

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature plays an important role in human's life because it has function as the expression of his thought, feeling, and attitude towards life. Jones (1968:1) in *An Outline of Literature* defines, "Literature is simply another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feeling, and thought." It can be said that literature is an essential way to explore people's desires, experiences which they get in the life whether they are good or bad.

By studying literature, people can get entertainment. Besides, they can feel happiness, sadness, hatred or emotion because of reading literary works. Literature is also proposed for getting fun or pleasure. Sometimes people are bored with their daily activities. So, they need refresher to refresh their mind. The way is that by reading literary works.

What a literature says is the reflection of human life. Literature usually tells the human life, the truth of the world and tells what people have seen, experienced, felt or thought in life. As stated by William Henry Hudson in *An Introduction to Study Literature*,

"Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they 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 and expression of life through the medium of language." (1965:10).

It means that literature can open everyone's minds and senses of life.

Furthermore, literary work has three branches, namely, prose, poetry, and play. Prose itself is divided into novel and short story. One of the most popular and widely read forms of literary works is novel. The main difference between novel and short story is that a novel has number of incidents, while a short story only has one incident.

The writer chooses novel as the source of data of this research because the writer enjoys reading novel and feels easy to understand the content of the novel. It is also because novel consists of many problems which can be used as the topic of discussion. Besides, novel usually imitates or pictures the author's life. As stated by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in *Theory of Literature*, "The novel is the picture of real life and manner, and of the time in which it is written." (1949:205). It means that the novel can depict the real life or real experiences of a person.

In this research, the writer wants to analyze a novel entitled *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* written by Mark Twain. In fact, in preface of his novel, Twain writes:

"Most of the adventures recorded in this book really occurred; one or two were experiences of my own, the rest those of boys who were schoolmates of mine. Huck Finn is drawn from life; Tom Sawyer also, but not from an individual; he is a combination of the characteristics of three boys whom I knew, and therefore belongs to the composite order of architecture."

Thus, this novel is the reflection of his real life or experiences when he was still a child. Mark Twain is one of America's first and foremost realists and humanists. His literary works are appreciated by most literary men because he has great contribution to American literature. He created American style, a new

American writer national voice. He used simple language in his novels. The characteristics of his novel are rich of humor, social criticism, satire, and almost all of his literary works are inspired by his experiences of life such as the one in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer was first published in London in June 1876. In this research, the writer uses *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which was reprinted by Chatto and Windus in London in 1908. It is a child's adventure story. One of America's best-loved novels, *Tom Sawyer*, has two appeals. First, it is about the boys who have the exciting adventures during the mid-19th Century, adventures that are interesting and delightful because they do not care with the time or culture. Second, the novel can evoke remembrances in the adult mind as Twain wrote in his preface of his novel,

“Although my book is intended mainly for the entertainment of boys and girls, I hope it will not be shunned by men and women on that account, for part of my plan has been to try pleasantly remind adults of what they once were themselves, and of how they felt and thought.”

So, the adult readers can look back on their own childhood with sweet memories when they read this novel.

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer is a novel which has been read and enjoyed all over the world because it is a mixture of practical jokes and fantasy. This novel talks about Tom Sawyer and his adventures colored by his typical behavior as a child in his age such as how he manipulates his friends to paint the fence for him or how he avoids working to get more time to gather with his friends just for having fun and many more.

Further, the novel concentrates basically on Tom's and Huck's characters. Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn are the two most well-known characters among American readers. In fact, people can say that they are the most famous pair in all of American Literature. Tom and Huck are completely different from each other in nearly every way. In fact, they are polar opposites in basic living situations and in the ways in which they view the world. Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn are two friends with very different personalities, in which each brings their own characteristics into their comical friendship.

In regard to the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the differences between two characters in the best novel, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Moreover, the two characters' differences outweigh their similarities. Therefore, the writer wants to examine the problem further. The title selected is A Study on Contrasts between Tom Sawyer's and Huck Finn's Life in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

The writer wants to analyze deeply these following problems:

1. What are the differences between Tom Sawyer's and Huck Finn's lifestyle?
2. What are the differences between Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn's outlook on life?
3. How do Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn perceive to each other?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the problems, the objectives of the study are purposed to point out the answer for the problems. They are as follows:

1. To find out the differences between Tom Sawyer's and Huck Finn's lifestyle.
2. To figure out the differences between Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn's outlook on life.
3. To examine Tom Sawyer's and Huck Finn's perception to each other.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

It is necessary to give the limitation of the problem in this research in order to avoid the expansion of the problems. It has been known that there are many kinds of intrinsic elements in the novel such as conflict, character, theme, setting, plot, and so on. Hence, the writer wants to focus on the characters in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, namely, Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn.

Further, the writer analyzes the differences between two characters based on their lifestyle, outlook on life, and perception to each other. Therefore, in this research, the writer only limits the problem about the differences or the contrasts between two characters' life.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer wants to show the characters of the young boys during the mid-19th Century in America so that the readers will know the life of the young boys in America at that time through the characters of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. It is also hoped that the result of this research can be used as additional information for those who want to study more about *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. Besides, this research can be applied as a guide for other writers who want to make further analysis on this novel.