

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

An important characteristic of the human mind lies in its tendency to spontaneously produce thoughts when some of its resources are left idle. For example, when engaging in tedious or excessive activities, relatively often thoughts drift away from current tasks and wander towards memories, future plans, personal problems and other thoughts whose contents are not a direct reflection of the immediate stimulus environment. The core characteristic of such thoughts, generally labeled as mind wandering (Smallwood, 2009; Smallwood & Schooler, 2006) or daydream (Klinger, 1990; Singer, 1975), is that the content is both separated from the stimuli present in the current environment and not related to the activities carried out at the time of the occurrence.

Mind wandering has been defined as a shift of attention from the main task to internal information (Smallwood and Schooler, 2006: 946). It often occurs without intention and may even occur without explicit awareness, making it a special challenge to be observed and measured. People can continue to move their eyes across pages of text without openly paying attention to the viewed stimuli (Smallwood, 2011).

This problem is also illustrated in the novel entitled *A Gift to Remember*. The main character, Darcy Archer, has a habit of mind-wandering. This habit sometimes leads to unavoidable events. In the story Darcy crashed into a man known to be named Aidan Harris when she was cycling on the streets of New York while mind wandering about past events at the bookstore where she worked. This accident made Aidan Harris lose his memory. He doesn't remember his identity, his friends, and all the things he had done before. Darcy tried to help him by finding people who had connections with him. She did that to make up for her guilt because of her carelessness that she made others hurt. On her journey to meet people who have connections with him, Darcy always wonders what kind of life Aidan has.

This research focuses on how mind wandering habit portrayed in Darcy. The writer is interested in studying mind wandering, because the researcher wants to learn more and in order to have better understanding on this novel which is about mind wandering, the symptoms of mind wandering, and how it affects Darcy and her surroundings.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the problem statement is formulated in the following question:

1. What are the symptoms of mind wandering appear in the novel?
2. How does the mind wandering affect Darcy and her surrounding based on the symptoms?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement mentioned above, the researcher purposes are mainly to analyze the symptoms of mind wandering, and to find out how the mind wandering affect Darcy and her surrounding based on the symptoms that appear in the novel.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study will give more contribution to the study of literature especially related to the study of mind wandering and the writer also hopes that the readers can have an interest and learn about mind wandering.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this study the writer wants to focus the discussion only on the symptoms, and how mind wandering affects Darcy's life and her surrounding in *A Gift to Remember*.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This study is organized into 5 chapters. Chapter 1 is the introduction which consists of background of study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and organization of the study. Chapter 2 is review of relate literature which consist of the definition of mind wandering. Chapter 3 is research method which consists of literary approach, research design, data source, research instrument, data collect on procedure, and data analysis procedure. Chapter 4 is finding and discussion, which is a central part of research that discuss the problem found from the data source. Chapter 5 is a final chapter consists of a conclusion of the study which is the results of the discussion. After giving the comprehension on the discussion, the writer includes an appendix.

