

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is introduction that consists of background, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

Prose, one of the genres of literature, is the work that is represented with many aspects because it includes with literary elements like character, human values, experience, feeling and conflict. According to Abram (2009: 288), “Prose is an inclusive term for all discourse, spoken or written, which is not patterned into the lines either of metric verse or of free verse.” Thus, the prose is the work written in words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs and chapter. It also utilizes punctuation, grammar and vocabulary to develop the message.

One of the categories of prose is Non-fiction. Non-fiction, which includes any writing based on real life events, encompasses a vast variety of writing. Two subcategories for nonfiction are informational and literary. Informational nonfiction includes writing with the purpose to describe or express facts. Literary nonfiction contains of facts to entertain the reader, Janovsky (2003). Non-fiction prose is a type of literature that differs from fact statements, such as those recorded in an old chronicle, inserted in a business letter or in an impersonal

message of mere information. In this way, literary nonfiction reads like fiction and has story elements, like characters, setting and plot. Some examples of literary nonfiction include personal journals, diaries, memoirs, biography, letters, and essays.

Regarding with the research, the kind of this research object is taken from non-fiction text. *The Hero as Prophet* essay by Thomas Carlyle and *The Life of Muhammad* book by Akhtar Rizvi are chosen. Both of works describe about the life of Muhammad, but those are different each other in writers' views. Carlyle is a Scottish who was raised from Christian Calvinist's family, while Rizvi is an Indian Islamic scholar who promoted Islam in East Africa. It can be said that the researcher wants to show Muhammad based on two opinion, these are Muslim and non-Muslim views.

In Rizvi's perspective, Muhammad is a great man who gives a big contribution in the world. Especially for Muslim, he has a great chronicle in promoted Islam as a true faith and then Mahometanism call him as a prophet, the messenger of God (Rizvi, 1999:27). However, in Carlyle perspective, as non-Muslim, considered Muhammad as a person who has contribution in his age. He is a great man who helps mankind and also gives a great change and progress of thoughts of human (Carlyle, 1840). It accordance with Michael H. Hart, in *The 100: A Ranking of the Most Influential Persons in History* (1999) that chooses Muhammad as the first one to lead the list of the world's influential persons because Muhammad is the only man in history who supremely successful on both

religious and secular levels. Muhammad founded and promulgated one of the world's great religions and became an immensely effective political leader. Until now, his influence is still powerful and pervasive. That statement shows us that Muhammad became a man who known as hero or great man with great contribution and he as the first one written within.

In conducting this research, the researcher used Comparative literature by Steven Totosy de Zepetnek, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren to find the similarity and different aspects. Wellek and Warren (1989: 40), argue that the term of comparative refers to the relationship between two or more literary works. Basically, all the literary works has a contrast each other. It is influenced by the views of author, diction, social, culture, period and other aspect. So, comparative literature is a way to find out the causes for the appearance of the contrast and relation in each work. In accordance with Zepetnek (1998:13), "Comparative literature means the knowledge of more than one national language and works. It also about the application of other discipline and have a several meaning of marginality, a genre, and various text types." That statement clearly states that comparative is about comparing one discipline with other.

There are a lot of researches that have been conducted with comparative study or Muhammad story in academics at the moments. Those are very important to affirm this research and gives different opinion related to the object. First, the thesis entitled "Muhammad in The Perspective of Orientalist by The Analysis of Thomas Carlyle's Mahomet and Karen Armstrong's Prophet Muhammad for Our

Time” written by Firman Zaelani Ridwan (2015). The research took orientalism as a theory. It used to find the Muhammad’s view of west to east. Besides, the writer took paradox and hegemony as supporting theory of analysis.

The second is the paper by Ali Zainal Abidin (2012) entitled "*Nabi Muhammad Saw dalam Perspektif Esoteris Seyyed Hossein Nasr.*" This study described the degradation of modernism in western about Muhammad and the influence of Muslim itself. The result of the research found the opinion of Nasr that Muhammad has great high spirits that must be followed by the human.

The last is a thesis entitled “A Comparison of the Narrative Perspective between Novel and Film *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini” written by Haryati Sulistyorini (2012). She compared two genres of literature, film and novel. That study focused on narrative perspective and finds the differences of plot based on text and movie. The researcher used library research. This is the method which is done to find out the references by reading the novel or any books that deal with the object of analysis.

In this study, the researcher based on the existence of Muhammad that is described in both of works. Muhammad, as the influential man, brought a human civilization in providing divinity concept. The contrast view of the writers also makes the researcher interested to compare what are similarities and differences. Therefore, the researcher is interested in investigating it and the title of this thesis is “*The Portrayal of Muhammad in Thomas Carlyle’s The Hero as Prophet and Akhtar Rizvi’s The life of Muhammad.*”

1.2 Statement of Problem

This research is limited on the analysis of the figure of Muhammad based on Muslim and non-Muslim views which focused on Carlyle and Rizvi's work. This research used the theory of Comparative Analysis to found what are the similarity and different aspect in both of work. For that concern, the researcher is interested in discussing and comparing Muhammad in Carlyle and Rizvi's perspective. Based on the background above, the researcher limited the problem by formulating three research questions as following.

1. How is Muhammad portrayed in *The Hero as Prophet* by Thomas Carlyle?
2. How is Muhammad portrayed in *The Life of Muhammad* by Akhtar Rizvi?
3. What are the similarity and different aspects of Muhammad in *The Hero as Prophet* by Thomas Carlyle and *The Life of Muhammad* by Akhtar Rizvi?

1.3 Research Objective

The main purpose of this study is making the readers know and understand well about the works. Besides, the researcher provided the answer from the problem in this study. These are:

1. To portray Muhammad based on Carlyle's views in *The Hero as Prophet's* essay by Thomas Carlyle.
2. To portray Muhammad based on Rizvi's views in *The Life of Muhammad The Prophet* by Akhtar Rizvi.

3. To find the similarity and different aspects between Muhammad in *The Hero as Prophet Mahomet: Islam* by Thomas Carlyle and *The Life of Muhammad The Prophet* by Akhtar Rizvi.

1.4 Research Significance

The significance of this research in academics aspect is to show the description about Muhammad by the Muslim and Christian author. This research has two uses:

Theoretically, the significance of this study, for the researcher, is the study to improving the understanding related to the comparative analysis and developing the knowledge about difference perspective of Muslims and Non-Muslim writer's background about Muhammad.

Practically, the researcher hopes this study can provide an appreciation of the literary world, not only skimming but also give some criticism in literature fields. Particularly among those who enjoy the study of literature. Besides, the researcher hopes the result of this researcher will be useful for the institution as one of result of the literature regarding the context of Comparative literature and further research is useful for academicians of literature.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid a miss-perception in order to have a clear explanation, the researcher presented the definitions of terms which contained in this research. These are:

a. Muhammad

Muhammad is a man from Arab as a founder of Islam and he received the revelation from God and collected into the Koran, the holy book of Islam. For Muslim, he has a great chronicle in promoted Islam as a true faith. So that Mahometanism called him as prophet, the messenger of God. For Non-Muslim, he considered as a person who has contribution in his age. He was a hero who helps mankind and also has given a great change and progress of thoughts of human.

b. Thomas Carlyle

Carlyle is a Scottish who was raised from Christian Calvinist's family. The Hero as Prophet is an essay by Thomas Carlyle. This essay was published on May 8, 1840. The book was written in 32 pages and describes about Muhammad.

c. Akhtar Rizvi

Akhtar Rizvi is an Indian Islamic scholar who promoted Islam in East Africa. The Life of Muhammad is a book by Akhtar Rizvi which is published in 1971 and written about 134 pages. This book has 26 chapters and describes the history of Muhammad.

d. Comparative Literature

Comparison is a cross-culture study, related two or more literary works to find the differences and similarities. It accordance with Basnett (1993:1), "Comparative Literature is a cross culture study text,

characterized by interdisciplinary and related to the pattern of relationships in literature across space and time.”

e. Hero (Great Man)

Hero is the one who gives some civilization for the people at the moment. A great man reminded as the rescuer and the changer of people’s thinking from the darkness to enlightenment.

f. Prophet

Prophet is the messenger of God. He comes to invite the mankind to accept the oneness of God and show them to the right way.

