

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People like to imagine something as if it were real. By reading, people usually imagine the story to catch the message. Reading literary works, for instance, gives them some advantages. It can make their brain try to imagine the setting, character and situation that happen in the story. Besides, reading literary works not only can make them know about thing that happen but also can make them know about life that they have never known before.

Literature is a process of understanding the life itself as literature is the imitation of life. Furthermore, Hudson (1965: 10) strengthens the opinion in his book; *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says as a follow:

literature is the vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us.

Literature is closely related to life because it is the work of human being and enjoyed by human being too. It is also important point in their life, because it makes the people who read it happy, satisfied, and it may trigger their desire, emotion, ambition, and imagination. Rees (1973: 2) states that literature is a writing which expresses and communicates thought, feeling, and also attitude toward life. While, Jones in *An Outline of Literature* says that literature is simply another way in which we can express and communicate thought, feeling, and attitude toward life through a written language (1968: 1).

Literature can be said as the imagination of feeling that arise lives through experience to fill desires. Nowadays, a lot of people spend their spare time by reading literary work. Literature can be divided into three groups namely drama, prose, and poetry. The researcher uses a novel as the material of analysis. Novel is one of the most interesting and popular forms of literature. It entertains the reader who reads the story. Kettle in *An Introduction to the English Novel* says, “A novel is living thing, all once and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think in each of the parts there is something of the parts” (1951: 12).

The researcher is interested in analyzing Alice Walker’s novel entitled *The Color Purple* which was firstly published in 1982. Alice Walker is well known as a novelist, poet and feminist. Walker was born on February 9, 1944, in Eatonton, Georgia. Alice Walker is one of the most admired African-American writers working today. Walker's career as a writer took flight with the publication of her third novel, *The Color Purple*, in 1982. Set in the early 1900s, the novel is explored the female African-American experience through the life and struggles of its narrator, Celie.

The story of Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* tells about an ugly, uneducated, stupid and poor young girl named Celie. She always gets bad treatment from the people surrounding her, especially from her step father who rapes her and her husband who continually hits her. Domestic violence and sexual abuse influence the development of Celie’s character. Celie’s character development makes Celie’s life becomes better. Furthermore, the researcher wants

to analyze more about the development of Celie's character as the main character in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the discussion of this thesis, based on the background of the study, there are several problems that will be analyzed. Those are:

1. How is Celie characterized in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* ?
2. What are the causes of Celie's character development in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*?
3. What are the effects of Celie's character development in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out Celie's characterization in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.
2. To figure out the causes of Celie's character development Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.
3. To explain the effects of Celie's character development toward herself in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

It is important to know the problems in order to get a clear understanding about Celie's characteristic and her character development in *The Color Purple* written by Alice Walker published in 1982. This research is limited on the main character, that is, Celie and her character development toward Celie herself.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The result of this analysis is expected to give great contribution to the readers who analyze the characterization of the character in other novel. Moreover, this study is hoped to encourage the readers to analyze this novel from other aspects. Hopefully, this research can give some significance for the writer and the readers. This research is useful and interesting for both the writer and the readers. For the other researchers, it also gives an interesting impact to reveal the other discussion in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.