

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of this paper. It covers the background of this research, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background

According to Abrams (1985:3) literature is the inspiration of life which is legalized in the written language and carries the sense of humanity. It is an artificial word of the author. Through literature, someone can express his feeling and ideas in the form of beautiful language. Literature is a part of life, because it can be a media to describe the situation in certain places, describing something, or making the story about sadness and happiness of life in to the form of literary work such as poetry, drama, or novel.

Novel is one of literary works which tells about someone's life and also the others' environments or the surrounding which show behavior and attitude of the characters. Novel has many characters inside as the aspect of novel itself. In the other words, novel is longer than short story because it has longer plot and episodic than short story. A text of novel is focusing in psychological phenomenon the major or main character as the prime of object research in getting the idea, feeling, and it has many varieties interpretation potency which attends reader mind nature as product of reading (Siswantoro, 2005:11).

The novel which was chosen by the writer is Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The novel is being the object of the study because there is a symbol in the novel that is mockingbird.

The reason of the writer to choose this novel is because it is the best novel in 20th century. According to Shield (2006 :07) this novel winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 and sold about 40 million copies around the world. This novel also winning Academy Award and was reputed as the most influence book at that time. *To kill a Mockingbird* first published in July 11, 1960. In the first year, this novel got a record as the best seller with 2.5 copies, publish for 14 times, and be a recommended book from three books' club in America include Reader's Doges Condensed Books, The Literary Guild, and Book of the Month Club. It also recommended by British Book Society and published in France, German, Italia, Spain, Denmark, Holland, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and Czechoslovakia.

Finally Mockingbird sold about 30 million copies, and in Mei 1st 1961 it got a Pulitzer Prize. It is a prestige appreciation which avowed in international. In the second year, Mockingbird was include as a top record best seller book during 100 weeks and sold more than 5 million copies in 13 regions. In 1962, Mockingbird became a movie and a year later this movie winning three Oscars cup in Academy Awards Movie. In addition, this novel also got an appreciation from Los Angeles Public Library Literature Award and got a sincerely title from University of Notre Dame on Mei 21, 2006 (Shield, 2006 :08).

This novel shows about the prejudice present in the 1920's and 1930's. Many things happened throughout the past to create racial disharmony in the early 1900's since the first slaves were brought to America whites have seen the Negro race as inferior and unequal. This novel also describe about the innocent person who being accused as a criminal just because of different color skin. (Horton, 2005:10).

In this novel, the black man reputed as a criminal whereas he did not do the crime. Harper Lee used a symbol of mockingbird to describe about it. In literary work, the novel's author usually used a word or phrase as a symbol to construct a certain meaning of his text. A symbol itself often used to represents a moral, religion belief, myth, value, or something that representative the meaning of whole text. In this life, the symbols are often used as one of signs that the human being thinks. It serves as a shorthand system for some information. It is a section from sign which designed to encode a referent by convention or agreement

The existences of symbol, automatically demands the readers to suggest an order about what the object actually represent. In addition, symbol is rich of meaning. It bears a great variety of more specific meanings which interesting it (Perrine, 1974:87).

In novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Harper Lee use word '**mockingbird**' as a symbol of her novel. She used the symbol in the tittle to make the reader interest to read it and suggest the reader to interpret what is the meaning of the tittle itself. The setting of this novel is in 1930 in US, Maycomb Alabama. To Kill a

Mockingbird actually is an advice from Atticus to Jem and Scout when they got their Christmas' present. It is a gun. He told to them:

“Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's garden, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.”(chapter10: 94). From this quotation, *To Kill a Mockingbird* became a title with wide meaning. It is tell us that mockingbird is an innocence animal but then it might be killed by the people who think that they are right person.

The writer provides the previous studies related to this research, Anggi Septianto (2012): entitled *The Analysis Of Sigmund Freud's Theory In Harper Lee's Novel: To Kill The Mocking Bird*. This research is analyzing the structure of human's personality which are represent by Atticus, Jem, and Scout as a main character in this novel. The theory in this research is referred to Sigmund Freud about a desire in human personality which influenced by id, ego, and superego.

Second analysis is written by Mila (2005): entitled *Racism in To Kill a Mockingbird*. This similar research is about differences in social status are explored largely through the overcomplicated social hierarchy of Maycomb, the ins and outs of which constantly baffle the children. The relatively well-off Finches stand near the top of Maycomb's social hierarchy, with most of the townspeople beneath them. Ignorant country farmer like the Cunninghams lie bellow the townspeople and the white trash Ewells rest below Cuningham, but the black community in Maycomb despite its abundance of admirable of quality,

squats below even the Ewells, enabling Bob Ewell to make up for his own lack of importance by persecuting Tom Robinson. These rigid social divisions that make up so much of the adult world are revealed in the book to be both irrational and destructive. For example, Scout cannot understand why Aunt Alexandra refuses to let her consort with young Walter Cunningham. Lee uses the children's perplexity at the unpleasant layering of Maycomb society to critique the role of class status and ultimately, prejudice in human interaction.

According to this previous study, then the writer interest to find out and analyze the symbols which contain in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Mockingbird is a representation of innocence animal. They never annoyed any kind of human activity, but in this novel 'mockingbird' is a victim at a wrongness which it never does.

Properly, the truth must be expressed to the public. Everyone have to know who are right and who are wrong around them. Truth cannot be hidden just because of racism between their diversification of skin color. In this novel, mockingbird is a symbol of the truth which hidden by certain people to make them free from punishment just because of their prejudice.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The statement of problem in this research is in this novel there are the truth which hidden by certain people and many wrong perceptions toward someone based on their different skin. The truth should belong to everyone because everybody has a same right to have a life but in fact, a black man who did not do any mistake became a defendant for the mistake he never did.

In this novel, the innocent persons whose became a defendant symbolized as mockingbird. Therefore, the writer did this research to find out the purpose and the meaning of mockingbird as representations of the innocence animal.

According to the statement above, the questions of this research are:

- a. What are the characters symbolized as mockingbird in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*?
- b. How does the symbols construct the meaning in *To Kill a Mockingbird* novels?

1.3 Research Objective

Refers to the questions above, the writer have two purposes

a. To find out the characters which is symbolized as mockingbird in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

b. To understand more about how the symbols construct the meaning of this novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

1.4 Research Significance

- Academically, this research is directed to the student of literary subject for further analysis about symbol and symbolism. Besides that, this research also can increase the knowledge about symbol of thing exactly the symbol of mockingbird for those who interest with this subject.

- Practically this research aimed for general reader who interest with literary work and want to increase the knowledge about literature and semiotic object.

1.5 Definition of the Key Term

In order to avoid misunderstanding and misinterpretation of words in this study, the writer will give the meaning of the following essential terms which related and suitable with the study:

- a. Mockingbird : An innocence animal which was killed by someone even though it never did a mistakes. It is a bird that does not do one thing but make music for people to enjoy and does not eat up people's garden, and also does not rest in corner.
- b. Symbol : Symbol is a word, phrase, or sentence which used word to represent something else like an idea in literature. In the other side, symbolism used as literary element to help readers easier to understand.
- c. Semantic : Semantics is a study about the meaning of language. It is a knowledge that discusses the meaning of sentence, phrase, clause, or word.