CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of the research, statement of problems, research objective, research significance, definition of key-term, and organization of writing.

1.1   Background of the Research

The Kite Runner (2003) is the first novel written by Afghan novelist, Khaled Hossaeni. It is one of influential literary work written by Afghan novelist. It published in 2003 by Riverhead Books. This novel indirectly tells some descriptions about condition and the life of Afghanistan inhabitants before Russia inventories until the fall of Taliban in that country through Hossaeni's perspective as an Afghan and also the author. Here, Hossaeni also tries to depict every character in the novel intensely.

In this novel, the masculinity aspects are portrayed by a minor character, Baba (Amir's father) who has his own views about masculinity itself. Baba believes that a real man must do everything that men should behave; this is exemplified by some of the views that men must have a strong and courageous both mentally and physically. Then, there are some stereotypes portrayal depicted through this novel. This novel also tells about the kite fighting festival as a tradition portrayal in Kabul which is usually played by boys. There, Baba keeps hopping that Amir, his son would win the game at the festival of the year. As all

have known in stereotype gender commonly, flying the kite is the game played by boys.

Hossaeni also portrays Baba character that has some roles, as a father of Amir, as a husband from dead wife (a widower), and the most important thing is his role as a man. Then, it is that what underlies the researcher to analyze the problems of a novel as the basis for the preparation of an undergraduate thesis about masculinity portrayal of Baba in the novel. In addition, this novel also depicts another issue, especially about the masculinity stereotypes based on patriarchal society generally. The masculinity stereotypes view of male characters can be seen by the construction of patriarchal culture in society.

Cultural background in life can affect the formation of characters in a literary works. In *The Kite Runner* (2003), there is patriarchal cultural issue that gives the assumption in generally; the men dominance over the existence of women through one of characters. It can be caused that a literary work can be formed based on real life representation, included applying the concept of patriarchy, such as femininity and masculinity.

From the statement above, the researcher assumes that the novel as one type of literary works also can be an author expression to describe and criticize the social reality, belonging to tells about the characterization. It means, the readers can see and image many different characters in the novel as like in the real life. It is one of the most important elements to build the formation of the novel itself. Basically, every character in a story determines the development of other intrinsic elements. Nurgiyantoro (2002: 176-191) says that the characters can be

divided into some types based on its point of view: 1). main character and minor character; 2) protagonist and antagonist; 3). Simple/flat character and round character; 4) static character and developing character; and 5) typical character and neutral character.

For this purpose, the researcher intends to use the theory of characterization to understand the masculinity portrayal of Baba character and the masculinity stereotype portrayal in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner* (2003). In addition, the masculinity through a character in a literary work has been investigated by some researchers. The first research is Ibrahim's *Maskulinitas dalam Novel Keluarga Permana Karya Ramadhan K.H.* (2013). This study attempts to describe masculinity in the Ramadhan K.H's *Keluarga Permana*. The Analysis is begun with the assumption that *Keluarga Permana* contains masculinity represented by the character of Permana. The theory explains how the masculinity is formed from other masculinity and femininity in the surrounding social context. This research also shows the result that Ramadhan K.H's *Keluarga Permana* contained masculinity values especially in Permana character, he faced patriarchal social context which considers that men are superior, then never approve women superiority.

Then, the researcher also found another previous study that explains about masculinity in tittle *The Representation of Masculinity in Children Literature* by Candy Lynn Thyssen. This study discourse the analysis to explore the ways in which picture books as literary a particularly genre aimed at children construct and represent masculinities in text and also image. As a result from this research,

children's literature as a transmitter of social norms will reflect the dominant way to being man. Then, this research analyzed twenty South African children's picture book written in English and published between 1984 and 2008. The aim from this research also describes the several of masculinities representation especially in South Africa children's picture books in uncover. Then, the result from this research also depicts the stereotype ways to being man, there are some variables for the enactment of masculine roles by the man characters based on their young age in the possibility. In addition, this research contradictory gives the messages about appropriate man's behavior hinted at the complexity of boyhood identities.

The next previous study that found by researcher is Hardianty's *Masculinity in Hard-Boiled Detective: An Analysis on Dan Brown's The Da Vinci Code*. This research analyzes a phenomenal novel entitled *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown about masculinity portrayal based on popular literary theory. Then, masculinity images which constructed in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* as a popular literature are: 1). Bachelorhood which shows that the hero has the freedom in doing heroic action; 2). Hedonism, the men characters wear luxury stuff on their body; 3). Wealth, the men has a lot of money and luxury properties; 4). Violence, the violence action to spur emotions portray masculinity; 5). Intelligence, the man as hero has brightness in solving the clues; 6). Dueling, the man confronted with the other man; 7). Protector, the man character protects the woman; 8). Navigator, the man guide the woman character to find the answer; 9). Sacrifice to other, the man wills to do everything for other person; 10).

Emotionless, the man has a "cool" behavior; 11). Middle age man, the man as hero has mastery the world.

Based on the both of previous study mentioned, the differences of both those research are object of. Meanwhile, there is similarity in the theories related, which uses characterization theory that analyzes character in a literary works, especially the novel.

1.2   Research Questions

Based on the background above, the researcher intends to find out the characterization and structure of personality of the minor character in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner*. The problem formulated into the questions as follow:

1. How is the masculinity portrayal of Baba character depicted in Khaled Hossaini's *The Kite Runner*?

2. How is the portrayal of masculinity stereotypes depicted in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner?*

1.3   Research Objective

Related to the research questions above, the following is a research objective to answer the masculinity portrayal of Baba character in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner* (2003) for the study, so the researcher give raise as many as two research objectives:

1. To know the masculinity portrayal of Baba character in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner.*

2. To know how the stereotypes masculinity portrayal in Khaled Hossaeni's *The Kite Runner*.

1.4   Research Significance

1.4.1   Theoretically

This research is expected to add the wealth of knowledge to the readers regarding the masculinity portrayal trough the study characterization. In the other hand, the results of this study are expected to connect the readers about the relationship of a literary work in characterization, particulary in the masculinity portrayal of a character in a novel.

1.4.2   Practically

The benefit of this reseach practically expected to increase the motivation and ability of comunities to appreciate literary work by understanding masculinity portrayal based on characterization in literary work, especially the ability to be able to indetify the masculinity stereotypes portrayal.

1.5   Definition of Key Terms

Key terms are taken from the word in the paper of research. These key terms provide to make the readers of this research easier to comprehend the problem and to avoid misunderstanding the research. The key terms that the researcher uses in this research as follow:

1. Masculinity: identifiable sets of behavior, forms of speech, and styles of bodily comportment that serve to keep men dominant in a patriarchal society (Payne and Barbera, 2010: 445)

2. Characterization: the way that people are represented in a film, play or book so that they seem real and natural.

3. Character: the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it—the dialogue— and from what they do—the action (Abrams, 1999: 32-33).

4. Masculinity Stereotype: fixed idea that people have about the attributes culturally ascribed to men are like, especially an idea that is wrong.