

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

I.1 Background of the Study.

Everyone, when beginning a new field of study, always knows what is in front of her, so it is natural if an introduction to the study of any subject should begin with a definition. Since this study concerns with literature, it is a good idea to know what literature is.

Literature is literally. According to Howe (1978:2), literature is “imaginative writings-stories, novels, poems, plays-which portray or reflect or deal with human existence”. The content of literature is anything about life. People are often unaware that since they study in elementary school, they are learning about literature. They always keep in touch with it, grow and broaden knowledge then improve personality through it. Like what Roberts (1977:2) states, “Literature helps us grow both personally and intellectually, it provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding.” By reading literary texts, people can get something worthwhile to be done in life. They can get a good thought and build a good personality in daily life. It shows what is good and what is bad from the surround. Literature provides knowledge because it involves information and brings enjoyment to life because it contains entertainment.

The writer indeed finds literature entertaining. It contains much information about history and real life; it is also possible to derive many facts dealing with

customs, beliefs, or events of the past. Like what Barnett (1963:1) says, "Literature has in it an element of entertaining or to afford pleasure." It becomes interesting since people can learn literary works in a number interesting ways such as by reading novel, poetry or even drama. According to Frye (1985:236), "Literature is a work of the imagination, chiefly poetry, prose fiction and drama which express the cultural identity of people in a certain time and involves aesthetic quality."

In this sophisticated era, people can find a lot of literary texts. People do read books and magazines, novels and stories as literary works for amusements. However, some people find the enjoyment of literature, but some do not. Sometimes, many people are able to state quite honestly that they have never found literature very amusing. It is because they have not found the enjoyment.

This seems like what the writer did. She enjoys reading novel. Novel is one of the media that can help people free themselves from their boredom. It is affordable and it offers various choices, such as: The Picaresque novel, the novel of self-fulfillment, the novel of social criticism, satire, the historical novel, the romance, the novel of adventure, fantasy, the thriller-detective, mystery novel, and the last is the regional novel.

From the several types above, the writer chose fantasy novel as her study since she found the enjoyment of reading such a genre. It has its uniqueness and creates imagination through its conflicts and settings. Fantasy novel itself is a genre of art that uses magic and other supernatural forms as primary elements of plot, theme, or setting.

In this study, the writer analyzed “*The Hobbit*”, one of the novels written by J.R.R Tolkien. It is the prelude to the trilogy of “The Lord of the Rings”, also written by the same author. The trilogy told about a number of people, trusted to protect or oversee the holder of the ring, who had decided to destroy it since it had become the source of problems. The ring had the power to control the dark side of the world. The ring emerged from the story of “The Hobbit”. It was Bilbo Baggins, the main character of the novel, who found the ring and made the story of the trilogy begun. The story took place in the imaginary world of Middle-earth in the Third Age of its history. It was a land and time of Elves, Dwarves and Dragons. It was full of exciting events and action.

“The Hobbit” tells about Bilbo Baggins, a respectable and rich hobbit who lived in a comfortable hobbit hole. He preferred domesticity to adventure. He was very laid back and hesitant to go out for adventure. But, soon he found himself caught up in the escapes of Gandalf, the good wizard, and a group of dwarves in the journey to retain the treasure that belonged to dwarves which had been stolen by Smaug, the dragon. Bilbo was hardly the raw material of a hero, but as the story progressed, he developed and matured into a clever and brave hero. Throughout the novel, he longed for his home, but he was able to perform his duties as a member of the group; finding the ring that was able to make him invisible was certainly the greatest tactical advantage that he gained in the story.

Each character Tolkien created in “The Hobbit” was a unique individual. Tolkien did a wonderful job of making Bilbo as the most lovable character in the novel. He had a character as a very kind hobbit that would always help his

companion and saved their life even though it could bring him into danger. He was very loyal to his friends and would sacrifice himself for them. He was honest and had a good manner. The readers could not help feeling sympathy for Bilbo because he finally showed his integrity in the end of the story.

The writer was fascinated by the story of *The Hobbit*. She enjoyed many things in this book, particularly the characters and the setting. This novel was full of adventure. Moreover, the writer believed that fantasy can effectively teach people about reality. There were moral lessons within the text to help people gain knowledge and live their lives more productively. Here, people learn how to respect themselves and not to underestimate others just by first judgment.

Reflecting to the fact that people always change, Bilbo Baggins took a stand and raised enough courage to do something he had never thought of doing before, which was going on an adventure. This choice enabled Bilbo to gain endurance, bravery, an appreciation of his life, and many valuable experiences. All of those made him a wiser person. He finally succeeded and became a hero because of his integrity. Here, people learn that someone does not know who she really is before she does something different and worthwhile for others.

In this case, the writer in this paper tried to analyze Bilbo, the central character because he is not only the main character but also a round character.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In line with the background of the study, the problem which arised from the writer and would be discussed in this study was: Which of Bilbo Baggins' attitudes changed due to his adventures?

I.3 Objective of the Study

This study was intended to find out Bilbo Baggins's attitude change due to his adventure. His attitude change from the way he was before he joined the journey and after he got involved into it and survived from certain troubles.

I.4. The Significance of the Study

This study was expected some contributions to the teaching of literature in the English department of Widya Mandala University. Since this study concerned with the analysis of character, the writer hoped it could be a good reference and consideration for the students in studying characters in a novel. Beside that, this study was expected to be useful for students of non-literary department who were interested in studying literature and help them in comprehending literary works as well as to discover the valued in the story for life.

I.5. Scope and Limitation.

The character of "*The hobbit*" is very complex. It needs a very deep and careful discussion to fulfill the objective of the study. Considering the matter and realizing the primary concerns with the discussion of the character, the writer would

like to limit the discussion toward Bilbo Baggins as the main character. He plays an important role in the whole story. The writer also limited the discussion to what other characters say about Bilbo, and also what Bilbo say about himself. The writer would also like to limit her discussion to Bilbo's attitude change, according to the actions of the main character (before and after the journey) in the novel. It may help the writer to measure the attitude process of the main character.

I.6. Key terms

In order to avoid misinterpretation or misunderstanding, the writer found it necessary to define the following terms:

1. The Hobbit. The novel written by J.R.R. Tolkien.

“They are (were) a little people, about half our height, and smaller than the bearded dwarves. Hobbits have no beards. There is little or no magic about them, except the ordinary everyday sort which helps them to disappear quietly and quickly when large stupid folk like you and me come blundering long, making a noise like elephants which they can hear a mile off. They are inclined to be fat in the stomach; they dress in bright colours (chiefly green and yellow); wear no shoes, because their feet grow natural leathery soles and thick warm brown hair like the stuff on their heads (which is curly); have long clever brown fingers, good-natured faces, and laugh deed fruity laughs

000 (especially after dinner, which they have twice a day when they can get it)”
(Tolkien 1978:4).

2. The ring

The ring in "*The Hobbit*" referred to a magic ring that could make those who wore it become invisible. It was a magic ring; Bilbo found it during his journey to the lonely mountain. Bilbo used the ring to hide from the enemy.

3. Fantasy Novel.

Fantasy novel was a genre of art that uses magic and other supernatural forms as primary elements of plot, theme, or setting. (Available at www.wikipedia.com)

4. Character.

Character in literature was a person (or personified or anthropomorphized animal, object or deity) who acts, appears, or was referred to in a work (Bain, Beaty, Hunter, 1977;101).

5. Setting.

Setting was the background against which character acts out their life. There were two types of settings.

1. Atmosphere: The emotional tone or mode of a work that arised partly from background, character and plot (Little, 1963;96).
2. Physical setting: The physical surrounding, the furniture, the architecture, the landscape, the climate, and these often were highly appropriate for the characters who were associated with them. (Barnett, 1988;713).

7. Conflict.

Conflict was a part of a plot. Without a conflict, the story would be nothing. It is just like a nucleus of all stories. The exposition should set up a situation

in which there was conflict and from which suspense arose. The conflict might be one of man against nature, man against man, or in the mind of the person itself. The conflict might be simple or complex. “The conflict always takes place against a particular background or setting, which helps to define its terms, to sharpen its point”, said Monroe Beardsey (1965; xxxviii).

8. Attitude Change.

Attitudes are the stands a person takes about objects, people, groups, and issues, said Thurstone (1928)

1.7 Organization of the Study

This study consisted of five chapters. The first chapter dealt with the introduction including the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, scope and limitation, the definition of the key terms and organization of the study. The second chapter was concerned with the review of the related literature. It dealt with supporting theory. The third chapter dealt with the research methodology, including the nature of the study, research design, research data, research instrument, data collection procedure and data analysis procedure. The Fourth chapter contained the analysis and findings. The conclusion and suggestions were drawn in the last chapter which was chapter V.