

Chapter I

Introduction

In this chapter, the writer introduces the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the theoretical framework, the scope and limitation of the study, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In reading, people can find themselves relaxed as they are getting focused and slowly forgetting their surrounding and eventually their problems. It is considered effective by a research from University of Sussex in 2009. This research is conducted to find the most effective way to relief stress. As cited from <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/news/5070874/Reading-can-help-reduce-stress.html> (cited on December 12th, 2018), the result shows that reading is the most effective way. It is caused by the way people are getting focused on their reading. Reading can provide a space where people can think imaginatively and slowly forget about the reality. It is compatible with what Knickerbocker had stated that fiction can bring readers to a stress-free place (1960). Not only that, through fiction people can also have an imaginative journey.

Reading fiction in the form of reading short story can be the most preferable one as a short story only consists of the shorter length than that of a novel. As an expert said about short story, short story is not only always talking about the short length but also talking about the effects it has to its readers than what a novel can make (Perrine, 1966). Reading short story can be categorized as much easier in spending time of understanding the story. For the time people spend reading, as a short story contains shorter length, it can be finished in one sitting only. People do not have to spend much time in reading it. For understanding the story, a short story is only focusing on one main character that readers do not have to feel confused. In the making of a short story, an author is challenged to make a story with a plot that cannot be too complicated but also has to be interesting in spite of limited words length (Edgar Allan Poe, n.d.) (as cited in McKenzie, 1978).

American well-known writer, F. Scott Fitzgerald, shows a great writing technique in his works. From a review essay '*Has F. Scott Fitzgerald Become a Literary Icon?*' by Pascale Antolin in 2003, Fitzgerald is known for writing by taking inspirations from his life experience. That makes his works interesting to be studied. Yet, people are neglecting his skill to combine word by word into a beautiful sentence.

By this remark, it triggers the writer to see Fitzgerald's works especially his short stories as they are. Here are the works that interest the writer such as *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Jelly Bean*, *The Camel's Back*, and *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz* that are compiled in one book entitled

Tales of the Jazz Age. These short stories are telling four different main characters who live their life very differently from each other. Seeing how they live and achieve their goal in life despite the obstacles on their way, the writer wants to find and learn self-actualization appears in and obstacles faced by the main characters of Fitzgerald's short stories using the theory of Hierarchy of Needs by Abraham H. Maslow through analysing the setting, plot, the main character, and theme using Objective Approach proposed by M. H. Abrams. Moreover, to know whether someone has reached self-actualization stage, Maslow's characteristics of self-actualized people are used.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

As what the writer has stated on the previous section, this study wants to answer:

1. What self-actualization appears in the main characters of Fitzgerald's short stories?
2. What obstacles did the main characters have to face?

1.3 Objective of the Study

To answer the questions of this study, the writer will find:

1. Self-actualization appears in the main characters of Fitzgerald's short stories.
2. Obstacles had to face by the main characters.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

In conducting this study, the writer uses some basic theories such as: Short Story Theory by Lawrence Perrine, Hierarchy of Needs theory by Abraham H. Maslow, and Objective Approach by M. H. Abrams.

Lawrence Perrine's Theory of Short Story

A short story as a work of fiction is not only talking the short length of a story, but talking about the effects it gives to its reader (Perrine, 1966).

Abraham H. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Hierarchy of Needs shows people's level of needs that have to be fulfilled to finally actualize themselves in self-actualization stage. To know whether someone has reached self-actualization stage, Maslow proposed the characteristics of self-actualized people.

M. H. Abrams' Objective Approach

Through this approach, a work is seen as it is by excluding all of the external influences.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

In this study, the writer limits her study on finding self-actualization and obstacles faced by the main characters of Fitzgerald's short stories (*The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Camel's Back*, *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*, and *The Jelly Bean*) compiled in *Tales of the Jazz Age* through analyzing the setting, the plot, the main character, and the theme of the stories. She uses the short stories which are published by Alma Classic of Penguin

Publisher. The book is a compilation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories which had been written in his life. Moreover, the one she uses is the first edition book printed in 2016. To analyze the short stories, the writer uses Objective Approach proposed by M.H. Abrams and Hierarchy of Needs theory by Abraham H. Maslow.

1.6 Significance of the Study

By conducting this study, the results are expected to find and learn about self-actualization and obstacles faced by the main characters of Fitzgerald's short stories according to Abraham H. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, to promote F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*, *The Camel's Back*, *The Diamond as Big as the Ritz*, and *The Jelly Bean*, and to be a reference for students of English Department in Widya Mandala Catholic University of Surabaya who want to conduct another study with a similar topic.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid getting any misleading ideas, the writer defines the key terms in this study.

1. Short Story

According to Perrine (1966), short story is a part of prose fiction in which an author focuses only on one main character from the start until the end of the story. Because it is a short story, the words used are limited.

2. Hierarchy of Needs

Proposed by Maslow, the hierarchy of needs shows what people have to fulfil first in order to move to the higher needs. People cannot reach the higher level if their previous needs have not fulfilled properly.

3. Self-Actualization

It is the stage in the hierarchy of needs where people have finally come to their sense that they can explore themselves more.

4. Objective Approach

This approach, which is proposed by M. H. Abrams, let people see a work as it is, excluding from its external influences such as the universe outside of the work, the author, and the audience.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters such as introduction, review of related literature, research methodology, analysis, and conclusion. In introduction, chapter 1, the writer introduces the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the theoretical framework, the scope and limitation of the study, the significance of the study, the definitions of key terms, and finally the organization of the proposal. In review of related literature, chapter 2, the writer reviews the related theory she uses to analyse the short story and the previous studies as references to her study. In research methodology, chapter 3, the writer shows the nature of the study, the research design, the source of data, the instrument of the study, the data collecting

procedure, and the data analysis procedure and technique. In analysis, chapter 4, the writer provides the analysis of the study. In conclusion, chapter 5, the writer finally draws a conclusion of the study.