Chapter I

1. <u>**Introduction**</u>

  1.1 **Background of the Study**

As an approach to literary works, someone could use reading activities. *Robert Di Yanni* (2001: xi) said, "Reading activities can help the readers to understand the story. By reading the story, indirectly, the readers have involved thought and feelings. It also encourages the readers to use emotions and previous experience with live and language". Finally, to express thoughts, feelings and experiences someone can use literature as one of the learning media. In brief, stories draw the readers into the authors' imaginations and deepen the readers understanding of live (Yanni 2001: 1). These statements also support what *Roberts and Jacobs* (1989:1) have stated, "Literature is the written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell stories, dramatize situation, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden and enable readers." The readers also use it to interpret the signs that are obtained in literary works and it proves that works of literature cannot be separated from people's lives.

Literature as stated by X.J Kennedy (1983: vii), is the art of words. The art of words make people who read literary works more sensitive to language. People love literature works for various reasons. One of the reasons is to find and learn something new. The other reasons why people are interested in literary works are because it is educative and usually contains some values which are worth learning. Through those values, readers can get precious things that can help them to open their mind about certain events and conditions. When the readers face the problems which are nearly the same as the literary works they have read, it will help the readers a lot to handle the problems by themselves. The important reasons are works of literature may embody the factual truth about life, help the readers to grow maturely and to know the world intimately through other people's

point of view. The writer is interested in learning literature because through literature, the writer can gain new knowledge about the world and humanity.

The readers can find literature in the forms of writing and also spoken. One of the written forms in literary works is novel. The writer chooses novel as her study for one main reason – a novel enclose vivid description about its world above any other kinds of literature. *X.J Kennedy* (1983:187) also states that good novels, as if by turning on lights and opening windows, help the readers behold aspects of other people that the readers have not observed before. The great details in novels can pull the readers out of the reality for a while, and let the readers experience the taste of literature, as if the readers were the characters and, somehow, it brings a new light to the readers about life that perhaps have never been dreamed or at least imagined by the readers. Novel is a book length story in prose whose author tries to create the sense that while the readers read they experienced actual life (X.J. Kennedy, 1983:180). Actually, novel is a form of literary works which contain stories about certain events that can intentionally happen in daily life. The writer takes novel as the subject of this study in order to find the quality of a novel and understand that art of words better has intrigued.

The writer is interested in analyzing one of Ogai Mori's literary works, *VITA SEXUALIS*. The writer chooses Ogai Mori's work for her study mainly because Ogai Mori is known as one of the Japan's greatest novelist in the Meiji era. His real name is Mori Rintaro. Ogai's is a professor of philosophy, who wrestles with issues of sexual desire, sex education and the proper place of sensuality. He is spanning fifteen years from his first exposure to erotic woodcuts at the age of six, to his first physical response to a woman, and his eventual encounter with a professional courtesan. His education journey began in *Yorokan* School; he studied about Confucian classics and Dutch. Then, in 1874, he enrolled in the preparatory course of the medical department at Tokyo University and

graduated at the age of 19 (At that time, Ogai became the youngest university graduate). In 1884, he was sent by the army to study medicine in Germany. After he had finished his study there, he returned to Japan and immediately undertook efforts to modernize both Japanese medicine and literature. As one of four prominent authors, he also published some novels; and one of the titles is *Ukigumo* (The *Drifting Cloud*, 1887) often considered to mark the beginning of a truly modern Japanese literature. In 1907, Ogai Mori was promoted to the position of army surgeon general and he also published other novels, his first colloquial style story *Hannichi* (Half *a Day,* 1909); his phenomenal work ever *Ita sekusuarisu (*Vita *Sexualis,* 1909*)*. In 1909, by the time *VITA SEXUALIS* was published, Ogai Mori (1862-1922) have produced more than twelve major works – eight stories and four plays, including an anthology of French, German and English poems he had translated. Ogai Mori is incredibly linked with *VITA SEXUALIS*, and thus the autobiographical description of this novel has influenced other anti naturalism writers to write novel with the same topic and gave opportunity for Japan literature world into better development processes.

VITA SEXUALIS presents an important record of Japan's moral struggles during the cultural upheaval of the last year of the Meiji era and also successfully raised some controversies in Japan's society. The contents of this novel are so extraordinary because the story is about Ogai Mori's own journey to sexual experience in his life. Because of this, the novel becomes so phenomenal at that time. This novel is unique. The uniqueness is the novel's structure itself. The writer found, Ogai Mori uses an autobiographical form; the setting was in Meiji era; the characters are described with strong and clear descriptions of the attitudes, manners and physical appearance. The plot is made in chronological order based on the developmental ages of the main character. There are external and internal

conflict combinations. The theme is about sexual maturity processes and gives several education messages that build the characters' characteristic on the novel.

Last, this novel also uses English with clear, simple and interesting story. The other important reason is this novel was to be the only work among Ogai Mori's publications that was so prohibited. In this novel, Ogai Mori treated the problem of sexual desire so that the authorities considered this novel as a novel of sexual desire. This topic was so prohibited to publish in Meiji era which is known as moral strict codes era because according to the authorities it can give injurious effects upon public morals. These are the writer's reasons in choosing this novel.

This novel contains a life story about a character named Kanai who lives in Meiji era and as a human being, he wants to know about sexual desire. Through this novel, Ogai Mori tried to show the process of finding, realizing and understanding the sexual desire which is usually possessed and aroused by the human being. Kanai, the main character, need time to find, realize and understand his own sexual desire. As a human being, the main character has a humanity side which always develops from time to time. The development process of humanity side can give influence to the personal growth of the main character. It can be seen from the signs that are explained in the forms of sentences or words in the novel. Therefore, the theory of humanity and personality development are used to analyze the main character. Here, those theories are used to help the writer in focusing on her analysis process to the main character of this novel.

For her thesis, the writer focuses on the personal growth of the main character. Personal growth is the human evolution process which gives influences to the physical, vital, mental and spiritual levels inside the human's life. The growth process that happens to each human is not the same. It depends on each human life's background, personal characteristics and the environment. These three aspects are affecting to the personal

growth of each human and also give influence to the characteristics formation process of each human. The writer's reason in choosing personal growth as the basic theory of this thesis is because personal growth affects the humanity side and it is universal because every human being has humanity factor. According to Budi Darma, humanity means refined, humane and civilized. All of them affect the characteristics formation process of every human. Based on this definition, it is true that human life's background, personal characteristics and the environment affect to each human personal growth. This time, the writer is interested in the main character's personal growth on Ogai Mori's "VITA SEXUALIS" novel. The writer realizes that every art work has its own artistic value. Accordingly, the writer wants to know further about humanity side and based on Ogai Mori′s novel the writer decides to analyze the personal growth that affects the humanities aspects of the main character and the roles of culture background towards the characteristic formation of the main character.

The writer's main purpose in making this thesis is to analyze further about the main character itself as the base and the main source of the story. Another purpose is convincing the readers that reading, learning and understanding the literary novel is interesting because novels, mostly, tell about various kinds of values possessed every human being.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In line with the background of the study, the study aims at analyzing the personal growth of the main character. The main problem is formulated as follow:

➢ How does the main character's personality growth?

Since the main character's personal growth process is influenced by some factors; they are human life's background, personal characteristics and the environment, to answer the main problem above, the writer formulate the sub problems as follows;

> ➢ How is the refined soul of the main character achieved?

> ➢ How is humane value of the main character achieved?

> ➢ Does cultural background influence the main character civilization?

> ➢ What are the roles of the culture background towards the characteristic formation of the main character on Ogai Mori's ″VITA SEXUALIS″?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

According to the research questions above, the objectives of the study are to describe the personal growth of the main character especially the humanities aspects and to explain roles of the culture background towards the characteristic formation of the main character on Ogai Mori's ″VITA SEXUALIS″.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This thesis is intended to give some contributions to help Widya Mandala Catholic University students in analyzing the literary works and also give consideration for the next writer who wants to write a thesis with the related subject.

Hopefully, this thesis is able to encourage other students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to make better theses for literature subject especially novel. In other words, the writer expects that literature will become more interesting to students.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

Here the writer focuses on the personality developmental processes and the roles of the culture background towards the characteristic formation of the main character on Ogai Mori's ″VITA SEXUALIS″.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

In doing the analysis, the writer applies the personal growth theory, novel theories and humanity theory. Humanity is human condition which has refined, humane and civilized soul (Coles 1997: 195). Humanity is one of values that exists on human being and influence the personality development processes of the human being itself.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

- Literature *is* a kind of art work, usually written, that offers pleasure (Literature Introduction to Fiction, Poetry and Drama 1983: v).

- Novel *is* a book length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense they experienced in an actual life, while the readers read   (X.J. Kennedy, 1983:180).

- Character *is* the detailed descriptions of a certain attitude and behaviour that placed one position on a story or descriptions about persons which are involved in the novel both physically and mentally (Teeuw 1998:12)

- Setting *is* the place or location of a story's action along with the time in which it occurs ; including sights, sounds, colours, textures and accent (Yanni 1994: 43)

- Plot *is* a narrative of events, the emphasis falling on causality. It describes a chronological arrangement of incidents into a causal and inevitable arrangement (Forster 1986: 377).

- Point of view *is* an author's way (of thinking) to tell the story and how it is to be told (Yanni 1994:54)

- Theme *is* the principal thought, idea or statement to which of all of its parts are related in some significant manner (Little 1963: 12)

- Personal growth is the human evolution of the four major principles of existence in the universe (Posner (2002): 1. The Course of Human Evolution. *Evolution of Humanity*. Retrieved January 12, 2007, from http://www.gurusoftware.com/ GuruNet/Personal/Topics/Evolution.htm)

- Humanity *is* being humane, kind heartedness. Treat people and animals with humanity (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 1989: 608)

- Humanity soul *is* the formation process of human soul which are refined, humane and civilized (Darma 1998: 36)

1.8 The Organization of the Thesis

This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction which mentions the background, the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms and the organization of the proposal. The second chapter discusses the review of the related literature, which includes the literature theory, novel theory, character theory, humanity theory and the personality theory. In chapter three, the writer explains the nature of the study as well as the research methodology, source of data, instrument of the study, procedure of collecting the data and procedure of analyzing the data. The fourth chapter contains the data analysis and the results of the data analysis and the last chapter is the conclusions and suggestions for this study.