

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the problem

Literature is created to be enjoyed by the people. That is the reason why people read literature. Through literature, the author wants to express life and describe all of aspects of human life. The readers will get impression and pleasure of it.

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

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

Jones (1981: 1) in *An Outline of Literature* says that Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination.

There are three kinds of literary works, namely novel, poetry and drama or play. Drama is one of literary works that performed on the stage and represented by the actor. Kennedy in his book entitled *An Introduction to Fiction Poetry and Drama*, states that a play is work story telling in which the characters are represented by the actor (1966: 18)

The writer chooses a play as the analysis. The play has high quality if it presents about human life that can be felt and enjoyed by the readers or spectators. After reading the play, it makes the readers feel glad and satisfied. Moreover, it is expected that readers get learning and knowledge about human being.

The writer chooses two plays, that is, *Oedipus Rex* and *Sangkuriang*. The writer wants to compare those two plays especially about tragic love.

As the main character in *Oedipus Rex*, Oedipus killed his father because he did not know and victimized by his own fate. Jocasta, the girl who is loved by Oedipus, is his real mother. Jocasta committing suicide after she knows that she loves her own son. Oedipus blinds his eyes and left Thebes to get away from the people. In *Sangkuriang*, Sangkuriang killed Tumang (the domestic animal) without knowing that Tumang is his own father. He killed Tumang because he fed up with Tumang. After being separated from his mother, he found a beautiful girl that is Dayang Sumbi or his mother. He wants to marry Dayang Sumbi but she refuses Sangkuriang's desire. Dayang Sumbi decides to suicide by entering the lake because Sangkuriang forces her to marry him.

The writer of this thesis is interested in analyzing what are the tragic love happening in *Oedipus Rex* and *Sangkuriang* because the writer wants to know the cause of the tragic love and the similarities of tragic love between the two plays after the main characters know that their loves are their mother.

The writer wants to raise the story of the two play because *Oedipus Rex* is the big story in Greek and *Sangkuriang* also as a famous folktale in Indonesia and both of stories have the similarity and high philosophy value that can take the wisdom. Beside that the writer hopes that this thesis can increase of repertory of literature especially about comparative study.



## 1.2 The Statement of the Problem

The writer chooses the title “The Comparison of Tragic Love in *Oedipus Rex* and *Sangkuriang*”. It means that the writer will analyze tragic love of the main character in those two play. Here, the writer takes some problems in order to get clear discussion of this writing, they are:

1. How is the tragic love in *Oedipus Rex*?
2. How the tragic love in *Sangkuriang*?
3. What are the similarities of tragic love in the two plays?

## 1.3 Limitation of the Problem

In analyzing this writing, the writer would like to choose play as the subject of discussion. The writer will discuss about tragic love which is done by the main characters namely Oedipus and Sangkuriang. So, the writer just focuses in the causes of the tragic love and the similarity of tragic love in the two play.

## 1.4 The Aims of the Study

The aims of the study are as follows:

1. To describe the tragic love in *Oedipus Rex*.
2. To describe the tragic love in *Sangkuriang*.
3. To know the similarities of tragic love in the two play.

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

This study is significant since it can be the reference for further research on the comparison of tragic love in the two play. This is significant for the other research in analyzing the comparison of tragic love in *Oedipus Rex* and *Sangkuriang*.