate in society or to accept its roles and norms. In 1950s, fictional characters in popular magazine did not

cease being alienated from their society but their alienation took a different form than previous periods. They maintain isolation from their fellows and escape from their role demands. Thus, alienation transformed into vague discontent because they merely dream and muse and experience malaise (Taviss, 1969).

Now that alienation is both a psychological and sociological phenomena, it is depend on the people on how they alienate themselves. An alienation act can be positive or negative depending on the alienated person. We can be feeling bad when we had a negative alienation or we can be feeling good when we had a positive alienation. The writer of this study will examine it from characters in the novel written by Haruki Murakami entitled *Kafka on the Shore*.

Kafka on the Shore by Haruki Murakami is a story that portrays the adventure of a fifteen years old boy named Kafka after he decided to run away from home. Kafka's family was already broken since he was kid, his mother and older sister ran away and his father did not pay much attention to him. Kafka never likes his father because he has an Oedipus complex, a disease when a boy loves his own mother. One day, his father cursed him that he will kill his father and sleep with his long gone mother and sister. From that day, he decided to run away from his home without a single word to his father. The protagonist in the novel is not only Kafka but also Nakata, a fifty years old person who claimed that he is empty inside and not a smart person but he has a mysterious ability to do what other people cannot do. As

the story goes along in the novel, they both try to find their true identity and the meaning of their life through the complex that lies ahead.

Haruki Murakami had won International Bestseller through this novel. This novel has a similarity from Murakami's previous Americas best selling, *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*. New York Times' Laura Miller said that these novel lack of suspense devices but succeeded emerge the reader to convince that they have made a contact with something significant. Other opinion said that *Kafka on the Shore* is an insistently metaphysical mind-bender, which has a schematic rigor in its execution (Updike, 2005). The parallel chapters relate the stories of two disparate but centralized heroes. *Kafka on the Shore* however, unlike other Murakami novels, does not maintain this kind of unity. It is not a two-ended arrow like *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* switching between a dream world and the waking mundane, but rather a composite, a larger structure with sharp angles (Neale, 2005).

Murakami shows all of the characters as a self-centered person and be aware of the people around them. We can see Kafka left the house because he could not stand of his father, who later on murdered by Nakata, and search the answer of the questions in his life. Kafka's alter-ego, The Boy named Crow, is also the cause of his departure. Crow persuade him to be the strongest fifteen years-old boy by leaving his house to find a new kind of life and to banish the fear from his father's curse. As for Nakata, Murakami created him as a an honest and humble old man who possessed a magical skill such as talking to cats and making fish fall from the sky. Apart from

that, he aware that he is a dumb person who does not have a family, friends, other than the cats, and desires. That awareness of each character has become an alienation of them

There are some previous related research which already discussed the novel and the issue. The first journal is entitled “Manifestations of Seeman’s theory of alienation in Pat Barker’s *Regeneration* (1991)” by Burgert Senekal. This article examines how Seeman’s theory of alienation (1959) and contemporary interpretations thereof in Geyer (1996), Kalekin-Fishman (1998), and Neal & Collas (2000) in particular, manifest in Pat Barker’s *Regeneration* (1991). It is argued that *Regeneration*, Barker’s best known novel, set at Craiglockhart War Hospital during the World War I, provides a specific perspective on alienation in times of war. The article discusses the ways in which Seeman’s notions of powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, and social isolation manifest, and it is argued that the most prominent aspect of Seeman’s alienation in this novel is powerlessness. Powerlessness seems to initiate war neurosis and meaninglessness is constantly accentuated (in particular in main character’s criticism of the war). Thus, Senekal concludes that Seeman’s theory of alienation is central to the novel, especially powerlessness and meaninglessness.

Other previous related research is entitled “The Quest and Reconstruction of Identity in Haruki Murakami’s *Kafka on the Shore*” by Kanya Wattanagun and Suradech Chotiudompant. This article aims to explore the issue of identity quest of

various characters in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*. The authors argue that identity is one of the major issues emerge in Murakami's works. In *Kafka on the Shore*, Murakami points out how individual identity is constructed through the domain of signs then bestowed on an individual existence. The authors also relate the characters in the novel to capitalist. They argue that Hoshino is the best example of how a person is disillusioned and begins to realize the full picture of capitalist ideology. By contrast, Satoru Nakata is explicitly marginalized due to his inability to make sense of capitalist logic. Whereas Hoshino's emptiness is conjured up by his constant consumption of empty signs, Nakata's alienated self is generated from his incapacity to understand language and familiar concepts generally accepted as unalterable facts. Finally, they conclude that via the three characters in *Kafka on the Shore*, Murakami depicts his outlook concerning individual identity in various ways. The authors argue that, in *Kafka on the Shore*, readers might recognize the portrayal of reciprocal relationship between individual and society but, this portrayal alters when the identities of the characters are analyzed.

The last previous study used by the writer is "The Alienation of Three Main Characters in the Novel 'The Wizard of Oz' by L. Frank Baum" by Riskia Lestari. She attempts to analyze the alienation faced by the three main characters; the Scarecrow, the Tin Woodman, and the Lion. In order to describe and analyze the data found in the novel, the writer uses descriptive method and Marxism of alienation. According to the analysis, the writer concludes that the alienation not only happened

to the lower class, but also happened to the upper class. The Lion character presents the alienation that happened in upper class, and the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman character present the alienation that happened in lower class. Social class gives the important role in the alienation faced by them, among others, dissatisfaction in their job, dissatisfaction of themselves, and dissatisfaction of their status. The Scarecrow is alienated from the object, from the act of production, from the species being, and from the fellow man. The Tin Woodman is alienated from the species being and the fellow man. The Lion is alienated from the species being and the fellow man. The alienation makes them go together to the Emerald City to ask from the Oz to resolve their problem. Their adventure makes them realize that they have already had what they want.

From the three related studies above, the writer of this article wants to contribute to give another view to the novel and the issue. There are a lot of articles discussing about Haruki's works, but mostly, they are describing on personality and identity issues. The writer of this study is going to investigate on how the alienation affects the construction of each of the main characters in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*. To analyze the problem, the writer will use the concept of Alienation by Melvin Seeman. Seeman's Alienation states that alienation is divided into five aspects; they are powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, cultural estrangement, self estrangement, and social isolation.

1.2 Research Question

1. How is alienation portrayed by the two main characters in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore* from the Seeman's aspects of alienation?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

1. To analyze the alienation faced by two main characters, Kafka Tamura and Nakata, in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore* from the Seeman's aspects of alienation.

1.4 Limitation of the Study

The scope of this research is the analysis of the alienation from the two main characters through every sentences and words in the narrations and dialogues in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*. The theory of Alienation by Melvin Seeman is going to be used in the analysis.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to give the student of English Department of State University of Jakarta a better understanding about the analysis of alienation, especially in Haruki Murakami's *Kafka on the Shore*. The writer hopes this study will help those who are interested to develop similar research in the future time.