

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature forces human's brain to understand and memorize its elements, such as plot, theme, character, and setting that occur in the story. By understanding and memorizing those elements as a unity, the readers will comprehend the contents of the literary works. Literary works express and communicate someone's feeling, thought, and attitude toward his or her life that expresses through a written and oral language. Meyer in *What is Literature* states that:

Literature is a term used to describe written texts marked by careful use of language, including features such as creative metaphors, well-turned phrases, elegant syntax, rhyme, alliteration, which are esthetically read or intended by the author to be aesthetically read and are deliberately somewhat open in interpretation (1997:1).

In addition, reading literary work also gives an important role because it can help the readers to understand what the writer has felt, thought or done in his life through a written language. Literature is read by many people because it can entertain them and enrich their experience in life.

According to Kennedy in *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama*, fiction is a name for story not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, and imaged (1973: 3). The word fiction comes from latin (*factio* means a shaping and a counter feting). When reading the fiction, the readers try to imagine the action, setting, and characters.

There are three kinds of literary works, namely prose, poetry and drama. Prose can be divided into novel and short story. Novel is different from short story. The researcher is more interested in reading and analyzing novel than short story. The researcher thinks that comprehending novel is such an interesting challenge. The researcher needs high concentration in understanding and memorizing the elements of novel in order to catch the content of the novel. Jones states that a novel is a long story written in purpose, but it differs from short story in some ways (1968: 80). The main difference between novel and short story is on focus. A novel has a far range focus that relates to number of incidents, while short story only has one incident in a time.

The researcher is interested in Langston Hughe's novel entitled *Not Without Laughter*. Langston Hughes' is one of many talented black authors who had to do with development of art known as the Harlem Renaissance (Baym, 1958: 1655). He achieves fame as a poet during the period. He is a poet, novelist, playwright, columnist and essayist. In 1929, as Hughes' complete his year at Lincoln University. He also completed his first novel *Not Without Laughter*, which was published in 1930. This novel talks about the struggles of black people to get the same rank as the white people. Actually the main character in this novel is Sandy. However, in this research the researcher is interested to analyze the character of Sandy's aunt named Harriett.

Harriett tries to get some jobs in order to help her family. Besides that, she also makes the other black people realize that they can get the same position as the white people. She sings and dances in some places. Her songs and dances are

expression of the blackness. In this case, Harriett makes her job financially possible for Sandy to get his education and help her race. Therefore, the researcher focuses to discuss the character of Harriett and her struggles from hatred toward the white people.

According to the novel entitled *Not Without Laughter*, most of black people get the bad treatments from the white people. They are underestimated and discriminated by the white people in every situation of their activities. Many black children also get bad treatment from the white people in their school. Black children should not follow many events because they are descendants as African slaves and regarded as a spot. In this case, Harriett as the black woman also gets the bad treatments from the white people. Harriett begins to hate the white people at the time. She experiences the segregation and discrimination in her school. Harriett does not like the white people. She tries to do many things in order to show her abilities to the white people because she hates them. So that, the researcher chooses the topic entitled Harriett's struggles from hatred the white people in Langston Hughe's *Not Without Laughter* to be analyzed in this research.

1.1 Statement of the Problem

There are some problems that occur in the novel which are interested to be analyzed by the researcher. Those problems are as follows:

1. What are Harriett's struggles from hatred toward the white people in Langston Hughe's *Not Without Laughter*?

2. What are the effects of Harriett's struggles from hatred toward herself in Langston Hughes' *Not Without Laughter*?

1.2 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain Harriett's struggles from hatred toward the white people in Langston Hughe's *Not Without Laughter*.
2. To explain about the effects of Harriett's struggles from hatred toward herself in Langston Hughe's *Not Without Laughter*.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In analyzing the data of this novel, the researcher limits her analysis in the character of Harriett only. The researcher describes the struggles of Harriett from hatred toward the white people, and the effects of Harriett's struggles from hatred toward herself in novel *Not Without Laughter*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

Reading Langston Hughe's *Not Without Laughter* makes the researcher understand about the hard life of the black people. They have got many difficulties in reaching the equality of social status with the white people. Then, the researcher also learns more about the character of Harriett through her struggles from hatred toward the white people. Accordingly, the researcher expects that this analysis is able to improve the readers point of view about

Harriett's struggles from hatred toward the white people and give the readers a better understanding in appreciating other people by no certain requirements as well.

This study is significant because it can be used as the valuable reference to other researchers.