CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the mirror of human life that portrays the human feelings, thoughts, imaginations, and perceptions can be viewed based on personal judgment. 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”.

Basically, the kinds of literature are only prose fiction, poetry, and novel but recently in the 21st century the film is accepted as one of the literature. Film is a story which made by some elements and techniques and shown on the television or theatre. According to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, “film is a series of moving pictures recorded with sound that tells a story, shown on television or at the cinema”. Bruce Springsteen state that “I think that is what film and art and music do; they can work as a map of sorts for your feelings.” It means that a film also portrays the human life like another literature. According to David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson in their book Film Art: An Introduction (2003), One popular way of grouping fiction films is by genre, such as Western, musicals, war films, science fiction, and so on. But there are three widely recognized genres: the Western, the horror film, and the musical. Another way we group films based on the ideas of how they were made and what effects they attempt to achieve. They are: documentary, experimental, and animation film.
Kirsten Sheridan was born on July 14th, 1976 in Dublin, Ireland. She is an Irish film director and screenwriter that were nominated for an Academy Award in 2008 for co-writing the semi-autobiographical film in America with her father, director Jim Sheridan, and her sister, Naomi Sheridan. One of the best of hers is August Rush. August Rush is one of the best movies on 2007. It is a wonderful musical movie that I have ever seen. Most people in all over the world have seen it in the cinema or the television. By this famous movie, Kirsten Sheridan tries to lift up the music as the theme that makes this movie more amazing. She wants to show that music is everything around us like what August Rush states at the first time “Music is all around us, all you have to do is listen”. She is success to make the musical movie by coordinating with Mark Manchina. It makes every scene looks interesting. The acting of Freddie Highmore as Evan Taylor or August Rush is very wonderful. This film makes him get the 2008 Saturn Award Best Performance by A Younger Actor. The acting collaboration between all of the actor and actress also make this film get the award as Best Family Feature Film (Comedy or Drama). Another award from Academy Award is also given to Mark Manchina as Best Original Song (Raise It Up).

Kirsten Sheridan also tries to convince all of us that if we have a dream and we believe that will come true by showing the personality of August Rush as one of the main characters in this movie. He always makes sure to himself and others that someday he will meet with parents although he never sees his parents from the baby up to 10 years old. He tries to look for his parents by follow the wind and music that always connected to him and he believes that his parents have a close relationship to the music that he always heard.
1.2 Scope of the Study

There are many intrinsic elements that can be analyzed in a movie, such as the main characters, protagonist and antagonist, speech act, culture, and etc. In order to avoid an overlapping analysis, I focus only in analyzing the main characters of August Rush movie. They are: Evan Taylor (August Rush), Lyla Novacek, Louis Conelly, and Maxwell “Wizard” Wallace.

1.3 Objective of the Study

This paper is written for the following objectives. Firstly, I would like to introduce this movie into the readers so that they know that this is one of the movies that have to be watched by every people. Second, I would like to describe the main characters in August Rush movie whether they are bad or good, negative or positive by describe their performances, dialogues, gestures, and reactions.

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significances of the study are:

- To fulfill the partial fulfillment of the requirements for the DIPLOMA-III of English Study Program in University of North Sumatera.
- To give a clear understanding about the main characters as portrayed in the August Rush movie to all the readers.
- To increase and add new knowledge about the English literature.
- To enrich English comprehension through the English literary text.

1.5 Method of the Study

The main source of this paper is the August Rush film. Watching the film more and more is one of the choices in order to understand the story especially all
about the main characters that portrayed in this film so that I can figure out the main characters in this movie.

I also applied the library research that is by collecting some books that review and related to the literature to get more materials to this paper. Besides, I browsed some references from internet for further information. All of these methods were really helpful in getting the knowledge that supported in writing this paper.