

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is anything, which is written to express thought, feeling and attitude toward life. Jones Jr (1965:1) in *An Outlines of Literature* explains, "Literature is simple another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feeling and thought". In its broadest sense, it includes all written materials dealing with thought and feeling. Further, Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says in the following:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life and what they thought and felt about those aspects of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of which has the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

Drama is interesting to be analyzed. Reaske (1965:14) says, "Drama is a work of literature or position which delineates life human activity by means of presenting various actions of life and dialogues between a group of characters". A drama entitled *Hamlet* written by William Shakespeare is chosen as the object of the study for one main reason; the interest of analyzing the effect of superstition on the main character and the plot development in the drama. Accordingly, the title of the research is **The Effects of Superstition on the Main Character and the Plot Development in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.**

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

The problems of the research are answering the following questions:

1. What are the effects of superstition on the main character in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?
2. What are the effects of superstition on the plot development in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*?

1.3 The Objectives of the Research

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To know the effects of superstition on the main character in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.
2. To know the effects of superstition on the plot development in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

1.4 The Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the analysis is limited on the effects of superstition on the main character Hamlet and the plot development in William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this thesis gives benefits and good impression on the readers. For the other researchers, it also gives an interesting impact to reveal the other more detailed analysis on the similar topics of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.