

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is literary work which is from human intelligence, then it is presented through beautiful words or language (Milner, 2006). Literature is fiction made up by the author's imagination. The world produced inside literature is unlimited depending on the author's imagination. At the same time, the works of literature mostly reflect and convey real life situations. In literature, the author creates a work to deliver his/her ideas to the reader so that the reader can understand that every work has its own characteristic that suits the authors' objective. It is obvious that the author's ideas in a work can be very influential to the readers' mindset (Wellek and Warren, 1948).

Literature and education is actually inseparable. Whether people realize it or not, they learn literature from an early age until they grow up. Since childhood, people encounter literature through bedtime stories. In kindergarten, primary and secondary schools, the study of literature is a minor subject that helps the students get exposure to aesthetic, creative, and imaginative writing. In higher schools, wide ranges of literary work from the canon to the contemporary form of literature are available for learning. It is aimed to expose students to colloquial language in which students can adapt and adopt the expressions and later on use the expressions in particular contexts (Maharsi, 2012).

In learning literature, the correct education process is needed to reach the maximum result. According to Faryadi (2015) the education process in general contains teaching conducted by teachers and learning conducted by students. Teaching denotes a process to facilitate learning. Teaching also refers to the presentation of knowledge, and demonstration of ability or skills, so an effective teaching enables students to make connections of the old and the new knowledge to form new ideas. In addition to enhancing knowledge, another skill of a quality teacher in teaching learning is that teachers should encourage students to express any

possibility. Jackson (2005) states teaching is a face-to-face encounter between two or more persons, one of whom (teacher) intends to effect certain changes in the other participants (students). Both parts are important to play their own role in making teaching goals successful. Teachers need to have certain teaching strategies that are important in operating the class. It is used for handling the class and solving the problems that occur. Teaching strategy is also construed as a 2 skill in organizing everything that happens in the teaching process (Iskandarwassid, & Sunendar, D., 2013). Every teacher has different purposes in teaching, and to achieve those purposes he/she will use a different strategy. The strategy is applied by the teacher to manage the class properly to reach his/her expectation in the teaching and learning process.

In accordance with literature, there is one novella that clearly depicts a non-conventional method of teaching through literature. The novella was written by N H Kleinbaum novelized after a movie entitled “Dead Poets Society” starring Robin Williams which was written by Tom Schulman. It tells about an English teacher named John Keating who uses unusual methods in teaching literature at Welton Academy, a boarding school for boys. Keating uses Person Centered Approach in teaching the literary work to the students. He teaches about the freedom to express their ideas in literature and his method of teaching influences the boys in many ways.

Reading Carl Rogers’ articles on education, the researcher was attracted to analyze whether the *Dead Poet Society* novella brings up a person-centered approach in teaching English. She was fascinated to see that Keating does not only teach, but also embraces the students based on their characters and needs. Though the ending of the novel is very tragic in which one of the students eventually commits suicide, the novel depicts how successful Mr. John Keating’s teaching strategies are in attracting students’ attention to study literature. His teaching approaches are very special that this present study intends to explore.

1.2. Statement of the Problem/ Research Problem

In this study, the question raised are: What criteria of a person-centered approach does Mr. Keating apply in the novella “*Dead Poets of Society*”?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the statements of the problem, the objective of this study aims to find out what criteria of Person Centered Approach that Mr. Keating applies in his class.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The focal point of this study is the Person Centered Approach used by Mr Keating in teaching literature in his class. Though the novel is a work of fiction, it mirrors the real situation at school in which teachers usually apply a conventional way of teaching. The approach that is used by Mr Keating may bring a refreshment and reference about how to use different teaching methods in teaching literature to future English teachers. In addition, this research may be a great precedent for studying the Person-Centered Approach in teaching literature for further researchers in the English Education Department, with hopes it can help him/her doing their thesis.

1.5. Theoretical Framework

The writer uses the theory of Person Centered Approach in analyzing the teaching method of Mr Keating in teaching literature in his class. By using the theory of Person Centered Approach by Carl Rogers, the writer expects to find out the criteria in more detail.

1.6. Limitation and Scope

The scope of this study focuses on the Person Centered Approach employed by John Keating in teaching literature in the novella *Dead Poets Society*. The

limitation of this study is on the criteria of the approach, how the implementation of the strategies used and how it affects the students.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

There are several key terms of this study, the definition is explained as follows:

1. Novella: novella (literally, "a little new thing"), which was a short tale in prose. Currently the term "novella" (or in the German form, Novelle) is often used as an equivalent for novelette: a prose fiction of middle length, such as Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* or Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*.
2. *The Death Poet Society* (novella) is a literary adaptation of the script published by Tom Schulman in 1989 for the homonymous feature film. This story was adjusted to the novelistic format by the American journalist Nancy H. Kleinbaum that was analyzed in this study.
3. Mr. John Keating is the main character of the novella who has tried to apply non-conventional ways of teaching based on his own teaching philosophy.
4. Person Centered Learning is a shared responsibility where human beings (teacher and student) meet to inspire each other and to bring the best out of them imparting knowledge, skills, attitudes, and experiences in a creative and fun environment. This maximizes teaching and learning bringing quality and creativity to the classroom (Pitrok and Santos, 2006).

1.8. Organization of the Study

There are five chapters in this study.

Chapter 1 consists of the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope, and limitations of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study.

Chapter 2 introduces the theories which are used by the researcher to analyze the literary work. Also, it reviews the related literature that is synonymous with the study.

Chapter 3 presents the research method of the study.

Chapter 4 presents the analysis of the novella focusing on Mr. Keating's application of student centered approach in the novella of "Dead Poet Society"

Chapter 5 contains the conclusion and suggestions.