

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Being isolated will make a person get anxiety of being introvert and to interact with someone else and also put someone in the place which are not a real place. A place which has a dimension, can be measured, has length, width, and height it called "space". According to Michel Foucault on his concept called 'heterotopia' which is spaces of *Otherness: place outside all places*" there are Utopia and Heterotopia. According to Foucault, "Utopia is a "placeless place" because they sees themselves in a place they are not while Heterotopia is a place where all the other sites real can be found within culture." Both of those can represent Heterotopia as space is a place that does exist and it can possible to indicate location in reality. In heterotopia, when someone sees him or herself in a place he or she occupies at the moment when he or she looks in the glass at once absolutely real. It connected with all the space that surrounds it. Whereas Utopia as place which a person sees himself in a place they are not in a real place. Utopia is a place which is something like counter-site (cited on journal by Jay Miskowiec, 1984, p. 3).

According to Nicole Schroder on his book *Spaces and Places in Motion: Spatial Concept in Contemporary American* (2006:46), he said that space is

consider to be more general term whereas place is more consider to be a smaller, more specific and local area that is characterized by the familiarity. A place produced the experience which can't take place' and which at the same time can be experienced. Space and experience are put together and produce place that are characterized and thus become meaningful "*Spaces and Places in Motion: Spatial Concept in Contemporary American*" (2006:45).

A place can give psychological effect on the person who does the activity inside. On the other hand, place can give the experience which build the identity to the person. According to Adams, Hoelscher, and Till (2001, p. xxi) on *Journal of the Canadian Association for Curriculum Studies* by Julia Ellis (University of Alberta Volume 3 Number 2, 2005), he explains that "place and place-identity are increasingly seen as significant media through which people construct an identity". Another explanation about place comes from Jen Jack Gieseeking, William Mangold, Cindi Katz, Setha Low, and Susan Saegert on their book *In the People, Place, and Space Reader article* (2014, p. 73) "Place and identity can not be separated to one another." Through place, a person can create and re-create their identities, it produces as people come to identify where they live, shaped it, and creating distinguish environmental.

Hay (1988, p. 163) explains that a person become a part of a place as "the culture creates a norm while the place creates a habitat". Place is security and space is freedom (Tuan, 1997). Therefore, a place is media for a person to

construct his or her identity to produce positive or negative identity because a place is a space which is manual with understanding of behavioural appropriateness, cultural expectation, and so on (S. Gammon, S. Elkington 2016: 5).

In this novel, place shaped identity through abuse which occurred to Jack as a main character. Abuse occurs to Jack because of the bad past experience from her mother 'Ma' which become a raped victim by his husband 'Old Nick' when she is 19 years old. Abuse is a form of behaviour by the individual that causes harm to another person (National Adult Protective Services Association, 2017). According to the Department of Health and Human Service (2011), abuse is harmful to the children especially. Children may get a trauma as result of being abuse from psychological, verbal, and emotional abuse.

Abuse can happen in all races and religion, in family, in neighborhood, and in community group or societies. Most states recognize the four major types of maltreatment: physical, sexual, verbal, neglect, and emotional abuse. One of them is about emotional abuse which becomes one of the issues in "Room" novel. According to the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (2017) state that: Emotional abuse is the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child.

Another definition comes from Jane Hunt on her book *Verbal & Emotional Abuse* (2013: 9-11). She said that emotional abuse is the negative behaviour used to control or hurt another person. The effect from emotional abuse takes far longer than effect of any other kind of abuses. Emotional abuse or psychological abuse is more harmful rather than physically abuse (Walker, 1984) because it takes longer period of emotions about fear, isolation, insecurity, anxiety, and feeling.

Psychological maltreatment of children occurs when a person asserts to a child that she or he is unwanted, endangered, unloved, or worthless (Kairys, Johnson, and the Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect, 2002, p.1). David Royse on his book *Emotional Abuse for Children: Essential Information* (2016:13) the child feels unloved or unimportant at a deep level and has the potential for affecting the child's self-esteem, view of the world, and sense of belonging. According to Marti Tamm Loring on her book *Stories from the Heart: Case Studies of Emotional Abuse* (1997: 6) the emotional abuse results in a feeling of panic, abandonment, profound sadness and loneliness.

There are many issues constructed in the novel. One of them is emotional abuse that happened to the main character. Emotional abused attack on a person's emotion and feeling. Being isolated and being afraid is one of the types of emotional abuse. In analyze this novel, the writer would find the relation between emotional abuse, place and identity. According to Michel Foucault on his concept

called 'heterotopia' which are spaces of *Otherness: place outside all places*" there are Utopia and Heterotopia. Both of those can represent Heterotopia as space is a place that does exist and it can possible to indicate location in reality. Whereas Utopia as place which a person sees himself in a place they are not in a real place. Being isolated make a person did not get a freedom movement and stopping contact with other people in a smaller room called 'place' and it will create a personality called 'identity'. Place and identity can produced as people come to identify with where they live.

Room novel is belongs to children literature. Children literature is a material written and produced for the information or entertainment of children and young adults. Children literature is important for kids, because it enhances development of language skills and other critical thinking skills that provide the foundation of learning. Children will enjoy while they are reading and through children literature, it can stimulates a children imagination and provides and important visual experiences. In Room novel, Jack who is fifth years old boy who lives in place called Room with his mother. They live in Room which provides with limited facilities who is given by his father, Old Nick. Through all the things in Room like Plant, Table, Wardrobe, Truck, Spider, Remote can create a good imagination to Jack. He pretends all the things in Room include Dora and SpongeBob are his friends and he likes to talk and laughing together like they are alive.

This study uses a novel as the corpus to be analyzed. The novel is entitled Room by Emma Donoghue. Room is an interesting novel because it has many issues inside. One of them is emotional abuse which happens to Jack. Room tells about a girl who is raped when she was nineteen years old and then the man put her in an isolated room that equipped with a door that can only be opened with a password kidnapper. In the second year of her detention, she utters a child who named Jack. Jack is five years old and that entire he knows in the world only himself and his Ma, his mother. In fact, Jack does not know anything outside world which they named Room and he thinks that outside the Room is only Outspace.

Over the past five years, Ma has created the world for Jack, but Ma is also aware that the situation can not last forever. One time Jack begins to realize that the image he sees on the TV is real and finally Ma revealed that there is a world outside Room and she admits that during this time she is lying. This fact makes Jack confused because for him the world's only Room, Ma and himself. Until someday when Ma asks for Old Nick, (the man who had raped her) to bring Jack who pretended to be dead, so he could get out of Room and knows the truth that the real world is a world outside Room. The circumstances beyond Room is increasingly makes him confuse, scare, and anxiety that there are other people who are alive, there are trees, even he thinks asphalt is a carpet as he had in Room but the color is black and makes him hurt. Being isolated in Room makes Jack

more closely with Ma but his identity or personality changed when he is in outside Room because place construct person's identity.

Room was written by Emma Donoghue. Emma Donoghue is an Irish-Canadian playwright, literary historian, novelist, and screenwriter. She was born in Dublin in 1969. She is an award-winning writer, living in Canada. She wrote several historical novel and one of them is Room. Her 2010 novel Room was a finalist for the Man Booker Prize and an international best-seller. There is something special why she wrote Room novel. It is because Room is based on true story from Elizabeth Fritzl and her children emerging from their Austrian dungeon. Elizabeth Fritzl had been held captive for 24 years behind eight locked doors. She got physically assaulted, sexual abused, and raped by his father and resulted in the birth of seven children. It makes Emma interest to write Room novel because she has many question based on that true story. That is why she wrote Room as closely same as possible with that story.

There is a related previous study which ever discussed about Room novel. The first previous related study by *Elisa Mariam Lengkong from Sam Ratulangi University* (2016) with the title is "*Depression in Room Novel by Emma Donoghue*". The aim of the study is analyzing, identifying, and desribing the depression and also the cause and effect of the depression on Room novel. On her study, the writer wants to analyze the depression from both characters that

depicted in Room novel. The writer choose depression as her topic because depression is general problem that often occurs in human life.

In the second previous study by *Mariann Märtsin from Bath University (2008) with the title is "Identity construction as a personal sense-making process: A Case Study of Estonian Students in the United Kingdom"*. The aim of the study is analyzing how identity is constructed in the ongoing person-context interaction. On her study, the writer wants to analyze how identity is constructed a person through the society which occurred to Jack as the main character.

In the third previous related studies by *Robyn Silver from Concordia University (2007) with the title "Space, Place, and Identity in the Prose of Dionne Brand"*. The aim of the study is to explore how the Canada present enables the creation of a history for Black subjects in Canada, one that is inflected by the other places and spaces of the Caribbean and Africa. Identity are developed, learned, and articulated through the language of a place. On he study, the writer wants to analyze how the identity constructed Jack as the main character which influence to a place called 'Room'.

However, by reading and learning this novel it would make not only entertains the reader but also make the reader understand that there are some lessons through the story.

From the previous related study above, this novel has been discussed by *Elisa Mariam Lengkong from Sam Ratulangi University* (2016). The focus on this thesis is the depression which occurred to Jack and Ma characters. Whereas, the writer chooses *Room* novel as the corpus because the writer wants to analyze how the artificial world of “Room” construct to Jack’s identity on Jack as the main character. In the second previous study by *Mariann Märtsin from Bath University* (2008) with the title is “*Identity construction as a personal sense-making process: A Case Study of Estonian Students in the United Kingdom*”. The aim of the study is analyzing how identity is constructed in the ongoing person-context interaction. On her study, the writer wants to analyze how identity is constructed a person through the society which occurred to Jack as the main character. In the third pervious related studies by *Robyn Silver from Concordia University* (2007) with the title “*Space, Place, and Identity in the Prose of Dionne Brand*”. The aim of the study is to explore how the Canadia present enables the creation of a history for Black subjects in Canada, one that is inflected by the other places and spaces of the Carribbean and Africa. Identity are developed, learned, and articulated through the language of a place. On he study, the writer wants to analyze how the identity constructed Jack as the main character which influence to a place called ‘Room’.

So, this novel has been discussed by *Elisa Mariam Lengkong* with the titile is “*Depression in Room Novel by Emma Donoghue*”, *Mariann Märtsin from Bath*

with the title is *“Identity construction as a personal sense-making process: A Case Study of Estonian Students in the United Kingdom”*, and Robyn Silver from with the title *“Space, Place, and Identity in the Prose of Dionne Brand”* are the different issues with the issues that the writer wants to analyze.

1.2 Research Question

How does the artificial world of “Room” construct Jack’s identity?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study is to find out how the artificial world of “Room” construct to Jack’s identity as the main character portrayed in the Room novel by Emma Donoghue.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The study focuses only on the narrative and dialogues that indicating place which creates indentity on Jack character in the Room novel by Emma Donoghue.

1.5 Significance of Study

The significance of the study is that the study can help the reader examine and analyze the place called “Room” can produce identity on Jack character portrayed by a writer from Canada. The result of the study is expected to be a reference and alternative information for other researchers in conducting the similar research. In addition, the writer hopes that the study will be expand for their knowladge and

understanding about the place called “Room” can produce identity on Jack character and emotional abuse issue.