CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Analysis

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of word (Klarer, 2004:1). It means that not all of printed works can be classified as literature, for example informative writing such as geography, history or medical written. It is because of the different kind language used. Besides, it is wider than just printed works. Literature also refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situation, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas (Roberts, 1995:1). Wellek and Warren (1963:94) state, “literature is said to be creative, an art”. So, it is clear that literature is a creation of an author made into the beauty of art writing.

Literature is said to be a medium of expressing ideas. It reflects the reality through the medium of language. Wellek and Warren also state, “literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation”. Since literature is also a social creation, literature is also the expression of society that contains social reality, and is expressed through the language.

Literature has three genres, namely prose, poetry and drama. Prose is a fictitious narrative kind of writing. In general, this is can be said as novel. Poetry is meaningful arrangement of words. Drama is a story which is intended to be performed on the stage. They have much in common but different in expressing idea, style and others.
The word prose derives from the Latin ‘prosa’, which is literally translated to ‘straightforward’. Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs (1995:2) classify prose into two, fiction prose, which is made based on the author’s creation and imagination, and non-fiction prose, which describes facts, opinions. Prose can be classified into some other forms, for example novel, short story, romance, and biography. The first three forms are something that often called as fiction, meanwhile the latest is non-fiction.

Novel as a literary work provides the readers reflection reality of human life through beauty of art writing. As Taylor (1981:46) states, “a novel is a normally a quite length of complexity which attempt to reflect and express something of the quality of value of human experience”. Since novel is written by the author to express something of the quality of value of human experience, a novel represents human. Human itself is part of the society.

Literature and society are two fields of knowledge that cannot be separated. Literature itself appears from the society where the authors can get inspiration although it is not an accurate information. Taylor (1981:2) emphasizes this by saying that a work of literature does not necessarily give us accurate information about the way life is actually lived (although it may do so as a secondary consideration) rather it causes us to recognize truth about human existence through the direct presentation of selected experiences. It is clear enough that literature portrays the human existence in its society.

According to Rene Wellek (1963) in his book Theory of Literature, there are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. Surely in the society, there are rules or norms which must be obligated. Those truly exist. People, as the member of society, must obey the rules or norms as well. However, some people choose to disobey them. They choose to break the rule and be different from the society around them. As the result, those people must face the consequences of their rebellion. They will be criticized and
even punished by the society. This is happened in this novel, *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), written by Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864). The characters Hester Prynne and Pearl disobey the norms, then get punishment from the Puritans society in Massachusetts.

Puritans was the name given in the sixteenth century to the more extreme Protestants within the Church of England who thought the English Reformation had not gone far enough in reforming the doctrines and structures of the church, then wanted to purify it. The early Puritans who first came to America in 1620 founded a precarious colony in Plymouth, Massachusetts. While half the colonists died that first year, the other half were saved by the coming spring and the timely intervention of the Indians. These first settlers were followed ten years later by a wave of Puritans that continued in the 1630s and thereafter, until, by the 1640s, New England had over twenty-five thousand English settlers. The second group in the 1630s settled in the area of present-day Boston in a community they named Massachusetts Bay Colony. It is this colony that forms the setting of *The Scarlet Letter*.

*The Scarlet Letter* is the second novel of Nathaniel Hawthorne which reveals Hawthorne’s insight into the Puritans. Through that novel, he criticizes the way of Puritans’ life: their general spiritual welfare, their uncompromising morality, their self-righteousness and their fanaticism.

Hawthorne realizes that there is something wrong with Puritans’ belief to judge a person. An example which shows about that is when Hester Prynne, the character of this novel, get punished because she does an affair with another man and then has a baby. Hester sets forth towards the place appointed for her punishment, surrounded by the Puritans. When Hester finally stands in the middle of the Puritans, they become so cynical to her. They jeer, laugh, and even shout with bad words to her. And when she is pinned with a symbol A, means adultery, then her life becomes worse. Puritans become more rude towards her. They
loathe her, do not want to interact with her and her baby, Pearl. They choose to punish her, not to find out the man whom Hester has an affair with. Hester, who choose to keep the man, faces the punishment by herself. Hester does not care about what Puritans always do to her. Hester only want to save her child, Pearl, and that man whom Hester loves so much.

However, the most interesting part which becomes the reason why I choose this novel as the object of analysis is the value of Puritan society itself. It is true that Puritan society become intollerant and rude to Hester Prynne and Pearl. But then, they realize their mistakes after seeing the good life of Hester and Pearl. They do not give judgement or punishment anymore. This is interesting because social judgement still can be found nowadays. Many people like to judge or punish someone without knowing the person well.

1.2 Problems of Analysis

During the process of analysis, it is important to make the specification of problems that are going to be analyzed. It helps the writer to avoid the ambiguity of the analysis and get clear description about the object of analysis itself. So in this analysis, writer finds and decides some problems that needed to answer further. They are:

1. How is Puritans sosial judgement reflected in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*?
2. Why are the characters of *The Scarlet Letter* (Hester and Pearl) being punished by Puritans?
1.3 Objectives of Analysis

Objectives of analysis are the statements about activities and objects that are going to be analyzed based on the problem of analysis. The writer holds on these objectives in doing the analysis. There are two objectives found in this analysis, they are:

1. To find how Puritans social judgement is reflected in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.
2. To find the reason why the characters of *The Scarlet Letter* (Hester and Pearl) are being punished by Puritans.

1.4 Significance of Analysis

The analysis of this thesis is expected to be able to give significance, both theoretical and practical, for the readers. Firstly, this thesis will give information to the readers about the relation of literature sociology, through the characters Hester Prynne and Pearl in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. Readers are also part of society. They have to learn how to make good relationship with other people. By reading this analysis, the readers can take the positive sides and make the negative element of Puritans society as a thing to be avoided and to be improved in their society. Secondly, this thesis will enrich the knowledge of English Department Students in studying about social judgement as part of the study sociology literature. Then they become interested in studying more about literature of sociology as found in this novel. Lastly, this thesis will give the readers a better understanding about literature and society, and also their relationship as well.

1.5 Scope of Analysis

There will be a lot of discussion about Puritan social judgement through characters. In this analysis, the writer limits the fields that are going to be analyzed in order not to make the
analysis become wider and out of the topic. Therefore, this thesis is only focused on Puritans social judgement through the main characters. They are Hester Prynne and Pearl in novel *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

1.6 Review of Literature

The writer uses some books as sources to find and get the data and information to analyze this thesis. They are:


2. *Theory of Literature* (1982) by Rene Wellek and Austen Warren. This book, relevant to its title, provides the theory of literature, for example the relation between literature and society. In this book, there are two kinds of approach in analysing a literary work, which are intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach emphasizes its analysis on the elements of that literature itself, while extrinsic approach relates the literary work with the other objects of study, such as biography, philosophy, psychology, sociology, etc.

3. *Understanding Society: An Introduction to Sociology* (1987) by Clone Hedger Persell. It explains deeply about sociology of literature; the relationship between literature and sociology. It helps the writer to know the basic information about sociology of literature.

4. *The Interpretation of Belief* (1987) by David Jasper. In one of the chapter, it explains the Puritans mind and life. The writer uses this to get the data about Puritans.
5. A thesis *An Analysis of Puritanistic Values in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s The Scarlet Letter* by Friska Sinaga. This thesis tells about the bad value of Puritan society in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*. It helps the writer to know the basic information about Puritanism.