

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of the Problem

Stephen King is a famous author especially in the horror and thriller genre. His literary works are also have been made to a big screen. From “*It*” to “*Pet Sematary*”, Stephen King has one thing in common in his works, He involves children as main or supporting characters in almost all of his works. This research is based on his book, one in particular titled with “*The Institute*”, involves a more reflection towards our real-life society. The book describes the abduction and exploitation of children and how they are forced to think in a capacity higher than their age.

Stephen King was born in Portland, Maine in 1947, the second son of Donald and Nellie Ruth Pillsbury King. After his parents separated when Stephen was a toddler, he and his older brother, David, were raised by his mother. Parts of his childhood were spent in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where his father's family was at the time, and in Stratford, Connecticut. When Stephen was eleven, his mother brought her children back to Durham, Maine, for good. Her parents, Guy and Nellie Pillsbury, had become incapacitated with old age, and Ruth King was persuaded by her sisters to take over the physical care of the elderly couple. Other family members provided a small house in Durham and financial support. After Stephen's grandparents passed away, Mrs. King found work in the kitchens of Pineland, a nearby residential facility for the mentally challenged. King graduated from the University of Maine in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in English. While writing short stories he supported himself by teaching and working as a janitor, among other jobs. His first published novel “*Carrie*”, is about a tormented teenage girl gifted with telekinetic powers, appeared in 1974 (film 1976 and 2013) and was an immediate popular success.

This research based on the idea of many events regarding Child Exploitation in our society, how the children survive in the cruel circumstances after being abducted and to force them to be more mature than any normal children. This novel reflects the idea of children exploitation with a twist in Stephen King's own way. This research will compare the events in our real-life society regarding Child Exploitation and those in the novel and to find the best solution to the problem.

The story revolves with a group of children being abducted and used as conscripts in an illegal mind war and to exploit their unique abilities. They are trying to free themselves and bring down the Institute. Although these children had been kidnapped for their telekinetic and telepathic abilities, the adults in charge of the Institute underestimated these abilities. When the main character Luke Ellis, a twelve-year-old genius, was brought to the Institute, he started a movement not only to escape the Institute but also to close it down. Luke has another talent aside from his supernatural ability, his intellect, and his determination to survive. Luke must grow up and be matured quickly to get help from the other kids as he wages his battle against the evils of the Institution.

This work represents the exploitation of children in society, to use them to work unwillingly. There are cases in our real-life society regarding child-labor and exploitation and how they are forced to be more mature than their age. This work represents them all and the researcher will provide this research with data regarding this particular topic in the hope of finding the best solution of the problem.

2. Book Review

In order to conduct this study, I use theories around characterization, sociology literature approaches, and theories surrounding children psychology and exploitation.

Analyzing a character from fictional works is crucial to determine the behavior and actions they take, by using this theory provided within *Metode Karakterisasi Telaah Fiksi* by Professor Albertine Minderop. To further understand the explicit and implicit aspects of the character, this book will help this research to understand the characters within the novel.

Sociology of Literature is also used in this research to measure and analyze the social situation within the film and how the society within the film is affected by the character's doing. Donny Syofyan from *The Jakarta Post* made an essay regarding Sociology of Literature and why it's important to this research.

“Sociology and literature, therefore, share the same issues. The novel, as one of the major genres in literature, can be regarded as an effort to recreate the social world; relations between human beings and their family, environment, politics, state and others. Their distinction: while sociology makes an objective analysis of society, literature penetrates into the surface of social structure and expresses human beings' ways of comprehending their society with their feeling.” Essay: *Sociology of Literature* (2018)

This research also uses theories from corresponding journals: (1) **The Development of Children Ages 6 to 14** by Jacquelynne S. Eccles, Ph.D. (University of Michigan), to understand the psychological condition of children and their state of mind. (2) **Abduction of Children by Strangers and Nonfamily Members: Estimating the Incidence Using Multiple Methods** by D. Finkelhor (1992) to understand the motives of the kidnapping in this novel. (3) **A Theory of Exploitative Child Labor** by Carol Ann Rogers and Kenneth A. Swinnerton (2002) to understand the definition and examples of child exploitation and its variety.

Those theories will be used in conjunction with the news in our society regarding Child Exploitation, to further understand and find the solution on the problem.

3. Identification of the Problem

Based on the background above, I identify the problem that Luke and other children are exploited and forced to think beyond their capacity of thinking around their age. The main character Luke is forced to grow and think on how he could beat the institute and free the children. I assume the whole plot and setting is a reflection of Child Exploitation and Forced Maturity on children and the main character is a key to solve the problems.

4. Limitation of the Problem

According to the identification of the problem above, the problems of this research are limited to the theme which is included characterization, plot and setting. I limit this research in Luke's child psychology by using psychology of literature approach, Forced Maturity on children and sociology approach of children exploitation.

5. Formulation of the Problem

According to the limitation of the problem, the problem in this research can be formulated to prove the Forced Maturity on Children and Child Exploitation in "*The Institute*" by Stephen King, which become the assumption of this research. Therefore, the problems in this research are formulated as follow.

1. What can we get from the mindset of the main character Luke in this novel through Characterization method?
2. What is the relation between the plot and setting to the child level of maturity?
3. What is the definition of Child Exploitation and how it impacts the children within the story?
4. What can we get from this novel to contribute our real-life society regarding Child Exploitation and its effect on society?

6. The Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to prove that the Child Exploitation and Forced Maturity on children are reflected and represented in *“The Institute”*. To achieve this goal, the researcher did several research stages as follows:

1. To analyze the character of the children with the method of characterization
2. To make sure that plot and setting really affect the character’s behavior and the way of thinking with intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.
3. To understand the concept of Child Exploitation and its effect within the story and to compare it in our society
4. To understand the psychology of the children and how to deal with it.

7. Methods of the Research

Based on the theoretical foundation above, the researcher used a research method with a qualitative variety. The nature of the research in the form of analysis using the method of data collection in the form of literary texts *“The Institute”* by Stephen King. The methods will also be supported by theories and journal regarding children psychology and Child Exploitation and abduction.

8. Benefits of the Research

The outcome of this research is to contribute to society by giving perspectives on Child Exploitation and its effect on our next generation in society. This research will help us to understand the character of children and its psychology using literature method and to prove that literature study can contribute in this field of research.

9. The Systematic Organization of the Research

In accordance to the title of the research above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

It consists of the Background of the Problems, Identification of the Problems, Limitation of the Problems, Formulation of the Problems, Objectives of the Research, Framework of the Research, Methods of the Research, Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER 2 : FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES

It consists of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approach includes characterization (showing and telling methods), setting and plot. The applied psychological approach is Child Psychology regarding forced maturity, and Child Exploitation as social approach.

CHAPTER 3 : NOVEL *THE INSTITUTE* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACH

It consists of point of view, characterization of the characters, plot, and settings of the novel. The concepts above appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 4 : CHILD EXPLOITATION AND FORCED MATURITY ON CHILDREN REPRESENTED IN STEPHEN KING'S NOVEL "THE INSTITUTE"

It consists of a brief explanation of this chapter's content, analysis of the children exploitation and Forced Maturity, and the relation of them with other characters, setting and plot. The concepts above appear in the number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

It consists of an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result.

The chapters above are followed by references, scheme of the research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachment.

