

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

The word of ambition is usually interpreted as a strong desire to succeed by any means even in an improper way and usually sacrifice close friends and relatives. Ambition itself comes to people or us when they want to get something and we need that in our lives, so we will do everything to get that. The desire to achieve something, or to succeed, accompanied with motivation, determination and an internal drive.

People have ambition in their life. Some of them are ambitious to achieve that. They keep working hard in order to make it comes true. Ambitious people have dream of moving up in the world and getting a better life. By having ambition people have strong desire for attainment, professional advancement, power, or fame.

Roy (2011) defines ambition as an ardent desire to attain success in life such as personal advancement, fame, power, rank, or position. It suggests that ambition is a positive driving force which motivates people to be enthusiastic in their life because there are goals they want to attain. An English philosopher, author and pioneer of the scientific method, explains that the definition of ambition

Ambition is like choler; which is a humor that makes men active, earnest, full of alacrity, and stirring, if it be not stopped. But if it be stopped, and cannot have his way, it

become avaricious, and thereby malign and venomous. So ambitious men, if they find the way open for their rising, and still get forward, they are rather busy than dangerous... (Bacon. 1626:49)

From this quotation it can be seen that ambition is a positive driving force which is able to motivate people. When people are ambitious they become alive because there is a goal they want to achieve that it steers them to be active and enthusiastic.

Furthermore, Kurtus (2007) defines that ambition provides inspirations, responsibility and discipline. By having ambition, people do not easily give up. It inspires them to find ways to attain their goal. They become critical and analytical. Ambition also encourages them to dare to take risk for that. It shapes them to be responsible.

Gallozzi (2011) supports that ambition grants energy and willingness for people. When people have ambition, they automatically have aim in their life. It drives them to be persistent. They keep working hard and moving on in order to attain that.

Although being ambitious is a positive driving force, being too ambitious can result in a negative driving force. Some people are overly ambitious to succeed or to reach top position that it encourages them to do everything in order to obtain that though it is incompatible with morality. This excessive ambition that is an extreme desire for preferment, honor, superiority, power or the attainment of something can blind people from determining what is right and what is wrong.

According to Keyishian (1989) ambition is able to drive people to abandon what is really important in their life which are their family, friends, and most importantly

their life in order to pursue their ambition. People can be manipulative, unjust or even able to damage other. Kurtus (2007) explains that being too ambitious will lead someone to do negative actions in order to achieve that. It enables them to be ruthless, dishonest and harmful to others. Their attention just focuses on how to achieve their ambition without caring the destructive effects of their action toward other.

Maslow (2012) stated that ambition is a difficult trait to pin down because it is so human. Since ambition is such a human struggle between making choices and dealing with the consequences that result from these choices philosophers, psychologists, and academics have been attempting to understand how and why we are driven by ambition.

Thinking about human desires and ambitions is quite similar to the model the Austrian psychoanalyst Sigmund Freud proposed in his 1920 essay “Beyond the Pleasure Principle,” in which he argues that the human psyche is divided into three parts: the id, the ego, and the superego. The id represents the human unconscious, a moral desire to be satisfied, whether it is by food, sex, drugs, power or position. The ego strives to mediate between the id and the superego sometimes having to satisfy one or the other; the ego is a conscious attempt to balance primitive desires with a rational need to negotiate the “real world”. The superego essentially functions as an individual’s conscience, reminding him or her, what the “real world” views as acceptable and moral and what it does not; the super-ego is at odds with id that potentially becomes ambitious. (Hjelle 1992)

According to Freud, the key to a healthy personality is a balance between the id, the ego, and the superego. If the ego is able to adequately moderate between the demands of reality, the id, and the superego, a healthy and well-adjusted personality emerges. Freud believed that an imbalance between these elements would lead to a maladaptive personality. An individual with an overly dominant id, for example, might become impulsive, uncontrollable, or even criminal. This individual acts upon his or her most basic urges with no concern for whether the behavior is appropriate, acceptable, or legal.

An overly dominant superego, on the other hand, might lead to a personality that is extremely moralistic and possibly judgmental. This person may be very unable to accept anything or anyone that he or she perceives as "bad" or "immoral." An excessively dominant ego can also result in problems. An individual with this type of personality might be so tied to reality, rules, and appropriateness that they are unable to engage in any type of spontaneous or unexpected behavior. This individual may seem very concrete and rigid, incapable of accepting change and lacking an internal sense of right from wrong. (Hjelle 1992)

Bahm stated that man's ambition involves some feeling of satisfaction and frustration. It is believed that an ambitious people will strive to achieve their desired goals. If their goal can be fulfilled, they will be satisfied. However, if they cannot reach their goal, they will be frustrated. Ambition itself is not a "good thing" or a "bad thing," but it is a human thing. Ultimately, it is up to individuals, whether through literature, politics, or daily life, to determine how they will use their

ambition. Actually having ambition is good, but if someone is too much obsessed by their ambition, the ambition can make them unable to control themselves, and it becomes very dangerous. They will be slave of their own ambition, and their way of thinking will be dominated by their ambition.

The theme of ambition has been so prevalent in literature. Whether in Greek mythology or a 20th-century novel such as Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, literature often highlights the consequences of ambition gone awry. The theme of ambition has been a popular theme in literature not only in literature, but also through religious and mythological texts. In the book of Genesis in the Old Testament, for example, ambition is given much attention. Maslow (2012)

*My Uncle's Dream* novel tells about the Russian society that at the time vying to seek wealth in various ways because at the time the rich is considered as the most respectable one, because in 19 century before the end of World War II the Russian society experienced economic crisis and poverty and division between countries in Europe. Since the industrial revolution in Europe in the 19th century which is considered to lead to "oppression/exploitation" for the workers. From inhospitable working hours, inexpensive wages, lack of job security standards, and extortion by landlords and moneylenders.

*My Uncle's Dream* is created by Fyodor Dostoevsky who is a famous Russian novelist who contributed to the wealth of 19th century literature. His work has been translated

into various languages and is still popularly read by the general public and studied in an academic environment.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky has a rare talent for capturing the depths of the human soul in both dark and happy times. Although the figure in his work is often a poor Russian of the 19th century, many of the issues he raised were relevant to the readers of all cultures and classes. Fyodor Dostoyevsky lived most of his life in poverty. He was born in Moscow Hospital for the Poor, where his father worked as a doctor.

Regarding to explanation above this thesis is going to discuss about the character of Marya Alexandrovna as the major character in the novel has ambition to become the most respectable one, she uses various ways to become a rich person, even match her daughter with a weak old man but has a lot of treasure.

The writer interests to analyze this novel because this novel shows Dostoevsky's expertise in lifting the psychological aspects of the life of Russian society at that time. Ambition is something interesting to be discussed because every person must have ambition in their life to get higher level, and they will make efforts so that their ambitions could be achieved.

## **1.2 Research Question**

With the regard to the background of the study, research question is “How is ambition of Marya Alexandrovna as reflected in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s *My Uncle’s Dream?*”

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Related to the problem of the study above, the writer decides the purpose of the study is “To know Marya’s ambition as reflected in Fyodor Dostoyevsky’s *My Uncle’s Dream.*”

### **1.4 Uses of the Study**

#### **1.4.1 Theoretically**

Theoretically this study applies the theory of Freud (1920) in *My Uncle’s Dream* novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky is expected to give a better comprehension to other writers in another research with the same theme, theory or object of studying literary works and is expected that in the future it can be one of the source of references in studying and analyzing literary works.

#### **1.4.2 Practically**

Hopefully, from this study is useful for the students. From this study, the students are expected to learn about human beings, their lives, problems, and also they can understand about literary work from different sides especially from the psychological aspects. This study is also expected to give an important contribution for the students who are interested in doing similar research field.

### **1.5 Scope of Study**

In collecting the data of this study, the writer limits the study focusing on the character represented in *My uncle's dream* novel by Fyodor Dostoevsky. To answer statement of the problem stated above, the writer focuses on the analysis of ambition of Marya in *My uncle's dream* novel based on psychoanalytic theory by Freud (1920) and psychological approach.