



ABSTRACT

Andayani, Ratna. 2006. *A Study of Autism in Mark Haddon's The Curious Incident of The Dog in The Night-Time*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program. Department of Language and Arts Education. Faculty of Teachers Training and Education. Sanata Dharma University.

This study discussed the life of an autistic boy, Christopher, the main character in Mark Haddon's novel, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. This study aimed to understand the life of an autistic child. In order to achieve the aim, the study formulated three questions, namely: (1) how is Christopher described, (2) how does Christopher live in his world, and (3) what motivates Christopher to open himself to the world outside him although he is an autistic boy?

The approach used in this study is psychological approach. There are two sources used in this study. They are primary and secondary sources. In the primary source, the theory of character and characterization are used to analyze Christopher's description. The psychological and motivation theories are used to analyze the life and the motivation of Christopher to open himself to the world outside. The secondary sources are taken from some references and articles which are relevant and supportive to this study.

The result of the analysis shows that Christopher is autistic. The symptoms that he has show that he suffers from classic autism and asperger's syndrome. He does not like to be touched by anyone and he avoids communicating with people



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Studi ini membahas kehidupan seorang anak autis, Christopher, tokoh utama dalam novel karangan Mark Haddon yang berjudul *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Studi ini bertujuan untuk memahami kehidupan seorang anak autis. Cara dia dalam menghadapi dan menyelesaikan masalah yang ada di sekitarnya. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, studi ini menyatakan tiga pertanyaan, yaitu: (1) bagaimana karakter Christopher dideskripsikan, (2) bagaimana Christopher hidup di dunianya, dan (3) apa yang memotivasi dia untuk membuka dirinya terhadap dunia luar.

Pendekatan psikologi digunakan di studi ini. Ada dua sumber di studi ini, yaitu sumber primer dan sekunder. Di dalam sumber primer, teori karakter dan karakterisasi digunakan untuk menganalisa karakter Christopher. Teori psikologi dan motivasi juga digunakan untuk menganalisa kehidupan dan motivasi Christopher untuk membuka dirinya. Sumber sekunder diambil dari beberapa buku referensi dan artikel yang relevan dan mendukung studi ini.

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Christopher adalah seorang anak autis. Gejala yang dia miliki menunjukkan bahwa dia mengidap classic autism dan