

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the expression of idea or feeling. The idea or thought as the expression of the author's mind becomes object of creativity. In simple word, literature is a way in which the reader can interpret what has happened and is happening to the reader. Literature is studied in order to know the depth of human life on significance and to enrich the reader's mind or to get more knowledge. Griffith in *Writing Essays about Literature* states that literature is a subject matter that creates certain expectations in the audience (1990: 3). In other words, the authors show their emotion, personality, and feeling. Here, the authors expect the reader to interpret, explain, clarify, analyze, and give the meaning from the literary work itself.

Nice literature also invites the reader to participate in creating the work. Besides, Jones in *An Outline of Literature* says that literature is simple another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feeling, and thought (1968: 1). It means that the reader's feelings or ideas can be expressed in a literary work such as poem or novel.

In *An Outline of Literature*, Jones states literature consists of poetry, novel, and drama or play and it depends on both the reader's and writer's knowledge and experience (1968:1). In this research, the researcher only discusses one of them, that is a novel. Novel tells the whole of story in which many characters bound one

another, while short story only focuses on limited characters. Novel gives a portrait of character or social background. According to Kennedy, novel is a book length story in prose whose author tries to create the sense that, while the people read, the reader experience actual life (1983: 180). By reading a novel, the reader not only enjoys the plot of the story itself, but also knows the events which happen in the society.

The researcher chooses novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne as the object of the study. Nathaniel Hawthorne was an American novelist and short story writer. One of literary works of Nathaniel Hawthorne is *The Scarlet Letter*. This novel was published in 1850 written in Puritan Period. *The Scarlet Letter* talks about Hester Prynne who conceives a daughter through adultery and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. It also expresses the aspect of discipline and punishment, relationship, and religious community in the Puritan era of 17<sup>th</sup> century of Boston.

In this research, the researcher would like to analyze causes and effects of Hester's loneliness. Hester makes an affair with another man because she has a reason. She does not really love her husband, Roger Chillingworth. Hester has committed adultery with another man named Arthur Dimmesdale and had a bastard daughter whose name is Pearl from her affair. Therefore, Hester is rejected in social life and it also affects her daughter. Hester Prynne's life is interesting to discuss in this research because Hester is not only as a shameful figure but also a good mother for her daughter. The most important is how she has

survived in sadness. Hester Prynne's loneliness and its causes and effects toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale will be explained in this research.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

The researcher takes some problems in order to get clear discussion of this research. They are as follows:

1. What are the causes of Hester Prynne's loneliness in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*?
2. What are the effects of Hester Prynne's loneliness toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*?

## **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

The purpose of this research is to find out the answer of the problem, as follows:

1. To find out the causes of Hester's loneliness in *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. To show the effect of Hester's loneliness toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale in *The Scarlet Letter*.

## **1.4 Limitation of the Problem**

In analyzing these data, the researcher would like to choose Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* as the subject of discussion. In this novel, Hester as the main character is rejected from society because of her affair with another man and she had a bastard daughter from her lover. Consequently, the causes of

Hester's loneliness and the effects of Hester's loneliness toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale will be discussed in this research.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The result of research is very important for the researcher to understand more about loneliness in *The Scarlet Letter's*. By understanding how loneliness is revealed through the characters in the novel, the reader is expected to give wise judgement towards others in society.

The researcher hopes that this research improves the readers' knowledge of cause and effects of Hester's loneliness in Puritanism era. Besides, it is hoped that the result of this research can enrich the discussion about *The Scarlet Letter*.