

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is a kind of art. It is closely related to human life because literature is the work of human being and enjoyed by human being too. Furthermore, literature can be a picture of social life. Hence, the readers will get the lesson of moral values or other values within literature. Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says as follows:

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

In learning literature, we can find ideas, which can support our life. We can develop our life, habit, attitude and way of acting by reading literature and trying to find out the message given.

Novel, a long work of fiction, exhibits various things that are so complex. In a novel, we will find problem and solution, question and answer, mystery and revelation. Those are the creations of many kinds of events in real life. A novel performs description about many kinds of life stories, that description cannot be separated from the social condition, manner and tradition at the moment that the author in the process of writing. In *An Introduction to the English Novel*, Kettle (1951:65) says, " A novel is living thing, all one and continuous, like any other

organism, and proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the parts.”

The writer wants to see the truth, not by learning all of the social cultures or tribes in the world, but just by analyzing the Native Americans. She has heard for a long period of time that the Indians are the amazing people in America; they are smart, experts in recognizing footprints, but for some certain reasons, they do not hesitate to kill. In my opinion, American Indians are complicated tribes. She can see many things by learning their attitudes, habits and cultures. She does not need to go to America, where the Indians live, however, she can gain a lot of knowledge about them by reading the novel *The Last of the Mohicans*. That is why when she saw the movie, she was interested in reading the novel and analyzing it.

James F. Cooper is an American author who is also known as an expert in criticizing the American society and works has helped to shape American literature much. The choice of material that he brought into his novels contains critical ideas towards the effects of colonization of the white men (French and England) to the local culture of the red skin (American Indian / Native American) people, like we can read in *The Last of the Mohicans*. It is an evidence that literature moves from human experiences.

A human being is a creature who is influenced by so many factors, not only by his/her environment but also by nature, social condition, and emotion. There all can be described nicely by Cooper about Native Americans / red people.

We may even judge many things that are done by the Native Americans in *The Last of the Mohicans* that make the novel more interesting.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

Considering the reasons above here are three leading questions that need to be answered. They are as follows:

1. What are the Native Americans' points of view in James F. Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*?
2. How do the Native Americans' actions influenced by their points of view?
3. What are the white men's points of view toward the Native American?
4. What are the white men's actions influenced by their points of view?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the Native Americans' points of view in James F. Cooper's *The Last of the Mohicans*.
2. To analyze the Native Americans' actions influenced by their points of view.
3. To describe the white men's points of view toward the Native Americans.
4. To analyze the white men's actions influenced by their points of view.

1.4 The Limitation of the Study

The writer limits discussion in order to get a clearer understanding on the discussion. It is important to guard the discussion run well. From the novel *The Last of the Mohicans* written by James F. Cooper, the writer would like to focus on the Native Americans' points of view toward the white men, the Native Americans' actions influenced by their points of view, the white men's points of view towards the Native Americans, and the white men's actions influenced by their points of view towards the Native Americans.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this study enriches the knowledge about literary work, especially about novel *The Last of the Mohicans* by James F. Cooper. By reading this thesis, the reader is able to understand the content of the novel thoroughly. The reader can refer the Native Americans' points of view in James F. Cooper's *The Last of Mohicans*, the Native Americans' actions influenced by their points of view, the white men's points of view toward the Native Americans, and the white men's actions influenced by their points of view. Furthermore, this study will be useful for encouraging the other researchers to do further research on the similar topics.