

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Reading a work of fiction; novel or short story, generally, the first thing to attract people's attention is the story. The desire of reader is not necessary same as the other because it is individual. Nurgiyantoro (2012: 91) states, interesting stories are usually able to bind the reader to always want to understanding the continuation of the incident, able to arouse curiosity, and able to generate suspense, a very important thing in a story.

Telling the story, actually the author wants to convey something, ideas, to us as the reader. Kenny (1996, in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 91), defines stories as events that occur in the order of time presented in a work of fiction. It shows that the story has an element in it, events and order of time which then will develop to create a plot.

Nurgiyantoro (2012:116) says that the existence of plot, developed from three elements; events, conflicts, and climax. The three elements have a conical relationship: the number of stories in a work of fiction is overwhelming, but not necessarily all of them contain conflict, moreover the main conflict. Every works of fiction is has to have the conflict, because most of reader have interest to a story is

depend on the conflict. Even the conflict just about the death bird, if the author can describe it in interest way, it can be a good story.

Conflict in real life is a social phenomenon that acts as a separator of a clan or group cause of contradictory. In society, conflict seems to complement and verify the solidarity of each individual. Things that encourage the emergence of conflict is the difference and equality of social interests. The differences make some contradiction, because no humans have the exact same equality of ethical elements, interests, wills, goals, etc. (Setiadi & Kolip, 2011: 345). While the equation used as evidence of solidarity among humans.

Conflict is part of the structural approach. Structural approach pioneered by the Russian Formalists and Prague Structuralism (Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 36). Eagleton (2010: 136) states, that the study of analyze poetry as a structure while still treating each part as a unit that has more or less meaning. So, for example, there is a poem about the sun and the moon, so this approach only seeks the meaning of the sun and the moon in the text of the poem, not the sun and the moon outside the text, or for example interpreting the sun and the moon as the thing we all know in this world. Because this approach is structurally, then, finding a definition of both is necessary only from both imageries inside of the poem.

Beside the structural approach, this research more used the sociology of literature to find the social fact in the object. According to Wolff (in Faruk 2012: 4)

the sociology of art and literature is an unformed discipline, undefined, composed of a number empirical studies and experiment of some general theories, which each has only the same in common that all deal with the relation between art/literature and society. So, there are some research in sociology of literature which has differences focused but keep relation with social instrument. Damono (1978) finds there are three aspects of sociology of literature by Wellek and Warren, first is the sociology of the writer which discussion about the social status, ideology and another identity about the writer as the creator of literary works; second is sociology of literary works which discussion about all the aspect inside of the literary works itself; and last is sociology of literature which discussion the reader and influences of the literary works.

The object of this research is the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1992) entitled *The Scarlet Letter*. The researcher would analyze the conflict of the story which intends to show the social conflict happened between the character and how the character ends the conflict around them. The reason the researcher has decided to use this novel as the object of this research, first is because this novel has four characters, or five with the Puritan, who have different conflict but caused by one thing, Hester Prynne's sin. The second, because the interest conflict when Puritan, as the society and the supporting character, has big influence to the poor woman, Hester Prynne, and she still can living without any complain of it. Although she can be leave the land and make her new live with her daughter in another land who has freedom

for the sin like she has, but she has mind to not leave her sin behind and get her punishment for many years in her life.

The problem in this research is about any characters whose have different conflict when contacting or interacting one another. Character in the fiction is an important element same as the conflict of plot because every fiction must be need the character to describe the plot or the situation. Same in the real world, we are as the human, is the character of creation of the God. The character in the fiction can be anything, human, animal, trees, it depend on the context of the fiction itself. There are two kind of character which appear in the fiction (Sayuti, 2000: 74); the central character and peripheral character. The first option is usually takes the bigger part from the beginning until the end of the story, and the peripheral character is such as a supporting character which helps the center character to build the story together.

Puritan are people who want to purify the practice of Christianity. They come to America to practice Christianity according to their own lights. They purify the practice that at that time, based on their perspective, was corrupted. The teaching they practiced then was called Puritanism (Assidiqi, 2014: 33). According to Daniel Webber (in Beeke & Jones, 2012: 7), the Puritans were thorough in their understanding and diagnosis of the fallen human condition. So when they dealt with the doctrine of sin, the Puritans called sin, declaring it to be moral rebellion against God. They preached about sins of commission and sins of omission, in thought, word, and deed.

Based on Jones (in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124) theory about conflict. He divides external conflict to physical conflict and social conflict. Physical conflict causes by the impact between the characters and the nature, and social conflict is caused causes by the social contact between the characters.

In most stories one can find the main character that is associated with all the events that take place in the story. Usually, these events cause a change in the character's self or in our attitude toward the character. Stanton (2007: 34) states, each author wants us to understand every character and motivation in his work properly. Our first impression of a character is usually lame or missed. An experienced reader will tend to postpone his opinion about a particular character, because the good reader have to open mind to the other event which can be showed the truly impression of the character.

There are previous studies about this object, first is the thesis entitled *An Analysis of The Main Characters' Conflicts in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel "The Scarlet Letter"* by Napitupulu (2009). She analyzed the internal and external conflict of the main characters, and discussed that Dimmesdale and Hester are judged based on appearance, and a gradual revelation of their reality marks them as adversaries to those who want to blur the difference between appearance and reality.

The second, graduating paper by Rohmatuloh (2015), student in UIN Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, entitled *Sexism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel The Scarlet*

*Letter*. It is analyzing about the patriarchal thought, and viewed that the woman as the object of sexist perspective.

The last is a journal by Kilborne (2003) entitled *Shame Conflicts and Tragedy in The Scarlet Letter*. The study used psychoanalytic and psychotherapist study. It talks about dynamic conflict and defenses characteristic of shame. One of the characters, Dimmesdale, has guilty more than the main character, Hester Prynne. The shame of Dimmesdale is more than shame, he curse himself with the shame by toxic.

This research discusses social conflict in the novel among the four of main character and also the Puritan has contributed as the supporting character. The thesis by Napitupulu (2009) is just discussed the four of main characters and the Puritan just as setting, not included to build the characterization, and the graduating paper by Rohmatuloh (2015) discuss the sexism which does not exist in this research. Moreover, the journal by Kilborne (2003) which discussed the conflict happens in the story of novel, and it is absolutely useful because it has similar object and the researcher will compare it later the result of this research and Kilborne's, because as said before, this research discussed the conflict of the story which is built by the character of Puritan.

The differences this research and three previous studies that researcher used to compare the research is how they analyze the object. Because this research and those

previous studies has different theory, so that the object will analyze in different viewed. Theory by Lucienn Goldmann (1975) about sociology of literature told that the problem of the novel could be representation of social environment of human in reality and the researcher can find the social conflict which has similarity formed. The previous studies are using theories which focus to the each characters that will analyzed one by one, but in this research analyzed the relation character. They have to choosen because something related one another.

## 1.2 Statement of Problem

The title of this research is "**The Social Conflict of The Characters in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel *The Scarlet Letter***", and the object of this research is Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel, *The Scarlet Letter*. It told about the punishment of sin of a young woman which breaks the unwritten rules of Puritan. The problems that will discuss in this research is, the social conflicts occur in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*, the end of social conflicts between the characters in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. Based on the statement and the background above, there are some problems that can be formulated:

1. What social conflicts occur in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*?
2. How is the end of social conflicts among the characters in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*?

### 1.3. Research Objective

In accordance with the formulation of problems above, the purpose of this research are:

1. To find out the social conflicts occurring in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. To find out the end of social conflict among the characters in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.

### 1.4 Research Significance

The personally significance of this research is to find some new knowledge about literature, and how to find the essence or the core of literary work implicitly or explicitly in relation to a certain literature theory.

For the others, this research is directed to all people in general to understand the intrinsic elements, can see aspects of the conflicts and also particular about the conflict that occurred in a story.

### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

#### a. Sociology of Literature

The sociology of art and literature is an unformed discipline, undefined, composed of a number empirical studies and experiment of some general theories, which each has



only the same in common that all deal with the relation between art/literature and society (Wolff in in Faruk 2012: 4). This sociology of literature used to be the general theory for analyze the object because on the object there are a lot of social problem between the character and similar with the reality.

#### b. Conflict

Conflict is a clash of actions, ideas, desires, or wills. The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional or moral (Arp & Johnson, 2006: 104). Conflict has important role to build the characterization and for this research conflict might be a able to describe any kind of problem in the society of the story.

#### c. Social Conflict

Social conflict is caused causes by the social contact between the characters (Jones in Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 124). This research uses this sentence as based to find out the social conflict occurring among the characters.

#### d. Character

The first context, the character refers to the individuals that appear in the story. The second context, the character refers to the mixing of the various interests, desires, emotions, and moral principles of the individuals (Stanton, 2007: 33). Character is the active parties in the story of the object and the interest, desires, emotions, and moral

principle of the individual of the character will be find out together with the social conflict occurs.

