

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is a kind of art. It is closely related with human life, because literature is an interesting work, which can give pleasure for the readers. It is also valuable to get information because "*Literature is simply another way, we can experience the world around us through our imagination*" (Jones, 1968:1). Moreover, literature opens a news world for someone who does not know before. The people can get knowledge from literary work because it is the experience of human life. They will enter more complete and comprehensive into something happening in real life. Literature is also a means to express imagination for people in order to get knowledge and entertainment. Further, Hudson (1913:10) states as follows:

Literature is a vital record of what man have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspect of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally and expression of life though the medium of language.

It means that literature is the expression of life. In describing what people have seen or imagined, literature certainly expresses a great deal of people's thought and feeling. People can express their experience and knowledge into the various forms of literary works by using language as a basic medium of literature through written works. Because literature is a written work, it has to use a beautiful

language in order to give entertainment for the readers, so that it will be enjoyable to be read.

A lot of people like reading literary works since they can entertain themselves. However, the literary works not only entertain but also enrich the people's understanding about the society. Besides, literature may teach us a good experience. Indeed, literary works are just fiction stories. However they are sometimes truth in society. Jones in *Outline of Literature* says that novel is a long story written in prose, but because it is long, it differs from a short story (1968:80). Reading novel is not as difficult as reading poetry, and it is neither as easy as reading short stories. By reading a novel, the readers will know the development of the character from childhood to maturity. Moreover, they will also know the age and society in which the novelist lives. A novel is an expression of feeling, ideas, and the outlook of it in certain society and period of time. As a form of literature, a novel also has contribution to influence men and even society. It gives readers knowledge of life.

Novel is one of the most interesting and popular forms of literature. General novel is like other types of literature. It springs from the author's impulse that is created through a forming process. His vision of life is expressed through literary works. Kennedy (1983:180) states that novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life. It means that a novel is a lengthy fictitious narrative prose in which the author expresses his or her imaginations to give a sense of actual for the readers. Therefore, by reading it, the readers will get knowledge and experience.



In writing this thesis, the writer would like to analyse one of the forms of literature, that is called as a novel. It is the most interesting form of literature to be analysed. The writer chooses one of the famous works of Arthurian Literature that is *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert. Henry Gilbert rewrites *Morte D'Arthur*, which is Malory's version. Sir Thomas Malory is the author of the most famous works of Arthurian Literature. These works become the definitive version of the story of King Arthur's. They are also the basic source for later versions of the legend, and the most modern telling of the Arthurian story.

This novel tells the story of King Arthur and his men who treat knights at the Round Table. Arthur, son of King Uther Pendragon but raised by another family, takes his rightful place as king when he, as a boy, is able to pull the sword called Excalibur from the stone. Although he rules wisely, counselled by Merlin the magician, Arthur makes enemies of other kings and often makes war. When Arthur marries Gwenevere, her father gives Arthur the Round Table, who 150 men can sit down on the chairs. Gwenevere, who often is present at the convening of the Round Table, acts as a moral compass for the knights, rewarding knights who behave well and chastising those who choose poorly. This work sets the dominance of patriotism over chivalry. King Arthur is a legendary British leader who, according to medieval histories and romance, leads the defence of Britain against the Saxon invaders in the early of 6th century. In this works, Arthur appears either as a great warrior defending Britain from human and supernatural enemies, or as a magical figure of folklore, from King Arthur himself to other characters, such as various Knights of the Round Table.

## 1.2 The Statement of the Problems

The title of this thesis is *The Influence of Pagan on the Ideology of King Arthur's Leadership in the King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert. It means that the writer will analyse the idealism of someone in leadership. To get a clear discussion of this thesis, the writer takes some problems, they are as the following:

1. What are the influences of Pagan on main characters in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert?
2. What are the influences of Pagan on the King Arthur's ideology in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert?
3. How is the development of Pagan in the *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert?

## 1.3 The Limitation of the Problems

In this thesis, the analysis is limited on the influences of Pagan on the main characters, King Arthur's ideology, and the development of Pagan in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert.

## 1.4 The Objectives of the Study

In line with the statement of the problems, this thesis tries to answer those questions as stated above as follows,

1. To describe the influences of Pagan on main characters in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert.

2. To elaborate the influences of Pagan on the King Arthur's ideology in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert
3. To elaborate the development of Pagan in *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert.

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

Hopefully, this thesis will give valuable contribution to the readers as well as to the writer himself. For the other researchers, it can also give an interesting impact to reveal further detailed analysis on the influence of Pagan in the king's leadership in the *King Arthur's Knights* by Henry Gilbert.