

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

At this Chapter, the researcher discusses and explains about: background of study; research problem; objectives of study; significance of study, limitation of study, and definition of key terms.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Learning a language other than the mother tongue, also known as foreign language learning or second language, is a process in which individuals acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to interact in a language different from their mother tongue. The main focus of learning a language other than the mother tongue is to achieve comprehensive proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in the target language. This allows a person to communicate with individuals who speak that language, access information in that language, and understand and appreciate the cultural aspects associated with that language. According to Zhang (2022), Learning a language other than your mother tongue can be very beneficial. One of the benefits is the ability to understand and participate in this multicultural world. Although English is considered a commonly used international language, mastering a new language can be challenging and even frustrating. To achieve this goal, let's now discuss some methods that can help in improving our understanding and mastery of the English language and strengthen our reading skills. One important aspect of learning a language is a deep understanding of reading.

Reading is a key skill that helps us absorb information, knowledge and entertainment from written texts. The act of reading involves the ability to decipher and understand the messages contained in written text. According to Farha & Rohani (2019), reading is a common activity that many people do to increase their knowledge and improve other skills. However, reading can be a boring activity for those who don't like reading. In this regard, it should be noted that people are often more interested in reading interesting or inspiring stories than facing school books or more rigid courses. This makes novels one of the main choices for language learners. When a person dives into the world

of a novel, he not only gains new knowledge and insight into various things, but also enjoys deep satisfaction from the story presented, as well as perhaps taking away some valuable lessons for life.

A novel is a form of literary work that contains long stories involving characters, complex storylines, and exploration of themes in an imaginative world. Novel writers create reading experiences that allow readers to follow the main character's journey through various conflicts, experiences, and developments. Apart from being entertainment, novels are used to communicate the author's messages, values and views on the world. In short, novels are literary works that stimulate thinking, provide entertainment, and inspire readers. According to Aliyev (2021) a novel is a written story where the reader can feel the situation in the story like real life. According to MH Abrams from HutahaHean & Ali's journal (2022), the term novel is taken from Italian, novella, which means "a new little thing" or a short story in prose. According to a journal written by Yuliani, Salobe, & Waris (2013), novels are usually longer than short stories with complex plots, sometimes divided into several parts or volumes. The language style in the novel allows readers to more deeply imagine the events and characters. This creates a situation that presents drama, conflict, romantic elements, and intense tension. Novelists often create novels based on imagination or true stories, and the stories in novels are not just entertainment, but can also provide inspiration through implied values. Value is the degree of importance or worth given to something in a particular context, varies between individuals, cultures, and situations, and is used to measure the degree to which something is considered valuable or important. And one type is the educational values.

Educational values are principles, ethics and in-depth views about education which are the basis for directing the learning process and individual development. Educational values include beliefs about what is considered important in the educational process and how education can shape a person's character, knowledge and skills. According to Hanus (1899:12), educational values are values that tell us about educational problems, educational values can provide information related to educating humans. Educational values will

be given to all subjects, as long as the subject develops interest; Because, as we have seen, interest means incentives and incentives lead to activities that can develop power. Educational values will guide humans on how to interact with other people to do positive things in their own lives or society.

The educational value in a novel appears when the reader understands the story and finds the hidden message in it. There are many inspirational novels available in print and electronic form, such as "A Street Cat Named Bob" by James Bowen. This novel is the work of James Bowen who shares his experiences as a homeless busker in London, battling drug addiction and economic hardship. In this story, James finds a stray cat named "Bob", whose arrival brings new hope and changes his life profoundly. The novel A Street Cat Named Bob was published in 2012 and quickly became a bestseller. A Street Cat Named Bob is set in 2007, London. Apart from that, the story about Bob, the street cat, and his relationship with James Bowen was made into the film "A Street Cat Named Bob," which was released in 2016. This film enlivens the story and its positive message and won the Best British Film Award at the British National Film Awards on 29 March 2017.

This book focuses on how interactions between humans and pets, like Bob, can change an individual's life. Bob's presence is not only a loyal friend to James, but also gives him direction in life and encouragement to improve himself. Additionally, the book depicts the struggles faced by homeless people in an urban environment and how far a person can go to achieve change in their life. It is a narrative about courage, determination, and strength in the relationship between humans and animals. The writing style of this book is simple and honest, with a story line that is easy to follow, so that it can be enjoyed by a wide range of readers. James and Bob's emotional journey depicted in this book will inspire readers, reminding us that inspiration often comes from unexpected sources. "A Street Cat Named Bob" is a great choice for those looking for a book that is motivating and carries a positive message. This book reminds people that change, friendship, and kindness are always possible, even when conditions are difficult and unexpected.

The reason the researcher chose this novel was because the story had a positive impact on readers, especially on educational value. The clue is that the story in the novel basically explores the themes of friendship, courage, change and humanity related to educational value qualifications. Researchers analyzed the novel A Street Cat Named Bob with the aim of describing the educational value contained in the novel. Researchers believe this research can provide a better understanding for readers in getting a positive impact from the educational value carried out in the novel A Street Cat Named Bob.

Based on the explanation mentioned above, the researcher intends to conduct a study related to values found in a novel. The novel chosen by the researcher is A Street Cat Named Bob. Then, the writer intended to conduct a study entitled "The Educational Values of "A Street Cat Named Bob" Novel. By conducting this study, the writer expects the readers to gain many educational values in mentioned novel.

## **B. Research Problem**

Based on the background of the study above, the research problems are formulated as follow: What are the educational values which can be found on “A Street Cat Named Bob” novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the research problem above, the objectives of this research are formulated as follow: For finding the educational values on “A Street Cat Named Bob” novel.

## **D. Significance of the Study**

Based on the objective above, the significances of this study are formulated as follow:

1. For the reader, the reader can understand that reading novel is not just give entertainment, but also can give a benefit like educational values.

2. For the students, this study is expected to develop students' knowledge of the values contained in a novel such as educational values.
3. For the next researcher, this study expected to be a reference of study for the next researcher who takes the same problem.
4. For the education, to increase their knowledge in analyzing literary and educational values.

### **E. Limitation of Study**

In this study, the researcher wants to find and analyze educational value appears in a novel entitled "A Street Cat Named Bob". To ensure the focus of analysis in answering the research question, the researcher limit the analysis only on educational value.

### **F. Definition of Key Terms**

Key terms explanation is used in order to make easier for the researcher to understand the target of the study and be the guidance the steps of the study. The definition of key terms for the study as follows:

- Educational Values

Educational refers to something related to education. Furthermore, education can be defined as development process that can be gain from formal or informal way, which includes the development of emotional, moral, intelligent, physical, and social behaviour.

While the term value deals with something created by society that its presence can be measured based on its quality. Hence, educational value is the process of self-development, including intelligence, physic, moral, and emotional, that is accepted in society. In this research, educational values have role as the main subject.

- Novel

Novel is a written work of fiction in the form of prose. Novel can also be conducted from true story of someone or event. Novel depicts situation in the form of narration which the readers can feel the real life

situation inside the story of the novel. Using fairly complex plot, the prose in the novel is written in specific length to fill some volumes. The novel used in this study is "A Street Cat Named Bob" by James Bowen. In this study, the researcher use novel as the media for getting the main data of this study.

- Street Cat Named Bob Novel

Novel can be based on true story about the life of someone or the event happened in the past. A novel entitled "A Street Cat Named Bob" was written by James Bowen and published by Hodder & Stoughton in 2012. This novel was written by James Bowen to share his experience with a street cat that he met near his place. The cat, then, was named Bob. Struggling with his messy life, James found that Bob's presence is a bless. After he brings Bob to his workplace (street), he realised that Bob gets many attention from the passenger. It is how Bob started to change the life of James Bowen, a street busker.

A Street Cat Named Bob novel was among the nominees for the National Book Awards 2012, specifically in the Non-Fiction section. World Book Day also listed the said book among its top seven most motivating books for teenagers. It became a bestseller and received positive reviews from readers and critics alike.

Additionally, the story of Bob the street cat and his relationship with James Bowen was adapted into a film titled "A Street Cat Named Bob," which was released in 2016. The film further brought attention to the story and its positive messages. The film won Best British Film at the UK National Film Awards on 29 March 2017.