

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

According to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) in [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org), Bipolar disorder is a chronic mental illness that causes extreme shifts in a person's mood, energy and ability to think clearly. People with bipolar disorder have two moods commonly known as mania and depression moods, which is different from the typical ups and downs most people experience. A bipolar disorder is rarely seen in the society but the truth is there are a lot of people, mostly teenager suffered bipolar disorder and goes unnoticed. This is because society does not treat mental illness as an actual illness, even though the effect is the same as physical illness. If it goes untreated, the person who suffered often end up dies. In the book, Finch as a sufferer of bipolar disorder does not get the help he needed from the people around him; instead the people at his school bullied him and called him freak. This made him think that he is really a worthless freak and led him into taking his own life. Same case can be seen in one of Indonesian famous figures, she is an actress that suffered bipolar disorder. The fact that she's famous doesn't help her get the help she needed, instead there are more people to judge her. This creates a pressure on her and finally she breaks down by making a video that dissed everyone and posted it online. This is an act of crying for help still not accepted by the society. Society sees this as an overreacting reaction. Fortunately, in the end she got the help she needed and she does not end up taking her own life like Finch.

*All the Bright Places* is a young adult fiction novel released in 2015 and written by Jennifer Niven. Even though, *All the Bright Places* is new, it has attracted many attentions in the worlds of critics and readers. It is because the unique way to

deliver the story and the characters in the book is relatable to human life. The main theme of the book is mental illness and the characters in the book are struggling to deal with mental illness and a posttraumatic event. Because it is a new literary work, *All the Bright Places* have not won a lot of awards yet, but *All the Bright Places* has won some, which are Goodreads Choice Awards; Best Young Adult Fiction and New York Times Best Seller.

In Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*, Finch is described as a boy that is fascinated by death, he planned his death every day and think, "is this a good day to die?" But every time he tried to take his own life, something stopped him, even how little this something is. He met with Violet, the girl who lost her sister in a car accident in a snowy night and she lost all her will to live. She refuses to drive or simply sit in a car and used to be a writer but she stops writing as if her words died with her sister. The story began when Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the school bell tower, both are considering to jump, but never did. After that faithful meeting, Finch started to take interest in Violet. He wondered why a girl like Violet was on the ledge of the school bell tower and how did her even get up there. They became closer after Finch volunteered himself to be in the same as Violet in the geography project assignment which soon they called Wandering. Finch made it his life mission to encourage Violet to start living her life again, to start driving and writing again but as Violet's world grows, Finch's world began to shrink and finally he took his own life.

This thesis discusses those who is suffered Bipolar like the main character in the book. According to NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Bipolar disorder is not the same as the normal ups and downs every person goes through. Bipolar disorder symptoms are more powerful than that. The mood swings are more extreme and usually cause side effects such as by changes in sleep pattern, energy level, the ability to think clearly and emotion level. Bipolar disorder symptoms are so

strong, it could make a child having difficulties to do well in school or get along with friends and family members. The illness not only has a strong impact, it can also be dangerous for the sufferer. Some young people with bipolar disorder often try to hurt themselves or attempt suicides, and many of them, even succeed to take their own life. People with bipolar disorder should get treatment as fast as possible. With help, they could the symptom so it does not advance any further and cause bigger problem.

The reason why the researcher chooses this story as an object in research literature is to help society understand more about bipolar disorder and other mental condition. As said earlier, mental illness is often untreated because society thinks it is not a real illness. It is real and it is as painful and dangerous as physical illness. The treatment is for the people around him/her to support his/her bipolar condition so the victim of bipolar disorder is not suffered. The researcher hopes by writing this research, it can help the society to understand more about mental illness and those who suffered. The researcher is also wanted to point out a neglect of a child, abusing a child and bullied other people can cause one person to develop a mental illness and might drive them into desperate action of cry for help. The other point never failed to see those around us; someone might need help but never said anything.

Based on explanation above, the researcher decided to discuss about bipolar disorder that is suffered by Theodore Finch. So, Theodore Finch's Bipolar in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places* is the topic of thesis.

## **1.2 Statement of Problems**

- 1 What is the general description of Theodore Finch as the main character in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*?

- 2 What are the conflicts experienced by Theodore Finch in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*?
- 3 What is the setting used to describe the condition and situation of the story experienced by Theodore Finch in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*?
- 4 What is the description of Theodore Finch's bipolar described in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*?

#### **4.1 Scope of Study**

The researcher focuses on Theodore Finch as general description of the main character, conflict experience by him and describes Theodore Finch's bipolar describe in the book *All the Bright Places*. The researcher is also use psychological approach to analyze the mental illness that is suffered by Theodore Finch.

#### **4.2 Objective of Study**

From the statements of the problems above, the objective of the study can be derived as follows:

1. To describe the general description of Theodore Finch as the main character.
2. To explain the conflict experienced by Theodore Finch as the main character.
3. To describe the setting in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*.
4. To describe Theodore Finch's bipolar in Jennifer Niven's *All the Bright Places*.

#### **4.3 Significance of Study**

- a) For the researcher

The researcher finds out of how Theodore Finch's general description revealed in line

- b) For the reader

It gives knowledge about the character, conflict, and setting related to psychological aspect.

c) For the university

To be additional reference in the library especially *Self Access Center* in Faculty of Humanity of Dian Nuswantoro University.

## **2.6 Thesis Organization**

This thesis is organized into five chapters. They are introduction, review of related the literature, method, analysis, and summary.

In the first chapter, it is the Introduction. It consists of background, statements of problems, scope of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and thesis organization.

In the second chapter, it is the Review of Related Literature. In this chapter, the researcher presents previous research and the theory of structural approach which consists of character, conflict, and setting. Also, the theory of psychology approach especially bipolar disorder.

In the third chapter, it belongs to the Research Method. It consists of research design, source of data, unit of analysis, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

In the fourth chapter, it is the Discussion. The researcher discussed the data found and explanation it as well. By using the structural and psychology approach, so the researcher presents the analysis of plot, character, conflict, setting, and bipolar disorder, which are queried in the statements of problems above.

In the last chapter, the fifth chapter, are the Conclusion And Suggestion. It consists of the summary of the discussion and suggestion.