CHAPTER III

RESEARCH OBJECT AND METHODS

3.1 Research Object

The object of this research is the social influence towards main character in two short stories. The sources of this research are two short stories, namely: *"Manhattan Dreaming"* by Anita Heiss, and *"You Can Change Your Life"* by Toni Jordan.

3.2 Synopsis

3.2.1 Synopsis of Manhattan Dreaming

Lauren is a curator at the NAG - the National Aboriginal Gallery in Canberra. She gets the offer from Emma as her boss to attend the fellowship in America. Emma explains that if Lauren takes the offer, she will get the advantages of the fellowship such as she will get the stronger position after she is back, she can make a network with the other international curators and American artist, and then her Curriculum Vitae (CV) will be looked sensational because the experience of the fellowship will be added into her CV. Although she has been given the explanation of the advantages from the offer, Lauren does not instantly take the offer. She decides to think first. There are few considerations for Lauren to take the offer.

First, she does not want to move to New York because it is so far away from the place that she lives. Second, she feels comfortable to live in Australia

because all of her friends live in Australia and she is not interested in moving to America because there is no one who Lauren knows. Third, Lauren does not want to make people be disappointed by her, without exception her ex-boyfriend, Adam.

Lauren gets some stimulus from her social environment like her family, her friends and Adam, even he does not indirectly give stimulus to Lauren but he has a huge effect for Lauren to consider about the offer.

In her family, Lauren gets the stimulus from her mother and her father. Basically, her mother agrees if her daughter, Lauren decides to take the offer. But, it differs from her father who disagrees if Lauren goes to America because he has view point that the criminalities usually happen there. Actually, her father does not give the big effect to Lauren because her father says that he does his job as a father to protect his child, but he also says to Lauren to do the best for herself.

Her friends, Libby and Denise also give Lauren stimulus. Libby uses the exciting places in America as the stimulus for Lauren. Denise just tries to open Lauren's mind to see that the offer is great chance for her carrier and personally. Also, both of Denise and Libby give the movies that set in New York in order that Lauren really sees that America is exciting place and she can have fun there. Finally, Lauren starts to decide that she would take the offer, but it is not completely, because there is her ex-boyfriend that she loved and she feels that Adam has to know about her decision to go to America also she wants to know the reaction from him.

When Lauren knows the reaction from Adam, she feels disappointed because Adam has no feeling to her again, then Lauren does not see his care to her. Lauren realizes that she is being so stupid to make Adam as the main reason for her to consider the offer.

3.2.2 Synopsis of You Can Change Your Life

This short story tells about a woman named Kylie as the main character in the story who attends in the self-help seminars. Actually, it is first time for her to attend the seminar. Kylie gets the stimulus from Ralph who is the person who sits next to her, the guru, and her brother, Allan has sent her to attend the seminar.

Basically, they want to persuade Kylie to change her life only in one weekend. But, Kylie does not want to change her life because she is the one who knows her life, not anybody, even her brother.

Kylie decides to escape from the seminar, but she has been caught by the guru. The guru stimulates her to stay in the seminar, and the guru explains that Kylie is in the right place, and the people in the seminar are supporting her to stay. For a moment, Kylie feels like being hypnotized by the guru and she cannot do anything, except, following what the guru says that she has to stay in the seminar. It is because she is a minority in the seminar. Suddenly, there is a man, Jarrod, who claims as Kylie's boyfriend.

The role of Jarrod is actually supporting Kylie to get out of this seminar. Jarrod becomes stimulus for Kylie, and then Kylie is more confidence to escape

from the seminar because she has a man who supports her. The guru has been disappointed by both of them; he is disappointed because when people need his help to solve the problem, on the other hand, Kylie and Jarrod regard it is like a big joke. Finally, Kylie and Jarrod are success to get out of the seminar.

3.3 Research Method

In this research, the writer uses the qualitative method. Kutha Ratna (2004: 46) states that qualitative research provided in descriptive form. Based on the qualitative in the literature, the data sources are two short stories. The writer uses two short stories as the data source.

In addition, the writer uses the descriptive method as guidance to analyze data. According to Kuta Ratna, descriptive method is "*Metode deskriptif analitik dilakukan dengan cara mendeskripsikan fakta-fakta yang kemudian disusul dengan analisis"*. (Kutha Ratna, 2004: 53). The descriptive analytic method is used to find out the fact of data that has correlation with the object of this research in order to gain the correct analysis.

3.3.1 Method of Collecting Data

Collecting data is necessarily done to conduct a research. The aim of the data collection is to get valid and accurate data. The writer uses two steps in collecting the data, first, the writer reads and understands the whole of story then

make notes from the texts which are indentified as stimulus and responses that indicate the pattern of behaviorism.

3.3.2 Analyzing Data

After completing the data collecting procedures, the writer analyzes the data. According to Alwasilah, in analyzing the data, we have to discuss it as possible as we can, if we keep the data in a long time, it will difficult to analyze. Alwasilah states:

> *"peneliti yang tidak bersegera melakukan analisis sedini mungkin tidak akan memperoleh apa yang oleh Glaser disebut theoretical sensitivity, yakni kepekaan teoretis terhadap data yang dikumpulkannya. Data itu hanyalah tumpukan angka atu kata-kata bisu, sampai anda membuatnya berteriak teori.* (Alwasilah, 2002:158)

After the data are collected, the writer analyzes the data to find out the stimulus and the response in order to know if there is a social influence that happens to the main character's behavior. Based on the explanation from Skinner (1953: 1) human's behavior can be analyzed by finding the stimulus and response.

3.3.3 Sample of data analysis:

This corpus is quoted from *Manhattan Dreaming* short story. The quotation bellow illustrate the event when Lauren as the main character in this story has been influenced by Emma as her boss who offers the fellowship that will be held in America.

> ‘Interesting? Lauren, it’s the chance of a lifetime for a young curator! I want to nominate you for it. I think you’d be perfect.’ Emma smiled the hugest, widest grin, showing off her perfectly straight teeth. (*Manhattan Dreaming, 2009*: 200)

Emma offers the fellowship to Lauren as a young curator to attend it. Emma says “it’s the chance of a lifetime for a young curator!” it is implied that the offer is a chance which probably would not come again. According to Suwardi (2008: 57 conditioned stimulus is the stimulus which is created by a person to another and it will result a behavior. Here, Emma gives a conditioned stimulus to Lauren. Emma gives a stimulus about a chance of lifetime for Lauren as a young curator, and Emma hopes that it can influence Lauren then she wants to take the offer.

But, Lauren actually is not interested to move to America. ‘Me? But it’s in New York. That’s in America and America is so far away, from everything and everyone!’ (*Manhattan Dreaming, 2009*: 200) Lauren sees that the fellowship will be held in America and she thinks that it is so far from everything she has and everyone she loves. Also, she does not want to leave people she knows. Those are the responses from Lauren as respond to Emma’s stimulus. Kelman (1958: 53) says that compliance can be said when an individual is influenced by another person or group but does not change the belief, thought, and attitude. Regarding to the Lauren’s response, Lauren is not influenced by Emma and also Lauren does not change her decision move to America.