

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Language is a significant feature in life. It is used to get in touch to each other person. Without communication people cannot interact to each other in order to express their mind and feeling. Talking about language, it will lead to the word "literature". People need literary works for refreshing the brain, for entertaining and for gaining knowledge about life. According to Grace (1965:5) in *Responses to Literature* asserts as follow:

Literature is, first of all, a creative work of art or object that an artist makes. It is not merely an idea, a theory; a system of thought enters to it. As an object made by an artist, it has two purposes. They are firstly, a creative work experience in terms of " beauty to be contemplated ". Secondly, a creative work meets the human necessity or a mean of intellectual and social significance. In this sense, a creative work indicates what the artist thought and also through its germinative power; it is the source of new ideas in the future, forming a living tradition.

To tell the experiences, one uses a language as a means of creating a work of literature, culture, science, et cetera. One could tell the world about his experiences through literature. Griffith, Jr. (1990:3) in *Writing Essays About Literature* says as follow:

Literature is a subject matter that creates certain expectations in your audience. Because literature is a complex product of the imagination, readers of essays about literature expect you interpret, to explain, to clarify, to analyze, and to give the meaning of it .

Furthermore, literature is imagination of people's feeling that arises in their lives through their experience to fill their own desire. Jones (1968:1) in *An*

Outline of Literature says that "literature is a simply another way, we can experience the world around us through imagination".

Literature is divided into three, they are: poetry or poem, drama, and prose. In this thesis, the writer analyzes poem. Poem is a literary work in written form; usually, the language used in poetry is rhythmical language. According to Dunton in the book entitled *An Introduction to Study Literature*, "poem is the concrete and artistic expression of the human mind in emotional and rhythmical language" (1965:65). Furthermore, as said by Johnson in William Henry Hudson's book entitled *An Introduction to Study Literature*, "poetry is metrical composition or the art of writing pleasure by truth by calling imagination to help of reason" (1965:64). Poem can tell stories, describe object and comment on events that happen in the poet's surrounding. The writer is interested to analyze the poem entitled *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner* written by Samuel Taylor Coleridge .

Gothic fiction is genre of literature that combines elements of both horror and romance. The effect of gothic fiction depends on a pleasing sort of terror. Prominent features of Gothic fiction include terror both psychological and physicsl, myster, the supernatural, ghost, haunted houses and gothic architecture, castle, darkness, death, decay, doubles, madness, secrets and hereditary curses. The stock characters of Gothic fiction include tyrants, villains, maniacs, byronic, heroes, persecuted maidens, femmes fatales, madwomen, magicians, vampires, werewolves, monsters, demons, revenants, ghosts, perambulating skeletons, the wandering jew and the devil himself. In a way simmlar to the gothic revivalists'

rejection of the clarity and rationalism of the neoclassical style of the enlightened establishment, the literary gothic embodies an appreciation of the joys of extreme emotion, the thrills of fearfulness and awe inherent in the sublime, and a quest for atmosphere. Further contributions to the Gothic genre were provided in the work of the Romantic poets. Prominent examples include Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and *Christabel* and Keats's *La Belle Dame Sans Merci* which feature mysteriously fey ladies. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/gothicfiction>, accessed on October 15th, 2010).

The Romantic Poets live in the enthusiasm of the French Revolution. This great event leads men to hope for a rapid creation of new world free from the evils of poverty and tyranny. All of the romantic poets are deeply interested in nature, common people and the poor. Carter and Mc Roe in *The Routledge History of Literature In English* say as follow " Romantic writers look inward to their own soul and the life of the imagination; they are attracted to the irrational mystical and supranatural world; Romantic writers celebrate the freedom of nature and individual human experience"(1998:221).

Samuel Taylor Coleridge is one of the great poets in the Romantic Period. He is able to treat his supranatural themes geniously that they become his finest works. His best contribution to poetry is his three poems *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner*, "*Kubla Khan* ", and *Christabel* which concern with the supranatural (Bowra, 1980:51). Through these poems, his name ranges among the major poets of British Romanticism. So, there must be some additional values in them in which he is able to capture the strange magic of the world of the supranatural.

In this thesis, the writer focuses her study on poem in Romantic Period, especially on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's work entitled *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner*. The writer chooses this literary work because it has some characteristics there are supernatural, mysticism, et cetera as the influences of Romantic Period.

The reason for choosing the title are, the first, the writer is interested in Coleridge because he is well known as a creative poet. Second, the writer believes that Coleridge does not only display his gothic elements to convey something frightening, but also wants to show some deeper meanings that relate to life and to living experience. Therefore, the writer chooses the Gothic elements in *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner* as the topic of discussion.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The writer has some statements of the problem to analyze. The statements of the problem are:

1. What are the kinds of gothic elements in Coleridge's *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner* ?
2. What are the points of view toward the Albatross?

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In this writing, the writer would like to focus on an analysis of the Gothic elements in *The Rime of The Ancient Mariner*. She limits only in the Gothic element and the points of view toward the Albatross reviewed by some scholars.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

Every writer must have the aim in her or his study. The writer purposes of the study as follows:

1. To find out the gothic elements in this poem
2. To explain the points of view toward the Albatross

1.5 Significance of the Study

This thesis has some significance of the study, the first, the writer hopes that this thesis can help the readers to understand the literary work, and makes them interested in literary work. The second, the writer enrich her ability of finding the meaning of literary work. The last, the writer hopes that this thesis can be helpful to the readers who are willing to understand the Gothic ideas as the result of Coleridge's imagination to make the supernatural things seem true.