

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Without exception, everyone must have a problem in life that occasionally makes them feel burdened and stressed. Stress, anxiety and depression affect mental health and a person's life. Because of the various problems in life and painful memories in the past which cannot be dealt with, this mightily can become a mental illness. Mental illness is a syndrome (American Psychiatric Association, 2013) that represents a dysfunction in the way underlying mental functioning. This condition imperils to the person in the form of disruption in psychological functioning, including people's behavior, emotion, or cognition that reflects biological dysfunction, development or psychological.

Nowadays, the issue of psychology appears in literary work such as novels. A novel is one of literary work becomes an object to be analyzed the topic or issue inside literary work (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021). Psychology is also influenced by literary works since it studies human thought and behavior. In literary works, the author usually discusses social issue, biographical, mental interference, etc. However, among psychological problems, mental illnesses are one of the global problem phenomena that occur around us to be discussed. One of the phenomena of the mental issues is hallucination as described in the *Freaks Like Us* novel by Susan Vaught. The novel tells about the main character who suffers mental illness, hallucination.

Hallucination is a common symptom of mental illness or mental disorder which is

usually associated with psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia. (Veague 2017:19) stated in his book entitled *Psychological Disorder: Schizophrenia*, hallucination is a misperception that cannot distinguish between real and unreal, such as can be heard, sight, felt, smelled, or tasted things that are not there but perceived as being absolutely real for the sufferer. Hallucinations might be viewed as incomprehensible experiences that the sufferer describes or interprets. The hallucinatory phenomenon is often a cause of distress and leads to difficulty in performing the task with the obvious disruption in the behavior.

Hallucination occurred in five human sensory such as hear, see, sense, smell and taste. However, among types of hallucinations. Hearing things are the more common type (Sartorius, Shapiro, & Jablensky, 1974). Auditory hallucinations are often associated with significant distress and disability. It is sometimes characterized by negative content such (eg. Abusive, persecutory, derogatory, threatening, etc). The content of voices often makes derogatory comments about the sufferer or command the sufferer to do something.

The novel that the writer wants to analyze is *Freaks Like Us* novel written by Susan Vaught. This novel is a psychology mystery genre published by Bloomsbury USA Children on September 24, 2012 with a total of 250 pages. The novel is written from Jason Milwaukee's point of view, namely the main character in the novel. Jason Milwaukee is a seventeen-year-old boy suffers hallucination. Due to his illness, he calls himself "freak" reclaiming one of the derogatory words that people used towards him. The voice of 'freak' always comes to his mind like threatening, cursing, criticizing, and even consoling him in short sentences or abrupt words. The

voices in his head constantly echo that name along with other nicknames and visions. Jason Milwaukee is Schizophrenic (SCZI). He goes to a (Severe Emotional Disturbance) SED class with his friends named Derrick or Drip and Sunshine. Drip has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and a girl named Sunshine is Selectively Mute (SM). Three of them suffer those mental illnesses. Jason, Derrick, and Sunshine called their illness as 'alphabet' (SCZI, ADHD, SM).

SCZI stands for Schizophrenia is a mental disorder in which psychotic and mood disorder symptoms are present such as delusion, hallucination and disorganized speech. A delusion is false belief that cannot be explained by one's culture or social environment. Whereas, hallucination is misperception of object or event that are not real and disorganized speech is someone whose speech is disorganized is frequently impossible to understand. Disorganized behaviour has difficulty goal-oriented behavior, and negative symptom. This condition in which people is inability to enjoy activities or to pleasure out of life (Veague, 2007). Meanwhile, ADHD stands for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder is a mental disorder characterized by impulsive and hyperactive behavior (Barbara, T. et al., 2014). And SM stands for selective mute is anxiety disorder characterized by having difficulty to speak in certain social situation such as with classmates or teachers in school (Heidi O, 2008). The reason why Susan Vaught named the book '*Freaks Like Us*'. Because the book tells about those kids' disabilities. However, this study will focus only on the hallucination of the main character which is Jason Milwaukee.

The story begins with Jason for the first time he heard strange voices in his mind and saw something that did not even make sense like seeing a tree walking, talking

to each other, a falling face, and so on. The voices called Jason 'Freak' which he got from the bullies. Jason had been bullied for almost ten years during elementary school and now he is in senior high school. Plus his parents got divorced when he was kid. At that time he had to chose whether with his mother or father he would live, and he chose his father to live with. From this case, Jason got a little attention and affection of his parents. Then, Jason feels anxious about a lot of stuff that interfere his daily life. He begins to feel something strange inside him where he could not distinguish between real and unreal. When Jason's friend goes missing named Sunshine, Jason's hallucination is getting worse. At that moment, Jason was the last person with Sunshine. Thus, he becomes a suspect of Sunshine vanished. However, Jason cannot distinguish what moments are real or moments made by Jason's hallucination. During the search for Sunshine, Jason was still being bullied by other friends. His friends Roland and Linden humiliated him and kicked the snot out of him.

Jason never reported the bullying that happened to him and he was depressed because he thought if he reported it Jason would be killed. Jason's anxiety is that everyone in his school will kill Jason except for his two best friends. While searching Sunshine vanished, Jason could not express his asynchronous thoughts to reveal what he knew about Sunshines. Jason is much more than mentally unstable as Vaught hooks his illness into action, and the reader enters his muddled mind.

From that explanation above, this paper will analyze the hallucinations of Jason Milwaukee and the symptoms of hallucination on the main character. This paper will see a psychological aspect of hallucination as portrayed on the main character

using the psychological approach and Garralda's theory of hallucination to find out the symptoms of hallucination and Veague's theory to find out the types of hallucination on the main character.

The reason why choosing *Freaks Like Us* novel by Susan Vaught to be analyzed is that since nowadays many bullying cases happen to children and adolescents where it does not only affect them physically but also mentally. Fear, anxiety, and the trauma obtained can cause many various types of mental disorders such as hallucinations (Lysaker, P. H., & Salyers, M. P., 2007). . The writer wants to exploit further related to the hallucination disorder by knowing the symptoms of hallucination as described in the novel. By doing this research hopefully people will aware of psychological issues, especially in children and adolescents who experienced bullying and got several symptoms of hallucinations described in this study should get medical treatment as soon as possible.

## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulated the research questions:

1. What are the symptoms of hallucination on the main character in *Freaks Like Us* Novel?
2. What are the types of hallucination on the main character in *Freaks Like Us* Novel?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

In answering the research questions, the writer put on the research objectives:

1. To analyze the symptoms of hallucination on the main character in *Freaks Like Us* Novel.
2. To find out the types of hallucination on the main character in *Freaks Like Us* Novel.

### **1.4 Use of the Study**

Hopefully, the used of study will be useful for better understanding to psychological problem of hallucinations, especially in both society and future researchers. Hence, the use of the study of this study is divided into two aspects, as stated following;

#### **1.4.1 Theoretically Use**

Theoretically, the theory used in this research can be applied by other future researchers to conduct a deeper analysis concerning the psychological aspect of hallucinations with the same theory. The theory also can be used by future researchers to analyze someone's hallucination and the symptoms of hallucinations in other literary works.

#### **1.4.2 Practically Use**

Practically, this research provides insight and deeper knowledge to the public about the information of the hallucination and the symptoms of hallucination. The information was written in this study can be used by further researchers who need information about how the contents of the novel according to the psychological

approach and how to apply the theory to their relevant research.

### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

In this thesis, the limitation will be made. So, that make the analysis focused on the topic of discussion. The analysis is focused on the types and the symptoms of hallucination portrayed on the main character in the novel *Freaks Like Us* by Susan Vaught. This paper looks at the main character of Jason Milwaukee in the *Freaks Like Us* novel by Susan Vaught. The main character will be analyzed through a psychological approach, Garralda's theory of hallucination to find the symptoms of hallucination and Veague's theory of hallucination to find the types of hallucination. The writer also chooses *Freaks Like Us* novel because it has an interesting genre, the mystery of the disappearance of Jason's friend leads his hallucination more chaos in his thought.