Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a very common term. The word “Literature” is used in different senses by different people. However, almost all literate people will get confused to put a suitable definition of the term according to their senses. Generally, no one can deny that literature interprets human idea about life. Literature also is an expression of human life in this world.

In *A Hand Book of Literature* by M. Sinha, it is stated that

“Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experience of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest or all of us. It is this fundamentally an expression of life thought the medium of language”. (1977:1)

Therefore literature we may say, reflects human life. The writers of literary works express their thoughts, feelings, emotions and attitudes towards life through the medium of language. Authors interpret their thought, feelings and emotions directly in literary works.

One of the forms is short story. Sinha (1977:205) says that short story is one of the most favorite literary forms. It must contain one and only one informing idea, and that this idea must be worked out to its logical conclusion with absolute singleness of aim and directness of method. Wilfred Stone, in his *The Short Story, an Introduction* (1976:5) says that the short story depends on concreteness, on sensual impressions that deliver their meaning without
waste. Thus, short story deals with a fragment of life with the characters, few in numbers and one single incident or situation. In this thesis, the object of this analysis is short story.

The short stories which are analyzed in this thesis are some short stories of Ernest Hemingway entitled *The Snow of Kilimanjaro, A Day’s Wait, The Killers, and The Capital of the World*. Those are some famous and best stories of Hemingway that tell about man’s relation to death. The short stories are not written only to picture man in facing death or death itself, but also give us discussion of death and its relation to man’s nature and moral or philosophical ideas.

Therefore, this thesis contains a philosophical study of the short stories. Philosophy is said to be the source of all disciplines of knowledge. As Razali Kasim in his *Theory of Literature* (2002:20) says that a lot of literary works contain philosophical ideas, also those stories of Hemingway. By using symbols, Hemingway gives us the concepts of the ideas. Some of the philosophical ideas that those short stories demonstrate are Epicureanism and Stoicism.

1.2 Reason for Choosing the Topic.

Many people are touched and inspired by reading stories, especially those which give the discussion of human nature, moral or philosophy. Many Hemingway’s literary works, especially his stories are based on the relationship between man and death inspired the writer to take his short
stories. Hemingway is well known as moral or philosophical writer. As in *Hemingway, a Critical Essays* by Robert P. Week, it is stated that:

“And the brilliance of his reflected surface together with the roughness of the things he preferred to write about---fishing, hunting, skiing, bullfighting, boxing, horse-racing, and war----perhaps made it difficult to see one of the cardinal facts about Hemingway: that essentially he is a philosophical writer. His main interest, in representing human life through fictional forms, has consistently been to set man against the background of his world and universe, to examine the human situation from various points of view (1962:52-53)

Baker in *Hemingway, the Writer as Artist* (1972:58) also says that Of Hemingway as a moral Writer there will be much to say.

Many of Hemingway's novels and short stories are preoccupied with violence and death. Death is great significance to him and it is often a necessary component to his subject matter. In other chance, Week (1962:54) states that he never lets us quite forget that death awaits every man at some turn perhaps not far along the way. And like nobody but Hemingway---that is, in his peculiar and distinguished manner as an artist---he continually reminds us that it is our”performance en route”: that counts for good or bad. Hemingway believed that all stories end in death and that true storytellers would not keep this fact from the reader. Only when confronted by death a character can be transformed for better or for worse. Therefore, the writer would like to understand about the perception of Hemingway on the term of Death based on philosophical idea that contain in his short stories.
1.3 Statement of the Problem

“Death” is an often-discussed problem in human life. Man, however, has to face death some day because he is mortal. The problem of death has ever been discussed from various perspectives, such as religious, philosophical, and psychological. How “death” is revealed by Hemingway will be analyzed based on philosophical ideas.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are described as follows,

- To reveal Hemingway’s perception on “death”
- To prove that Hemingway’s perception on “death” is related to some philosophical ideas

1.5 Scope of the Study

This analysis deals with four of Hemingway’s short stories, *The Snow of Kilimanjaro*, *A Day’s wait*, *The Killers*, and *The Capital of the World* focuses on how the characters, their thoughts and actions, reflect the perception of Hemingway on Death based on the spirit of Epicurus, and Stoics ideas.

1.6 Method of the Study

The writer of this thesis will analyze the topic of death in the relevance to Hemingway’s perception within short stories *The Snow of Kilimanjaro*, *A Day’s wait*, *The Killers*, and *The Capital of the World* by using extrinsic approach, particularly philosophical approach. Rene Wellek and Austin
Warren states in his book *Theory of Literature* (1977:115) that a philosophical approach to literary work does not mean that literature is philosophical knowledge but that literature expresses a general attitude towards life. They classify the problems which are the theme of philosophy in a literary work into the problem of fate, nature, religion, man, and society. The problem of man does not only concern the question of the concepts of man, but also of man’s relation to death. Therefore, this thesis contains philosophical ideas reflected in the short stories as the expression of Hemingway’s thoughts through the characters’ thoughts and actions in the stories.

In collecting data, the writer uses library research. The writer of the thesis will search information from books related to the topic of the analysis. Then the data will be processed according to the need of the analysis.

1.7 Review of Related Literature

1. Baker’s *Hemingway; the Writer as Artist, fourth Edition* (1972)

This reference gives much contribution to criticize Hemingway’s literary activities. Within this book Baker tells us about the story of Hemingway’s development and what Hemingway is able to perform, as an artist, during 1921-1961.

   This book provides explanation about some philosophical theories and problems in ancient period. We will find the complete philosophical problem of Epicurus and the explanation of theory of Stoicism in chapter 5. Stumpf compiles this book with basic explanation of the true concepts and the development of some philosophical ideas.


   Robert P. Weeks compiles this book with some criticism on Hemingway by some critics, such as Malcolm Cowley, E.M. Halliday, Philip young, and also Carlos Baker. This book is a good reference for anyone who is studying Hemingway’s literary works to widen their knowledge.


   This book contains some materials of basic principle of literary study. We may say that this book is the guidance in studying literature. Moreover, this book provides basic explanation of literary study.


   This book discusses about different literary types and forms. It contains the detail of the study of literature such as the study of novel, drama, and other literary forms including short story. This book is not only suitable for the students of literature but also for general readers.