

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Language is an important thing in human life. Language is the humans' way in communicating and expressing their mind. We can express the language via speaking and writing. Without communicating, we cannot interact to each other in order to express our mind and feeling. Moreover, language is a part of art, especially in literature. Hudson (1965: 10) in *An Introduction to the Study Literature* says:

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

We can express our feeling, thinking, and doing through certain medium, namely language. We can express the language in the form of literature. Therefore, we can say that literature is expression of life through the language. Literature means to enjoy and it does make us relax.

Roes (1973: 2) in *An Introduction for Foreign Readers* says, "Literature is a writing, which expresses and communicates thought, feeling, and attitude toward life." It means that each of people shows or makes to know a feeling or an opinion by words in writings, looks, and actions. Edward (1968: 1) in *An Outline of Literature* says, "Literature is simply another way in which we can express and

communicate thought, feeling, and attitude toward life through a written language.”

Generally, literature is divided into three kinds, namely prose, drama, and poetry. Novel is a part of prose. All novels contain action and conflict. They give some pleasure for us through its story. According to Morris (1969: 148) in *The American Dictionary Heritage*, “Novel is a narrative of considerable length, typically having a plot that is unfolded by the actions, speech, and thoughts of the characters.”

Moreover, Shaw (1972: 257) in *Dictionary of Literary Terms* says, “novel is a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying characters and presenting an organized series of events and settings.” While, Kennedy (1979: 231) in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* says, “Novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life.” Thus, novel is a story, which made because of imagination of the author about human life described in the form of literary work. It can be a fiction or true story, which has more than one series of events depending on the author.

Furthermore, this thesis analyzes the novel entitled *The Red Badge of Courage* written by Stephen Crane. The novel is very interest to analyze because the content of the novel sometimes are directly stated and sometimes implied. Moreover, the research want to show the symbols, which find in the novel and understand the relation between the symbols and Henry Fleming’s characterization.



Actually, symbol is something that has a deeper meaning or represents something else. According to Hornby (1963: 876) in *The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, a symbol is "sign, mark, and object, looked upon as representing something." Symbol is something in the text that has another meaning. To know the symbol we must understand and feel it. Without feeling, we cannot understand the symbol.

Symbols are important in literary work. They may represent the character's action, but we can only observe them if we understand the text deeply (Kennedy, 1983: 147). Sometimes there are any relations between the symbols and the actor characterization. Accordingly, the title of the thesis is *The Symbols Related to Henry Fleming's Characterization in Stephen Crane's The Red Badge of Courage*.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of the research are to answer the following questions:

1. What are the symbols in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*?
2. How are the symbols related to Henry Fleming's characterization in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*?

### 1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are in the following:

1. To describe the symbols in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*.
2. To analyze the relation between the symbols and Henry Fleming's characterization in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*.

### 1.4 Limitation of the Problem

In this thesis, the writer limits the problems of discussion into two parts. Firstly, the writer analyzes the symbols and tries to describe the meaning of symbols in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*.

Secondly, the writer analyzes the relation of the symbols with Henry Fleming's characterization in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*.

### 1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study is able to widen and enrich the research in the form of literature. It may be considered as additional source for those who are interested in analyzing the symbols and their relation with the characterization in different resources.

After reading the novel and this study, the readers can understand the situation of human under pressure and the meaning of symbols in this novel entitled *The Red Badge of Courage*. In addition, the readers can express their life more fully, deeply, and richly through their imagination and knowledge.