

A STUDY ON SHEILA'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CONFLICTS AN AUTISM CHILD IN TOREY HAYDEN'S NOVEL "ONE CHILD"

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Literature is a kind of art that offers pleasure and illumination. It is created not only to express our feelings, thoughts of imagination but every detail of our life story and experience can also be written on it widely. By learning literature we will have wider insight of our real life because it is a mirror of all aspects of real life and nature.

This study is intended to answer the statement of problems, that is: (1) what are the psychological conflicts faced by Sheila, an autism child, in "One Child" novel written by Torey Hayden?; (2) what are the causes of Sheila's psychological conflicts in Torey Hayden's novel "One Child"?; (3) what are the effects of Sheila's psychological conflicts on her life?

The research design used in this study was the descriptive qualitative research design because it is related with an analytic description. The design of the study was elaborated into some steps, they are: collecting the data, analyzing the data, and drawing a conclusion.

Based on the result of the data analysis, it was found that there were two psychological conflicts faced by the main character, Sheila, they are: feeling guilty and confusion. She felt guilty when she was abandoned by her mother. She blamed herself as the cause of her mother left her behind. Confusion happened when Sheila was to decide to stay in the special class or to join in the regular class which means that she had to separate from Torey Hayden. In the other hand, joining in the regular class was her dream. Furthermore, the research findings show that there were some causes of Sheila's psychological conflicts. First, Sheila was a girl who always made troubles due to her mental disorder. Secondly, she did not want to separate from Torey Hayden because she loved her so much. However, Sheila had to obey the rule of the school. Finally, there were some effects of Sheila's psychological conflicts. First, Sheila became a little girl who was afraid of failure, of disappointing someone, or even of making a little mistake. Second, she became destructive to express her anger. Besides, Sheila became upset to separate from Hayden.