

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research Problem

The students of the English Teaching Department of Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University are prepared to be good English teachers. Being an English teacher does not only mean that students do not only acquire language and pedagogical skills, but also good personality since a teacher is always a role model for his or her students. In this line, they are also taught literature because literature is a subject which can enhance students' awareness of life. According to Brook (1975:4), every piece of literature, whether the writer is conscious or unconscious, represents his own experience or humans' life. In this case, students can learn many things from literature since every piece of it has the value of life which can be learnt as the reflection of life.

When reading literature, readers will use their imagination to feel what the literary text describes and it will bring the readers as if they were in it. It is supported by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren who state that literature is an Imaginative work (1977:14). In additional, reading literature will also bring pleasure and enjoyment to readers. Perrine (1963:3) states that the first aim and justification of reading literature is to bring enjoyment, to make life less tedious and to make the hours pass more quickly.

In this thesis the writer chooses novel as the subject for his research. According to the Oxford English dictionary a novel is a fictitious prose narrative of 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. Among the literary works, the writer chooses novel as his subject of research simply because he thinks that novel is the most interesting literary works and easier to understand and analyze. From the novel, readers can visualize creatively what is being described so novel is really entertaining.

In this thesis, the novel which was analyzed is Ernest Hemingway's novel entitled *The Old Man and the Sea*. *The Old and the Sea* was written in Cuba in 1952 and published in 1952. The main character, the old man or Santiago, in the novel is inspired from Ernest's first mate named Carlos Gutierrez who had taught him catching Marlin. From this novel, Ernest successfully earned some awards such as; Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1954, the Award of Merit Medal for the Novel from the American Academy of letters in the same year, and the most prestigious is that he earned the Nobel Prize in Literature at the same year also.

The writer chooses this story because it has deep and broad meaning to all kinds of life aspect. The plot of the story is also beautiful that the writer can feel as if he were with the main character experiencing the events which are happening in the story. *The Old Man and The Sea* portrays a story of human's strength against forces he cannot control. It is a story about an old Cuban fisherman and his three-day battle with a giant Marlin. Through this novel, readers are taught the value of friendship and bravery. Besides, *The Old Man and The Sea* also teaches readers important life lessons.

*The Old Man and The Sea* tells readers about relationship between an old man named Santiago and a boy named Manolin. They are not like companions because one is old and the other is very young. Yet they can share respect and loyalty to each other. Manolin has been with Santiago since he was 5 years old, and he has learnt many things from Santiago such

as fishing and especially faith. Though Manolin is very young, the old man does not treat him as a young boy but equal. Age is not a factor in their relationship and Manolin does not even act as a young boy. On the contrary, Manolin is mature and able to understand Santiagos' feeling. Santiago is considered unlucky among his peer fisherman because he has not caught any fish for more than eighty-four days. Nonetheless, Manolin is still loyal to Santiago and even when his parents forbid him, he still wants to help Santiago.

In the story, Santiago commits to sail out farther than any fisherman has before, to where big fish can be caught. Finally, the old man sails far away from the shore. When he sees that the line dips sharply, he realizes that there is a fish which is playing with the bait and he prays that the fish would eat the bait. When the fish finally takes the bait, the old man pulls the line. However, his effort is useless, and the fish drags his skiff farther into the sea. The fish drags the skiff all days and the old man holds the line with all his strength until his left hand is bleeding. The struggle of the old man happens for three days until finally he can stab his harpoon on the Marlin's back.

Unfortunately, on the way home, sharks try to eat the Marlin's meat. The Old man struggles to get rid of the sharks. Unfortunately his effort results nothing, the sharks then go away because there is nothing more to eat. When he reaches the harbor, he looks at the Marlin skeleton which is still tied to the skiff and the go home to sleep. In the next morning the fishermen gather to see the Marlin and they are really amazed. The old man says that he has been beaten by the sharks; nonetheless, Manolin insists that he will work with Santiago again. Then, Manolin leaves Santiago to find food for the old man to eat and finally the old man gains the respect of the village.

When people are getting old, their body will tend to be weak and they are easy to get sick. As an Old man Santiago should not go alone because he is already old and it is dangerous for an old man to go farther into the sea alone. However, he insists to go alone without accompanied by anyone. The writer is very curious why this old man is so brave to go alone in his old age and stubborn that he keeps holding the line linked to the giant fish for three days. In this case the writer is interested to know the factors that affect Santiago's strong motivation.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study is intended to analyze strong motivation of the old man in the Ernest Hemingway's novel *The Old Man and The Sea*. In this case, the problem is formulated in a concrete question:

What factors affect Santiago's strong motivation in Hemingway's the Old Man and the Sea?

### 1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is intended to analyze the reason why Santiago has strong motivation in reaching his goal in the story of *The Old Man and the Sea*. In the process of the finding, the writer tries to analyze the factors that enable Santiago endure in a three day battle with the giant fish.

### 1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is expected to arouse the interest of the students of FKIP Widya Mandala in literature, especially reading Ernest Hemingway's novel such as *The Old Man and The Sea*. Besides, the writer uses Maslow's psychology theory of motivation and shows how this theory is applied in the novel. In this line, the writer also hopes that this study will contribute

something beneficial to the study of literature for the students. The writer also hopes that this study can open the people's mind about the meaning of life and teach them the life lesson.

### 1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

*The Old Man and The Sea* Novel has broad aspect to be discussed, so the writer thinks that it is necessary to limit the scope of the study. This thesis concentrates on the discussion of Santiago's character and to find out the factors which affect Santiago's strong motivation.

### 1.6 Definition of Key Terms

Some key terms used in this thesis are defined to avoid misunderstanding

- Novel is a fictitious prose narrative of 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. (Oxford Dictionary, 2004:219)

- Character is an imagined person who inhabits a story. (Kennedy, 1991: 47)

- Motivation is the forces which direct particular behaviors for the purpose of finding the effective way in increasing the quality and quantity of behaviors. (Koeswara, 1989:1-2)

### 1.7 Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter one, the introduction, presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical framework, definition of the key terms, and the organization of the thesis. Chapter two explores the review of the related literature. Chapter three

discusses the research method. Employed in the thesis, Chapter four presents the data analysis and interpretation of the findings and the last chapter, chapter five, is the conclusion and suggestions.