CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Analysis

The word “literature” is derived from the Latin “littera” which means letter. It primarily refers to the written or printed words, but later oral traditions can be included. Literature is regarded as a creative art (Wellek, 1997: 3). Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981: 1) says that literature like other arts is essentially an imaginative act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experiences.

Literary works are the product of literature. Literary works can be divided into three categories or genres: poetry, prose, and drama. Prose can be divided into short story and novel. According to Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981: 46), a novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct. Most novels are concerned with people and their problem in their environment. Every novel is an account of life which involves conflicts, characters, plots, settings, and themes. A character is a fictitious person that describes or takes part in literary works according to Ian Milligan in *The Novel in English* (1983: 26). Hence, characters should be understood as living persons that have certain characteristics in their nature. These characteristics may be good or bad that man has in general through their existence.
*Saving Samantha* is a novel that describes the main character that gets depression. Martin Seligman in *Psychological Reports* (1991: 78) states that depression is usually thought of as being a disorder or disturbance in mood. Depression causes self focused negative thinking and self blaming style of explaining events puts one at risk for depression when bad events strike.

Samantha is the main character in this novel. She gets depressed because she has been abused by her parents and lost someone that she loves. Her parents never cuddle her or tell her they love her. Samantha’s father is a severe alcoholic that couldn’t hold down a job. He attempts to commit suicide on many occasions. Her mother is the classic enabling wife, paralyzed by fear. For her, it is much simpler to abuse her children rather than to stand up to her husband. Depression absorbs everyone in the family.

When Samantha feels lonely, Geoff comes as an angel to her. He helps Samantha to continue her life and gives spirit to her. But, he gets cancer and passes away. Samantha feels sad and considers that nobody that care with her and she feels lonely. After that she attempts to commit suicide. At this moment she knows that she must do something to prevent these cycles from repeating themselves and she signed herself into a psychiatric hospital as a voluntary patient. I am very interest to know why Samantha gets depressed and why she can be free from depression. That is the reason why I choose my thesis *The Main Character’s Depression in Samantha C. Weaver’s Saving Samantha.*
1.2 The Problems of the Analysis

In analyzing the main character’s depression in Samantha C. Weaver "Saving Samantha," I find two problems as follows:

1. What causes Samantha to get depressed?
2. How can Samantha be free from the depression?

1.3 The Objective of the Analysis

In analyzing the main character’s depression in Samantha C. Weaver "Saving Samantha," I have some purposes as follows:

1. To identify the causes that direct Samantha to get depressed
2. To explain Samantha’s ways to solve her problems

1.4 The Significance of the Analysis

The significance of this analysis is to show to the readers the relation between literature and psychology. The relation of literature and psychology is not from the works of art, but from the minds of the writer in creating the minds of the characters. The way that I make the character and the characteristic of the characters is dealt with psychology.

I hope that this thesis will be able to serve as the source of information for students who are interested in knowing what depression is and what steps to be taken in solving the depression in "Saving Samantha."
1.5 The Scope of the Analysis

The analysis of the present thesis is limited to the mental and physical depression of the main character has been neglected and abused by her parents since she was a child.

1.6 The Method of the Analysis

In analyzing the main character’s depression in Samantha C. Weaver’s *Saving Samantha*, I only use descriptive method of analysis.

Descriptive analysis is meant to describe the phenomena and focused on a situation, the place, or the life. The phenomena here are limited to characters in the novel, *Saving Samantha*, in relation to why she gets depression and is free from depression.

I also apply the textual approach. It means that the text of the novel becomes the source of the data of the analysis. The text itself has been selected into the form of quotations as taken from the novel.

The first step of analyzing the work is by reading the novel completely. The second step is to select the data which show the relevancy to depression. Through all these steps, I interpret and analyze the data in perceiving the conception of depression through the main character in *Saving Samantha*. 
1.7 Review of the Related Literature

I use some sources that are related to the analysis as follows:

   
   This book helps me describe the basic information of literature, definition of a novel. Every novel is an account of life which involves conflicts, characters, plots, settings, and themes.

   
   This book helps me describe what depression is and the classification of depression that can divided into two: major and minor. A person diagnosed as having a major depression has more severe symptoms. The problem is less likely to have a clear cut external or situational cause. Minor depression like unhappy life events – loss, rejection, failure – often play a clear cut role.

   
   This book helps me explain that depression occur when significant losses evoke feelings associated with losses experienced in childhood. Some losses, such as a loved one’s death, may evoke the anger once felt toward parents who were similarly “abandoning” or “rejecting”. Combined with the sense of loss, this internalized anger is said to produce depression.

This book explains that the relation of literature and psychology is concerned with minds. In analyzing psychological novel, we can use the minds of the implied authors and the minds of the leading characters. This book helps me understand the way of thinking of the characters in the novel.