1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

Literature is concerned with all aspects of human life. Literature can only come alive through the creative imagination. According to Tailor (1981:1), literature like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act, that is, and act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life-experience. According to Rees (1973:9), literature is a permanent expression in words of some thought a feeling or idea about life and the world.

Generally, literature can be divided into poetry, drama, and novel. Poetry exists in many formal and informal shapes. It usually consists of line-arrangement of words and has rhyme scheme. Drama is literature designed to be performed by actors. This thesis focuses on novel. Novel is generally tells about human life. According to Peck (1983:12), a novel tells us about human life, but this can be subdivided into what it tells us about characters and what it tells us about society, although, of course, it is mainly concerned with the way the two interrelate; it is, however, often productive to focus a discussion on either character or society.

A novel has intrinsic elements; namely character, theme, plot, setting, and point of view. But this thesis focuses in character which one of the most important elements in a novel. In literature, character has several other specific meaning, notably which a person represented in a novel. According to Bonazza (1982:3), character refers to one of the persons in the story, the end result of the author’s effort to create a fictional personality. According to Gill (1985:172), the most
important thing to remember is that you can only learn about the character from
the words of the play; that is, from the dialogue.

This thesis analysis about the main characters in Arthur Golden’s novel ‘Memoirs of a Geisha’ published in 1997. This novel is one of the best sellers and it has been translated into thirty two languages around the world. The popular novel is followed by the movie version directed by Rob Marshall which had the same title in 2005. The topic is based on the struggle of the main characters life in geisha society.

The novel portrayed a nine-year-old girl named Chiyo from a poor fishing village who was sold to a geisha house by her father. In her new house, she changed from a foolish girl to be a geisha named Sayuri. In geisha’s life, love is just an illusion and virginity was sold to the highest bidder (buyer). Sayuri was trained to learn all the artistic and social skills a geisha must master in order to survive in her society.

1.2 The Problem of the analysis

Based on the background of the analysis, the problem of the analysis may be recognized as follows:

- How are main characters portrayed in the novel?
- What are the main characters’ struggles to survive in their society?
1.3 The Objective of the Analysis

This thesis has some objectives in analyzing the thesis. They may be recognized as follows:
- To explain the portrayed of the main characters
- To explain the main character’s struggles to survive in her society

1.4 The Scope of the Analysis

It is important to make limitation of the analysis to avoid the readers of getting confused. This thesis limits the analysis only to discuss about the portrayed of the main characters as one of the intrinsic elements of a novel and their struggle to survive in their society. They are Sayuri, Chairman, Hatsumomo, and Mameha.

1.5 The Significance of the Analysis

This thesis has theoretical and practical significance. Theoretically, this thesis analyses intrinsic elements through the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha*. Thus, this thesis provides an insight about character as expressed in it. Practically, this thesis can be used as reference to study about the main character in the novel for further analysis in literary works.

1.6 The Method of the Research

The source of the research is the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* which was written by Arthur Golden. After reading the novel, it is important to find out and
selection various references which have connection to the novel *Memoirs of a Geisha* in order to add supporting opinion towards the topic discussed and analyses it. Collecting the data from internet also support this analysis.

### 1.7 The Review of Related Literature

I consult several books in supporting the data of analysis. The books contain some information which is designed to assist the thesis. Some of them can be mentioned as follows:

- *How to Study a Novel* by John Peck, 1983:12
  
  In this book, Peck illustrates the process of analyzing a novel. He also provides some examples of analysis which really useful for the thesis. He states that a novel tells us about human life, but this can be subdivided into what it tells us about characters and what it tells us about society, although, of course, it is mainly concerned with the way the two interrelate; it is, however, often productive to focus a discussion on either character or society.

- *Mastering English Literature* by Richard Gill, 1985:172
  
  This book provides the explanation about English literature which explains about literature and character in novel. Gill states that the most important thing to remember is that you can only learn about the character
from the words of the play; that is, from the dialogue. From the statement, it is easier to find out the dialogue to describe the character.

- *Studies in Fiction (enlarged third edition)* by Blaze O. Bonazza, 1982:3

This book provides the explanation about character. He states that character refers to one of the persons in the story, the end result of the author’s effort to create a fictional personality. From the statement, it is easier to characterize the character in the novel and to find which the main characters of all is.