

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Problem

Literature is a way to express our feeling, our imagination, and our emotion. Hudson (1965:10), in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature*, states as follows:

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 aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

In other word, literature is an expression of society at any time because it mirrors the current social situation. Moreover, Edward Jones, in his book *Outlines of Literature*, states that literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us though our imagination (1968:1). It means that literature is a way to know the world around us though our imagination. On the other hand, *Pengantar Kesustraan Inggris*, Drs. Rahardjo says that:

Literature helps us to be realistic, mature, wise and human. It helps us to understand human sentiments, human interests, human problems, and human values. Our life becomes more and more tolerant, more balance, and fuller. We are able to sympathize with other's suffering. We admire their endurance, perseverance, and their remarkable motivations. We learn to appreciate properly. In this way our capacity for feeling and appreciation increase, and so does our capacity for enjoyment. We become richer though our literary experience. Literature endows us with the vision, from which we can draw our own conclusions and interpretations about behavior, and about what is worth striving for in life, and in so doing it gives us something of far more ultimate value than scientific books. It helps us to adapt to life, face life problem, for our welfare (1987:2-3).

It clarifies that literature teaches us to be aware of our existence as human beings who are not individualist. By literature, we become a sensitive human being to the world around us. We can also understand more about behaviors, attitudes, even the characters of human being. Besides, literature gives us pleasure and knowledge by studying a novel, play or poetry as well. So, it can be said that literature can give us information, knowledge and entertainment. Therefore, many authors often express their feelings and describe the world around them by means of literature. One of the elements of novel is conflict. It can be external or internal. Here, the writer will discuss about the psychological condition in one of Fyodor Dostoevsky is novels, entitled *Notes From Underground*. It mirrors the condition of the main character in which he is looking for a better life. He fight against himself and the cruel situation. He has psychological conflict within himself that turns into social conflict. Actually, in daily life, every human being has his own purpose. Because of his different purpose, it often brings him to have conflict with other people. It is possible to have conflict with other people, because we have different characters. In this novel, he has to face complicated situation in his life not only within him self but also with others. Beginning from this case, the writer wants to investigate this story deeper.

The reason why the writer chooses the title is the interest to know more about the psychological condition of the main character in *Notes From Underground*. It is interesting to know that the main character has no friends when he was twenty-four. His life was gloomy, ill – regulated and solitary. He even avoided to have a conversation with other people. At work, he never looked

at anyone. He also hated his face. He thought it was disgusting, that is why everyday he tried to assume a lofty expression, so that he might not be suspected of being very miserable and unhappy.

‘When petitioners would come to my desk for information, I would grind my teeth at them feel intense enjoyment whenever I succeeded in making anybody unhappy. I almost always did succeed (1864:202).

From the statement above, it can be clarified that the main character’s attitude is very bad. He serves people very badly and impolitely. He should not do that to other people, especially for those who ask for information. Since he works in the government service, he should be able to serve people in a good way and he must be friendly. It is shown that he cannot himself whenever he has a conflict within himself. He likes to see someone unhappy. He feels successful if he can do that.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This thesis deals with the problem, as follows:

1. What is the main character’s psychological condition?
2. What causes the psychological condition on the main character?
3. How is the main character’s attitude toward the condition?

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Conflict may be external or internal. In external conflict, a character may be in conflict with another character, nature or society. Meanwhile, in internal conflict, a character has a conflict within himself. It means that he himself has to face many complicated problems. In his life, he has to choose the best way based

on his own consideration and decide what he going to do. However, the writer takes psychological condition to be discussed in order to avoid complicated discussion.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the main character's psychological condition.
2. To elaborate the causes the psychological condition on the main character.
3. To explain the main character's attitude towards the condition.

1.5 Significance of the Study

By making this thesis, the writer hopes that it can create significance toward the readers, such as to make the readers understand about how to control human emotion in facing conflicts not only within himself but also with others.