

## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### I.1 Background

Literature is believed to have its own way of viewing and responding to social phenomena, one of which is the phenomenon of suicide. Even the theme of suicide is actually not a rare theme in literary works. There have been many literature studies conducted on literary works that carry the theme of suicide and make it a form of social criticism. As according to George M. Spangler (1979) who discussed that the condition of modern society, in this case the 19th century American society is responsible for suicide.

In human life, literature is a medium that is always able to provide various types of works that have a background of thoughts and feelings as happens in everyday life and human life. As stated by Wellek and Warren (1993) some literary critics look at literature as human's creativity in oral or written form. Talking about this, one of it is suicide which is a social phenomenon that most often occurs and is widespread among the community, although it is often found in the community, but until now there has been no concrete research, either social or psychological, that is able to explain this phenomenon, especially about how a person can choose to end his life. Talking about the phenomenon of suicide, this cannot be separated from two different scientific perspectives, namely social and psychology, both of which have different understandings and perspectives on this phenomenon as stated by Angreani (2013) In academia, two fields of science that are considered to be the main basis in scientific research on suicide are psychology and

sociology. While psychology traces the motives of suicide through the psychological aspects of the individual, sociology tries to find answers about the causes of suicide by focusing on social factors.

The phenomenon of suicide has also received great attention from the WHO (World Health Organization) which also annually collects data on suicide perpetrators, which also ultimately determines that suicide is a global phenomenon that cannot be stopped. As according to WHO More than 700.000 people die by suicide every year, which is one person every 40 seconds. Suicide is a global phenomenon and occurs throughout the lifespan. Effective and evidence-based interventions can be implemented at population, sub-population and individual levels to prevent suicide and suicide attempts. There are indications that for each adult who died by suicide there may have been more than 20 others attempting suicide.

Therefore, from whole explanation above then became a concern of the researchers, especially how social views of suicide cases as a phenomenon that occurs due to a lack of social integration between humans with one another through a novel by Jenniver Niven entitled "All The Bright Places" by making one of the main characters namely Theodore Finch as the main focus of research. The novel itself is a novel which coming and departing from author's personal experience and story.

Furthermore, the data used by the researcher here is a data analysis of one of the main characters in the novel "All The Bright Places" named

Theodore Finch, the researcher will examine the types and factors that caused Theodore Finch to finally commit suicide. For a brief introduction to the character, Theodore Finch is one of the main characters of Jenniver Niven in the novel "All The Bright Places" is a fiction of adult's teen which tells about the struggle of life of the two main characters, Theodore Finch and Violet Markey. This novel by Niven has two points of view in the delivery the plot, namely Finch's side and Violet's side, the author makes the reader able to position their imagination on the two main characters. This novel tells about how the two main characters try to survive regardless of how they have issues with their circumstances environment and also past traumas that are difficult to heal.

Theodore Finch is the character that is used as the main focus of the researcher in this research, as found in the novel the researcher finds that Finch has an important role in conveying every emotion in every plot in the novel "All The Bright Places" Finch himself in this novel is described as a weird students who has problems in his social life which then makes him have a great obsession with suicide, he has tried to do it several times, but even so he is also trying to survive, it's just that until the end of the story in the novel he finally decided to commit suicide. This is what then will be the focus of researchers here to find out the type seen from Emilie Durkheim's theory of suicide by focusing on one of the types proposed in the theory called "Egoistic Suicide" and also the factors that cause finch to commit suicide.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background above the researcher then want to point out two statement of problems as follows:

1.2.1 How does the author portrayed the types of suicide through Theodore Finch character in the novel “All The Bright Places” by Jenniver Niven

1.2.2 How does the author describe the factors of suicide in the novel “All The Bright Places” by Jenniver Niven

## 1.3 Scope of the Study

In this research the researcher would like to focus on two main statement of problem as above which is about the way author described the suicide motives and the portrayed of suicide types by the author through the characters Theodore Finch in novel “All The Bright Places” by Jenniver Niven.

## 1.4 Objective of the Study

Based on the two main problems above, this research then has some purposes for objective of the study there are:

1.4.1 To analyze how the author portrayed the types of suicide through the main characters in the novel “All The Bright Place” by Jenniver Niven.

1.4.2. To examine what are the factors of suicide of Theodore Finch in the novel “All The Bright Places” by Jenniver Niven.

## 1.5 Significant of the Study

It is hoped that, the research could give some significances to the readers or the next researcher which can be divided into theoretical and partial significances.

### 1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically this research is expected to increase and enrich the knowledge of researcher about the suicide-novel genre and its motif alongside with the factors which caused a suicide in the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven.

### 1.5.2. Practical Significance

Practically this research is expected to help readers and literature enthusiast to know more about the motif of suicide and the factors which cause a suicide through the main character in the novel "All The Bright Place" by Jenniver Niven and also to be able to help provide knowledge to literature with enthusiasm about the genres contained in the novel which is a psychological genre that can often be found in a literary work.

## 1.6 Review of Related Study

As for the reference of the research data, the researcher then conducted a search for several studies that had same material and formal object interests with this research. The data found by the researcher are used as a comparative study of the material and problems which contained in the novel, the method or theory and it's used without eliminating and reducing the

original purpose of this study were to explain the types and causes of suicide in the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven.

For the first reference, the researcher found through a thesis by Meidiana Putri (2016) from Pamulang University, Tangerang Selatan, with the title of her thesis is "*Analysis Of Two Main Characters' Anxiety Disorder In "All The Bright Places" Novel*". As the title in the thesis says, Meidina conducts research on Anxiety Disorder suffered by the two main characters in the novel All The Bright Places, namely Theodore Finch and Violet Markey. The research focuses more deeply on the types, causes and effects of anxiety disorders, while the approach used in the research is a qualitative approach.

The second one is from Catlea (2017) from the Faculty of Humanities, Dian Nuswantoro University with the title of her thesis is "*Theodore Finch's Bipolar Disorder in Jennifer Niven's All the Bright Places*" in her thesis Catlea conducted an analysis of one of the main characters in the novel, namely Theodore Finch and his bipolar disorder. She uses several methods and approaches to explain the problem, including descriptive qualitative method and library research method. The structural approach was used by her to analyze the general description of main character conflicts and settings. The psychological approach was used to analyze the bipolar disorder experienced by the main character in the novel and the result shows by her thesis was Finch is described as depressed, suicidal, anxious, moody, caring, aggressive, smart, and considerate in the novel.

The third is from Cahya Tiara (2021) from English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya with the title of her thesis is *“Social Conflict of Theodore Flinch In The Novel All The Bright Places By Jenniver Niven”* in her thesis she focused on what social conflicts were experienced by Theodore Flinch, what were the causes of Theodore Flinch being able to experience social conflicts and also how Theodore Flinch as a character analyzed solved all the problems contained in the novel All The Bright Places by Jenniver Niven.

Next from Indriyani Felicia (2019) From Department of English Literature Faculty of Humanities University of Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Malang, with the title of her thesis is *Hanna Barker’s Egoistic Suicide in Jay Asther’s Thirteen Reason why*. In her thesis the researcher found out that the author using the same theory to provide the data of analysis from its main character in the novel which is using the same theory as used by the researcher in this research that is the Egoistic Types from Emile Durkheim which in this result also became the most types of suicide that is used by Theodore Finch in the novel

## 1.7 Theoretical Base

### 1.7.1 Sociological Approach

Sociology is a science that studies personal problems that often occur in society, this approach aims to determine and regulate people's lives, including natural phenomena in society, social processes, social changes. As according to Sapardi Djoko Damono who said that sociology is an objective

and scientific study of humans in society, social and social processes (Damono, 1978: 6, Via: Hartanto)

Like sociology, literature also has a close relationship with humans in society. Literature is made by members of the community to be enjoyed and utilized by the community. Literature itself exists and comes from the community and is also formed based on emotional or rational pressure from the community. Between sociology and literature actually share the same problem. Because, a literary it is a whole of words that relate logically. In the whole it is described or presented a reality that is outside the work (Luxemburg, 1984 Via, Hartanto).

The sociological approach departs from the fact that literary works cannot be separated from the socio-cultural conditions of the society that surrounds them, however and in whatever form. This approach reviews literary works by considering their aspects (Damono, 1978, Via. Hartanto) The process of creating literary works is related to various events that have occurred, are currently, or may occur in society so that the presence of literature is not quite visible from the text, but need to look at the context.

The sociology of literature approach views it as a reflection of people's lives or a reflection of reality and not as a reality or an event that actually happened. Events or events that occur in literary works do not exactly reflect the events that exist in the author's environment, but through literary works can create the creation of the work. Because, we all know that literary works cannot

be made without a purpose. The author may create the literary work based on his ideals, his love, his social protest, or even a dream that is far from reachable.

### **1.7.2 Suicide Theory**

Suicide comes from the Latin word *suicidium* from *sui caedere* which means "to kill oneself" according to Hawton K, Van Heeringen K in *Suicide* (2009, p. 373) suicide is a deliberate, conscious act committed by humans to kill themselves, the occurrence of suicide can be caused by a variety of factors including hopelessness the cause of which is often associated with various mental disorders that support psychological studies such as depression, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia. Meanwhile, according to the flow of human behavior, suicide is a form of severe escape from the real world or running from situations that can not be tolerated and is also a form of regression to want to return to a state of pleasure, comfort and peace. (via Kartono, 2000, p. 143)

This theory itself has been put forward by several experts who focus on studying and exploring the factors or causes of suicide. One of them is Emile Durkheim, he is one of the classical sociology figures who is famous for this theory where in his book entitled "Le Suicide" he has expressed his opinion that the cause of one's suicide is the result of social integration. This theory arises and departs from Durkheim's personal observations when he saw many people committing suicide around his environment and then doing in-depth research on suicide. After successfully carrying out his research, Durkheim

thought that suicide was an individual act which was influenced by social factors, he rejected a series of assumptions that suicide was caused by mental illness, imitation, climate, alcoholism, poverty and the existence of certain racial influences. In his book Durkheim expressed his opinion regarding several types of suicide which he divided into four points and types (Upe, 2010 p. 99, via Alfian, 20018 p. 217) as the following:

1. Egoistic Suicide

According to Durkheim, the result of this type of suicide is that, due to the lack of social integration of the suicide perpetrator with the surrounding environment, those who are categorized as committing suicide are those who think that their personal interests are more important than their common interests or social interests. In other words, it can be explained that they do not have a strong bonding strength that can make them one with the environment and also various materials or social support cannot be well received by them

2. Altruism Suicide

This type of suicide is the opposite of the egoistic type of suicide, in which this suicide occurs due to the excessive and excessive integration committed by the suicide perpetrator.

3. Anomie Suicide

For Anomie suicide is a type of suicide described by Durkheim as occurring as a result of the suicide perpetrator finding themselves in an anomie situation, where the situation itself is a situation when a person

finds themselves living a life that has no rules or norms that can bind him, there are no rules governing them.

#### 4. Fatalistic suicide

Is a suicide committed by a person because of a condition where they feel pressured by the rules, norms, beliefs and values in undergoing social interactions so that the suicide perpetrator feels that he does not find his freedom to do things based on his own desire. In other words Durkheim explained that a rule that is too strong is very limiting to the movement of society.

Furthermore, in his theory Emile Durkheim also expressed his opinion about the three main factors that cause a person to commit suicide, these three factors were also explained by him after conducting observations and research to find reasons why an individual can commit suicide (via Mustapha Liyana, 2013 ) these factors are:

##### 1. Religious factors

The first factor revealed by Durkheim was one of the factors that received a lot of criticism from people, where the factor he put forward was the factor of religion. In this factor Durkheim builds his explanation by making comparisons based on the results of research on two religious schools, namely Protestant and Catholic. Where, according to him, the suicide rate of Protestants is far greater than that of Catholics, this happens because of the differences in freedom given by the two religions.

## 2. Family factors

In this factor, Durkheim explains that the factor of suicide can occur because a family has a tendency to have fewer members. The smaller the family members who are in a family, the greater the suicide rate will occur, this is because social integration that starts from the family will decrease, resulting in a lack of someone getting rules that can bind and tie their social integration starting from the family circle.

## 3. Political factors

In this factor he explains how the tendency of suicide between a military person and civil society is where the suicide rate of a military worker can be higher when they are in peace and conversely the suicide rate of military workers will be much lower when they are in a war situation. Where according to Durkheim when in this situation military workers tend to have good integration with harsh discipline so that they have something that binds and can direct them compared to when in peaceful situations where their social integration tends to weaken.

### 1.7.3 Self-Discrepancy Theory

Self-discrepancy theory was introduced by psychologist E. Tory Higgins (1987) with the purpose of explaining the relationship between aspects of the self and affect. In this theory, Higgins posits that individuals possess different types of *self-guides*, or standards, against which they compare their current self. These comparisons yield information that individuals are either near their self-guides or are distant from them. In the case of proximity to self-guides,

individuals experience positive affect. In the case of discrepancy from self-guides, individuals experience negative affect. This affect is differentiated by the type of self-guide being used in comparison. Individuals may compare themselves to an *ideal self-guide*, which represents their hopes or wishes. Or they may compare themselves to an *ought self-guide*, which represents their obligations or responsibilities. Comparisons made to ideal self-guides result in affect along an elation-dejection spectrum: Proximity to ideal standards yields affect such as happiness and joy, while discrepancy from ideal standards yields affect such as depression and sadness. Comparisons made to ought self-guides result in affect along a relief-agitation spectrum: Proximity to ought self-guides yields affect such as calmness and contentment, while discrepancy from ought self-guides yields affect such as nervousness and guilt. The magnitude of discrepancy is related to the experience of negative affect such that the greater the discrepancy, the greater the negative affect. Timothy Strauman (1992) applied self discrepancy theory to psychological disorders of emotion. He found that individuals reporting symptoms of depression had larger discrepancies from their ideal selves, while individuals reporting symptoms of anxiety had larger discrepancies from their ought selves.

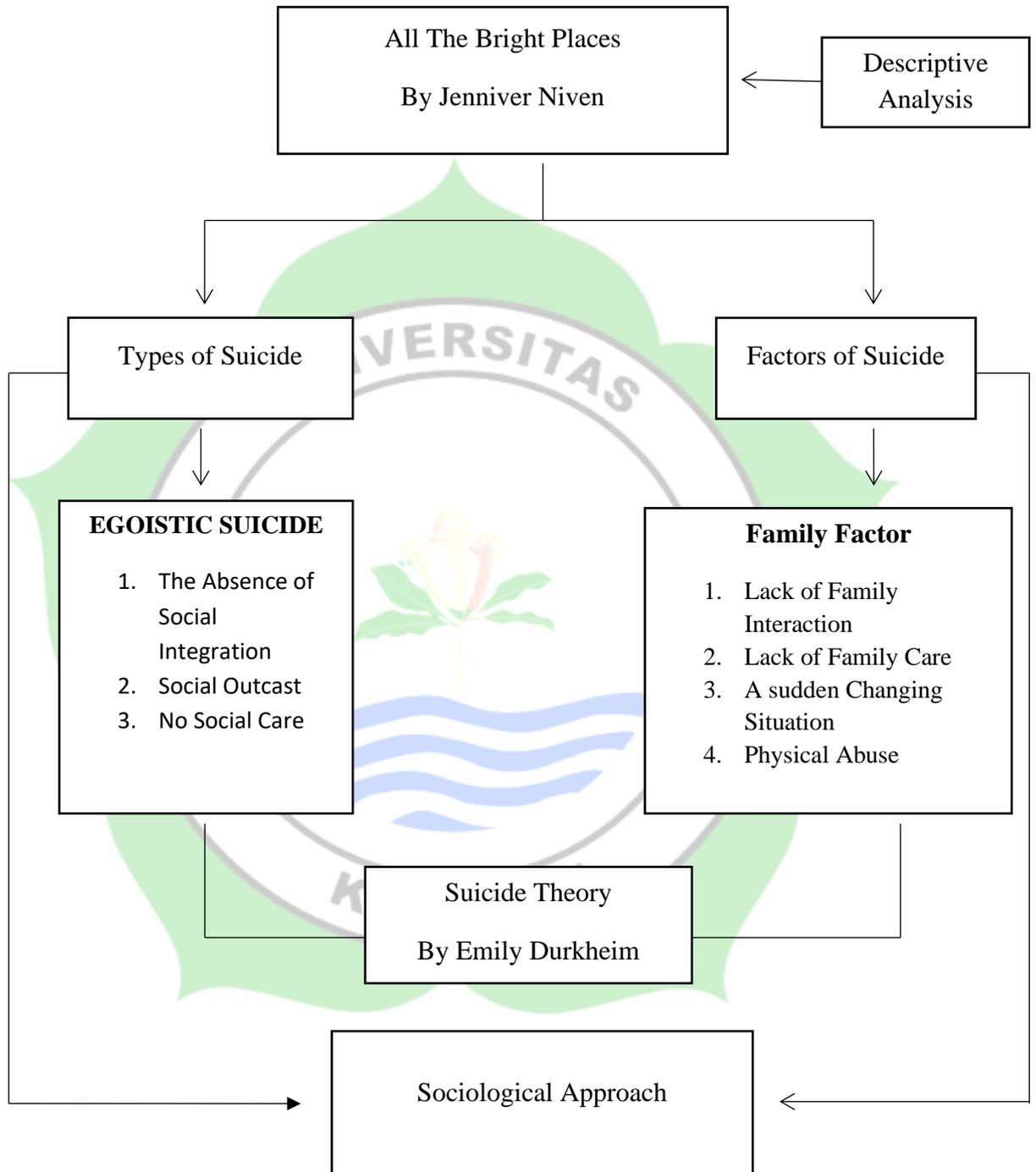
Self discrepancy assumes that self-regulation occurs in response to the negative affect experienced as the result of a discrepancy. This self-regulation occurs through a discrepancy-reducing feedback process in which individuals exert changes on their behavior in response to a noticed discrepancy.

Feedback about individuals' progress toward self-guides is transmitted back to the individual, and behavioral change is either continued or terminated.

An expansion of this theory by Higgins (1997) suggests that individual differences in self-guides are chronic and related to personality. He labeled individuals who tend to have accessible ideal self-guides as *promotion-oriented* and individuals who tend to have accessible ought self-guides as *prevention-oriented*. These different types of goal orientations are expected to influence the types of goals individuals pursue, as well as the contexts under which they will experience the most successful goal pursuit.

Measurement of discrepancies often occurs through the Selves Questionnaire. On this questionnaire, individuals list attributes associated with each of the different *self-states* (own-actual, own-ideal, own-ought, other-actual, other-ideal, other-ought). Correlations and partial correlations among the self-states are computed to determine magnitude of discrepancy. Some researchers may opt to use only the self-states from the individuals' own perspective.

## 1.8 Conceptual Scheme



Based on the conceptual scheme above, the researcher then wants to provide an explanation of the contents of the scheme. Researchers will conduct the

research on the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven. Researchers will focus on doing research on types of suicide and also the factors that cause the characters in the novel to commit suicide, while the theory used by researchers is the theory of suicide from Emile Durkheim. As stated in the schematic above, the researcher will also explain the two main problems that are owned, namely first how the author can describe the type of suicide that is committed through one of the main characters in the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven and the second problem is how the author describes the factors that cause the suicide of the main character in the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven.

For the two problems described in the scheme above the researcher conducted the research using the same theory, namely the theory of suicide by Emile Durkheim where for the first problem the researcher conducted research using Durkheim's theory with his explanation regarding the types of suicide and for the second problem the researcher used the exposure of Durkheim on the factors that cause suicide to analyze the main cause of suicide of one of the main characters in the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven.

### 1.9 Method of the Study

Methods and techniques of research are important in doing analyzing of literary works both it have a big role therefore the researcher then use some methods as follows:

### 1.9.1 Descriptive method

The researcher using descriptive method to analyze the novel All the Bright Places by Jenniver Niven as Ratna (2015:53) stated that descriptive method of analysis carried out by describing the facts and then proceed with analysis. The researcher using this method to describe the contents of the novel and its problem.

## 1.10 Data Sources

### 1.10.1 Primary Data

The researcher chooses the novel "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven as the material object of the research and as the primary data to analyze.

### 1.10.2 Secondary Data

Secondary Data Researchers use the literature study method used in literature studies where in the data collection process that refers to articles, journals, and textbooks or theses from libraries, internet media related to a sociological approach that can assist researcher in conducting research.

## 1.11 Techniques of Collecting Data

In doing the research, the researcher uses four techniques to collect the data for the research, there are the techniques as follow:

### 1.11.1 Reading Comprehension

First of all the researches using this technique by reading the material object which the novel titled "All The Bright Places" by Jenniver Niven and then analyze the problem which found in the novel to get future explanation and

answer about the types of suicide and the factors that cause a suicide by using the theory of suicide by Emile Durkheim which the researcher found it fit to use to analyze the problems.

#### 1.11.2 Literary Research

The researcher doing some literary research by reading some books and e-books to find out some various resource which can help the research to find out the answer of the problem which found in the novel and so based in the theory and approaches. As for this technique the researcher read some scripts by some previous researcher which have a similarity in method and techniques and used it as references to accomplish the research.

#### 1.11.3 Internet Browsing

The researcher also using the technique of internet browsing to collect up some data which related to this research and analysis and to browsing for some scripts to add it as the references.

#### 1.11.4 Selecting Expression

By this technique the researcher selected some sentences from the novel, books, and internet which related and supported the statements of problem that is given in this research.

#### 1.12 Technique of Analyzing Data

The researcher took some of references from difference sources to analyze the novel as the primary data, from the books and as well as from the internet browsing. Alongside with the two parts of analyzing data above, the

researcher also using other three technique of analyzing for the research as follow:

#### 1.12.1 Classification

In this part the researcher read the novel repeatedly then classified it into which part to be analyze, as the purpose of this way is to find out which part of the statement or paragraph that has a relation with the statements of the problems in this research.

#### 1.12.2 Interpretation

The researcher interprets about the story of the novel and then find out the problem to be analyzed and then giving the tittle as well as it would be used to examine the answers for the problem in this research.

#### 1.12.3 Explanation

As for the last technique which used by the researcher it's to explain all the parts of this study research from the very first part of introduction until the method and techniques in detail. The researcher using this technique in this research to help the readers to understand the main purpose of this research and its statements which has been classified above.