

CHAPTER I

1.1 Background of Study

Characters in literary work have two meanings. They are character as people or doer in the story and people's trait in the story. Characters as people can be defined by their physical appearances such as their body, skin color, hair, weight, high. On the other hand, character as people's trait means people's quality, peoples' mental that can be seen from their behavior to respond everything in life.

There are many kinds of characters or traits owned by people. People's character can be good or positive, such as kind, patient, friendly, generous, helpful, attentive, polite, gentle, faithful, obedient, touchy, etc. On bad or negative character such as jealous, envious, resentful, emotional, grumpy, sensitive, cruel, wicked, rude, naughty, selfish, arrogant, impatient, slippery, miserly, unfaithful, etc.

Someone may have more positive characters than negative ones, while someone else may have more negative ones. Someone's character can change from bad to good or the other way around from good to bad. The character change from bad to good is also called character development. The change of character or development can be caused by some factors, such as the lost of job or the lost of the loved one, or the lost of position in the work, sickness, etc.

Character development also happens in William Sleator's *Fingers*, Sammy as the main character of the novel experiences character development. Sammy is

eighteen year old and his hobby is composing music. Sammy is able to make music composition by himself and understand chord or tone well since Sammy is still a child. His mother knows that Sammy is a talented boy that is given from God. Sammy's mother does not waste that opportunity, so Sammy's mother gives Sammy music education since Sammy's childhood. Sammy is not only has strength but he also has weakness in his life. Sammy's weakness is that Sammy is not able to play music. Sammy is unable to play music instrument at all. It is weird for Sammy because he can arrange a music but he is not able to play music instrument because Sammy's fingers are small. Sammy also has bad character that is being envious to his little brother called Humphrey. Humphrey is Sammy's younger brother. Humphrey is a talented boy and he is able to play piano. His talent can be caused by the fact that his father (Luc) is a musician, so everyday Humphrey can learn piano and learn piano from his father. When Humphrey is five years old, he is very famous and popular because he is an artist at the time, but unfortunately Humphrey's career is washed up when he reach fifteen years old.

Bridget as Sammy's and Humphrey's mother, wants to reach back Humphrey' career like in the past when Humphrey is five year old. At the time, Humphrey's career is brilliant and so shinning and he is a wonderful pianist kid. His career starts with a bang after he plays piano concert with Cleveland Symphony in *Teatro La Fenice* and in his second concert, Humphrey is a real kid artist because many people are interested in him. He is very popular and he could raise his family's finance because his popularity brings them collecting lot of

money from Humphrey's concert. Because of that Sammy is abandoned by his family and the problem of his family starts from it.

1.2 Problem Statement

Dealing with the mentioned background above, the thesis writer states the problems as follows:

1. What is Sammy's character before Humphrey's runaway?
2. How is the process of Sammy's character development?
3. What is Sammy's character after Humphrey's runaway?

1.3 Objective of the study

The objective of the study is to describe Sammy's character development before Humphrey's runaway, the process of Sammy's character development, and Sammy's character after Humphrey's runaway. These points will be analyzed one by one in the chapter three to answer the problem statements.

1.4 Significance of Study

In writing this thesis, the writer hopes that this study could help the readers especially the students of English Department in Faculty of Letters at the University of 17 Agustus 1945 to study and analyze a literary work. By analyzing Sammy's character development, the writer hopes that this thesis will help the readers to understand about character development. The thesis writer also hopes

that this thesis will give a lot of values to the readers by reading and understanding this thesis.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

There are many aspects that can be analyzed and found in this novel. The writer, however, limits the study on the main character in the novel, Sammy, especially his character development.

1.6 Research Method

In this thesis, descriptive qualitative research is used. Krathwohl states in *Methods of Education and Social Science Research: An Integrated Approach* that Qualitative research is a research that explains a phenomenon in word instead of number or measure (Krathwohl, 1993: 740). The source of the data used in this research is William Sleator's *Fingers*. The data are in form of quotations from the novel. Besides, the theory of character is also presented because the research uses intrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach is approach used to analyze a literary work based on the literary element such as plot, character, theme, point of view, setting etc (Abrams, 1979: 26). However, this study is focused on the character. Thus, the data collection analysis and theory should be related to each other (Corbin and Strauss, 1990: 23). All problems related to the topic in William Sleator's *Fingers* will be analyzed. All quotations that can be found will describe, illustrate, support, and strengthen the topic (Bogdan, 1982: 28)

The thesis writer will discuss and reveal the character's development in William Sleator's *Fingers*. The main character in this novel is Sammy. Sammy's

character will be analyzed to find what kind of character's development he gets, how the process of character's development is, and how the result of character's development is in order to prove that Sammy has character development.

1.7 Organization of the Study

This thesis is divided into four chapters. Chapter one is the introduction of the thesis and it contains background of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, significance of the study, limitation of study, research method, and organization of the study. Chapter two is review of related literature. It contains the definition of elements of literature such as plot, character, theme, setting, point of view. In chapter three the thesis writer explains about Sammy's character development and it is divided into three subchapters. The three subchapters are: Sammy's character before Humphrey's runaway, the process of Sammy's character development, and Sammy's character after Humphrey's runaway. Chapter four is conclusion of the study. Conclusion contains the summary of chapter three. The thesis is completed with an appendix consisting of the biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel.