

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Language has a very important function in people's daily life, namely as communication. People interact in their society and express their feeling through language. The way people express their feeling through language can be defined into two kinds, written language and spoken language. The researcher emphasizes the written language on studying the literature. In its broadest sense, literature is a written form which expresses thought, feeling, and attitude. According to Rees (1973: 9) 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 values.”

Moreover, by studying literature someone learns more about human's problem and difficulty and helps them have better understanding about human's life. Besides, literature has two different purposes, to present information and to entertain. For information, literature consists of history books, philosophical works, scientific articles, dictionaries, and magazines. Those are giving information about news or phenomenon happen in daily life. For entertainment, in *Outline of Literature*, Jones says that “Literature consists of poetry, novel, and

drama or play and it depends on both the reader and the writer's knowledge and experience." (1968: 1)

One of the written materials mentioned is novel. Novel is an interpretation of the author about the emotion, feelings, ideas, imagination, and reflects the real life. In *The Encyclopedia Americana*, Carne explains as follows:

The word novel is derived ultimately from the Latin adjective "Novellus" diminutive of "Novus" meaning "new", hence when applied to fiction it means a new tale or story. It was adopted in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the English language from "Novella", an Italian word used to describe a short tale portraying the incidents and often amorous intrigues of everyday living. (1972:510)

While, accordingly, Kettle explains the novel is as follows:

Novel is a living things, all lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is fictitious narrative prose, in which the author expresses his or her by reading it, the readers get knowledge and experience because it is a picture of the real life. (1961:12)

It means that novel is a medium used by people to entertain and share ideas or experiences in life. Novel entertains people by expressing personal joy and pain, reflecting religious devotion, glorifying a nation or hero, or advocating a particular point of view, whether it is political and social. Moreover, by reading a novel one can broaden the knowledge about its cultural background and the author's vision in expressing life.

In this study the researcher chooses a novel entitled *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson. After the researcher reads the novel *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson, the researcher finds that this is such a fantastic novel which describes

universal problems, emotional, survival, adventure, and idea of materialism. The term “materialism” is also an interesting point to be discussed.

The novel entitled *Kidnapped*, presents the story about the adventures of David Balfour in the Year 1751. The story tells how David Balfour was kidnapped and cast away, his sufferings in a Desert Isle, his journey in the Wild Highlands, and his acquaintance with Alan Brecks Stewart, with all that he suffered at the hands of his Uncle, Ebenezer Balfour. As the main character, David Balfour’s stories of life are presented more. David Balfour, who gets the inheritance of the House of Shaws from his parents, has problem with his uncle Ebenezer Balfour who intends to make David in trouble so he does not have to give over his inheritance.

The materialism is shown on Ebenezer Balfour’s character. Ebenezer struggles to get the inheritance even he has to try to murder David and sell David to the servitude. Materialism describes the materialistic, in which someone who wants to occupy material success, they will do many ways in order to get it. Inheritance and social classes are the main factors that make materialism happen. This novel gives the reason why the researcher is interested in deciding materialism as the main topic of study.

The idea of materialism in the novel attracts the reasercher to create such a scientific writing in the literary works. Accordingly, the reasercher would like to analyze the materialism conducted by Ebenezer Balfour deeper in the novel *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson.

## **1.2 The Statement of the Problem**

Dealing with the preceding discussion, the researcher presents some statements to be analyzed into these following questions:

1. What are materialistic types seen from Marxist view toward Ebenezer Balfour in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*?
2. What are the effects of materialism toward Ebenezer Balfour in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*?

## **1.3 The Limitation of the Problem**

The limitation is to get clear understanding and to avoid complicated discussion. In this research, the researcher would like to choose novel as the subject of the discussion. The title of the novel is *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson. The researcher limits the discussion dealing with materialism conducted by Ebenezer Balfour. Moreover, the effects of materialism happen toward Ebenezer Balfour.

## **1.4 The Objective of the Study**

The objective of study is to find the answer for the proposal problems through the analysis. Thus, the study is intended to:

1. Figure out what materialistic types seen from Marxist view toward Ebenezer Balfour in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.
2. Analyze the effects of materialism toward Ebenezer Balfour in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.

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

This study attempts to give deeper understanding about human problem, especially on materialism. This study also tends to enrich the knowledge about literary work, in this case a novel *Kidnapped* by Robert Louis Stevenson. By reading the novel, the reader may act wiser and avoid overemphasis of the importance of material success by pushing themselves to others.

Furthermore, this study can be useful for the students of letters as guidance to admire such literary work and encourage them to study more deeply concerning with this work.