

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Problem

Life is a gift from God. As a human being, we are so lucky living in this world because we can feel the glory and the beauty of God's creation surrounding us. God creates our life full of happy and sad stories in order to make our life more beautiful. People express their feeling and tell their stories in many ways; one of them is through literature. Literature teaches us the truth about our life beautifully. We learn good values from literature. Literature is very important to read because those writers have spent so much time that what they say must be important. Other wise they would have been forgotten. We read literature because it is an important part of our education. Jones (1968: 5) in *An Outline of Literature* says as follows :

Literature then depends on the readers and the 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, probably no two writes ten a story in exactly the same way because their styles are different.

One of the interesting things that can make the people's life beautiful is literary work or literature. People can interpret their interpretation based on their feeling, and they will get some messages in the literature. By reading it, the reader can solve the problem in their life, and it can make their life beautiful. Hudson (1965: 10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says in the following :

Literature is vital record of what men have seen in live what they have experience of it. What they have thought and feel about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of the life thought the medium of language.

Escape literature, however, takes away the reader from the real world. Thus life interpretation of the literature much depends on the reader. Holman (1986: 354) says in the following :

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 representations in fictional narrative of line or experience but the form is itself as protean as life and experience themselves have proved to be."

Out of many literary works in Victorian age, the writer chooses to study Charles Dickens novels entitled *A Christmas Carol*. Jones (1968: 80) says, "Some respects a novel is like short story, expect that is longer. Novel is a long story written in prose." Besides that Long (1964: 561) says, "A novel may be set in the world; it portrays imagined people and events." A good novel takes us into the lives of other people and thereby enlarge our own life. Further more, Long (1964: 562-563) says, "A novel is fictional prose narrative usually too long to read at a single setting." Novels are written in prose.

The writer considers that novel is the most exciting form of literature because through the narrative we know that the characters represent their characterization as the result of action. It means that we can enjoy the story by reading the narrative.

The writer chooses *A Christmas Carol* because it is one of the most popular novels. It is also an interesting novel that has a simple content to be

understood. At last, *A Christmas Carol* talks about the supernatural which catch our interest because the action of it influences the structures of the plot. Accordingly, the title given to the research is *The Influence of Supernatural in the Plot Development in Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol*.

1.2. The Statement of the Problem

The problem of the research are the following questions :

1. What are the supernatural in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*?
2. How is the plot development influenced by the supernatural in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* ?

1.3. The Objectives of the Study

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

1. To describe the supernatural in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.
2. To find the plot development in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* that is influenced by the supernatural.

1.4. The Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the analysis is limited on the main character of the supernatural and the plot development influenced by the supernatural in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.

1.5. The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this thesis gives benefits and good impression on the readers toward Charles Dickens' works especially his masterpiece *A Christmas Carol*. For the other researches, it also gives an interesting impact to reveal the other researches on the similar topics of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*.