CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Analysis

The word of literature derives from the Latin “Litera” which means letter. It primarily refers to the written or printed word. This word used to mention every kind of writing. The term of literature has a wider meaning. It does not refer to the written, but also to the oral work. Literature spring up from the imaginative mind of people who have talent to create stories.

According to Richard Taylor (1981:1), literature like the other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is an act of writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering and interpreting life experience. Literature can be treated as a document in the history of ideas and philosophy, for literary history parallels and reflect intellectual history.

Literature is in general classified into three categories (genres) which each genre has its own characteristics. They are poetry, prose, and drama. Edgar V. Robert and Henry E. Jacob (1995:2) classify prose into two, fiction and non fiction prose. Fiction originally means anything made up or shaped is prose stories based on the creation and imagination. And non fiction is literary work which describes or interprets facts, present judgments, and opinion. It consists of essays, historical, and biographical works.
A Novel is a part of fiction, and it appeared in the 18th century as the further development of Medieval romances. It is kind of prose writing which is very popular in the society. Its complicated intrigue but easy to be read is the main point for its readers to choose a reading in their leisure time. A Novel is considered as literary work. In Dictionary of Etymology, the Origins of American English Words by Robert K. Barnhart (1995), the word “novel” itself comes from Latin “novella” which means something new. Ian Watt in his book The Rise of the Novel (1995) describes the background of the rise of the novel. In the 18th century some English writers tried to create literary works that did not follow the traditional ways of writing prose.

A Novel can also be classified into some sub-forms, among others are: first, Epistolary Novel, it is kind of novel which consists of letters. Second, Ghotic Novel, the term “Ghotic” originally come from architecture. Ghotic Novel it is a kind of prose forms that contain horror stories. Third, Bildungsroman, it is a kind of narrative word which describes the protagonist’s apprenticeship before became a mature person. It no longer describes about the adventures of noble and heroic figures, but describes the life of common people. According to Richard Taylor (1981:46), a novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complecicy which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality value of human experience or conduct.
One’s of the world famous novel is *Robinson Crusoe* written by Daniel Defoe. In this thesis, I am going to analyze Daniel Defoe’s novel *Robinson Crusoe*, it presents a story of the experience of Robinson which shipwrecked and grounded in Pacific Ocean. He lives alone during 26 years, without communication with the other people. The sense of isolation pervades Robinson Crusoe of the storm, the wild beasts and the cannibals. No doubt the sense of power is enhanced by the seeming purpose behind nature having ventured foolishly from Brazil to encounter near-death and a terrible salvation.

The main reasons why the writer is interested in choosing Daniel Defoe’s novel *Robinson Crusoe* are firstly it is one of the first group of novel that appeared in the 18th century, second, it is a realistic novel. According to James Berkley (1961:167) realism is intended to present a true picture of life at a given time and place. Daniel Defoe is one of the pioners that wrote novel, beside Samuel Rhicardson and Henry Fielding, in the *Rhetoric of Fiction* (1977:41) Wayne C. booth quotes Ian Watt’s statement by saying,

“Properly speaking, the novel begins only when Defoe and Rhicardson discover how to give their characters sufficient particularity and autonomy to make them seem like real people”
1.2 Scope of Analysis

Scope is meant to restrict the idea which is focused in the thesis. I do besides that literary works can be seen from various angles of vision. Yet, I limit my analysis on the concept of realism found in Daniel Defoe’s Robinson Crusoe. The realistic elements are covered in the character, plot, and setting. Thus, the thesis analysis is confined to the portrayal of realistic elements in terms of characters, plot, and setting.

1.3 Objective of Analysis

As its title indicates, the analysis in this thesis is to reveal the realistic elements in Daniel Defoe’s novel “Robinson Crusoe”. The realistic elements in Robinson Crusoe can be seen in the character of Robinson Crusoe and the setting of the novel.

1.4 Significance of Analysis

This study is expected to provide some significance especially for English literature students and the readers in general, i.e.:  

1. To contribute reading material or information about realism particularly for students who deal with it as the major subject.
2. To enrich the knowledge in literary study especially of Daniel Defoe’s work.

1.5 Method of Analysis

In this thesis, in the analysis of Daniel Defoe’s novel, *Robinson Crusoe*, the writer of this thesis only uses intrinsic approach. According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren (1962″139) the intrinsic approach is “the natural and sensible starting-point for work in literary scholarship is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves”.

The focus of analysis is on the characterization, setting, and plot structure which are described in realistic way. However, to support my analysis, I have to collect some other sources as the references. There are some step in preparing this thesis. First, I read the novel carefully until I get some references.

Then I get down some relevant lines to be used as the quotations in my thesis. After that, I write the draft of the thesis and start to analyze the topic.

1.6 Review of Related Literature

In supporting my analysis, there are some references related to the subject matter of the analysis.

First, *Aliran-Aliran Sastra* (199) by Drs. Razali Kasim. This book describes about the definition of Realism and the Rise of the Realism. According to this book
realism derives from the “real” word which means to exist or happen how the reality. And in general, realism have the meaning as a genre in literature which want to be to talk with correctly and the real fact in human being.


This book describes about Defoe’s novel Robinson Crusoe and Defoe literary invented realistic prose fiction and that’s book also describes about Defoe’s life.


In the 18th century some English writers tried to create literary works that did not follow the traditional ways of writing prose.

They described the uniqueness of human such a described by Daniel Defoe in his work Robinson Crusoe (1719), and the life of a determinate maid servant as told by Samuel Richardson in his novel Pamela (1740).

And the life of common people in Henry Fielding’s novels Joseph Andrews (1742), Amelia (1751), and Tom Jones.