

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Many people feel interested in studying literature because it has important role. If we learn literature, we will know about spirit, motivation, ambition, pleasure, and sadness. We see many experiences and different ways in struggling to reach success.

Hudson (1965:37) in *An Introduction to Study Literature* states as follows:

Literature is only one of the many channels in which the energy of an age discharges itself; in its political movements, religious thought, philosophical speculation, art, we have same energy overflowing into the forms of expression.

It shows that life has a lot of historical, political, social, cultural, philosophical, and religious experiences.

Many literary works become the manifestation of philosophy in portraying the reality of life. Eagleton (1983:8) in *An Introduction Literary Theory* states as follows:

A piece of writing may start off life as history of philosophy and then come to be ranked as literature; or it may start off as literature and then come to be valued for its archeological significance.

It shows that literary works may have relationship with philosophy, archeology, et cetera.

In studying literary work, it is necessary to learn intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements such as plot, setting, character, point of view, and theme give basic knowledge in order to broaden our ideas in doing a deeper study. These extrinsic elements can be the social historical condition during past time, the portrayal of society, et cetera.

People like reading literary work which can be divided into three types, namely novel, drama, and poetry. Novel is interesting to read because understanding novel is easier than understanding poetry. Kennedy (1966:182) in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* states "The novel is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which it was written".

The novel *The Grapes of Wrath* written by John Steinbeck talks about life in the great depression. It talks about Joad family as poor farmers which must leave Oklahoma because of the great of dust bowl disaster. They go west to California and work as fruit pickers. It is the story about the daily heroism of an ordinary person. Joad as a main character in this novel has bravery for upholding the justice and existence. He is always protective to his family and optimistic that his family can live better. The write is interested in analyzing this novel because the writers wants to know Joad's struggle as a hero for his family.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of this study are to answer the following questions:

1. What are Joad's heroic behaviors?
2. What are the influence of Joad's heroic behaviors toward his family?

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

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe Joad's heroic behaviors.
2. To analyze the influence of Joad's behaviors toward his family.

### **1.4 Limitation of the Study**

In this thesis, the writer feels necessary to limit the scope of the study in order to avoid more complicated discussion and unimportant matters. From the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* written by John Steinbeck, the writer would like to pay attention only on Joad's heroic behaviors and the influence of Joad's heroic behaviors toward his family.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The writer hopes that this thesis could arise the interest of reading among the people. This study is significant since it can be the reference for the readers to add their knowledge. This study also tends to enrich the research in the field of literature. It may be considered as additional source for those who are interested in studying literature. To be more specific, it will hopefully be the input for further studies concerning with heroism in literary works.