CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Analysis

Literature, in general, is life experience which is uttered become a beautiful writing. Its beauty may gives sense to the reader even gives strong effect to the reader. The statement is supported by Taylor in his book *Understanding the Element of Literature* (1981:1) who says that: Literature, like the other arts, is essentially an imaginative of fact, that is, an act of the writer’s imagination in selection, ordering, and interpreting life-experience. It means that the raw material of literature is experience. Anything that we face in our daily life can be made to be literary works. The problem is how the writer creates it into beautiful words and makes sense to the reader. However, the quality of the experience can be seen from the complex structure of words that the writer creates.

Literary work should have artistic meaning and has good value as the meaning from Oxford Dictionary: ‘Literature is writings valued as works of art, esp. novels, plays and poems’. It means that we should choose the best word in doing literary work. The words are not words that we use in daily life but the words should have artistic meaning that makes the reader is eager to read the literary work. Literary work is hoped can give the reader moral lessons and good effect in daily life.

In writing a literary work, the writer exactly has special purpose. The greatest pleasure and satisfaction to be found in literary occurs where it brings one back to reality of human situations, problems, feelings, and relationship (Moody, 1963:3). It may have meaning that we can see several of human behaviours which are acted out by characters in a literary work. That is why a literary work should provide lesson to the readers how to solve the problems and situation that exist in the real life.
There are three genres in literature; they are poetry, drama and prose and this thesis is going to discuss prose as one of the literary works. The word prose is derived from the Latin ‘prosa’, which is literally translated to ‘straightforward’. Roberts (1995:2) classifies prose into two, fiction prose, which is made based on the author’s creation and imagination, and non-fiction prose which describes facts or opinion.

Literature relates to literary movement. One of the literary movement that quite popular is Idealism. In literature, Idealism means the thoughts or the ideas of the writer. Idealism refers to a tradition in thought that represents things of a perfect form. In this way, it represents a human perfect being or circumstance. Philosophical idealism is associated with Plato and this philosophy is also reflected in a novel, Jude the Obscure by Thomas Hardy.

Thomas Hardy (1840 - 1928) is an idealist writer. His idealism is reflected in the characters of his last novel Jude the Obscure. Certainly, there are other parallels between Hardy’s own life and the portrayal of Jude, though it was far from autobiographical. Hardy himself was apprenticed to an architect, Jude, a stone mason who does church reconstruction, like Hardy’s father. Hardy studied Greek on his own, as Jude does. Finally, at age twenty-six, Hardy was in love with his cousin. It is difficult not to believe that this was the source for the character of Sue Bridehead in this novel. It is clear that Hardy preferred to write about the world of his childhood and adolescence rather than the more sophisticated world in which he moved as an adult. Hardy realizes that his idealism is not good and it makes his life becomes obscure and absurd.

Jude the Obscure is the last novel written by Thomas Hardy because from 1895 to 1928 he devoted himself to poetry. The novel is a story about Jude Fawley who dreams of attending university, spending time discoursing with other scholars about the Classics. However, he is unable to fulfil his dream and becomes a working man but never completely giving up his dream. Jude lived a vision of idealism that couldn’t be manifested, and because
of that vision, he was not able to accept the world as it was. Part of Jude's tragedy arises from his incurable idealism. As a child he is fascinated with Christminster, a shining ideal of intellectual life. Similarly, he idealizes Sue as the perfect intellectual woman, but here too he is disillusioned and frustrated. Christminster, the intellectual ideal, and Sue, the ideal of womanhood, promise fulfilment, and both frustrate him. All his hard work and earnest effort at mastering Greek and Latin come to nothing, and despite his great patience with Sue and devotion to her, he loses his job, his children and finally even his title as husband.

The way of Hardy applies his idealism in this novel through the two major characters (Jude Fawley and Sue Bridehead) fascinated me to do a research. In this thesis I want to represent an analysis of how the idealism is reflected in the two major characters of the novel Jude the Obscure.

1.2 The Problem of Analysis

It is important to make the specification of problems which are going to be analyzed. It helps me to avoid the ambiguity of the analysis and get the clear description about the object of the analysis itself. So in this thesis I decide some problems that should be analyzed. They are:

1. What are the characteristics of Idealism which reflected in the two major characters in Thomas Hardy’s Jude the Obscure?

2. How is Idealism reflected in the two major characters of Thomas Hardy’s Jude the Obscure?

1.3 The Objective of Analysis
The objectives of the analysis are:

1. To describe the characteristics of Idealism reflected in two major characters in Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*.
2. To describe the reflection of Idealism in the two major characters of Thomas Hardy’s *Jude the Obscure*.

1.4 The Scope of Analysis

Idealism in general can also be found in many fields of knowledge as philosophy, literary works, religion, and science. In order to avoid wider analysis, I want to focus my attention to idealism in literary works, especially in characters of a novel. In this thesis I would like to analyze the reflection of Idealism in the two major characters of *Jude the Obscure* by Thomas Hardy.

1.5 The Significance of Analysis

The analysis of this thesis is expected to be able to give significance for the reader, both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the significance is to enrich the literary idealism studies through novel. Practically, it shows the characteristics of idealism in Thomas Hardy’s novel *Jude the Obscure* and how idealism is reflected in the major characters of novel. I hope this analysis would be useful for the readers to enrich their knowledge especially for literature students who have interest in this kind of analysis.

1.6 Review of Related Literature
To support the writing of this thesis I use some books as the source data. These sources are:

1. *Theory of Literature* (1965) by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. It contains the theory of literature. The book helps me to know more about theory of literature. According to the book, there are two approaches in analyzing literary works; they are intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach emphasizes its analysis on texts of literary works, while on the other hand, extrinsic approach relates to the literary works and the other subjects such as biography, philosophy, sociology, etc. This book also explains about idea that related to the topic.


3. *Critical Approaches to the Fiction of Thomas Hardy* (1979) by Dale Kramer. This book discusses about the criticism of some Hardy’s novel. From the book I know more about Hardy’s works.


5. *The Life and Work of Thomas Hardy* (1984) by Michael Millgate. This book contains all about Thomas Hardy. It helps me how to understand more about Thomas hardy and his works.