

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Anything that deals with art is said to be literature, such as novel, drama, poem. Literature is closely related to human's life because it is the work of human being and it can be enjoyed by human being too. In addition, literary form includes all written materials. Literary works are created not only to entertain the reader but also to express people's feeling. Literature has function for getting pleasure. Sometimes, people get bored with their activities. So, they need interesting things to refresh their mind, such as reading a literary work.

There are so many interpretations about the meaning of literature. Stated by Welleck and Austin in *Theory of Literature*, "Literature is simply a mirror of life, reproduction, and thus, obviously, a social document" (1956: 92). It describes that people create literary works as their works to share their experience. Moreover, according to Ress in *English Literature*,

Literature is a permanent expression in words of some thought or feeling or idea about life and the world. Literature may be good, bad or indifferent; but good literature will have some, if not all, of the following qualities: (i) psychological truth or holding the mirror up to nature; (ii) originality; (iii) craftsmanship; and (iv) a consciousness of moral value. (1973: 9)

It means that literature is the reflection of human's life. It usually tells the human's life, the truth of the world, and what people have experienced, felt, thought in life. Literature also consists of moral values. As stated by Edward H.

Jones (1965: 5) in *An Outline of Literature* “Literature is simply another way that we can express our imagination, feeling, and thought”. It implies that by studying literature, people can express their imagination, feeling and thought toward their life.

In writing this research, the writer chooses novel as the subject of analysis. The reason of choosing novel is due to the fact that novel is the most interesting literary work and novel is read by many people. Novel is one of literary works which gives some pleasure for the reader through its story and conflicts. Kennedy. X.J. (1983: 180) in *An Introduction to Fiction* defines “novel is a book – length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life”. In writing novel the author wants to involve the reader in each part of the novel. Furthermore, the writer has found a very good novel written by Ernest Hemingway entitled *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Novel entitled *The Old Man and the Sea* is one of Ernest Hemingway’s works which lead him to get Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. This novel is about a struggle between an old man and the nature. The old Cuban fisherman Santiago has been set out for 85 days and returned home with empty handed. Most of the backgrounds in this novel take place at sea. This novel has a narrative structure which is simple and effective. The positive and negative aspects of human condition are portrayed inside the novel. Specifically, Ernest Hemingway wants to use the story of the old man, Santiago as the main character, to show the honor in struggle and to draw biblical parallels to live in modern world.

The writer has found some symbols that are used in this novel. This novel has relation with bible. Bible is one of religious books which is used by Christian people. The correlation can be seen from the characters. They are Santiago, the giant marlin, and the sharks. Santiago becomes a Christ symbol. He becomes the symbol of goodness, patience, and humility. Christ has to fight the evil in Jerusalem, while Santiago is fighting sharks. Both men's struggles end with humiliation. In bible, the Christian finds the story that Christ is betrayed and crucified by one of his disciples. The old man, Santiago is also betrayed by seven sharks and he feels beaten. The number seven is number that has special significance in the bible. Then, the fish is also a symbol of Christianity, the giant marlin with several Christian virtues such as goodness, patience, and determination. On the other hands, the sharks symbolize evils. Therefore, the writer is interested in choosing the topic of discussion, that is, the religious symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

The writer chooses the title "Symbolism Dealing with Religion in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*". According to the title, the writer is interested in analyzing symbolism dealing with religion which is found in this novel. Here, the writer takes some problems in order to get clear discussions of this research. They are:

1. What are religious symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*?

2. How do the religious symbols reveal the theme of *The Old Man and the Sea*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study is used to find the answer from these problems through the analysis. Thus, the study is intended to:

1. To find out religious symbols in Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea*.
2. To analyze religious symbols that reveal the theme of *The Old Man and the Sea*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problems

Giving limitation of the problem is necessary in order to avoid complicated discussion. Novel has many interesting aspects to analyze. In this research, the writer analyzes one of the novels of Ernest Hemingway namely *The Old Man and the Sea*. Actually, among the characters in that novel, the writer only focuses on the main character, namely Santiago. The writer limits the study on the symbols dealing with religion that are found in this novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this research can give some advantages for the writer and the reader. This research is useful and interested in the topic which is about symbolism dealing with religion. Furthermore, the writer hopes by analyzing this

topic, the reader can receive a good influence and new knowledge from this story such as bible and the reflection of Jesus' life in real life.