

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

In this thesis, the writer attempts to highlight the issue of alienation. The term of alienation has exerted its influence in human history. *Merriam-Webster's* dictionary defines “alienation as a state of experience of being isolated from a group or an activity to which one should belong or in which one should be involved”. The latter sense of alienation evokes feelings of both powerlessness to influence social relations and a lack of harmony in other people’s lives.

The issue of alienation has been one of the crucial part in developing one’s identity or one’s personality. Alienation has been depicted in many literary works and have been discussed among scholars for years. In general, some scholars point out their opinion regarding alienation. For example, as Frank Johnson in the book *Theories of Alienation (1976)* stresses that alienation is individualized feelings of purposelessness, moral relativism, absurdity, loneliness, separation, a perceived lack of control over one’s environment and a consequent awareness insubstantiality of one’s own action.

Regarding the analysis about the issue, the writer found that there are several previous analysis that had been discussed about alienation. However, the writer intend to talk about alienation in different perspective. It means that the writer sees that Salinger depicts the issue of alienation in the story is not as an exclusion from

society but as an intentional act of the subject to avoid people. Therefore, in this analysis the writer would like to uncover the influences of alienation which later help the analysis to elaborate two important elements of alienation can happened on someone, that are the causes and the effects of alienation.

In order to expose the issue of alienation, as mentioned before the writer selects a novel entitled *The Catcher in the Rye* that written by American author named J. D Salinger. Salinger raises some psychological issues in his work; such as axienty, depression and alienation. However, the writer chooses the issue of alienation as the main topic in this analysis. The way Salinger represents the people in his work is interrelated with one another on revealing the issue of alienation. Salinger also implies how alienation can give significant effects on someone who is experiencing the issue.

Throughout the story, Salinger focuses on an adolescent, Holden Caulfield, who suffer from alienation which makes him has superficial relationship with other in negative way. Also, Salinger represents the issue of alienation as the condition of one's mental problem which negatively affects adolescent growth. Salinger reflects that alienation has a crucial position in from of someone's characteristic or someone's personality development which in this case, the issue refers to adolescent growth. Moreover, the issue of alienation in all areas of life has evidently always been a significant problem to human as an emotional creature. Alienation also has widely argued among the writers as an apprehensive state of individuals. Through a deep

understanding of reading the novel, the writer intends to reveal what are the causes and the effects of alienation that depicted in J. D Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*.

The reason why the writer chooses the issue of alienation as the topic in this analysis is because there are several catchy factors that motivate the writer to explore and reveal the causes and the effects of alienation. Firstly, the factor referred to diction of Salinger which shows many negative choice of words that contain bad substance, whereas the focus of the story narrated by a young individual. Secondly, the writer believes that the novel is a form of criticism from Salinger to people who see recalcitrant youngsters as a single mistake without trying to seek the problems behind their act. Lastly, the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* is one of the best masterpieces in the world, which throughout the story Salinger adapts a never-ending issue in life which is alienation in the area of adolescent growth. Also, this controversial work has widely known as the most banned novel in the entire universe that caused by many reasons, one of the reason is due to the content considered as too vulgar in words which contain bad substances. It believed that for those who might experiencing the same psychological problems as represented people in the story could trigger to commit criminal acts in real life, that is how real the story feels.

In revealing the issue of alienation in the novel, the writer uses the critics of psychology literature. "The critics of psychology literature focus on helping us to understand literature, especially about human behavior" (Tyson, 11). Through the chosen theory concept, the writer wants to uncover and elaborate how alienation is depicted in the novel.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

J. D Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* portrays some psychological issues which also the writer identifies as the problems in the novel, such as; anxiety, depression, alienation, etc. Salinger implies that the problems arise affected by many things, such as experiences from family, society or environment and friends. However, in this case the writer decided to focus on the issue of alienation and intend to reveal the causes and the impacts of alienation.

In most cases of alienation analysis, the scholars reveals that the issue of alienation happened in two sides of agent. It means that alienation usually happened between an individual versus a group or between minority versus majority, or simply can be said as a story that have two points of view from one event. Meanwhile, in *The Catcher in the Rye*, Salinger raises the issue of alienation strongly different. Salinger depicts the issue as one sided act, which is only experienced by a young individual without opponent. Moreover, generally the issue of alienation discussed in the context of sociological analysis. Yet, in *The Catcher in the Rye*, Salinger reveals the issue from psychoanalysis context. Accordingly, the writer will uncover the causes and the effects of alienation from Salinger representation in the story.

1.3 Scope of the Research

In the scope of the research, the writer will limit the discussion into two main points which involved with Salinger intention in raising the issue of alienation in *The Catcher in the Rye*. The two main points as follows; firstly, the causes of alienation and secondly, the effects of alienation.

1.4 Research Questions

In this research, the writer focuses on the Alienation issue of “The Catcher in the Rye”, concentrating on the following ideas:

1. How does the novel represent the influences of alienation on adolescent?
2. What are the causes of alienation as depicted in the story?
3. How does the novel imply the effects of alienation?

1.5 Objective of the Research

The aim of this study is to reveal Salinger’s depiction regarding the issue of alienation in *The Catcher in the Rye*. Also, to discover the causes and the effects of alienation that Salinger imply in the story.

1.6 Review of Related Studies

Different scholars have analyzed *The Catcher in the Rye* and discussed various problems regarding the issue of alienation and its representation in fiction. This study focuses on number of scholars who have touched on concepts related to alienation towards adolescent.

The first one is Holden Caulfield: *Alien in The Catcher in the Rye* (2012) by Srebren Disdar. This article attempts to provide valid explanations to the term “alienation” and pursue the traces of alienation in J. D. Salinger’s novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. In this article, Srebren Disdar discusses about the frequent critical statement that modern fiction is filled with alienation and estrangement, which protagonists of American novels strive toward a confirmation of both individual honor and social tenacity. The strength of this article is that the object of the topic is

same as this study's object. So, simply it facilitates this analysis in elaborating the issue of alienation. This article is entirely become a perfect reference to analyze the issue of alienation.

The second one, is the article written by Kenneth Schmidt entitled *Alienation Powerlessness and Meaninglessness* (2011). In this journal article, Schmidt describes about a redefinition of the self, as individual and personality, could assist writers of social alienation in a deeper understanding of the alienation factors of powerlessness and meaninglessness. As the topic of this study is alienation, therefore the discussion of this writing is very useful in developing the explanation about the causes of alienation occurs. Luckily, Schmidt also mentioned Melvin Seeman in his writing, it so helpful since this analysis also use Seeman's theory. This article shows a weakness where the explanation is lack of adolescent issue. He only focuses his writing on the alienation concept and the expert's point of view regarding alienation. Meanwhile, this study is discussing about alienation on adolescent.

The next one, is *Marx's Concept of Alienation and its Impacts on Human Life* (2015) written by Muhammad Iqbal Shah. This journal article is dealing with alienation in a scope of workers. So, basically Shah discusses about capitalist, class struggle. Based on the discussion, it shows the weakness of this article. That the article is only touching about worker's life and the problematic of being a man. Meanwhile, this study is not mentioning any adulthood problems. Yet, in this article, the writer of this analysis able to take some references to helps her in exploring the topic which is alienation. This writing is not only talk about Marx's concept but also

illuminate several types of alienation, several concept from the experts, and also explicate the impact of alienation on human life which is so helpful for a deeper elaboration in this analysis.

Fourth, Wan Roselezam Wan Yahya and Ruzbeh Babae in their article entitled *Salinger's Depiction of Trauma in The Catcher in the Rye* (2014) examines the extrinsic issue of the novel. The authors of this article elaborate Salinger's intention of making the book. The article's writers also mentioned about protagonist personality in the book and it will help this study a lot in analyze the data about the main character. In spite of the main topic of this article is depiction of Salinger's trauma, but it still has several important explanations about the protagonist character in the story. So, the weakness of this article is due to the discussion is mostly the issues form outside the work. Yet, it cannot be denied, that this study needs some references about illustration of the society in the time of this novel published.

Fifth, Samira Sasani and Parvaneh Javidnejat in their article entitled *A Discourse of the Alienated Youth in the American Culture* (2015), which highlight the issue of the representation of American culture regarding alienated youth, which is the protagonist of the *The Catcher in the Rye* is a portray of American youth. As a result, the writers of this article observe all the crisis which happens throughout the novel literally shows that alienation is not that taboo anymore in America as well as it already be entrenched even. Overall, the discussion of this article can be a hint for this study in explaining the issue more deeply. The weakness of the article is that it is

not using any psychoanalysis related, however the topic is still touched the alienation problem on adolescent.

The last study is an article by Jessadaporn Achariyopas, published in 2012 entitled *The Representation of Salinger's Views in Changes in American Society in the 1940s in The Catcher in the Rye*, which seeks the changes of American society where the setting of the work is set. So, throughout the discussion this article shows the demonstration of how Salinger perceives the society when he wrote his work. And again, the weakness of this article that it is not using any intrinsic or is not touching any psychoanalysis issue, however it helps this study relate to the condition of society in real life.

After reviewing all the previous studies above, the topics are not only about alienation on adolescent as the topic of this analysis. Nevertheless, all of them serve to assist the writer in developing new ideas regarding the issue of alienation. All the studies that mentioned above are conducted and analyzed by respective writers in order to highlight the issue of alienation from different perspective. Although there are similar topics that may have brought into attention, yet the implication that the writer wants to emphasize and the ideas that the writer wants to reveal will be slightly different and has not yet been submitted and explored before. While the previous studies mostly focuses on the causes of alienation, the writer finds some implicit impacts of alienation that depicted by Salinger in his work.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

Psychology is the study about mental process and behavior of human life. “Psychoanalysis is a theory of psyche which is used as a tool in understanding human behavior” (Tyson, 12). There are many issues are related to psychoanalysis, one of them is alienation.

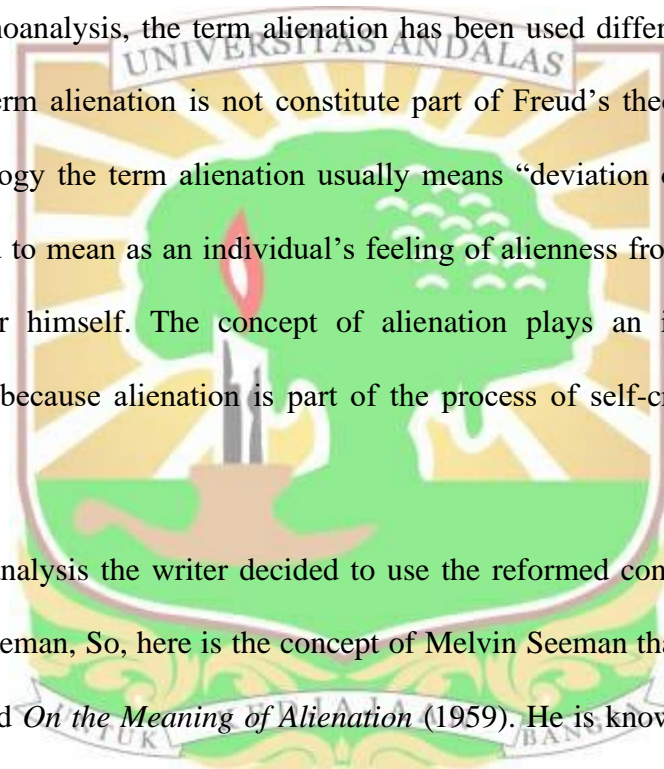
Alienation actually have several definitions depend on what kind of alienation that discussed. Those kinds are alienation in capitalism, alienation in social sciences, also alienation in psychoanalysis. Regardless the context of alienation, in general the term of alienation means a separation from one to another. Based on the theories, in capitalism, for instance, Karl Marx states that alienation is a material and social process, it means that alienation is the separation or detachment of beings or things that are or have been naturally united together. While in social sciences, alienation is the state of feeling estranged or separated from one’s milieu, work, products of work, or self.

The term of alienation was not comes from psychoanalysis context, it originally comes form capitalism context. Alienation is known as a theoretical concept developed by Karl Marx. Therefore, Marx’s theory had been the most popular opinion that scholars used to analyze and discuss about the issue of alienation in the field of literature, however they are not applying the original concept of Karl Marx if the topic is related to the cases of psychoanalysis. It’s because the intention of alienation in Marx’s philosophy is that, it is the result of the capitalist mode of

production, which is not related to psychoanalysis, yet it is related to capitalism. Many of scholars of psychoanalysis used the reformed concept of alienation to analyze the related issues. Furthermore, after many issues of alienation emerge outside the case of capitalism, then the reformed concepts of alienation appears which is suitable to use in analyzing the issue of alienation in psychoanalysis.

In psychoanalysis, the term alienation has been used differently by different thinkers. The term alienation is not constitute part of Freud's theoretical vocabulary. Yet, in psychology the term alienation usually means "deviation of normality" and the term is used to mean as an individual's feeling of alienness from society, nature, other people or himself. The concept of alienation plays an important role in someone's life because alienation is part of the process of self-creativity and self-discovery.

In this analysis the writer decided to use the reformed concept of alienation from Melvin Seeman, So, here is the concept of Melvin Seeman that he elaborates in his book entitled *On the Meaning of Alienation* (1959). He is known for researching social isolation. According to Seeman, he identifies five alternate meanings of alienation, such as powerlessness, meaninglessness, normlessness, isolation and self-estrangement. Those can be viewed as antecedents or even consequences of the issue of alienation occur.



Here are the five alternate meanings that defined by Melvin Seeman. The first one is alienation in the sense of a lack of power has been technically defined by Seeman in his book *On the Meaning of Alienation* (1959) as the expectancy or probability held by the individual that his own behavior cannot determine the occurrence of the outcomes, or reinforcements. Furthermore, a sense of meaninglessness has been defined by Seeman as the individual's sense of understanding. Another alternate is normlessness as one in which there is a high expectancy that socially unapproved behaviors as required to achieve given goals. Meanwhile, isolation is typically experienced as a form of personal stress. And the last one is self-estrangement, it can be defined as the psychological state of denying one's own interests of seeking out extrinsically satisfying, rather than intrinsically satisfying activities.

Melvin Seeman may be a social psychologist that professionally discusses about social isolation, yet his concept of alienation has been used in psychoanalysis context, for example in the analysis of Irvine Welsh's *Trainspotting*. Therefore, the reason the writer uses Seeman's concept is because his alternate meanings of alienation are suitable to apply on the issue of alienation that the writer would discuss about. Moreover, the concept of Seeman contain substances of alienation which occurred in issue that raised by Salinger in the novel.

There are also types of alienation that divided into two kinds of types, that are anciently discovered types and recently discovered types, as follows:

✚ Anciently discovered types, that are:

- 1) First, objectification, it means that alienation of or from things or production.
- 2) Second, self-alienation, it means that alienation from one's own activity.
- 3) Third, species alienation, it means that man's estrangement from his species being or essential nature.
- 4) The last one is alienation from other people, it means that man feels isolated from his work or labour, also from his own species-being, relative and associates.

✚ Recently discovered types of alienation:

- 1) First, parent alienation is the most viewed form of alienation in every social set up which generally takes place due to separation and divorce of parents.
- 2) Second, social alienation is the feeling of isolation and a sense of being set aside or alone in a society.
- 3) Third, relationship alienation, it takes place when in a mechanical society everyone indulges in the rat-race of earning livelihood and forgets the worth of human relation, and the last one is adolescent alienation, is a problem from some youngsters, leading to behavior such as gang activity, violence, vandalism, absenteeism, truancy, and other forms of deviant behavior.

Therefore, based on all the types of alienation that have mentioned above, the writer intend to emphasizes that the type of adolescent alienation will be used in this analysis.

In revealing the causes, there are two causes of alienation that will be discussed in this analysis, that are suffer from loss or grief and unfulfilled expectation. Which is the first cause indirectly means death and deals with feeling of grief. Therefore, the writer uses the psychological theory by Elizabeth Kubler-Ross called the Kubler-Ross model, it attempts to explain the process which are experienced by people who deal with grief and tragedy. She proposed the notion of five stages of grief are denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. Here are the definitions of those stages as follows:

- Denial is the first stages of grief. It helps people to survive the loss. The world becomes meaningless and overwhelming and life makes no sense. Denial is a stage to pace the feelings of grief.
- Anger is a necessary state of the healing process of grief. It's important to be willing to feel anger, even though it may seems endless. The more someone truly feel it, the more it will dissipate and it will help more to heal. Underneath anger is pain, it is natural to feel abandoned and deserted.
- Bargaining, the stage where someone is really want his o her loved ones to restored. Guilt is often bargaining's companion, people in this stage is try to find their fault and even bargain withthe pain and try to negotiate their wy out of the hurt.
- Depression, after bargaining the attention, empty feelings present themselves, and grief enters someone lives on deeper level, deeper

than someone ever imagined. In this stage, someone will experiences dedpressive thoughts. If grief is a process of healing, then depression is one of the many necessary steps along the way.

- Acceptance is often confused with the notion of being “all right” with what has happened. Most people don’t ever feel fine about the loss of a loved one. This stage is about accepting the reality that someone you love is physically gone and recognizing that reality as the new permanent reality of your life.

The stages was created to help tuck messy emotions into neat packages. In analyzing the causes, the writer is not follow the order of those stages. However, the writer intends to see the relevancy of those stages in the novel. Alongside the causes, there are also two effects of alienation that are trauma and denial which the writer sees as the most significant effect of alienation in the novel. So, for the effect of denial, the writer decided to use and detach the definition of denial from the Kubler-Ross model.

1.8. Method of the Research

In conducting the analysis, the writer will apply library research. “Library research involves the-by-step process used to gather information to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete a project” (Library Research Process). There are three steps in creating this analysis; that are collecting data, interpreting and analyzing data, and presenting the result of the analysis.

1.8.1 Collecting the data

The writer collects all the data that are needed by doing library research in order to find primary and secondary data. The primary data is taken from the work itself, “The Catcher in the Rye by J.D Salinger”. Then, the secondary data which are taken from literary theory books and articles related to this study. The data are collected by using library research method, reading several references which are books, articles, and also journals.

1.8.2 Interpreting and analyzing the data

The writer begins the analysis by comprehending the storyline of the novel, also understanding all of the supporting data. Afterwards, the writer analyzes intrinsic elements which are characterization, plot, setting and theme. By finding several important events that exist in the novel. After that, the writer uses and applies literary theory that related to psychological approach and concept that have substances of the issue.

1.8.3 Presenting the Result of Analysis

In presenting all the data, the writer uses descriptive method due to the qualitative result gained as the output of the research. “Qualitative research is especially important in the behavioral sciences where the aim is to discover the underlying motives of human behavior” (Kothari, 3). The researcher divides this research into four major sections. The first chapter consist of background of the research, identification of the problem, scope of the research, research questions, objective of the study, review of related studies, theoretical framework and method of the research. The second chapter display a preliminary analysis of the research. It

represent the analysis of four intrinsic elements of the novel; that are characterization, plot, setting and theme. All the elements that have interferences and related to the topic of this analysis. The third chapter reveals the crucial content of the research because it represents the interpretation and the elaboration of the issue. The fourth chapter will be the last part of this research. It encloses the whole chapters which comes up with a brief conclusion.

