

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work is regarded as an expression of society, which means that it is not entirely the product of the author's imagination but may be influenced by real-world events occurring in a particular society (Wellek & Warren, 1949). Literature, as one of the major media, should have a value, which include moral value, so that a literary work not only entertains but also aims to teach the audience (Mahendra and Amelia, 2020). People can express their emotions and convey their message through words (Cenita & Nurmaily, 2020). This study was developed by understanding the inspirational story of a teenager from Malawi. This boy transforms his village by building an electric windmill out of the trash and this story has been published as a memoir entitled *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*. The boy is named William Kamkwamba with his extraordinary achievements. He was expelled from school at the age of 14 because his family could no longer afford the \$80 school fees. Without feeling discouraged, William moves to have innovation and learn new things (Sheerin, 2009). When William returned home to help his father plant tobacco, all seemed to be over. But this is not another story about Africa's potential thwarted by poverty. William dreams of getting electricity and water flowing to his village as the need for action was even greater in 2002 after the worst drought in Malawi, which killed thousands of people and left their families on the verge of starvation. Being expelled from school did not discourage him, because William was

very interested in using the library to find new things. His interest in science arose after William saw an old science book and saw a picture of a windmill. *“I was very intrigued when I saw windmills can make the electricity and pump water, I think they can be a defense against hunger. Maybe I should make one for myself”* (Sheerin, 2009).

Many thought that what William was doing at that time was crazy because they had never seen a windmill before, at the age of 22 William knocked on a windmill that he made from spare bicycle parts, tractor fan blades, old shock absorbers, old blades, and plastic pipe taken from the trash for the first time. William Kamkwamba's story was sent through the blogosphere when a reporter from the Daily Times newspaper in Blantyre wrote an article about William in November 2006 (Sheerin, 2009). As his renewable energy project became widely known, William was finally invited in mid-2007 to the prestigious Entertainment Technology Design conference in Arusha, Tanzania.

The life of William gives the inspiration for William to make a memoir based on his life. The memoir *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* tells the story of William Kamkwamba who was born in Malawi, and some of Africa's problems are caused by anthropogenic impacts on the environment characteristic of Africa and have a major impact on people and around all endemic life forms. Issues include cases such as deforestation, poor governance, corruption, population growth, low levels of education, hunger, climate change, and water shortages (Med, 2013). William's ambition is to make an innovation that brings a change in his city by harnessing the wind. From William's inspiring story, William decided to write a memoir. Ten years

after the release of the memoir *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind*, the film is finally released by the streaming platform Netflix in 2019.

The memoir *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* invited the attention when published. The memoir is based on the life of William Kamkwamba has invited some comments and critics. *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* memoir was written by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. (Sarah, 2009) in her review towards the memoir stated “*This is one of the most inspiring memoirs I’ve ever read, William ingenuity, thirst for knowledge, perseverance and strenght of character are truly inspiring*”. In addition, (Bk, 2020) also give her review that this story is full of motivating messages “*it’s about will and hope*”. In the other hand, (Grierson, 2019) stated that “*the role of parents is very influential in changing the lives of children*” in this memoir.

The point of view in *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* is told through the first-person point of view. This memoir tells how William's persistence in developing his innovations despite the limitations that existed at that time such as hunger, education problems, drought, and others. Culture is the complex whole that man has developed as a member of society, and it reflects the actions and preferences of the societies in which it exists (Efrilia & Setiawan, 2020). The action presented in this memoir is an interaction between opinions, ideas, and attitudes that are interconnected so that it can make a very interesting plot to read. The social conditions described by the community during the drought are shown in famine, nepotism, and the difficulty of accessing education. The setting shows some of the social conditions and persistence

of the main character, William. The various limitations that existed at that time did not make William despair of his dream. William, the author of the memoir wrote the story of William Kamkawamba as a subtle critique of the government system in that era and as a medium to show that where there is a great will there is a way. Amazingly, William conveys the message with his simple writing style but can be understood easily.

It can be said that sociology of literature is the study of the relationship between literature and society in general. This memoir has truly described William Kakwamba's life as a part of society. Due to literary work is regarded as an expression of society, its content serves as a recorder of human lives (Efrilia & Setiawan, 2020). Every writer is a member of society and it is very possible to learn things around him, including himself as a social being. This biography is the basic source, and can be extended to various aspects. This can encourage attention on the research what William Kakwamba purpose is in writing his story. What is expressed inside is much influenced by the author world view, his vision to perceive the world and reality (Samanik, 2020). It can also find out the writer reasons on delineating William Kakwamba's life through memoir. The social content of the memoir can be as a reflection of social reality in other words social content also retells the reality that occurs in society. Thus, this study has been chosen to delineate the influence of society to the literary works. In certain extent, the memoir can give the social impact on the audience who enjoys the literary work. Finally, this study focuses on delineating William Kakwamba's view on *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* using Lucien Goldman's genetic structuralism theory.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study which has been written by the writer above, the writer gives the research question for the problem into:

- What is the structure of *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* (2010) memoir?
- How does William Kamkwamba view on *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* (2010) memoir in education issue and how is the story in the memoir related with his social-historical background?

1.3 Research Objective

The aims of this study are:

- To analyze the structure of *The Boys Who Harness The Wind* (2010) memoir
- To identify the relation between the structures of *The Boys Who Harness The Wind* (2010) memoir and the social-historical background of the writer.

1.4 Use of Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

This study is hoped to explain application theories of Goldman's genetic structuralism. *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* memoir. This research will explain social historical background of William Kamkwamba and also his view towards the memoir. The information written in this study can be used by further researchers to analyze memoir or the same topic.

1.4.2 Practical Use

This study is intended to give more information about William Kamkwamba's historical background. It is hoped the historical background of William Kamkwamba could give the social impact for the audience who enjoys the literary work.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To avoid broader discussion on the studies, the writers will limit the analysis. This study only focuses on William Kwakamba's view on *The Boy Who Harnessed The Wind* memoir. This study will apply sociological approach by using Lucien Goldman's genetic structuralism theory. The issues that can be investigated are how the author view about the government, education, famine, and his struggling when he built the windmill. This was seen towards the interaction of the main character and the other characters.