

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

In our daily life sometimes we lose someone who is precious in our life. The sadness of losing someone can make someone become crazy or frustrated or depressed sometimes. One of them blames themselves for the incident that made their precious person die. Take a revenge to the person that has a relation to the incident become the extreme way to redeem that feeling guilty. This is what happened to Curtis as the character of this novel.

Paula is a reader, writer, and an all-around slave to public education. She wrote her first novel when she was nine years old, in the back seat of an orange 1977 Chevy Caprice station wagon with wood paneling. It was exactly as good as you might expect a novel written by a nine-year-old to be. In the intervening years, Paula majored in English, taught junior high and high school English, earned an MFA in Fiction Writing from the University of Southern Maine, and discovered a passion for staring at a laptop screen for long hours. These days, she splits her time between teaching (at the University of California, Merced), chatting about writing whenever she has a chance, and doing the writing itself. Her novels include *The Drowning Girls* (April 2016), *The Fragile World* and *The Mourning Hours*. Her heart—and her remaining spare time—belongs to Will and their four-legged brood.

The Novel *The Fragile World* tells about when Daniel dies in a freak accident, his parents and sister have no way to predict the changes that will come to their family as the years go on. It's been 5 years since Daniel's death. The musical prodigy away at Oberlin College, struck down and killed in an accident. No one could have stopped this from happening but the logistics of a statement like that are kind of lost on Curtis (husband and dad) and Olivia (daughter and sister). Curtis completely detaches from his wife, his work (he's a physics teacher), and basically his entire life, while Olivia is scared of everything. She records all of her fears (from the mundane to the ridiculous) in a Fear Journal, starts wearing all black, and steps away from her friends. Kathleen (wife and mom) tries her darnedest to push Curtis and Olivia to move forward but after giving it

all she has, decides to move back to her hometown. Instead of deciding to go with her mom, Olivia stays with Curtis. So a family of four becomes three; becomes two and one.

Grief is a powerful emotion, and it's difficult to see how much it steers the lives of Curtis and Olivia. Sure, they are getting through day-to-day together but they are not talking about the past, not bringing up Daniel, and certainly not making strides when it comes to living fulfilling lives. It's not until Curtis has an episode at school that he decides the only thing he can do is kill Daniel's killer, disguising his revenge road trip as a fun vacation with Olivia that will eventually lead back to Kathleen.

As has been described above, this novel has a conflict of interest to be discussed. In a work of literature, there are few analyzes that can be used to examine a literary work. One of which is psychoanalysis which I will use to examine this novel. This study is expected to be useful for those interested in getting deeper knowledge in analyzing a literary work. This study may be useful because it is done through a new perspective by applying the concepts of guilty feeling and hate included in the field of psychology that shown something new and uncovered for further research.

To analyze aspects of endless guilt and revenge determination, I used the psychological approach. In this study I will conduct a study used qualitative research methods, this kind of research literature, nature interpretive research / analysis with data collection methods such as text literary works. In this phase inductive inference technique is used, which is a technique conclusion that saw the problems of data that is specific to obtain general conclusions.

## **B. Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problem above, I identified the problem as: Curtis Kaufman that loss his son because of an accident makes him totally sad, he blamed himself because he feel that he is fail to be a good father who protect his son, and finally he dicated to take a revenge of his son's killer to redeem his mistake. Therefore, I assumed that the assumption or hypothesis of this research is: *Endless Guilt Ended with Revenge Determination on Character Curtis in Paula Treick DeBoard's The Fragile World Novel.*

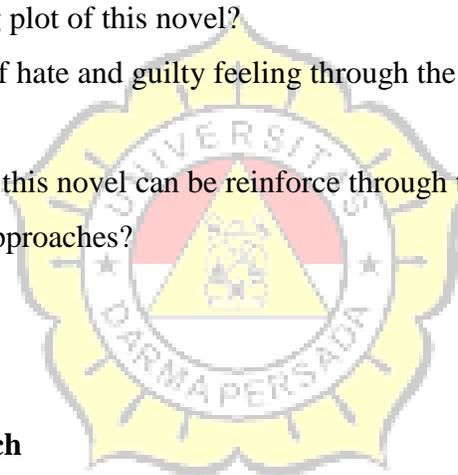
### **C. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problem, I limited the problem to the research of endless guilt ended with revenge determination. Theory and concept that I used are by intrinsic approach — showing and telling methods, characterization, plot, setting and theme. By extrinsic approach, I used the Guilty Feeling Concept, and the Hate Concept.

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

Based on the limitation of the problem, the formulation is that whether the theme of this novel “The Fragile World” by Paula Treick DeBoard is the reflection of guilty feeling, and hate concepts? To answer this question, there are some steps that I take:

1. What are the characterizations of this novel through showing and telling methods?
2. What are the setting and plot of this novel?
3. What are the concepts of hate and guilty feeling through the characterizations, setting and plot?
4. What does the theme of this novel can be reinforced through the result of analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?



### **E. Purpose of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the research, the purpose of this research is to prove whether the theme of this novel is Endless Guilt Ended with Revenge Determination that experienced by Curtis Kaufman. To fulfil this purpose I have to take some steps:

1. To analyze the characterization through the showing and telling methods.
2. To analyze the novel by using the concept of plot and setting.
3. To analyze this novel by elaborating the concepts of hate and guilty feeling with characterization, plot and setting.
4. To reinforce theme by using the result of analysis of the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

## **F. Methods of the Research**

Based on the framework of the theories above, I use qualitative methods. Qualitative methods is a broad term that can be applied to a range of research approaches that have their theoretical origins in a range of disciplines, include anthropology, sociology, philosophy, social psychology and linguistics. Although considerable diversity exists in the type of studies that can be described as 'qualitative'. Those are study of literature, and interpretative character of research or analysis by collecting data which is the literature text of the novel entitled *The Fragile World* by Paula Treick DeBoard as the primary source and some of literature work that appropriate related to theory/concept/definition as the secondary source.

## **G. Benefits of the Research**

Based on the method of research, the benefits of this research is first, it could be beneficial for students or researchers who wants to explore more deeply about novel *The Fragile World* by Paula Treick DeBoard. This reaserch describes the novel through guilty feeling, and hate concepts and explain the relation between the concepts with the experiences of the character.

## **H. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Based on the benefits of research above, systematic organization of this research is arranged as follows:

### **CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION**

It consists of: background of the problem, Literary review, Identification of the problem, Limitation of the problem, Formulation of the Problem, The Purpose of the Research, The Methods of the Research, The Benefits of the Research, the systematic organization of the research.

### **CHAPTER II: CONCEPTS AND THEORIES OF STRUCTURAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACHES**

It consists of: the explanation of the concepts and theories. It includes intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approach are showing and telling methods, setting, plot, and theme. Through extrinsic approach, I use

theoretical framework – psychological approaches are guilty feeling and hate.

**CHAPTER III: THE NOVEL *THE FRAGILE WORLD* THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACHES**

It consists of: analysis of characterization through showing and telling methods, analysis of setting and plot through the concepts of setting and plot. The analysis above are shown in some sub-chapters.

**CHAPTER IV: “ENDLESS GUILT ENDED WITH REVENGE DETERMINATION”**

It consists of: analysis of the novel which reflects guilty feeling and hate. The analyses above are shown in some sub-chapters.

**CHAPTER V: CONCLUSION**

It consists of: the conclusion that proves that the theme of this novel is “Endless Guilt Ended with Revenge Determination on Character Curtis in Paula Treick DeBoard’s *The Fragile World* Novel.”

Attachment: References and Scheme of the Research.

