

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

According to Singgih Dirgagunarsa in (Adnan 2018:5), psychology is the science that studies human behavior. Crow & Crow (1958:7) stated that psychology studies human behavior and relationships. Waston (1919) stated psychology is a branch of science that emphasizes human behavior, human expression, and human deed, whether studied or not. From the definition above, according to Dirgagunasa, Crow, and Waston, psychology is a science that studies human behavior, human expression, and human deed in relationships with other people. In addition, psychology is a science that studies all individual behavior that cannot be separated from environmental processes and occurs within the individual.

Rogers (in Andayani 2012:38) stated that empathy is the ability to understand how another person is feeling, the person's view, and imagine ourselves in that person's position. Goleman (in Andayani 2012:39) stated empathy is the ability to learn about the emotional state of others, feel sympathetic, try to solve problems, and take another's perspective. From some theories above, empathy is essential to human life. Because empathy is a way to know about human emotions, feelings, and perspectives of other people, this is why empathy can be used to understand someone through feeling, for example, in bullying action.

Bullying action occurs at schools, at work, and in cyberspaces. Bullying is a severe problem in many societies, especially in schools and

cyberspaces. Olweus in (Kusumasari 2019:3) stated bullying is a psychosocial problem by insulting and repeatedly demeaning with a negative impact on the perpetrators and victims of bullying where the perpetrator has more power than the victim. Bullying is an aggressive act, both physically and verbally and individual conducts that. These actions are carried out repeatedly, and there is a difference in power between bullies and victims. The difference in the strength in bullying action refers to a perception of physical and mental capacities.

According to Tumon in (Nilam, Imaniar, and Nur 2021:2), bullying occurs because of internal and external factors. Internal factors occur from inherent characteristics such as age, gender, aggressive, impulsive, manipulative personality, and the presence of a bully. Bullying occurs when there is poor interaction between peers and low group identification. External factors occur from the outside. Those factors are family, environment, and peers. Peers both in the school environment and in the social environment can influence bullying behavior. This is due to several things. First, the existence of friends who have a positive assessment of bullying behavior. Second, some friends do bullying behavior. Third, the existence of friends with middle and high family economies conduct bullying behavior as a way to gain social control and protect their status in front of their friends. Fourth, there are friends with low income who use bullying behavior as a way to increase social status and fight aggressive behavior directed at them.

Many cases of bullying action in the news that leading to death with suicide. The example of the cases from South Korea. The first example is “17-Years-Old Lee Hyun Seob Ended his life Because of School Bullying, Death, Death Cause, Wiki, Age, Girlfriend” from Death Militia occurred on July, 19<sup>st</sup> 2021. The second case is “South Korea teenagers bullied to death” the bullying action from CNN World occurred on July, 26<sup>nd</sup> 2012. The child’s name is Seung-min. He was bullied at school and suicide by jumping out of his home’s seventh-floor cases of bullying action that occurred in Indonesia. First case is “*Video Bullying Siswa SMP Bengkulu Viral di Medsos, Polisi Turun Tangan*” from Tribunnews occurred in August, 4<sup>th</sup> 2021. Second case is “*Viral Siswi SD di Sultra Dibully Gegara Tak Jawab Soal, Divideokan Guru*” from detikNews occurred in November, 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. The last case is “*Kasus Bullying dan Penganiayaan Gadis Belia Seret 5 Siswi SMP di Cilacap*” from Liputan6 occurred in January, 8<sup>th</sup> 2021.

From the cases above, the bullying action profoundly affects victims. This is why the bullying action that occurs must be minimized significantly at the school environment. The cases of bullying still occur at school, and it will influence the children's education. Victims accept severe long-term and short-term effects of their psychological condition. Some victims feel depression, low self-esteem, and difficulty in interpersonal relationships with people. The effect of bullying on victims, they have mental health problems, incredibly emotional symptoms. The victims have a socially isolated problem, they do not have close friends, and do not have

a good relationship with their parents. The acts of physical and verbal behavior received by victims become traumatizing factors in the short and long term. Trauma to adjustment in society.

The bullying also affects perpetrators. Perpetrators cannot empathize. In other words, the perpetrator could not appreciate the emotional consequences of their behavior on other people's feelings. In addition, the perpetrator also has cognitive distortions and social perceptions in accepting environmental problems. So they consider this aggressive act as an effective way to solve problems. Bullies have cold cognition characteristics that fail to understand other people's feelings and argue that if the victim feels pressured, this will strengthen the behavior of the bullies. According to Skrzypiec et al (in Kusumasari, Farida, and David 2018:4) stated that victims and perpetrators feel the negative impact of bullying. According to Skrzypiec, perpetrators experience problems with abnormal, hyperactive, and pro-social behavior when involved in the process of social interaction.

Based on these cases of bullying action in South Korea and Indonesia, the researcher chose the children's novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio as research material. This novel told a child with an abnormal face, namely *mandibulofacial dysostosis* or Treacher Collins syndrome (*Palacio, P:91*). Treacher Collins syndrome is a genetic disorder that causes impaired growth of the bones and body tissues on a human face. Children with this syndrome have a variety of symptoms such as less eyebrow hair, ear growth, and a smaller jaw and chin. This syndrome makes Auggie get bullying

action from his friends at school. *Wonder* novel told how his family loves, and struggles against fear, friendship, love, and bullying action. Bullying that the main characters obtained in the form of verbal, relational, and physical bullying. One example of verbal bullying obtained to Auggie in this novel is when Jack and Julian are in the classroom. When the part bleeding screamed, Auggie showed and heard the talk between Jack and Julian. It appears in the quotation below:

*One of the mummies was saying. "It really does look like him."*

*"Like this part especially...", answered Julian's voice. He put his fingers on the cheeks and eyes of his Death Sidious mask.*

*"Actually," said the mummy, "what he really looks like is one of those shrunken heads. Have you ever seen those? He looks exactly like that."*

*"I think he looks like an orc."*

*"Oh yeah!"*

*"If I looked like that," said the Julian voice, kind of laughing, "I swear to God, I'd put a hood over my face every day." ( P 66-67)*

Bullying action significantly impacts Auggie's psychological health, such as depression, emotion, social communication, and anxiety. With the support of August Pullman's family and friends, he can fight all those fears until he gets Henry Ward Beecher awards at school. August gave a chance for his life and his school with August Pullman's courage. *Not just the nature of kindness, but the nature of one's kindness. The power of one's friendship. The test of one's character. The strength of one's courage (Palacio, P 264).*

The researcher thought that analyze in *Wonder's* novel such an urgent thing. There are many messages and values such as family love, friendship, struggle against self-fear, and love. Children's novel from R.J Palacio presented how bullying actions that children do and the child with

the facial syndrome as a victim. The author shows how to impact bullying on August Pullman's psychological as the main character. This novel also gives perspective for readers, especially children, about how to look person's physical perfection and every deficiency, there is superiority. This research is essential because in this era, many cases of bullying occur in society. Children in the millennial era are focused on gadgets, from this is causes children's attitudes to become individualists. This individualistic attitude causes children to ignore their surroundings and reduce empathy for others.

By using R.J.Palacio's *Wonder* as the object of the research, the researcher wants to analyze about how bullying occurs, the types of bullying, and the effects of bullying on psychology in the short-term and long-term to the victim. Furthermore, this researcher also gives something new about the effect of bullying action on bullies in their psychology. Because not many people know that the bullying action impacts the psychology of the preparator, this research will prove the effects of bullying on human psychology because the human mind is essential to a person's emotional, psychological, and social life that others cannot see. The researcher believes that literary works will have more meaning when studied using a psychological approach. The research also benefits human views about the awareness of duties and obligations in educating the young generation properly without bullying action that inhibits the nation's progress.

## B. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research, the researcher found the novel *Wonder* shows four things. First, the novel presents how bullying through the main character August Pullman in the novel *Wonder*. The main character in this novel is a victim of bullying action by his friends. The bullying happened because the main character had an abnormal face.

Second, the novel shows how the effect of the bullying action on the main character August Pullman viewed from a psychological approach. The bullying experienced by the main character causes his psychology to be disturbed.

Third, the novel shows how the effect of the bullying action on perpetrators is viewed from a psychological approach. In the novel *Wonder*, the perpetrators do bullying because they feel strange when they see the main character's face.

Fourth, the novel presents about the personality of the main character from other characters' perspectives. The main character in this novel uses some perspectives to present his personality. With some perspectives, the author presented how to look at the main character with an abnormal face.

The researcher believes the *Wonder* novel by R.J Palacio gives an underlying message to her readers. The writer's underlying message will change the readers' perspective toward this novel. This novel also changes the readers' perspective on bullying action and how bullying affects human psychology in real life. The novel *Wonder* presented many morals, for

example, family, relationships, love, and struggle. Although the novel *Wonder* is presented for children, but the novel is also suitable for all ages. The bullying action not only occurs in the story of the novel, but bullying may also occur in all circles of real life.

### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem above, the researcher limits this research on several points:

1. This research wants to analyze kinds of bullying action faced by the main character August Pullman in the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio.
2. The researcher wants to analyze how is the effect of bullying action to main character August Pullman viewed from psychological approach.
3. The researcher wants to analyze how is the effect of bullying action to perpetrators viewed from psychological approach.

### **D. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, then the problem of this research can be formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of bullying action faced by the main character, August Pullman, in the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio?
2. How is the effect of the bullying action to the main character, August Pullman, viewed from psychological approach?
3. How is the effect of bullying action to the perpetrators viewed from psychological approach?



### E. The Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To describe the kinds of bullying action faced by the main character, August Pullman, in the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio.
2. To describe how the effect of the bullying action to the main character, August Pullman viewed from psychological approach.
3. To describe how the effect of bullying action to the perpetrators viewed from psychological approach.

### F. The Significances of the Research

The result of this study are expected to provide benefits theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

This research will contribute to the development of psychology, especially related to the phenomenon of bullying, its causes and effect on victims of bullying and perpetrators. This research also confirms that literary works will have more meaning when studied using a psychological approach.

2. Practically

This research aims to provide a practical benefit for the readers and the next researchers.

- a. For the Reader

The researcher hopes this research will be a significant motivation to the readers about the kind of bullying action in real life. This

research also will be beneficial to the readers about values that the readers can take from the novel *Wonder* by R.J Palacio.

b. For English Department Student

This research examines literary works namely novel. The researcher studied a children's novel entitled *Wonder* by R.J Palacio viewed from a psychological approach that focuses on bullying action. This is because bullying is still prohibition in the society, especially children world.

c. For the Next Researcher

This research will be helpful to another researcher for their research and also will be referenced if the next researcher wants to analyze a similar topic with the present researcher.

