CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is imaginative process as stated by Welleck and Warren via Wiyatmi (2006: 14). Literature must be able to produce an aesthetic creation and try to transmit the needs of human life and be a spot to aspire the ideas, thoughts, and feelings of the author about human life.

Biography, social life, psychological aspect, and also culture of the author are the elements which can influence how his literary work is. The authors have these elements. It is not very surprising if we look at and find out the similarities between literary works; however, the object of the works is human. In general, humans in the world have some similar characteristics.

The diverse views on life, made each author has varied opinion about something. In this case, this variation can present many ideas in creating the literary works. However, human life as a focus on literary works, may produce not only similar perception, but also influence of each other. The study which learns about how to see, analyze, and know the similarities or the influences among the national literary works is Comparative Literary Study. The study of Comparative Literature can construct them through comprehensive and comparative process.

Comparative Literature is one of literary academic disciplines that combine the similar literary works written in different languages which connected with more than one culture. According to Texte, Comparative
Literature is limited to the study of a factual/historical relationship between two national literatures, as caused by various social norms.

Comparative study of Literature is a cross-cultural study. The study concerns the literary relation based on period or area. In period aspect, Comparative study of literature can compare the literary works from two or more different period. In area aspect, it compares the literary works based on literary geography (Endraswara, 2011: 128).

Comparative Literature is the study which is used to look for the similarities between literary works; however, the purpose of comparative study is to hold the aesthetic concepts in literary works and to estimate the quality of literary works and aesthetic in literature (Endraswara, 2011: 129).

Comparative Literature can be grouped into four categories: (1)Themes and Motives, (2)Genre, (3)Movement and Trends, (4)Interdisciplinary Aspects. Theme and motifs categories are concerned with product of mind, characters, plot, settings, episode, and also paraphrase. Genre category is about form and style. Movement and trends also includes the generation of literature. Interdisciplinary aspects refer to relations among literary works to science, religion, and art.

In this analysis, the writer compares two literary works applies thematic analysis which is focused on the theme as object of the study. Theme is an aspect of human experience which the author wishes to express in literary works. Theme indicates the object as the focus of literary work, and as the main meaning of the work itself. Theme also includes the definition of motif inside. Both of them are often combined. As theme, according to Goethe,
motif is a human spirit phenomenon repeatedly appeared (Weisstein, 1973: 138). In this case, the study which concerned with theme is thematic study.

Thematic study, named Thematology consists of: ideas of mind, personality theme, plot, episode and setting, and phrases (Kasim, 1966: 65). Ideas of mind is called abstract ideas, according to A. Owen Aldridge (1969: 5). Personality theme is focused on the characters, especially for the protagonist character. Plot, episode, and setting of the story influence the literary comparison. Phrases often appear in literary works. All of the elements above can be analyzed.

Thematic analysis is one of the most commonly used methods of qualitative analysis. Thematic analysis moves beyond counting explicit words or phrases and focus on identifying and describing both implicit and explicit ideas within the data, that is, themes. The method does not preclude theoretical development. However, its primary goal is to describe and understand how people feel, think, and behave within a particular context relative to a specific research question.

In this way, applied thematic analysis is similar to phenomenology, which seeks to understand the meanings that people give to their lived experiences and social reality (Schutz, 1962: 59). Thematic analysis can be made on novel.

According to Oxford Dictionary, a novel is a long written story. Novel provides the complete story, starting from development of theme, plot, settings, characters, style, and point of view. Novel tells about human life. So, novel is one of literary works which can be compared.

The study analyzes two novels in order to see the similarities or the differences of certain elements in theme of the novels with the different
language and culture. The two novels are: *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi.

*The Color Purple* is an American literary work, written by Alice Walker. She is the youngest child in her black family in the south. She graduates as a valedictorian from high school, securing a space at Spelman, the all black women’s college in Atlanta. She transfers to Sarah Lawrence College and participates in an exchange program to Africa. She began writing about black women living in America, seeing first hand the difficulties faced by the people. Because her youth was so filled with the persecution and separation, Walker finds herself involved heavily in the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s. Walker is one of the earliest and most celebrated contemporary African-American writer (Walker, 1983).

*The Color Purple* is published in 1982 to instant critical acclaim and popular success. It wins, among the numerous awards, the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1983, and was quickly made into an Oscar-winning film in 1985 by Steven Spielberg. Walker is also the recipient of numerous other prestigious awards and honors. One critic claims that “Alice Walker’s best writing is like balm: soothing, restorative, and earthy...Walker’s lovely prose rarely falters” (Walker, 1983).

*Woman at Point Zero* is an Arabic literary work, written by Nawal El Saadawi. Nawal El Saadawi is a Egypt doctor. She has been known in the world as a novelist and woman writer who writes more about the Rights of woman, named as feminist writer, with international reputation. She likes to write about status, phychology, and woman sexuality. She has open-minded related to the equality of woman (El-Saadawi, 1983).
Novel *Woman at Point Zero* is based on the true story. The story tells about a woman who got death sentence because of injuring and killing man. Firdaus, as a main characters in this novel, is shown as a powerful woman who can face the problems in her life. Firdaus is a prostitute woman who has worked in prostitution since she is young. Her family and the social environment make her forced become a commercial sex worker. During her life, she is always abused by men, either physically or mentally. Firdaus wants to get the freedom as a woman. Finally, after she can not stand the men’s abuse to her, she decides to kill him and as a prisoner, she is proud of getting punishment and for her, it is a way to gain the freedom.

Both of novels are talking about women abuse. In *The Color Purple*, women abuse emphasizes on segregation also abuse for women from black community. In *Women at Point Zero*, women are really the victims of men’s abuse.

Abuse is a pattern of coercive and/or violent behaviors used by a partner to gain power and control over the other person, and it goes far beyond physical injury. Abusive actions one person makes towards another are generally intended to control the victim, or to make the victim submit to the power of that abuser; however, it is against the notion of equality of human worth to say that one person should be able to control another against the victim's will. There are many types of abuse, including: verbal abuse, mental abuse, physical abuse, neglect, and hate crimes (Patricelli, 2005).

In this case, the writer focuses on physical abuse. *Physical Abuse* occurs when one person uses physical pain or threat of physical force to intimidate another person. Actual physical abuse may involve simple slaps or pushes, or
it may involve a full on physical beating complete with punching, kicking, hair pulling, scratching, and real physical damage sufficient in some cases to require hospitalization. In particularly violent instances, people can die from the injuries they sustain while being physically abused. It is abusive whether bruises or physical damage occur or not. It may involve the mere threat of physical violence if the victim does not comply with the wishes of the abuser, and still be considered physical abuse. (Patricelli, 2005)

In these two novels, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal el-Saadawi, there are many abuses inside the story. But, the analysis points at the physical abuse inside these novels. Mainly, people who are abused are women. The term ‘woman abuse’ refers to various forms of violence, abuse, mistreatment, and neglect that women experience in their intimate, kin or dependent relationships. These include current, dissolving or past relationships with husbands, common-law partners, lovers, dating partners, family members and caregivers.

Women is abused by more than one type of aggression. Typically, abusive partners attempt to dominate and control by engaging in actions that threaten or harm a woman’s physical and emotional well-being, sexuality, social life, parenting ability, financial situation, possessions or spiritual life. A woman may experience a single episode of abuse, or she may endure a pattern of abuse over many years.

Realized or not, actually in this time, many cases of women are appeared. Eventhough we can see that there are laws in Indonesia protect women from abuse, the fact is it still happened. The writer is interested in studying women abuse, how the abuse happened, and why the abuse occured, in the novels *The
The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Woman at Point Zero by Nawal el-Saadawi. In this case, the two novels are the object of the study to find the phenomenon of women abuse that happened in human life and reflected in the novel. Novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Woman at Point Zero by Nawal el-Saadawi are from different nation, language and culture. The Color Purple is from West—American literature and uses American English, while Woman at Point Zero is from East—Egypt literature and uses Arabic language (then be translated to English). Through the diverse nation, language and culture, the writer focuses on reflecting the women abuse in both novels and the similarities and the differences among them; however, being critically about what happened in this life is very necessary, either through observing the society directly, or through reading the literary works, as reflection of human daily life, comprehensively.

1.2 Problem of The Study

The problems of the study are:

1. How is woman physical abuse reflected in novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Woman at Point Zero by Nawal El Saadawi?

2. How are the similarities and the differences of woman physical abuse reflected in novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Woman at Point Zero?

1.3 Objective of The Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out how woman physical abuse is reflected in novel The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Woman at Point Zero by Nawal El Saadawi
2. To find out how the similarities and the differences of woman physical abuse reflected in novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi

1.4 Scope of The Study

The study is focused on woman abuse as the theme of each novel *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker and *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi, which emphasizes on physical abuse.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The significance of the study is divided into two functions:

1. Theoretical Function

The study aims to make people know more about Comparative Literary Study, and show that among literary works, which includes novels, that are from the different language and culture, can be compared or contrasted.

2. Practical Function

The study is expected to provide the analysis of women abuse. Human must consider and take care about women life. Human should be aware of happening in real life. Women themselves, must realize that they can become the victim of men’s abuse, especially for physical abuse. By reading this study, the writer wishes women will understand what actually happened in their life and in this world.