

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

People in their life need something that is interesting to make their life beautiful, like reading some books. Why do people read? The usual answer to such a question is: for information or amusement. Does this reply give a very clear answer to the further question: why do people read literature? We read literature to find the beauty of words of great writers. Literature teaches us the truth about our life beautifully. We learn good values from literature. Literature is very important to read because those writers have spent so much time that what they say must be important. Otherwise they would have been forgotten. We read literature because it is an important part of our education. Jones (1968: 5) in *An Outline of Literature* says as follows:

Literature then depends on the readers and the writer. Probably no two readers get exactly the same thoughts and feelings from something they read, because their past experiences have been different. By the same, probably no two writes ten a story in exactly the same way because their styles are different.

One of the interesting things that can make the people's life beautiful is literary work or literature. People can interpret their interpretation based on their feeling, and they will get some messages in the literature. By reading it, the reader can solve the problem in their life, and it can make their life beautiful. Hudson (1965: 10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says in the following:

Literature is vital record of what men have seen in live what they have experience of it. What they have though and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of the life through the medium of language.

Escape literature, however, takes away the reader from the real world. Thus the interpretation of the literature much depends on the reader. Holman (1986: 354) says in the following:

Literature is divided into three genres: Drama, Prose, and Poetry, and the term "Novel" is used in its broadest sense to designate any extended fictional prose narrative. He says, "all novels are representations in fictional narrative of line or experience but the form is itself as protean as life and experience themselves have proved to be"

Out of many literary works in Victorian age, the writer chooses to study William Somerset Maugham's novel entitled *Merry Go Round*. Jones (1968:80) says, "Some respects a novel is like a short story, except that is longer. Novel is a long story written in prose". Besides that Long (1964: 561) says, "A novel may be set in the world; it portrays imagined people and events". A good novel takes us into the lives of other people and thereby enlarges our own life. Furthermore, Long (1964:562-563) says" A novel is a fictional prose narrative usually too long to read at a single setting." Novels are written in prose.

The writer is going to analyze the marriage problems that are found in William Somerset Maugham's *Merry Go Round* for her thesis. There are several reasons why she chooses *Merry Go Round*. Firstly, *Merry Go Round* is interesting novel since it tells about some daily problems that we may find when we get marriage. Secondly the problems may contain some messages for the readers.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

The problems of the research are answering the following questions:

1. What are the marriage problems and their effects that happen to Basil Kent and Jenny Bush in the William Somerset's *Merry Go Round*?
2. What is the marriage problem and its effects that happen to Paul Castilyon and Grace Castilyon in William Somerset's *Merry Go Round*?

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

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the marriage problems and their effects that happen to Basil Kent and Jenny Bush in William Somerset's *Merry Go Round*.
2. To describe the marriage problem and its effects that happen to Paul Castilyon and Grace Castilyon in William Somerset's *Merry Go Round*.

## **1.4 Scope of the Problem**

The research is limited to the marriage problems, the causes, and the effects, found in William Somerset's *Merry Go Round*. The writer limits her analysis only on some characters, which have problems in marriage, namely Basil Kent, Jenny Bush, Grace Castilyon, and Paul Castilyon.

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

This thesis can be the reminder that our life is not easy. Hopefully, the readers will know that staying marriage is not easy although getting marriage is easy. For the other researchers, this study can help them in doing further research on marriage problems in a novel or in the other literary work, because the analysis of marriage problems is very interesting.