

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter belongs to introduction chapter. It consists of Background of Research, Statement of problem, Purpose of Research, Significance of Research, Definition of Key Term, and Organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Literature is not only displaying a fictitious world, nor merely presenting imaginative events. It can be considered as a social portrait if it reveals problem and anxiety that occur in social life. One genre of literary work which includes social problem and cultural life of society is novel. Teeuw stated that “novel serves as the model by which society conceives of itself, the discourse, in and through which it articulates the world” (Teeuw, 1984: 228). Thus, literary work as form of thoughts, feelings, ideas of author have functions to describe the human interactions and experiences in relation with society and a revelation of both individual and social issues.

The Scarlet Letter is a novel written by Nathaniel Hawthorne which is full of social problem. One of social problem in *The Scarlet Letter* novel is Hypocrisy. Hypocrisy is the practice of pretending to be different from what one really is (Hornby, 1995: 586). The word hypocrisy is derived from the Greek ‘*hypokrisis*’ meaning act of playing a part on the stage. Its literal meaning implies that a hypocrite is someone who acts like an actor that is full of pretense. A hypocrite is someone who creates an image that is not suitable with his/her real standard.

According to Lonni Lee Best (2006: 34) a hypocrite is person whose actions contradict their stated or internal beliefs.

Hypocrisy tends to be considered negative since a hypocrite is usually someone whose saying is not in line with his/her action. In the novel, many characters who described as a hypocrite in their life. They do such action which is actually inappropriate with their own standards. Arthur Dimmesdale, a protagonist in *The Scarlet Letter* novel is one of the examples. Arthur Dimmesdale is a clergyman in a puritan society in Boston who commits adultery with a beautiful young woman, Hester Prynne. Adultery is considered a great sin which causes a serious punishment for them who do it. Ironically, when Hester gets some humiliated punishment from Puritan society, Arthur Dimmesdale just praised by his congregation for his great sermon and attitude. Dimmesdale becomes a hypocrite for disguising his sin and acting as if he were a sinless person.

The Scarlet Letter published in 1850 known for its classic portrayal of Puritan New England. "Hawthorne always writes about man in society, rather than simply about man in nature" (High, 1986:19) Hawthorne's background as a descendant of Puritan figure leads him to present the sophistication of Puritan society which subsequently results pictures of the complexity of Puritan New England in 17th century as seen in *The Scarlet Letter*. The novel highlights the Calvinistic obsession with morality, sexual repression, guilt, confession, and spiritual salvation.

Puritan is a term for the extreme Protestant who wants to reform the Church of England (Anglican Church). Theologically, Puritan Calvinists are so that they

want to change the rituals and structures related to Roman Catholicism with simpler Protestant forms of faith and worship (Cincotta, 1994: 16). Attempts by puritans to reform the Anglican Church include protesting against the church government where supreme leaders should be congregations not bishops and kings. Puritan is well known for religious rigidity, because its doctrine always present and practice the Biblical values into daily life. The basic tenets of puritanism are divine supremacy of God, the depravity of man, election, free grace, and Predestination. Their Difficulties in realizing their ideas in England lead them to migrate to America which they call as New England.

This research basically deals with the character's problem in relation with society in a literary work. It analyzes the contribution of society toward individual development and the manner and impacts of society to individual's attitude. Therefore, the writer considers that *Sociology of Literature* approach is required to help the analysis. Sociology of literature approach views social factors that stimulate the birth of literary work and social factors which are contained in literary work. Wellek and Warren divide the study of literature and society into three parts; the sociology of the writer, the social contents of the work themselves, and the influences of literature on society (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 96).

Due to the subject matter above, the research is emphasized on the social contents of the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Scarlet Letter*. It focuses on the analysis of characters by understanding the society to show the doctrine. The final project explores the conflicts of Arthur Dimmesdale as a hypocrite and Hester Prynne as an adultery woman which shows the depravity of man in the

world by understanding Puritan society where they belongs to base on Wellek and Warren's statement that each literary work creates its own world that seemingly distinct to reality, but actually, each of them imitates the reality of the society (Wellek and Waren, 1956: 96). Within sociology of literature approach, reciprocal relationship between Arthur Dimmesdale Hypocrisy and Hester Prynne adultery and Puritan society is analyzed and explored deeply.

Nathaniel Hawthorne has successfully written *The Scarlet Letter* as a great novel. The novel contains many valuable aspects of literariness that attract its audiences to explore it. Many researchers have done the analysis of *The Scarlet Letter* from different perspectives. So, it is important to review this analysis to enrich knowledge about other related research in order to deepen this analysis and use it as both reference and comparison to this research.

Sardjana (1988) was trying to analysis Hawthorne's view in The Scarlet Letter. This research resulted that Hawthorne in his *The Scarlet Letter* has an ambivalence idea between Puritanism and Transcendentalism which is emphasized on Transcendentalism. Arif (1998) analyzes the main character of The Scarlet Letter, Hester Prynne. From the analysis, it is concluded that Hester has been trapped in a paradox of attitudes. In one way she acts as a Puritan but in other way she shows herself as a misled feminist. Srijanto (2001) discusses the structures of literature, character and characterization, plot, setting, and theme, which makes *The Scarlet Letter* becomes the masterpiece of Nathaniel Hawthorne as its author. The aim of the research is to find out how far the characterization

supports the plot and how the plot shows a cause and effect relationship of the events happen in the novel.

The review above informs that there is not yet research analyzing about hypocrisy in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, which identifies the hypocrisy of a Puritan clergyman named Arthur Dimmesdale and impacts of Puritan doctrine to society's life. Thus, the researcher explores the new subject matter which is quite different from the previous research, and this research will be titled **Hypocrisy of Arthur Dimmesdale In Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter***.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of research above, the statement of problem in this research will be focused on:

- 1). How is the hypocrisy showed by Arthur Dimmesdale as a Puritan clergyman in *The Scarlet Letter*?
- 2). What are the impacts of Puritan doctrine to society's life found in *The Scarlet Letter* novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne?

1.3 Purpose of Research

On the basis of the above research questions, the objectives of the study are:

- 1). To describe the hypocrisy showed by Arthur Dimmesdale as a Puritan clergyman in *The Scarlet Letter*.

2). To describe the impacts of Puritan doctrine to society's life found in *The Scarlet Letter* novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1.4 Significance of Research

The research is expected to give some contribution as follows:

- 1). To give the reader information about hypocrisy in term of individual-society relationship.
- 2). To get an understanding about the issue of hypocrisy including its causes and other related aspects such as influence of Puritan doctrine to society's life.
- 3). To help the other researcher who wants to analyze *The Scarlet Letter* from other perspective by providing further information.

1.5 Definition of Key Term

Hypocrisy : Hypocrisy is the practice of pretending to be different from what one really is, and a hypocrite is person whose actions contradict their stated or internal beliefs (Lonni Lee Best, 2006: 18-34).

Puritan : Puritan is a term for the extreme Protestant who wants to reform the Church of England (Anglican Church). Theologically, Puritan Calvinists are so that they want to change the rituals and structures related to Roman Catholicism with simpler Protestant forms of faith and worship (Cincotta, 1994: 16).

Sociology of Literature : Sociology of literature is a study about a) the objective research of man and society, b) the study about the social institutions through literary work, and c) the study about the social process dealing with how people work, how society is formed, and how they live (Suwardi Endraswara, 2008: 87-88).

Novel : Novel is the story in broad measure. A broad measure here could mean a story with a complex plot, a lot of characters, a complex theme, diverse atmosphere and mix setting in the story (Sumardjo & Saini, 1997: 29).

