

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Knowledge and experience are two important things for human being. We say that knowledge is one of the essential needs for us to live in this globalization era. We improve our knowledge and experience through many ways. One of them is reading literary works. We study literary works as a tool to know the depth of human life, significance and to get more knowledge. By reading written works, the reader will encourage himself to pay close attention to many significance elements including in the contexts.

Literary works is a branch of art which uses language as media and its devices to express author's ideas. We can experience and involve in literature to the same extent that we are involved in life by reading of literature. Edward Jones (1968:1) supports the statement above in his book entitled *An Outline of Literature*. He states that "literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination." Meanwhile we see that literature contains record of people's value, their thoughts, problems and conflicts. As it is defined by R.J Rees in *English Literature: An Introduction for Foreign Readers*.

Literature is a writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings and attitudes towards life. (1973:2)

It means literature reflects our thoughts or feelings which we immediately recognize as belonging to real life.

There are three main form of literature can be learn by students of the faculty of letters when they study literary works namely: prose, drama and poetry. All this forms are designed to drive the interest to stimulate, to broaden, to enable, or at least to make some appeal on the imagination of the readers. Among literary forms the writer would like to analyze drama as the subject of the thesis, as some ideas are presented by playwrights through their works. In drama, there are certain features that are not found in novels or poems that is dialogues that are not found in novels or poems. Such as dialogues that can be heard, mimicries, gestures, actions and appearances or decorations which are created by dramatists that can be seen on stage. All of these things are powerful in creating the atmosphere in attracting the audience in such a way to make better in following and understanding the story easily.

Drama is wonderful work of literature and all happening in drama might and could really happen in real life, so that drama is quite impressive to normal people. In drama, the play can touch the feeling of the audience since the happenings in real life can be seen on the stage, while in a novel the readers can only image the happenings. Such Christopher Russels Reaske (1966:5) in *How to Analyze Drama* confirms, "A drama is a work of literature or composition which delineates life and human activity by means of presenting various actions of and dialogues between a group of characters." A playwright always tries to give his message to the readers or audiences. It will be easy to understand because the readers or audiences will be able to hear the dialogues of the character just like they understand somebody's conversation.

This thesis discusses drama entitled "Othello", the Moor of Venice written by William Shakespeare. As we know Shakespeare is the great seventeen-century dramatist who lived in Elizabethan period. He wrote many plays and one of them is Othello. Most of his works talk about Kingdom's life and tragic plays. They are Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Machbeth, A Midsummer Night's Dream, King Lear etc. Othello is a tragic drama about a Moor. The story tells about love and dead, justice and jealousy. On other hand, it also tells about a cornered man, provocation and murder. The story takes place in Venice and seaport in Cyprus.

The writer is interested to analyze cornered character as the topic the discussion. As one of elements of drama, a cornered character has an important part to make the story more alive. Leonard F. Dean (1834:218) in his book entitled *A Casebook on Othello* says that "The Moor, to an Elizabethan was a black Moor, an African, an Ethiopian. Shakespeare's other Moor, Aaron in Titus Andronicus, is specifically black; he has thick lips and a fleece of woolly hairs." The cornered character also can cause social jealousy of a person. It is clarified from this quotation: "what a full fortune does the thick-lips owe, if he can carry's thus!" (act I, scenei:17). The Othello's play is complete with irony to demonstrate the story more reality and this play also illustrates about the life of person that colored by pressure from other person that jealous with his good fortune. Those are the writer's reason in choosing a title *An Analysis of the Cornered Character in William Shakespeare's Othello the Moor of Venice*.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Related to the title the writer has several problems to analyze in this research. The problems are formulated as follows:

1. What are the causes of the cornering of Othello ?
2. What are the treatment of the cornering of Othello?
3. What are the effects of the cornering of Othello?

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

There are so many topics that can be discussed in *Othello*, such as character, plot, theme, style, symbol, setting. In order to avoid complicated discussion, it is necessary to limit the problem to specify the discussion. The writer points the discussion of *Othello, the Moor of Venice* by William Shakespeare. This thesis is to analyze character which is cornered by the people who live in his surrounding. The thesis will analyze the actions expressed by the main character, Othello as a cornered character, either explicit or implicit expression in the play.

### **1.4 Objective of the Problem**

In analyzing the play, the writer has several purposes which hopefully can be reached after completing the analysis. The objectives of the study are in three points, those are:

1. The writer wants to know the causes of the cornering of Othello.
2. The writer wants to describes the treatment of the cornering of Othello.
3. The writer wants to know the effect of the cornering of Othello.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

Cornered character also can be found in story of literary works. Here the writer tries to analyze the cornered character by using some theories to support this analysis. However, literary works have close relationship with other science to make the story more interesting by combining the ability of the author and the knowledge of science as physic, math, and geography.

The cornered character of Othello's story is interesting. The reader can understand of Othello's is being cornered character and how to solve them, which in daily lives, of course people can learn how take the goodness and how to let away the badness. Moreover the writer gets more knowledge about cornered character and learns the people's personality. Finally, this is the writer's final task as a partial fulfillment of requirements for the Sarjana Degree in English