

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Studying literature is pleasure. Literature makes the world more colorful because it serves many topics that can create a given feeling on the part of the readers. Literature can makes the readers sad and cry in tragedy story while the readers ask to smile in comedy story. Hudson (1965:10) says:

Literature is vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experience of it, what they have though and felt about this object of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life though the medium of language.

In other words, it is said that literature is the picture and expression of human life. It has close relationship with human life because it is the work of human and being enjoyed by the human as well.

There are three main branches in literature, that is, poetry, prose, and drama (Rees, 1973:2). In this case, the writer is more interesting in prose. It means that reading prose can create enjoyment and excitement for the readers. Besides, it increases the reader's knowledge as well. It reports to the readers a new environment and condition of life whether in the present, in the past, or even in the future. Prose also stimulates the reader's imagination. The readers are asked to describe the situation that the writer wants to show through the readers' imagination. The most important thing in reading prose is that the readers' hope to catch the message of the story. Furthermore, in prose the readers can find some

issues that occur in the society such as crime, racism, materialism, sexism, and so on. From all of those issues, the writer is interesting in sex issue and chooses it as the theme of analysis.

Sex holds the important roles in human life. Sex is the result of such human feeling called love. Kephart (in Atwater, 1983:190) claims love as a strong emotional attachment to person of the opposite sex, a tendency to idealize that person as well a marked sexual attraction to that person (1983:190). He emphasizes love as emotional attachment happening on the opposite sex. It means that love is an expression of human interests on the opposite sex.

However, love sometimes does not occur on opposite sex. The interaction may find on person who has the same sex. It is called as lesbian when such an effective sexual attraction occurs in two women. In former, such communities are a shame to introduce themselves as lesbian. It does so because the privacy during that period regarded much more highly than today (Anderson, 1997:01). Meanwhile today, it talks out in public. They want privacy and right for their life.

Unfortunately, the life of White's lesbian is better than the Black-Colored lesbian. The Black-Colored lesbian's life is hard. Their problems are more complex. They have to face racism, sexist and many more. The Black-Colored women are friendly with the problem of wife beating in their houses. Lesbianism issue makes their problem more various (Anderson, 1997:01).

Kennedy in Ellen Lewis's essay deals with lesbian says his opinion toward lesbian he says "these women lived not to be judged by the current pressure to be out, but should be viewed through lenses Colored by social and political eliminate

of sexual and gender politics of their time” (Anderson, 1997:01). His opinion impressed the writer very much. Even though lesbian cannot be classified into a good attitude but human do not have a right to judge other human life. Lesbians are human; they have equal right to achieve their happiness in the society.

For this reason, the writer would like to take the lesbian issue as the subject of the analysis. The writer chooses Alice Walker’s *The Color purple* as the source of data. In *The Color Purple*, Walker makes a good illustration of the lesbian’s life presented in Celie’s character.

The Color Purple is an epistolary novel, because it is written in the form of letter, the letters consist of Celie’s letter to God, Celie’s letter to Nettie, and Nettie’s letter to Celie. The center character in *The Color Purple* is Celie, a black women growing up in the South America. She must overcome violence, racism, and poverty to establish herself as an independent person. Celie is raped by her father and from the sexual abused results two babies. She is also forced to marry a widower that has four children, whom usually she calls as Mr. In the course of the story, she meets other women characters that shape her life. They are Nettie, her beloved sister who becomes a missionary in Africa, Sofia her strong-wild daughter in law, and a Blues singer Shug Avery. In her miserable life Celie finally finds love but she falls in love on the wrong person, Shug Avery, who is also woman and later classifies as lesbian.

1.2 The Statements of the Problem

In the statements of the problem, the writer presents some cases that will be the subject of analysis. The statements of the problem are as follows:

1. What are the causes of Celie's lesbianism?
2. How are Celie attitudes toward her lesbian partner Shug Avery?
3. What are the other characters' opinions on Celie's lesbianism?

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

Alice's Walker *The Color Purple* illustrates the life of the Colored during the early-mid 20th century focusing on Georgia and Tennessee, South America. Many characters and problems are presented in *The Color Purple*; therefore, the writer needs to make some limitation on the writer's thesis. The writer focuses one character. The other characters are analyzed are only if they related. In this case, the writer limits the discussion in the causes of Celie's lesbianism, Celie's attitude toward her lesbian partner, Shug and the other characters' opinions toward Celie's lesbianism.

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

The purpose of the analysis is to answer the statement of the problem that has been formulated in 1.2. These purposes are as follows:

1. To explain the causes of Celie's lesbianism.
2. To describe Celie's attitudes toward her lesbian partner Shug Avery.
3. To elaborate the other characters' opinions on Celie's lesbianism.

1.5 The Significant of the Study.

The writer attempts to give deeper insight and open one mind of the lesbian issues on the society today. The writer hopes the readers will have different opinion toward lesbians. The readers will open their mind on lesbianism. For further research on lesbianism, hopefully it is significant for the other researches especially in analyzing the causes of lesbianism, how the lesbian attitude toward her lesbian partner and other opinions and investigations toward the lesbian.