CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According Julien Bonn (2012:93) Literature includes poetry, drama, fiction and many kinds of non fiction writing, as well as oral, dramatic and broadcast compositions, not necessarily preserved in a written format such as films and television programs.

The fiction works discussed in this thesis is a Novel. According to Julien Bonn (2010:112) Novel is a long fictional narrative written in prose, which developed from the novella and other early forms of narrative. A Novel is usually organized under a plot or theme with a focus on the character development and action. Actions and the characters in the novel made by the writer themselves. So an action and the events of the novel can be a real story in everyday life can be ambitions, sadness, joy, happiness, sense, logic, and many others are based on the fact of one’s life. So in this thesis the writer analysis the character dominately, plot, setting and theme just little explained. According to Roberts (1990:45) character is the imaginary person that the author creates and can be classified as major and minor character. Major character is an important figure at the centre of story’s action or theme whereas minor is the character which support the major character and to illuminate them. According Julien Bonn (2010:128) Plot is an author’s selection and arrangement of incidents in a story to shape the action and give the story a particular focus. Discussion of plot include not just what happens, but also how and why things happens happen the way they do.
Stories that are written in a pyramidal pattern divide the plot three essential parts. The first part is the rising action, in which complications created some sort of conflict for the protagonist. The second part is the climax, the moment of greatest emotional tension in a narrative, usually marking a turning point in the plot at which the rising action reserves to become the falling action. The third part, the falling action (or resolution) is characterized by diminishing tensions and the resolution of the plot’s conflict and complications. In media’s res is a term used to described the common strategy of beginning a story in the middle of the action. In this type of plot, we enter the story on the verge of some important moment.

According to Julien Bonn (2010;153) Setting is the time, place, culture in which the action of the narrative takes place. The elements of setting may include geographic location, characters physical, and mental environments, prevailing cultural attitudes or the historical time in which the action takes place. According to Julien Bonn (2010;171) Theme is a central idea or statement that unifies and controls the entire work. The theme can take the form of a brief and meaningful insight or a comprehensive vision of life, it may be a single idea.

“Flower for Algernon” is the novel written by Daniel Keyes was born August 9, 1972 is an American author best known for his Hugo Award - Winning short story and Nebula Award – Winning novel “Flower for Algernon”. Keyes was given the Author Emeritus honor by Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America in 2000. The writer interested in analysis this Novel because Daniel Keyes was able to make a rare story about a mentally retarded named Charlie had a short happy moment and able make a Fantasy story. Then the writer prefer to Novel than poetry or drama. Therefore the writer wish to study “Flower for Algernon” by Daniel Keyes.
The novel tells the story of Charlie Gordon has an IQ of 68 and has job at a bakery. Charlie narrates his experience through ‘progress reports’, which he has agreed to submit himself to experimental surgery in order to improve his intelligence. The reports reveal Charlie’s experience in the bakery to which the owner, his uncle’s friend, has brought him from the Warren State Home for retarted people. Charlie becomes a part of the bakery, and considers the people there as his friends. Yet, he is dissatisfied and wants to be ‘smart’. So, he joins a special school for retarted people at Beckman College. Charlie attends reading and writing classes at Beekman College Center for Retarded Adult to improve himself. After this, his teacher, Alice Kinnian, recommends him to a research team at Beckman psychology department. Alice as a teacher is a young attractive woman. Two scientist at Beekman are looking for a human test subject on whom to try an experimental medicine to increase intelligent. They have already try this experimental medicine on a mouse named Algernon which be success intelligent. Alice support Charlie to undergo that experimental medicine. Charlie then undergoes weeks of testing and competing with a white mouse, Algernon at completing mazes. He is depressed when the mouse beats him every time. The operation takes place and Charlie is disappointed at not ‘getting smart’ immediately. However, he is assured that he will progress gradually, but steadily. Over a period of time, Charlie finds himself being able to read more, win some mazes and master complex processes at the bakery. He is disillusioned with many of them. He has to spend a lot of time reading and being tested at the Beckman lab. By now, he knows that Algernon has also had surgery similar to his, which accounts for his intelligence. Charlie surges ahead in gathering knowledge and mastering languages. He begins to see his supportive teacher Alice, as an attractive young woman. They become close and he tries to make love to her. On several
occasions, he finds he has a violent physical reaction when he is making love to her and therefore has to stop. He can’t understand why this happens. Around the same time, Charlie’s repressed memories of his home, surface. Disturbing scenes, like, his mother pushing him to study or others when he is being pushed aside in favor of his younger sister, flash through his memory. Charlie is upset, but he finds his newfound intellectual ability thrilling and works hard. He finds that he and Algernon are to be taken to Chicago for a convention, at which Numer will present the findings of the team. The experimental is success. Charlie has an IQ 185 now. However, as his intelligent increases, his relationship with people be bad. Finally intellectual of Charlie be regresses. He said sorry for his parents co-workers. In a final postscript to his writings, he request that someone put flower on Algernon’s grave.

1.2 Problem of the Study

This thesis is going to find whether Charlie really have A Short Happy moment after an Experimental Medicine success?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The aim of this thesis is to describe whether Charlie really have a short happy moment after an Experimental Medicine success.

1.4 Scope of the study

Scope of the study is only analyzing characters in Flower for Algernon.
1.5 Significant of the study

Significant of the study is to improve the learning of literature, especially literary novels in addition to drama and poetry. Another significant is that there are moral lessons to understand of the main character.