CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of analysis

Literature may be described as the record in words of what people have thought and felt from ancient to present day more exactly. Literature is good writing that helps us understand that human being in all times and places have much in common. Some literature belongs to what scholars call the oral tradition. This includes folk tales, ballads, nursery, rhymes which were passed by word of mouth from one generation to the next. But most literature comes to us in written from manuscript scrolls, and printed pages.

Literature is divided into two abroad classes, fiction and non fiction. Fiction is something that the writer invents or images. it aims to stir our feelings and imaginations by describing moods of joy or sadness, by telling us exciting stories, and by introducing us to characters whose emotion we may all understand and share. Fiction can be in verse or prose in the form of play or poem, a novel, or a short story.

And as the object of this thesis is a novel. A novel is a long story, often with many characters and involved plot. One of the world famous novel is *The Scarlet Letter* written by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1850) is regarded as the supreme masterpieces of American literature. Some of literary critics or scholars claims that *The Scarlet Letter* is an ironical novel which was criticized The Puritan in New England.

His most famous story is *The Scarlet Letter*. This novel tells of the punishment of a woman ,Hester Prynne ,who committed adultery and gave birth to pearl. A minister of Boston, Arthur Dimmesdale, had an affair with Hester while believing that her
husband, Roger Chillingworth did not die and appears during the early stages of Hester’s punishment.

In *The Scarlet Letter*, Hester Prynne, a sinner, is mistreated by the Puritan society. Hester Prynne is publicly humiliated as a punishment for her transgression against one of the Ten Commandments, adultery. Hester is forced to stand in front of the town on scaffold which symbolizes “The Day of Judgment” for three hours as the crowd tries to bread her down with criticism and shaming words.

Society often criticizes, punishes, and/or despises people who dare to be different. Hawthorne exposed and rejected the illusions and self-deceptions of his ancestor’s culture, especially after he discovered one of his forefathers was judge, Hawthorne, who presided over the Salem witchcraft trials in 1692. Puritan society had significant influence on Hawthorne’s writing, especially in *The Scarlet Letter*: “Puritan society claimed to have based itself on the highest principal of moral idealism…and filled with Christian virtues of love and compassion” (Harold 1983: 123). However in his writings, Hawthorne presents Puritan society as hypocritical. Hawthorne describes the inhumanity and intolerance that the Puritan society had set in date, especially for sinners.

Therefore in Jim Cullen in his book states “the Puritans have had a consistently bad reputation that stands out like a scarlet letter in collective national memory’” and Jim Cullen also considered that the Puritans are widely regarded as very unpleasant people. (Jim Cullen 2003:11).
In Swardi Endraswara’s book “Metodologi Penelitian Sastra” he states,

Pada prinsipnya, menurut Laurenson dan Swingewood (1971) terdapat tiga perspective berkaitan dangan sosiologi sastra yaitu. ‘According to Laurenson and Swingedwood (1971) there are three perspectives which are related to sociological literature’.

1. penelitian yang memandang karya satra sebagai dokumen sosial yang di dalamnya merupakan refleksi situasi pada masa sastra tersebut diciptakan. ‘Literary research as a social document of the writer which is the reflection of literary works at the time it was being written’

2. Penelitian yang mengungkapkan sastra sebagai cermin situasi sosial penulisnya. ‘A literary research as a mirror of the social condition and social culture of the writer’.

3. Penelitian yang menangkap sastra sebagai manifestasi peritiwa sejarah dan keadaan sosial budaya. ‘A literary works as a manifestation of history and the social cultural condition’.

From the explanation above, we can conclude that literary works, has a close relation with society where, a literary works may represent the social condition of the society at the time literary woks being written. Nathaniel Hawthorne’s view first American ancestors as belonging to a grim and gloomy race, impatient with human weaknesses. Hawthorne frankly confesses to his own family descent from one of the “hanging judges” of the Salem witchcraft trials, and he did not spare any instance of persecution, obsession or cruelty regarding the community led by his paternal ancestors

Therefore, American writer like Nathaniel Hawthorne saw the puritans as the most defects in American society. Hawthorne, writing more than two hundred years after his own American ancestors arrived was obsessed with them, indicting them (in his ironic elliptical way) in his stories and novel.
Fundamentally, all these become the reason for the writer of this thesis for choosing this novel as the object of analysis, because the writer feels interested to analyzed the puritan’s values from their behaviors (Intolerance, Cruelty, Hypocrisy.)

1.2 Statement of problem

The problem to be analyzed from the Puritan’s values as reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter as follows:
What makes the Puritans declined to behave Intolerance, Cruel, Hypocrite as reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter.

1.3 Objective of Analysis

In making analysis, there are certain objectives which are important to achieve objective of writing of this thesis is to analyze and to reveal The Puritan’s values, what makes them tend to behave Intolerance, Cruelty, Hypocrisy, as can be seen in The Scarlet Letter.

1.4 Scope of Analysis

To avoid the vagueness of analysis, the writer makes limitation in her analysis so that it can be clearly understand and focused. More over the writer wants to make her analysis more specific. The writer will limit her analysis only to discuss the Puritan’s values. Why did the Puritans tend to behave Intolerance, Cruelty, Hypocrisy, as can be seen in The Scarlet Letter. Furthermore the writer focused on the text in analyzing this literary works.
1.5 Theoretical Approach

According to Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in their books Theory of Literature, there are two approach to analyze the literary works, they are Intrinsic approach and Extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach is a kind of approach which analyze literary works based on the text and the structural points of literary. It discuss the characters, plot, setting, style, and the other elements of literary works and its connection with other knowledge and external factors such as biography, history, society, religion, psychology, etc.

In doing this thesis, the writer uses extrinsic approach by connecting the story with the society because the writer in this thesis discusses the society (the Puritan society). Therefore, the writer using Rene Wellek and Austin Warren’s theory it is sociological approach in order to better understanding the analysis.

Sociological approach deals with society, and from this sociological approach, there is a mirror concept. This concept is also supported by Abrams in his book The Mirror and the Lamp it means that the literary works mirror the society. He divided literary research in to separate parts, Expressive approach, deals with the internal point of view of the author, Objective approach, stresses on the text of literary work it self, mimetic, Mimetic Approach, literary research deals with the universe, and pragmatic approach, literary research deals with receptive mind of the reader toward the literary text. In accordance the statement, Mimetic approach is also used by the writer within this analysis.
1.6. Method of Study

This thesis is being done by using library research, the writer uses books and many other resources as references related to the subject matter being analyzed. The writer also browsed an internet to get more information all about puritan society. The writer follows the procedures as follows:

1. Data collecting procedure
   The first step is, the writer collects and underlines the important things from the novel such as the interaction of the characters with the society. The writer do same thing with the related books and references then mark the important information from those resources which has parallel analogies with the novel.

2. Data selecting procedure
   The second step is data selecting. All the information that the writer has collected are being selected only the very significant data used in the process of doing this thesis.

3. Data analyzing procedure
   The last step is data analyzing. All the selected data are being analyzed to achieve what has been planned in the objective of this thesis and finally a conclusion can be drawn from this thesis.

1.7 Review to Related Literature

There are several books which related to the topic in analyzing the subject matter. The major books are:

Nathaniel Hawthorne. From this book the writer found all about Nathaniel Hawthorne. (his life, family, and his works)


This book was published by Oxford University in New York. Many information that the writer gets from this book, because this book tells about perceptions towards The puritans. Many quotations that the writer gets from this book. At the first time reading Jim Cullen’s book, the writer feels interested with his idea because he proposed his idea towards the Puritans and sometimes, he puts his idea and criticized the Puritans. This sources helps the writer in analyzing the novel.

3. The American Puritans: Their prose and their poetry by Perry Miller(1956)

this book was published by Achor books Dobleday and company, inc Garden city, in New York. This book describes about the historical background in America. This book also consist about the Puritans concepts that the writer finds it in their prose and poetry.