

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Study

The important things for human being are knowledge and experience. Knowledge is one of essential needs for us to live in this globalization era. People improve their knowledge and experience through some ways. One of them is reading literary works. Literature is a work of art which uses language as its devices to express the author's ideas. Literary works consist of poetry, novel, and drama. Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to Study Literature* says that:

Literature is 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. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

People can express their feelings, their thoughts, and also experiences through certain medium, that is, language. It can be concluded that literature is expression of life through the medium of language. Literature is meant to be enjoyed and it does make us relax.

A lot of people need something that is interesting to make their lives beautiful, like reading some books. Besides, people also read literature to find the beauty of words of great writers because literature is simply anything which is written. Some others define that literature deals with imaginative and creative works. Jones (1968:5) in *An Outline of Literature* says as follows:

Literature, then, depends on both the reader and writer. Probably no two readers get exactly the same thoughts and feelings from something they read, because their past experiences have been different. By the same token, probably no two writers tell a story in exactly the same way because their styles are different.

One of the interesting things that can make people's life beautiful is literary work. People can explain their interpretation based on their feelings and they will get some messages in literature.

Moreover, understanding a literary work depends on the reader. Holman (1986:354) says: "Literature is divided into three genres: Drama, Prose, and Poetry, and the term "Novel" is used in its broadest sense to designate any extended fictional prose narrative. He says "all novels are representation in fictional of lines"

"Literature" as 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 means that people create literary works to share their experience.

Symbol is something that has a deeper meaning or represents something else. According to Hornby (1963:876) in *Oxford The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, "a symbol is sign, mark, and object, etc looked upon as representing something". Symbol is something that has another meaning. To know the meaning of a symbol, the reader must understand and feel it. Without feeling, the reader cannot understand the symbol.

Furthermore, this research analyzes the novel entitled *The House of Seven Gables* written by Nathaniel Hawthorne. Hawthorne is not a symbolist, but almost

all of his works use symbolism. In this novel, all about life, human nature, moral, and class status are very well symbolized by Hawthorne. *The House of Seven Gables* reflects an epoch of the author family and it gives a picture of a great history, which happened in American society. In the novel, Hawthorne depicts a negative effect of Puritanism that influences its generation's life. The novel contains satires about moral and the reflection of social life. The use of setting in New England as the title of the novel also represents something else as Hawthorne's intention. The title of the novel describes not only the shape of the house roof, but also deeper meaning. It represents the social ranks of inhabitants; they lived in a higher class as aristocrat. Moreover, this research is a further analysis about the symbols found in the novel by using symbolism theory.

### **1.2 The Statements of the Problem**

The problems of the study are formulated to answer the following questions:

1. What are the character symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*?
2. What are the setting symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*?
3. What are the natural object symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*?
4. What are the artificial symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*?

### **1.3 The Objectives of the Study**

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the character symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*.

2. To find out the setting symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*.
3. To find out the natural object symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*.
4. To find out the artificial symbols in *The House of The Seven Gables*.

#### **1.4 The Scope of the Problem**

It is necessary to give the limitation of the problem of a research in order to get the best discussion. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of The Seven Gables* is analyzed in this research. This research focuses on the symbols that exist in the novel. This novel consists of many symbols which make the writer want to reveal the meaning of the symbols.

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

This analysis hopefully can give some significance for the writer, the reader, and other researchers. By analyzing this research, the readers will get more knowledge and deeper understanding in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of The Seven Gables*.