CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the mirror of human life that portrays the human feeling, thought, imagination, and perception can be viewed based on personal judgement. Taylor’s (1997:15) says that literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life-experiences. Wellek (1972:3) says that literature is a creative act and an art. So, generally literature is a creative expression of human imagination or wishes, which is hardly ever reflected in our actual life.

Literature according to Roberts and Jacobs (1995:2) is classified into four categories or genres: (1) prose fiction, (2) poetry, (3) drama, and (4) nonfiction prose. Usually the first three are classed as imaginative literature. From the various types of imaginative literature, the choice falls on prose fiction, exactly on novel, which is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length and complexity, portraying characters and presenting an organized sequence of events and scenes.

Jane Austen is one of the wonderful authors. Her novel Pride and Prejudice is the most famous and probably the best. Most people in all over the world have read it, or heard a radio version of it, or seen it in the cinema or on television. The Pride and Prejudice contains one of the most cherished love stories in English literature: the courtship between Darcy and Elizabeth. As in any good love story, the lovers must elude and overcome numerous stumbling blocks, beginning with the tensions caused by the lovers' own personal qualities. Elizabeth's pride makes her misjudge Darcy on the basis of a poor first
impression, while Darcy's prejudice against Elizabeth's poor social standing blinds him, for a time, to her many virtues. (of course, one could also say that Elizabeth is guilty of prejudice and Darcy of pride—the title cuts both ways.) Austen, meanwhile, possesses countless smaller obstacles to the realization of the love between Elizabeth and Darcy, including Lady Catherine's attempt to control her nephew, Miss Bingley's snobbery, Mrs. Bennet's idiocy, and Wickham's deceit. In each case, anxieties about social connections, or the desire for better social connections, interfere with the workings of love. Darcy and Elizabeth's realization of a mutual and tender love seems to imply that Austen views love as something independent of these social forces, as something that can be captured if only an individual is able to escape the warping effects of hierarchical society. Austen does sound some more realist (or, one could say, cynical) notes about love, using the character of Charlotte Lucas, who marries the buffoon Mr. Collins for his money, to demonstrate that the heart does not always dictate marriage. Yet with her central characters, Austen suggests that true love is a force separate from society and one that can conquer even the most difficult of circumstances.

The *Pride and Prejudice* shows the aspects that are extraordinary and suitable for a woman in this period, such as the brave on Elizabeth to say what she has in her mind without any fear where in the real life that woman feels taboo and impolite to say their opinion. The Jane’s effort puts it in her works because she wants that someday woman would be like character of Elizabeth, telling their minds bravely. In the *Pride and Prejudice*, she highlights the dependence of woman on marriage to secure social standing and economic
security. Where a lot of people marriage is to repair the family’s economy, increase status and other things.

Jane Austen also pays attention to the materialistic desire of the people in the novel. Jane Austen influences the reader through the character of Elizabeth Bennett who refuses to marry Mr. Darcy only to increase her status and has a better life to her family economic even Mr. Darcy has told her that he falls in love with her. In the end she agrees to marry him because she loves him not because of his wealth. Then, the *Pride and Prejudice* not only influence woman but also changes man. Since in a part of the story Mr. Darcy says that he has to fight with him self for loving Elizabeth, not only they have different social status but also because Mr. Darcy does not like the way of Mrs. Bennett and Elizabeth’s sister behaviour. But Mr. Darcy conquers all of his fear and dislike then fight for his love to Elizabeth. Therefore, in this paper will describe the main characters in Jane Austen’s novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

1.2 Scope of the Study

In order to avoid an overlapping explanation, which will not direct to the subject, the description of the characters should have a clear scope and delimitation.

Basically, there are so many aspects in this novel that can be described, but this paper is focused on describing the characters especially main characters. They are: Elizabeth Bennet, Georgiana Darcy, Jane Bennet, and Charles Bingley. So, the scope of the study is limited only on describing the main character as portrayed in the *Pride and Prejudice*. 
1.3 Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are:

- To describe the main characters in novel *Pride and Prejudice*; Elizabeth Bennet, Georgiana Darcy, Jane Bennet and Charles Bingley; whether they are bad or good, negative or positive that shown by their attitude in facing the problems.

- To find the close relationship between characters and moral consciousness, influenced by the happening around them. By the description, it can be found that the characters of the novel are not so far different from our daily life. They talk, live together as individual and social living. What the difference of the characters are fictitious living people, while we are real.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study are:

- To enrich the literary study especially about the characters as portrayed in the novel *Pride and Prejudice*.

- To give a clear understanding about the characterization through novel *Pride and Prejudice* specially for the study of literary insights.

- To increase and add new vocabulary especially in literary study.

- To enrich English comprehension through English literary text.
1.5 Method of the Study

The source of this paper analysis is novel. Novel is a fictitious kind of writing which is somewhat different from poem or drama. The novel discussed in this paper is *Pride and Prejudice*. The focus of analysis is the main characters.

Reading the novel more and more is the absolute choice in order to understand the story. After having read it completely, the next step is to select the quotations. The quotations become the data of the analysis. These quotations are made as supporting ideas to strengthen the analysis especially about the description of characters.

The description is meant to judge the phenomena existing in the novel. It is related to the portrayal of the characters. That is why, the method applied in this paper is known as descriptive method of analysis.