

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Literature is created to be enjoyed for the people. That is the reason why people read literature. Through literature, the author expresses life and describes all of aspects of human life. The reader will get impression and pleasure of it.

Griffith, Jr. (1990:3) in *Writing Essays about Literature* says as follows:

Literature is a subject matter that creates certain expectations in your audience. Because literature is a complex product of the imagination, readers of essays about literature expect you to interpret it - to explain, to clarify, to analyze, to give the meaning of it.

Hudson (1913: 10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* also says "Literature is vital record of that they have experience of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it, which have most immediate and induring interest for all of us, medium of language."

Literature may be a product of the imagination and as a record of life that was experienced by people and seen in life. The problems or the stories of the novel are decribed as naturally as possible, so that it is like a real life. What is expressed or written by an author in literary works can be the words or sentences or paragraphs which are composed in such a way, so they become the stories which come from the author's imagination. However, it is usually written or expressed based on the reality of life or reflection of anything happening in this life. For instance, the murder is often caused by treasures, in trick, revenge,

passion, happiness, suffering, love, dissatisfaction, jealousy, and so on, which, as a matter of fact, are the parts of human being's life.

A story in the novel can be the records of what the author has seen, what he has experienced, and what he has felt. The records are developed in such a way that they becomes such an interesting story.

There are three forms of literature; prose, drama, and poetry. In this thesis, the writer is interested in novel. A novel is along story written in prose, but because it is long, it refers to a short story in other ways too. Novel is one of the most popular and familiar forms of literature. It is also an interesting and exciting literary work to be read. " Novel has been used to report people and places, to introduce a new environment and condition of life." (Milligan, 1984:78). It means that when the writer may write ordinary people or places all over the world or share his in extraordinary experiences, which would not be parted of our normal life.

The writer is interested to analyzed materialism in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. Accordingly, the title of the research is An Analysis of Rebecca's Materialism in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*. This is interesting for some reason. For one thing, the author of this novel is one of great English novelists whose masterpiece is *Vanity Fair*. Another, the book is interesting to be read. Finally, the writer chooses materialism as her topic of discussion because she finds materialism influences much the main character.

This thesis discusses the causes and effects of materialism Rebecca in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The problem are to answer the following questions :

1. What are the causes of Rebecca's materialism in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*?
2. What are the effects of Rebecca's materialism toward her life?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are as follows :

1. Elaborate the causes of Rebecca's materialism in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*
2. Analyze the effects of Rebecca's materialism toward her life

1.4. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the scope of discussion in order to get a clearer understanding on the discussion. In short, the writer analyzes the materialism of Rebecca, the main character of the novel *Vanity Fair* written by William Thackeray published by Purnell and Son, LTD, in London in 1848. This thesis focuses on the causes and effects of Rebecca's materialism.

1.5 Significance of the Study

For the witer, there are some purposes in writing this thesis. The writer wants to know the causes of Rebecca's materialism in which it bring about negative influences toward her own life and the others. Hopefully, this study can be significant reference for the other researcher doing the research on materialism in William Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*.