

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Study

Literature is just about anything written for the widest sense. It is usually written to offer pleasure, joy, excitement and entertainment. Jones (1968: 1) says in *An Outlines of Literature*, "Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination". Similarly, Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says as follows:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate enduring interest of all of us.

Furthermore, Grace (1965: 5) in *Responses to Literature*, says as follows:

Literature is, first of all, a creative work of art on object that an artist makes. It is not merely an idea, a theory, a system of thought enters into it. As an object made by an artist, it has two purposes. They are firstly, a creative work experience in terms of "beauty to be contemplated". Secondly a creative work meets the human necessity for a means of communicating ideas of intellectual and social significance. In this sense, a creative work indicates what the artist thought, and also, through it germinate power; it is the source of new ideas in the future, forming a living tradition.

On the other words, literature is viewed as a part of the culture. It is closely related to human life. It becomes part of life of the human being from time to time. It contains of the record of the people's value, their thoughts, problems and conflicts of life. In short, learning literature is a process of understanding the life itself as literature is the imitation of life.

As matter of fact, literature gives us some information of various experiences which are likely to be the basic view of leading on the course of human life. It describes the condition and the problems of society and experiences of someone as individual, and as a part of social sciences, literature covers some works of art. Literature can be divided into three parts, namely: poetry, drama and prose. They are the reflection of human's imagination and contain some values in society, religious messages, and the experiences of human life.

The nature of literature is based on two categories: Semantics qualifications and Aesthetic aspect, which include the term of composition, style, form, and sound pattern. As we refer to Horace statement in Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature* state the functions of literature are of two main things, namely: *Dulce*, which literary translated as "beauty", it means that literature is functioning to exert the beauty of the object of the literary work itself and the second is *Utile*, it means that literature is always useful for the sake of the literature itself and for the surrounding (1956:18). Literature can be the reflection of human behavior in the past time and also the direction of our time in the future.

Hudson (1965:172) says that "Drama is designed for representation by actor who impersonate the characters of its story, and among whom the narrative and the dialogue are distributed". Similarly, Kennedy (1966:833) says in *An Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama* "A drama is a work of storytelling in which the characters are represented by actors". A drama is a work of literature

which delineates life and human activities by means of presenting various actions of - and dialogues between- a group of characters.

Drama is furthermore designed for theatrical presentation; that is, although we speak of drama as a literary work, we must never forget that drama is designed to be acted on the stage (Reaske, 1966: 5). Drama is character in action intended to be spoken and acted in the stage. Drama is the representation of life and character through action and dialogue. Some words, actions, scenarios, lighting, music, etcetera; join to make the world within a world that we call theatre. A drama is addressed not to a solitary reader but to a group of people who sit together in a theatre. A play is written to be acted, to be seen, to be felt by the audiences. A good drama is anything that interests an intelligently emotional group of persons who sit in a theatre, but by reading the play, the readers are let to bring the play on the stage of their mind. Accordingly, reading plays can be exciting and rewarding. We can experience the plays as human conflict between a man and the atmosphere around him. We easily imagine how we would be satisfied reading or seeing the plays.

Romeo and Juliet is an exciting tragic love drama written by William Shakespeare in the Elizabethan Period. This play is a kind of drama which illustrates the struggle of a woman who tries to build her own destiny of marriage. A lot of efforts which have been done by the woman main character in the play are implied feminism values. The drama contains interesting existence of conflicts and characters. Realizing it, the writer wants to dig and describe further about the feminism values in the play.

I.2 The Statement of Study

It is important to be realized that feminism values have existed from the past in the Elizabethan Period until today in modern period. Accordingly, the problem that the writer wants to discuss in this thesis will be on two main problems, they are:

1. What is Juliet's struggle as a daughter in her family?
2. What is Juliet's struggle as a woman in love?

I.3 The Aims of Study

The aims of this study are to settle the problem we have above. Thus, the aims of this problem are to find out and analyzing the following terms:

1. To know Juliet's struggle as a daughter in her family.
2. To know Juliet's struggle as a woman in love.

I.4 The Scope of Study

A literary work has many elements to be discussed. It is impossible to discuss all of the elements of it. Avoiding some problems out of context in this thesis, the writer has made limitation. Therefore, the writer would only like to pay attention to the study on the feminism in Elizabethan Period that is described in the play of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

L5 The Significance of Study

The thesis will discuss Feminism values in William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. By analyzing it the writer hopes that the writer can dig the feminism values those are described in the play in the Elizabethan Period. The writer hopes that for the research this thesis will enrich the literature work itself. The other expectation is that it can give some information to the reader of drama about the development of feminism in the play of Elizabethan Period. Therefore, the reader of drama can enjoy the beauty of the drama and at the same time can be able to enlarge their knowledge about feminism values.