

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of The Study

*The difficulty of literature is not to write, but to write what you mean; not to affect your reader, but to affect him precisely as you wish* by Robert Louis Stevenson (Brainy Quote, 2014). That quotation shows the readers that literature is not easy, as they have seen in daily life; it is about how the author affect the readers from top to toe. Furthermore, in the development of literature, nowadays, some people tend to read literature more than scientific or religious books since they consider that literature will lead human to a better social or personal conduct. A literary book presents expression of feelings, while scientific or religious books are the most exact kind of reporting. In fact, analyzing literary work itself provides great opportunities to the students. One of them is that the students can gain native-like English competency by improving their language skills, especially vocabulary and grammar. Then, by studying literature, the readers can get more knowledge about life, dream, conflicts, and culture that reflects the society.

It is not easy to define what literature is. Overall, literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Literature does not only give the readers a fantasy of enjoying reading, but also takes the readers to understand and to learn about life experiences. Klarer (2004, p. 1) says, “Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word”.

There are many reasons why the writer chose to conduct this literary research. However, there are two important points. The first point, literature is a part of life, concentrated and interpreted in real condition. It means her understanding toward life that she has to face either good or bad become broader than before, she knows what she should do, and the last, she knows what the consequences of her decisions. In addition, literature is some infinite device, which encourages and maintains her perspective of the world that changes everyday to be instinctively sharpened and fully matured. Robert and Jacobs (1989) state:

*Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually: it provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding; it helps us connect ourselves to the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world which are a part: it enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different places and times what the readers would never otherwise know. It exercises our emotions through interest, concern, tension, excitement, hope, fear, regret, laughter, and sympathy. Literature helps us develop mature sensibility and compassion for the condition of all living things-human, animal, and vegetable (p. 2).*

Literature is a pleasure, comparing with other reading texts. Widdowson (1999, p.15) argues that literature gives enjoyment; people simply like reading it. Beside, there are a number of reasons why people want to read it. First, insomnia. Some people tend to read a book when they could not sleep. Second, curiosity. They want to know the story on a book that lead them to the other worlds, feeling bored, stimulating the thought to

have critical thinking, finding out what the ending is, sharpening verbal skills, entering another experience that different in the real life, contemplating characters either like or unlike ourselves, and so on.

Second point for analyzing literature is that literature plays an important role in language application, as it is an example of language use. When discussing about literature either directly or indirectly, the writer discusses the language and the way it is used. Thus, the language used in a work of a fiction masterly that enables the readers to understand what the work means as well as to enhance the writer's appreciation of aspect of the different systems of language organization.

There are many examples of literature in the world, such as, English Literature, French Literature, World Literature, and American Literature. The source of literature comes from everywhere, for example, the history of America. Each country has its history in the past, including America without exception. America also had their *black time*. It happened in the Great Depression Era (1930s) during worldwide economic downturn. Almost all people in this country lived in poverty, and this country turned away from the rest of the world and away from each other. Moreover, during this period, discontent started growing in the minds of the whites and blacks alike.

It happened in the southern part of America that was quite different from the northern part. The south was the center of agricultural society; it produced cotton, tobacco, rice, and sugar. The property owner was the white and the labor was the black. During that time, the southerners believed that the white was more superior than the black. In spite of fact that the slavery to the black were abolished 1846. There was the rule that the black people were the lowest class in the society who could not do

everything they wanted. It is called “Jim Crow” Laws. This law is named after a black-faced character in minstrel shows. Starting from the 1880s the south enforced segregation through this law. Through this law legal punishment could be imposed on the people for having contact with members of another race.

As the matter of fact, this law had violated the Preamble of The United Constitution “*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...*” by Thomas Jefferson (1776) (“The Declaration of Independence”, 1995). The quotation above has clear meaning about this life; liberty, property, and right to pursue happiness that belong to the people, not the State or any other collectives. All human beings have the same rights before the law, then the right to think and act to pursue all the goods and services. The freedom here not simply explains about the opportunity to make choices but the responsibility for those choices (Hillman, 2010).

Next, by 1914 every Southern state had passed laws that created two separate societies. There were; the white and the black people. In this law, there were several restricted rules, such as the blacks and the whites could not ride together in the same railroads cars, sit in the same waiting rooms, use the same bathrooms, eat in the same restaurant, and sit in the same theaters. In addition, the blacks were denied to access to the parks, hospital, picnic areas, and beaches. It made the blacks so hard to do the activities. Moreover, the implementation of this law was on Alabama at the

transportation section. Here all passengers in this state that operated by any motor transportation, had to separate the waiting rooms or the ticket windows between the blacks and the whites (Henretta, Brownlee, Broody, Ware, 1993, p. 770).

The southern states, mainly in the rural, were the worst affected because of this condition. There were five social classes: aristocrats - white upper class, white middle class, white lower class, white trash, and blacks. Those social classes made them live separately from each other and in that time, they had gender bias that the women were considered “the weak”. In addition, an education was not important for the women as long as the women could read and write, it was enough to them. Women were generally not educated for occupations outside the home. In wealthy families, women were expected to oversee the servants and entertain guests. Last, men were not considered being capable of nurturing children (Henretta, Brownlee, Broody, Ware, 1993, p. 770).

This historical context could be the source to write a novel, and it will give or share knowledge, inspiration, and motivation to other. There are some reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing a literary work in a novel. Martin and Hill (1996, p.9) argue that etymologically, novel arises from Italia (Novella), which means a new little thing. It may contain over 100.000 words, and contain a number of characters. Some of them are fully developed, have more incidents, scenes, or episodes, have a number of settings, and may take place in a long time. In addition, Hawthorn (1987) says:

*According to the Oxford English dictionary a novel is ‘a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length (now usually one long enough to fill one or more volumes) in which*

*characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (p. 1).*

Then, *To Kill A Mockingbird* was one example of the novel which set the history. The story happened in Maycomb, Alabama from 1933 until 1935 when The Great Depression attacked America. In this town, pride and prejudice toward black people can be felt under the skin. However, not all the whites had the same point of view toward the blacks. Atticus was a lawyer at Maycomb County. He had two children, Jem and Dill. His children got abused from their society because in the winter Atticus chose to help a nigger. He helped Tom Robinson who was accused of raping a white girl, Mayella Ewell. Her father, Bob Ewell had bad reputation in this city. In the summer, the trial had started. From the beginning of the trial, Bob gave a lot of pressure to Tom. Atticus also got a lot of pressure from the society, but he showed all evidence that Tom Robinson was not wrong and had a chance to be set free. On the other hand, Tom Robinson could not bear all the pressure that he received and all juries in the trial said that he was guilty. At night, he tried to escape from the jail, but the guardians suddenly shot him seventeen times. Atticus felt so down and his children did too. It means Bob Ewell won the case, but his reputation was ruined when he took revenge by trying to kill Atticus' children. Luckily, Boo Radley saved Atticus' children. In the end, Bob Ewell died accidentally, falling on his own knife.

In a novel like *To Kill A Mockingbird*, the readers can get the main idea of this novel which can inspire and motivate the readers as human being. Then, the readers can get the human values. Human values are those

universal concepts, drivers of action that are found in all cultures, all societies, and all times and in all places where human beings give meaning on their lives. The readers get those human values from what the readers already have done or from somebody's action about something. Here, the readers get the human values from the novel. Many novels contain human values and the readers can apply them on the real world.

Moreover, Knickerbocker (1960, p. 431) points out that there are three types of human values. First, psychological or individual value; it is about relationship between an individual and another individual; second, metaphysical value. It is about relationship between an individual and God; third, social value. It is about relationship between an individual and the community. The psychological value can be found on Atticus Finch as a white person who assisted Tom Robinson, a black man. Furthermore, the writer focuses on non-discriminating character because this value teaches the readers to accept the diversity in the society. The complexity in the society nowadays demands the readers to think critically and accepts all the people no matter he or she comes from. This thesis explores how Atticus Finch becomes non-discriminating with others that will make a difference on the society and teach the readers how to respect others.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Related to the background of the study, this thesis is designed to discuss the problems in concrete questions:

1. In what ways does Atticus Finch demonstrate his non-discriminating character to others in *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel?
2. What factors influence Atticus Finch to have a non-discriminating character?

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To describe in what ways Atticus Finch demonstrates a non-discriminating character in *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel.
2. To find out factors that influence Atticus Finch to have a non-discriminating character.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The significance of the study would be as follows:

1. The study will motivate the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala University to enrich their knowledge by reading literature.
2. The study will help the readers to analyze the novel.
3. The study will teach the readers about the values of non-discrimination to others.
4. The study will inspire and enrich people's thoughts about the people in needs and about fairness with others.
5. The result of the study will become another reference for someone who will make an analysis in the same field especially students of FKIP Widya Mandala.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

There are many aspects in *To Kill A Mockingbird* to be explored and discussed. This thesis focuses on human values, especially the psychological values. Moreover, the discussion of this study is focused on non-discriminating character of Atticus Finch.



## **1.6 Theoretical Framework**

Related to the topic of the study, the writer is using objective theory in literature (Abrams, 1953). It will explore the elements of this novel: setting and character (s).

## **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

In the study, the writer will use some terms. It is necessary to define some key terms used in this study to avoid misinterpretation.

### **Main Character**

A main character is the important figure and center of the story (DiYanni, 2000).

### **Novel**

A novel is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (Hawthorn, 1987).

### **Values**

Principles or standards of behavior; one's judgment of what is important in life. (<http://www.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/english/value>)

### **Non-Discriminating**

Fairness in treating people without prejudice.

(<http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=non-discrimination>)

### **To Kill A Mockingbird**

A novel written by Harper Lee that takes places during the America's Great Depression. This novel is published by Grand Central Publishing, New York 1960.

### **1.8 Organization of the Study**

This study will be divided into five chapters. Each chapter will contain a different topic. Chapter One is the introduction. It includes the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, the theoretical framework, and the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. Chapter Two is the review of related literature. It talks about the theories, which are used in the study. Chapter Three deals with the method of this study, which consists of the nature of the study, the search data, the source research, the procedure of collecting the data, and the procedure of analyzing the Data. Chapter Four will discuss non-discriminating character of Atticus Finch in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Chapter Five is the conclusion and suggestion for the next research.