

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Research Background

Literature is part of human life in society. It is usually a term used to describe written and spoken material, and literature was born as a reflection of many aspects of life. Walek and Waren (1956) state that literature mirrors and expresses life that is even more ambiguous. Someone who works in literature represents their work and ideas on literary work. (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b), (Lennon, 2008), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021) defines literary work as a tool to convey the author's feeling. Literary works emerge from something that happens in society or someone. Hence, the definition of literary works also may vary. It has its own meaning based on different literature experts.

There are various literary works, including poems, painting, photography, film, and novel. Since there are so many kinds of it, this paper will only focus on a novel, which is a novel written by one of the greatest African- American woman writers, Toni Morrison. Her work focuses on the event that happened to African Americans in the past life, and it represents by some of her remarkable novels, such as *Beloved*, *Tar baby*, and her first published novel, *The Bluest Eye*, which will be discussed in this paper. The writer's ideas regarding the author's perception of the world and reality affect the work he expresses (Samanik, 2018). Morrison, in her works, is usually concerned with a life of a female African-American, and

she makes sure that the white gaze does not dominate her results to significantly differentiate her from other modern writers. As the author of *The Bluest eye* novel, she delivers the ideas of her story from her own society's condition to build an emotional connection between the reader and the story itself. The reader is supposed to feel more connected with the main characters of the story (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Mertania & Amelia, 2020).

The issues of the story in the novel *The Blue's Eyes* are mostly reflected in real life, where racism and discrimination vividly occurred in society. The racial themes prove that literature usually brings up an issue related to our lives. Literature itself is a combination of culture, value, and intellectual experience. Alfiadita and Samanik (2018) stated that each literary work has its own uniqueness in portraying a specific society's phenomena. Literature became a product that can be analyzed from many fields and perspectives with certain elements.

Every literature work has intrinsic and extrinsic elements to support the story. Extrinsic elements come from outside of the story. It relates to social and psychological in society that can influence the story itself and its characters. The relation between those things makes many researchers try to analyze all the issues that have an impact or even influence human life by looking at society, politics, or even psychology (Fithratullah, 2021)

Morrison, in her works, usually shows that an event and connection between one character and others affect other characters' physical and psychological life

conditions. According to Kiranamita & Samanik (2020), Psychology has a strong relationship with literature. This relation is shown in the novel *The Bluest Eye*, as we can see in the children character's personalities that have their unique traits.

Personality comes from the word "Personal." In a dictionary, the meaning of personal is human as an individual. Personality itself has various definitions by theorists. Allport defines *personality* as the dynamic organization in every individual with physical systems that determine his characteristic behavior and thought (1976).

Meanwhile, (Weinberg & Gould, 1999) describes personality as something that attaches to a person. Its basic personality is about patterns of someone feeling, thoughts, and behavior. (Schultz & Schultz, 2017) state that personality is one of your most important assets. Based on that statements, the writer can assume personality is something that describes an individual. It determines an individual's behavior and how an individual thinks, which also differentiates them from another person.

Throughout life, personality can develop and change; many factors can support shaping children's characters, such as genetics, culture, and some events that children experience in their growing up process. Personality is not only affected by many things but also influences many things for the individual, including actions and reactions to certain situations. Not only is it shown in habitual behavior, but personality also can be seen in the pattern of emotion and thought.

For children, parents are one of the fundamental factors in molding and shaping their personalities. One study states that children learn about how people think and

feel from directly observing; asking questions; and conversing about people's mental states with trusted informants, such as parents (Bartsch and Wellman, 1995; Dunn, 2002; Thompson et al., 2003). The parental role matters to support healthy growth and children's personality because how parents interact with the child, raise and discipline them will influence the rest of children's lives.

The way parents raise their children is also known as a parenting style. Each parent has their own style in raising their children. Even some of the parents apply multiple parenting styles to their children. Children's personalities are more or less a reflection of their parent treatment to them, which can appear in attitude, thought, and behavior in children's daily life. A study has been done by Oktafiany, Solihatin, and Japar (2013) and shows that "there is a correlation between parenting pattern and children's emotional intelligence".

Nowadays, many studies, workshop and events bring up parenting styles as their main topic of discussion, since it plays an important role in children growing up process. Parents become children's first learning area and also the first circle of protection. The role of parents in their children is not only in the biological, but the ways children interact and how they see the world around them can shape children's personalities and affect how successful they will be later in life.

Parenting style is one of the fundamental aspects of children's psychological development. But some parents still do not understand and present appropriate parenting style to their children, which lead to psychological problems for the

children. It is necessary for the readers to comprehend parenting styles and their effect on the children and makes parents more aware of their roles in nurturing their children to provide the best result of parenting style and avoid the negative impact of parenting style itself.

Nevertheless, this study explicitly analyzes children's characters in *The Bluest Eye*, namely Pecola Breedlove and Claudia MacTeer. *The Bluest Eye* novel tells us about the life of Pecola Breedlove as an African America girl that living with a lack of affection from her parents. She is also experiencing discrimination and harassment from her surroundings. Even Pecola should live with the MacTeer family after her father burnt their house down. She spent her time mostly with the MacTeers family members, especially their daughter, Claudia, and Frieda.

In the novel, the Breedlove shows a lack of family connection toward each other members. While the MacTeer family is described as a warm family compared to the Breedlove family, they also have better interaction and communication between their family member. Each family lives in Lorain and belongs to the same black community.

The different treatment that Pecola and Claudia received from their parents resulted in different personalities for each child. The writer finds that parenting styles are essential and interesting to discuss because they can relate significantly to our real life. Parents as caregivers fundamentally influence the children and take part in their everyday experiences of the children.

Many things have changed these years, and parenting has become more challenging and demanding. Parents should be able to find the best parenting style for their children to provide the best outcome for them. This study aims to reveal parenting styles and their influence on the children's personalities, Pecola Breedlove and Claudia MacTeer, as portrayed in the novel *The Bluest Eye*.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background above, to limit the novel's discussion, the writer specific the question into the formulation:

1. What kind of parenting styles that applied by Breedlove family and MacTeer family?
2. How does parenting style influence children's personality represented in Pecola Breedlove and Claudia McTeer characters in *The Bluest Eye* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

1. To know the parenting style types that appears in *The Bluest Eye* novel
2. To Understand how parenting style affect to children's personality as described in *The Bluest Eye* novel.

1.4 Use of the Study

This study will be important for society and research in the future. Thus, the use of the study in this research will be divided into two parts, as stated below.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

The study can explain and describe about children's personalities towards parenting style relation, which is reflected in *The Blues Eye* novel. Further researchers can use the information written in this study to analyze novels or movies on the same topic

1.4.2 Practical Use

This study is intended to give more information about children's personalities. It is hoped the information can give new insight into how parenting styles can affected and shaped children's personality.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To avoid broader discussion on the studies, the writer needs to limit the analysis. This study's focus on children's personalities reflected in *The Bluest Eye* novel. To analyze how parenting style impact to children's personality, the writer applies Personality and Parenting Styles theories. These theories are also applied to find out types of parenting styles in *The Bluest Eye* novel

