CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Research

As normal person, man used to act normally, with good behavior, not to act like against the rules. He can reason, test reality, discriminate between good and bad, true and false, useful and harmful as these distinctions apply to him. On the other hand, men who infect a kind of mental disorder, there's no reason for them to act abnormally, and to act in strange or unpredictable ways, such as abuse, reckless sexual behavior, or some other bad things. Mental disorder itself, is one of disorder that characterized by disturbances in a person's thoughts, emotions, or behavior.

The traumatic experiences could be the basic reason for people to have such a depth illness. Some might be so frustrated that they are often absolutely silly. Mostly, however, they consist of something terrifying, such as temptations to commit serious crimes. As Freud states: *"…the actions performed in an obsessional condition are supported by a kind of energy which probably has no counterpart in normal mental life"* (1960:270). It means that people with kinds of mental illness would unconsciously do everything even the serious crimes.

In psychoanalysis, behavior is a result of struggles and compromises among motives, drives, needs, and conflicts. With this psychoanalysis, people can repress those things because the more of them could make the mental disorder. Psychoanalytic criticism is form of literary criticism which uses some of the techniques of psychoanalysis in the interpretation of literature (Barry, 1995:96).

Basically, psychoanalysis itself appeared while the civilization increases and people lose their psychological control. By thus, psychoanalytic criticism is expected to find the aspects of the unconscious, which is the source of mental disorders.

Talking about mental disorder, Khaled Hosseini wrote some of mental disorders that described in character's behavior in his popular novel entitled *"The Kite Runner"*. The appearance of these mental disorders is caused by many things, such as the cultural influence, social class, family, and peers. But not only that, mental disorders can also appeared because of anxiety, phobia, desire, and belief. Desire itself can influence the reality of human's life and making a changing of human's uncontrolled behavior. The madness is the same with desire phenomenon. Anxiety and phobia are feeling of worry, guilt, scared, or suspicious of something that might be unreal. Besides, belief of something or someone has seriously a problem that causes mental disorder.

The cultural influence that causes the appearance of mental disorder in the characters is about how people interact in society. The different ethnics are the most conspicuous thing in Afghanistan culture. The biggest ethnic used to have a power to oppress the others. There are many ethnics that live in Afghanistan, the dominant is Pashtun, the smaller are Tajik, Hazara, Aimak, Uzbek, Turkmen, and the other smallest ethnics. It is the same with social class, where the highest class oppresses the lowest one. People in lowest class feels suffer and becomes depress or possibly having traumatic experiences. The conflicts in family also cause the mental disorder to a person. In Khaled Hosseini's *the Kite Runner*, family is the biggest influence to form the character's behavior. Also peers, when a character

associate with another good character's behavior, then the character will build a good behavior. On the other hand, when the character associate with the bad character's behavior, it might support him to have an error personality.

Khaled Hosseini describes the mental development of the characters that influenced by the cultural phenomenon and historical problem that happened in that story. Furthermore, it is supported by the true events and historical problem that happened in Afghanistan. Cultural phenomenon and historical problem that happen in this text are about the concept of war and differential ethnics which influence people daily lives. Afghanistan is a country which has much misery and suffering. Starting from the Russian invasion, the Mujahidin infighting, the Taliban era and finally the American invasion, the country has been in a constant state of war. The bitter skirmishes and the false hopes have left behind many scars, but none probably as deep as the sense of fear ingrained in the general psyche of the people.

For those reasons, the researcher is interested to analyze the mental disorders of three characters and its relation to the cultural phenomenon which is influencing the character's mental disorder. The researcher will propose this graduating paper entitled: ***"The Characterization of Mental Disorders in Khaled Hosseini's The Kite Runner".***

B. Statement of Problem

The objects of this research are focusing in Amir and Asseff as the characterizations of mental disorder. To make the problem more specific, the researcher formulated the research questions as follows:

1. What kinds of mental disorder that appeared on three characters (Amir, Asseff, and Hassan) of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*?

2. What factors that caused the appearance of mental disorder on three main characters?

C.   The Purpose and Significance of Research

There are two purposes of this research.

1. To find the kinds of mental disorder which appear on three main characters of the text.

2. To find the factors of mental disorder which appear in three main characters.

This research would give three significances. First, to the researcher, is significant to improving the literary comprehension especially in its relation with psychoanalysis discourses. For the second, this research is significant for those who are interested in literary. The third significant is to give information about psychoanalytic criticism and how it relates to human psychological reality.

D. Conceptual Framework

Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* is the story of strained family relationships between a father and a son, and between two brothers, how they deal with guilt and forgiveness, and how they weather the political and social transformations of Afghanistan from the 1970s to 2001. This novel is about the interpretation of war in Afghanistan. The whole text contains the society condition in the middle of war. The problem that appears in this novel, basically, is about the social class. Because of that, people turn to have psychological problem that

forces them to do such a strange behavior, or could be said as mental disorder. The problem appears between the three characters, they are Amir, Hassan, and Asseff.

Character is one of the significant terms in novel. Abram (In Nurgiantoro, 2002: 165), says that character is a person that is presented in a fiction, which has moral quality and certain tendency through speech action. Different from other kinds of fiction, the description of character in the novel is more complete, especially if it deals with characterization. Readers will get complete description about physic, social, manner, nature, habit, etc. (Nurgiantoro, 2003: 13).

Characterization is not released from its stem word character that relates to human nature. Someone's nature depends on psychological development since he was an infant. That is why the writer uses psychoanalytic theory to analyze the novel in which contains history of psychological development of its main character.

Psychology of literature has aim in analyzing with approach itself. As Suwardi Endaswara said (2003: 98-99):

> *Psikologi sastra mempunyai empat kemungkinan penelitian, pertama, penelitian terhadap psikologi pengarang sebagai tipe atau sebagai pribadi. Kedua, penelitian proses kreatif dalam kaitannya dengan kejiwaan. Ketiga, penelitian hukum-hukum psikologi yang diterapkan pada karya sastra. Keempat, penelitian dampak psikologis teks sastra kepada pembaca.*

By psychology of literature, the fictional character can be differed with men that live in real life. Freud divided the organization of personality (in this research called character fiction) into three major systems; they are the *id,* the *ego,* and *superego*. The id, ego, and superego use to depart the character fiction with

human being. Furthermore, this analysis would be doing through the intrinsic elements.

E. Procedure of Research

1. Method of Research

The research method in this research is descriptive analytic method. Descriptive analytic method is the method used to describe the facts and then analyze it to solve and answer the research problem.

As Ratna (2004: 53) said:

"Descriptive analytic used by describing the facts and then analyze it, besides analyzing this method also has purpose to give the comprehension and explanation about the research problem."

2. Data

The data of this research will focused on the intrinsic elements of fictional story of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. The several data are taken from words, sentences, or paragraph, which definitely connected to the issue. The data itself are the character Amir as the high class (Pashtun) in this novel, Hassan as the Hazzara, and Asseff as the Pashtun who becomes the soldier of Taliban also his belief that only Hitler whom the best leader of the world.

3. Data Resources

The approach in analyzing data is seeing the novel as a unity of thought in which the elements are interrelated each other. In this research, the writer divides data source into two parts. First is primary data, such as Khaled Hosseini's novel, *"The Kite Runner"*, and the writer takes one step by showing the excerpt from some books that will support this thesis.

Furthermore, the writer uses secondary data source books that support in analyzing the novel, such as, Peter Barry's *"Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory",* Terry Eagleton's *"Literary Theory: An Introduction",* Sigmund Freud's *"A General Introduction to Psychoanalysis",* and many other resources.

4. Technique of Collecting Data

Technique of collecting data in this research will be divided into two steps. The first step will be doing by reading the novel and theory books as well as any kind of sources related to the novel. By this step, the researcher will easily find the data that will be analyzed. The second step is classifying data that have been collected and put them in own categories.

5. Technique of Analyzing Data

The steps of analyzing data would be simply formulates as follows:

a. Studying the data that have been collected from the sources to support this research.

b. Categorizing the data from the novel.

c. Analyzing the data from the novel based on the psychoanalysis approach.

d. Making summary for the primary data that supports the analysis and checking all the data resources.

F. Organization of Writing

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is introduction. It consists of background of problem, statement of problem, the purpose and significance of research, procedures of research (method of research, data, data resource, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data), and organization of writing. The second chapter is about literary review and psychology theory (The meaning of Psychology, Psychoanalysis in Literary Criticism, and Factors of Mental Disorder), synopsis of the *Kite Runner*, and Biography of Khaled Hosseini. The third chapter is the analysis of characterization of mental disorders in Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner*. It consists of the characterization of Khaled Hosseini's *The Kite Runner,* the application of theory toward text (Kinds of Mental Disorders in Three Characters, the Factors of Mental Disorder Appearance, and the Relationship among the Characters). The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.