

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Literature is the description and imagination of someone's feeling. In other words, someone shows her/his emotion, personality, and idea. 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. One of branches in literature is prose. Prose divided into two, fiction and non-fiction. This research focuses on novel entitled *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

There are two objectives in this research. The first is to find the causes of Hester Prynne's loneliness in *The Scarlet Letter*. The second is to analyze the effect of Hester Prynne's loneliness toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale in *The Scarlet Letter*. Moreover, the researcher applies five theories. They are character, characterization, psychology, loneliness, and puritanism. The approaches which are used are psychological and sociological approach. Furthermore, the method of collecting the data is library research.

Hester Prynne is the main character in *The Scarlet Letter*. She conceives a daughter through adultery and struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. *The Scarlet Letter* expresses the aspect of discipline and punishment, relationship, and religion community in the Puritan era of 17th century of Boston. Hester Prynne lives in the era that everyone should have behavior or belief that is based on the principles of strict moral or religion, especially the principle that people should avoid physical pleasures. Because of her adultery with another man,

Hester Prynne gets a punishment from the society. Consequently, the society forces her to wear the sign “A” on Hester Prynne’s breast and put her in jail. The sign “A” symbolizes as adulterer. Thus, the sign “A” should be used wherever she goes.

This research solves two problems. The first problem is the causes of Hester Prynne’s loneliness. Hester Prynne feels lonely from the community because of her great mistake. Actually, she has a reason when she makes an affair with another man. She does not really love her husband. At that time, Hester Prynne has not lived with her husband since two years. There is no news about her husband. She feels lonely. Then, Hester Prynne makes a close relationship with another man until she gets pregnant. This is the biggest problem, and she must be punished because she gets a pregnant without the presence of her husband and it is a sinful.

In addition, Hester Prynne’s lover is a well-known priest in the community. As a priest, he must devote his body and soul only for God and resist his own lusts. The causes of Hester Prynne’s loneliness are explained by using theory of psychology, puritanism, and loneliness.

The second problem is the effects of Hester Prynne’s loneliness toward herself, Pearl, and Arthur Dimmesdale. They are related to each other. Pearl is an illegitimate daughter of Hester Prynne and her lover. The effects of Hester Prynne’s loneliness toward herself are being despair, shameful, depressed, but in the last she becomes strong because of her daughter. Then, the effect toward Pearl is that she is also feels lonely in her life. She does not have any friends to play but

she is always strong. Pearl loves her mother. She always supports her mother in life of bitterness. The last, Arthur Dimmesdale becomes hypocrite as the effect of Hester Prynne's loneliness. He cannot declare a great secret from the society that he is a father of Hester Prynne's daughter. Moreover, he condemns himself with fasting and self hurting. Arthur Dimmesdale is depressed because of his bad condition and finally he passed away. The effects of Hester Prynne's loneliness toward herself and the other character are explained by using theory character and characterization.

After finishing this research, there is a moral value to be obtained. Hester Prynne as the main character shows her responsibility although she already makes a great mistake with Arthur Dimmesdale. Their love makes them live in misery because their behavior in expressing love is in contradiction with the custom of society. As a result, she must endure the consequences. On the other hand, there is a positive thing. Hester Prynne makes a repentance and confession of her sin. She also helps the people who need her help. Because of her daughter, she is getting stronger to solve her loneliness in life. Love is indeed beautiful, but beauty for us is not necessarily good for others. Every good or bad behavior will get a reward. Hester Prynne suffers ruin of her soul because of her action. However, she always accepts the consequences of her action because Hester Prynne believes that God will give a grace of forgiveness to her, even though the society is difficult to accept Hester Prynne well.

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