CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents such topic as: background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

People often feel exhausted of their routine activities. They seek another experience in relaxing themselves. Watching a movie, reading a novel, and writing a poem are the kind of relaxing activities which are included to literature. According to Dubey (2013) literature is a form of written artwork which has several types, such as poetry, dramas, stories, prose, fiction etc. Shah (2013) states literature represents a mirror of the society. It portrays the social stratification, norms and value for the ethos of the culture, and certain types of social truths. It shows that the reflection of literature frequently related to the art of presenting the human life portrait through certain medium. It paints the affection, complication and affliction of the human life above of literary work.

Besides as the mirror of the society, literature shows the existance of the boundless creativity of the man during the period to period. It is attested by several artistic evidences that prove an astounding human’s artwork. As the boundless creativity, literature provides the concept of human imaginations, ideas and experiences into the production of literary work and it becomes the great creative artwork which is long lasting. According to Klarer (2004: 1), literary production is
the human desire to extend a trace of oneself through creative expression that will exist parted from the individual and outlast its creator.

There are many kinds of literary works that are interesting to be analyzed. One of the famous literary works is novel. Therefore, it is chosen as the object of the study. Novel is the long narratives which are written in prose fiction. It emphasizes the long ideas of the author which gives the implicit messages for the readers. Novel tells people the reflection of their life, other life experiences, and human life learning. By reading a novel, people can learn many things of life. According to Benton and Fox (cited in Clark and Rumbold, 2006: 14), stories may construct the sense of human sensibility and increase the human growth development. Sometimes, it influences feeling of people by involving them in the situation of the story spontaneously. Indeed, it enlightens their critical thinking on how to solve the problem from the certain situation.

Furthermore, the novel that is analyzed is one of the children literary novels, “Matilda”. “Matilda” novel presents the relationship between the parents and daughter. This novel tells the story of an exceptional little girl named Matilda who gets an inappropriate parenting style from her parents. Even though Matilda shows her extraordinary child development, the parents never notice her as a brilliant child. They argue that Matilda as an ignorant girl who does not know anything about life. The novel of “Matilda” contains the problem of using a particular parenting style toward the child.

Parenting style is often used to be the main topic in several novels which amuses the readers and gives them a knowledge about how to nurture children in the
best ways. Baumrind (in Darling, 1999) states that the efforts to control and train the children are the concept of parenting style. Therefore, parenting style is the way of the parents nurture their children which involves two important components; they are parental responsiveness and parental control. According to Shaffer and Kipp (2007: 600), parental responsiveness reflects to the quantity of the parents’ support and affection, and parental control reflects to the parents’ rule or command undertake with their children. Parental responsiveness creates the warmth or inconvenience parent-child relationship whereas the parental control creates the limitation of the children decision. Those two components cause the different types of parenting style. Hurlock (1972: 439) explains that parental attitudes have a potential effect not only on the family relationship but also on the children’s attitudes and behaviors. The parental attitudes possible tend to influence the child’s personality. The children who grow up from the warmth family tend to be a succesful persons because they have positive personality and in the other way around.

In the real life, there are many parents who apply an inappropriate parenting style toward their children which influences on the children’s personality, attitude and development. By analyzing the parenting style, it is expected that the parents should know how to implore an approriate parenting style for their children and they are able to get a good children outcome. Analyzing parenting style is interesting and “Matilda” novel by Roald Dahl is chosen because the story does not only have a good message for the readers, but also it is useful for people’s daily life.
1.2 Statement of Problem

From that background of the study, the writer states the problem as follows:

1. What kinds of parenting style does Mr. Wormwood have toward Matilda in Roald Dahl’s novel “Matilda”?
2. What are the effects of Mr. Wormwood’s parenting style toward Matilda in Roald Dahl’s novel “Matilda”?

1.3 Purpose of Study

Based on the research problem above, the purposes of this study are:

1. To find out the kinds of Mr. Wormwood’s parenting style toward Matilda in Roald Dahl’s novel “Matilda”.
2. To analyze the effects of Mr. Wormwood’s parenting style toward Matilda in Roald Dahl’s novel “Matilda”.

1.4 Significance of Study

The writer hopes the results of this study give some contributions for students of English department, English lecturer, readers, the researchers in the future, and theoretically substance. They are explained as follows:

1. Students of English Department

The writer hopes that this study will make an accessible explanation of the literary theories. The students are able to comprehend the literary theories through the examples that is explained in this study.

2. English Lecturer

English lecturer is expected to use this research as the additional material for teaching literature in the class.
3. Readers

This study is expected to give a knowledge and information about the importance of parenting style for the readers. The readers especially the parents are able to apply an appropriate parenting style toward their children and they are able to observe the healthy development of their children.

4. The Researchers in the future

This study will give some information and the understandable examples and concepts about parenting style for further researchers who are interested to analyze the same topic.

5. Theoretically

This study is expected to prove the theory of parenting style and its correlation to the real life. Finally, the finding of this research will enhance the theory of parenting style itself.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study, the writer gives the scope and limitation in order to give the clear explanation and to avoid the broadening discussion. The scope of this study is the parenting style used in Roald Dahl’s novel “Matilda”. The limitation chiefly focuses on the kinds and the effects of Mr. Wormwood as the main character in applying his parenting style toward Matilda on novel “Matilda”. Mr. Wormwood is chosen because he applies his parenting style toward her daughter dominantly.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

To avoid missinterpretation about the terms, the writer defines the important terms which are related to this research as follows:
1. Mr. Wormwood is Matilda’s father who works as a dealer in second-hand cars. He is a small ratty-looking man whose front teeth stuck out underneath a thin ratty moustache. (Dahl, 1988)

2. Parenting Style is a complex activity that includes many specific behaviors that work individually and together to influence child outcomes. (Baumrind in Darling, 1999)

3. Roald Dahl is Brtitish author who started writing stories to amuse his children. Many of his books became international bestsellers and children from all over the world wrote to him. In addition, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Witches, and James and the Giant Peach, Danny the Champion of the World, and The BFG all became successful films. (Tomalin, 1999)

4. “Matilda” is a gloriously funny children’s book, written by Roald Dahl, the most successful children’s writer in the English language. (Tomalin, 1999)