

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Talking about literature, like short story, novel, poetry, and drama, a reader needs a high concentration to understand well about the content of literary works. They force human brain to understand and memorize their elements, such as plot, theme, character, setting, etc. by understanding and memorizing those elements as a unity, the reader will comprehend the content of the literary works itself. Here, a literary work expresses and communicates thought, feeling, and attitude toward life through a written language. Hudson, in his book entitled *Introduction to the Literature*, explains that literature is a vital record of what men have seen, what they have experienced of life, or what they have thought about the elements of life that have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1965: 10). So, reading a literary work also gives an important role because it can help human brain to understand what they have thought, felt, or done toward life through a written language.

In addition, Kelley Griffith, Jr. supports another definition about literature in simpler words that literature is an expression of individuals who write it. Their personalities, expressions, and beliefs are bound up their works. Thus, by reading literary works, the readers may imagine and understand well about certain expressions and messages that are conveyed by the author of literary works.

Literary work can be divided into three kinds; they are fiction, poetry, and drama. There is misleading on fiction as a descriptive term, because although fiction often includes imagery elements but it has potential to be "true". It includes the true to be reality, and the true to the human experience (Griffith, 1990: 44).

Supporting the previous, X.J Kennedy in *Literature: An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* states that fiction is a name for story not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, and imaged (1973: 3). The word *fiction* comes from Lateen (*fictio* means a shaping and a counterfeiting). The readers' thought is set when they read a fiction in order to be able to imagine the action, setting, and characters.

There are two kinds of fiction, short story and novel. The writer is more interested in reading and analyzing the novel than short story. The writer thinks that comprehending novel is such interesting challenge. As it has been stated before, it needs a high concentration in understanding and memorizing the elements of a novel in order to catch the content of the novel. It is also because the writer feels easier to imagine about the content of the novel. Jones states that a novel is a long story written in prose, but it differs from short story in some ways (1968: 80). The main difference between novel and short story is on the focus. A novel has a far range focus that relates to number of incidents, while a short story only has one incident in a time. Based on Wellek and Werren in *Theory of Literature*, a novel is a picture of real life, manners, and time in which it is written (1955: 205).



The writer is interested in Langston Hughes' novel entitled *Not Without Laughter*. Langston Hughes is one of many talented black authors who had to do with development of art known as the Harlem renaissance (Baym, 1958: 1655). Harlem, which was known as black "cultural capital" was the centre of place for black creativity to express what they had thought as their own experience. Intellectual such as Johnson and Alain Locke saw Harlem as a place of great opportunity where blacks could express what they had thought, felt, or experienced. In 1925, Locke through his essay entitled "The New Negro" announced the death of "Old Negro" and became a sort of cultural manifesto for artist, at least, it would be useful for blacks' next generation ([http://www.galegroup.com/free\\_researches/bio/hughes\\_1.html](http://www.galegroup.com/free_researches/bio/hughes_1.html))-accessed on April 28, 2007. Post-War-World I, Harlem was an undisputed centre of a complex cultural movement out of which appeared a development of black intellectuals, writers, musicians, actors, and visual artist. Variously, it was called Harlem Renaissance or negro Renaissance. It was also an artistic development together with social-political expressions of black pride ([http://www.bookrages.com/researches/harlem\\_renaissance-sipe-02/](http://www.bookrages.com/researches/harlem_renaissance-sipe-02/))-accessed on May 23, 2007.

*Not Without Laughter* describes about the struggle of black poor folks just for survival. At that time, white people treated the black folks differently. Because of this condition, black folks had a spirit in order to survive in United States. This condition made Hughes write a novel about it in United States during 1930's. indirectly, the novel showed Hughes' experience. He describes fictional town

Stanton on Lawrence ([http://www.lawrence.ks.us/langston\\_exhibit/laughter.html](http://www.lawrence.ks.us/langston_exhibit/laughter.html))- accessed on May 23, 2007. most of people and events were based on real places, people, and events as he experienced during his childhood in Lawrence. Hughes experienced racial discrimination that had been a fact for niggers in Lawrence and had been done by the white.

### **1.2 Statement of the Study**

The writer finds some problems that are occurred and are interesting to be analyzed. These problems are as follows:

1. What are the backgrounds of Sandy's motivation in refusing racial discrimination?
2. How does Sandy struggle in refusing racial discrimination?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This analysis purposes to solve the problems, stated in the statement of the problems that have been formulated before. The purposes are as follows:

1. To explain the backgrounds of Sandy's motivation in refusing racial discrimination.
2. To explain the Sandy's struggle in refusing racial discrimination

### **1.4 Limitation of the Problem**

*Not Without Laughter* tells about hard life and experience of black folks living in United States, especially Sandy and his family in Stanton, Lawrence. In

analyzing this novel, the writer limits his analysis in Sandy's refusal on racial discrimination. It concerns on Sandy's motivation and struggle in refusing racial discrimination that had been a fact for niggers in Lawrence and been done by the white.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

In reading Langston Hughes' *Not Without Laughter*, the writer may understand about hard life suffered by black folks they had many obstacles in refusing racial discrimination. Then, the writer also learns more about the character of Sandy through his motivation and struggle in refusing racial discrimination.

Accordingly, the writer expects that this analysis is able to improve the readers' point of view about discrimination that is suffered by the black and to give the readers a better understanding in appreciating other people by no certain requirements as well. This study is significant because it can be used as the valuable reference for the other researchers to study the struggle of black folks in refusing racial discrimination as has been described in Langston Hughes' *Not Without Laughter*.