CHAPTER I  
INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background Of The Problem

The smallest social organization which becames the base of a society is the family.The family as a basic organization has an important role for children's growth and development. Children need special attention to bring them up (educate) until later they are healthy adults, sound of body and sound spiritually so that, in addition to the family role as the basic social organization, other organizations are needed which are concered with children’s growth and development, such as formal education (school) and religious organizations. Related to this, Gunarso said that:

“Dengan meticiiiggiilaiigi masalah anak dan berusaha wengarahkan perkembangan kepribadian anak melalui bimbingan di rnmah dan di sekolah, diharapkan bahwa anak- anak kelak akan menjadi warga negara yang ideal, berkepribadian knot, matang, penuh pengahdian, hoik bagi masyarakat, bangsa, negara, maupun agamanya”[[1]](#footnote-2) (“With lacing a child’s problems and trying to direct a child’s personality development by guiding at home and school, it is hoped that later children will become ideal citizens of a country, have strong mature personalities, full of dedication, both for society, nation, state and religion”).

Thus, a family forms the basic organization for children’s growth and additional organizations are schools and religious organizations.

In a Christian family, which is a family that exists in the middle of society with Christ as the center of that family life, parents are models or

examples to be observed and imitated by children. So, in a Christian family, the family is a place for parents to manifest confidence/ trust/ belief, values, feeling and behavior which is the base for the Christian faith. Besides this, the family can become the circle which is beneficial for children’s growth and development if the family pays attention to children’s requirements. Parents are important role models for children’s growth and development and should cooperate with the teachers in school and also Sunday school teachers because bringing up (educating) children is not an easy job. Perseverance, tolerance, knowledge, and understanding about children are important because educating children is not the same as educating adults. Educating and building children’s character can be done in many ways and by many methods.

The use of creative arts and songs is one method in building children’s character. This is not understood by many Christian parents. They should be the leaders for children’s building character. The writer has seen Sunday school at Kalvari Patongloan congregation which has many facilities for creative arts and songs, like comics and pictures with spiritual nuance, audio visual aids used in Sunday school worship, and creative songs taught by the Sunday school teachers and by cassettes.

The role of creative arts and songs at Kalvari Patongloan congreagation needs to be known. Research is needed about the role of creative arts and songs for Sunday school at Kalvari Patongloan congregation.

Based on this background, the problem can be formulated as :

How do creative arts and songs play a role in building character in children ?

1. The Limitation Of The Problem

The writer is aware that time, resources and energy are limited, so the research is limited to the role of creative arts and songs in the children’s Sunday school at Kalvari Patongloan' congregation, compared with children’s Sunday school at Parampo congregation which does not have the same facilities as Kalvari Patongloan.

1. The Purpose Of The Research / Writing

This research is for the purpose of knowing the role of creative arts and songs in building character in children.

1. The Significance Of The Research / Writing

It is hoped that results of research / Writing will be useful for :

1. Academic Purpose

To support and enrich the theory of children’s psychology as one of the subjects at STAKN Toraja.

1. Practical Results
2. Christian Parents

Through this study about the role of creative arts and songs in building character in children, it is hoped that Christian parents will be aware of their role.

1. Sunday School Teachers

It is hoped that this thesis will give a contribution for Sunday school teachers in order that they will cooperate with Christian parents in building children character.

1. Outline Of Thesis / Writing

The thesis will use the following outline:

CHAPTER 1: Introduction, which includes background of the

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problem, the statement of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the purpose of the

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| CHAPTER II : | research / writing, the significance of the research / writing, and outline of the thesis / writing.  Explains the theological, educational and psychological which are basic to this research. This |
|  | includes the problem background, relationship between creative arts and songs, distinctive spiritual necessities of children 3 to 14 years old, distinctive characteristics of children, forms and kinds of creative arts and songs in building character in children. |
| CHAPTER III : | Consists of: methodology of research and technical data collecting, population and sample. |
| CHAPTER IV : | Analysis of research including a description of field research, parents and children, Sunday school teachers who became the sample, and critical results of the research. |
| CHAPTER V : | Conclusion and recommendation about the role of creative arts and songs in Sunday school childrens at Kalvari Patongloan congregation. |

1. Dra. Nv. Y. Singgili D. Giinarsa & Dr. Singgili D. Gunarsa, Psikolugi Untuk Membimbing, BPK Guniing Mulia, Jakarta, 1930; Page 21 , [↑](#footnote-ref-2)