

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Life is an endless struggle because it is a symbol for human being to achieve what he or she wants to. Besides, struggle is a natural phenomenon for human being that emerge from someone's life. Struggle is needed when we, as human being are threatened, hurt, or under pressured. Moreover, it is also an effort of human being to show about his or her existence toward the people around his or her life that as human he or she has the right to maintain his or her freedom.

Struggle in human life appears when someone faces problems. The problems can come and go unpredictably and it will make the life of the individual more various. The problem that appears toward his or her life can be caused whether by his family, environment, culture, or even from the individual himself. The problem that comes can influence the person who experiences it and solution is required to overcome because problem sometime can make someone frustrated, desperate or depressed. In this case the individual has to struggle to find out the way out. Through the struggle he or she can get spirit and an attempt to get his or her dreams, so he or she will get a better life in the future.

Someone needs to struggle to achieve what he or she wants but not all people can struggle to face their problems. They who can't struggle will surrender soon, but the strongest

will be survived. According to Webster Dictionary, survive in the act of surviving or continuing to exist, to live or last longer than out live” (Webster’s *New World Dictionary*. 1979:750). In surviving people usually will do everything like hiding, killing for food, and disguising. They disguise so they would not be seen by the other people or preys whether the goal is to hunt or escape.

The fact above also happens to Sam Gribley in Jean Craighead George’s *My Side of the Mountain*. Sam Gribley has desire to live at his Great-grandfather land at the Catskill Mountains, surviving and struggle in the wild, away from the life of the city because he feels in his real life in city is dull and boring. He hides out in the woods for an entire year, eating food he finds in the wilds, building his own shelter inside a tree, tanning the deerskin for his clothes, coping with snow and ice storms, and evading the curiosity of outsiders. The novel is a convincing story, complete with detailed instructions for a large variety of survival skills such as starting a fire without matches, making salt, boiling water in a leaf, and preserving food. Living and struggling in the wild brings a lot of problems to him. Those problems make his life more meaningful. It shows the truth in himself, although he has to struggle for it. Before living in the wilderness, Sam has so many plans to do but sometimes some of them do not work and his struggle becomes harder because life is unpredictable and full of struggle.

In this thesis, the writer would explain why Sam Gribley wants to live in the wild, moving from a city to the Catskill Mountains, and how he struggles to face problems he has while living in the wilderness. The writer is interested in conducting the study because Sam Gribley’s struggle to survive is the main idea of this novel. This story inspires the writer to analyze the novel written because it features a boy who learns about courage, independence, and the need for companionship while attempting to live in a forested area of New York State. In

1960, it was one of three Newbery Medal Honor Books (runners-up)^[2] and in 1969 it was loosely adapted as a film of the same name.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study above, the thesis writer is interested in the Sam Gribley's struggle to survive in the novel *My Side of the Mountain*. The thesis writer formulates the statements of the problem as follows:

1. What is Sam Gribley's motive to survive in the wilderness?
2. How does Sam Gribley's struggle to survive?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem statement mentioned above the thesis writer purpose of this study is mainly to find out Sam Gribley's motive to survive in the wilderness and Sam Gribley's to struggle to survive.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study would give more contribution to the study of literature especially related to the study of struggle to survive and the writer hopes that the result of this study is able to give contribution to the study of literature in the faculty of letters at the Universitas 17 Agustus 1945 Surabaya.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

There are several elements of literary works that can be analyzed in Jean Craighead George's *My Side of the Mountain*, but in this study the writer wants to focus the discussion only on the motive of Sam's struggle to survive in the wilderness , and he struggles to survive.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the introduction which consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and organization of the study.

The second chapter is review of related literature that consists to definition of struggle, survive, character, types of character, and setting. The third chapter is research method. It describes research design, research instrument, data sources, data collection procedure, and data analysis procedure. Next the fourth chapter is analysis. Then the last chapter is about conclusion of the study.