1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

There have been various ways to define what literature is. Literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Broadly, "literature" is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. It provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding. It also exercises our emotion through interest, concern, excitement, hope, fear, regret, laughter, and sympathy.

Roberts and Jacobs (1995:2) say, “literature may be classified into four categories or genre: (1) prose fiction, (2) poetry, (3) drama, (4) nonfiction prose.” From the four categories of literature, the writer chooses to discuss the prose fiction, especially on novel. Fiction is a name for stories not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, imagined. Novel is one of the prose fictions. It reflects a move away from an essentially religious view of life towards a new interest in the complexities of everyday experience. Sometimes, novels present a documentary picture of life. In fact, novels look at people, individual, society in which they live, and presenting characters who are at odds with the society.

Peck and Coyle (1998:102) say, “Most novels are concerned with ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they find themselves.” Some of novels are fiction (unreal) and some of them are nonfiction (real) based on true stories. Novels are about people, and the role of things there is always likely to be a secondary one. And yet many readers like being told about them. The novel
informs about something more than human nature: it explains how to deal with a shipwrecked vessel if cast away on a desert islands, cook a meal or hunt whales. Today, novel has attracted interest and attention for many people, especially in teenagers, and other young generation. Novel is very entertaining to read.

The novel which discuss in this paper is written by Khaled Hosseini with title *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. Khaled Hosseini was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, in 1965. In 1976, the Foreign Ministry relocated the Hosseini family to Paris. They were ready to return to Kabul in 1980, but by then their homeland had witnessed a bloody communist coup and the invasion of the Soviet Army. Hosseini sought and were granted political asylum in the United States, and in September 1980 moved to San Jose, California. Hosseini graduated from high school in 1984 and enrolled at Santa Clara University, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in biology in 1988. The following year he entered the University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine, where he earned a medical degree in 1993. He completed his residency at Cedars-Sinai medical center in Los Angeles and was a practicing internist between 1996 and 2004. In March 2001, while practicing medicine, Hosseini began writing his first novel, *The Kite Runner*. And a thousand splendid suns is his second novel that success to be one of international best seller novel in the world

In a fiction novel, the readers will able to know more about character. Character is the fictional people who are part of the action of a literary work. Character can be good people or bad people. The good one is remembered in terms of the good they do, their achievements or sacrifices. The bad one is usually
extraordinary evil and is remembered for the terrible things to do. Character has an important role in a story. Character make a story become interesting and real. In novel, we can know whether a novel deserve to read or no is from character. Without character, the novel is not special and nothing.

This novel tells about the sufferings experienced by Maryam and Laila. Mariam is the scorned illegitimate daughter of a wealthy businessman, forced at age fifteen into marrying Rasheed, who grows increasingly brutal when she fails to produce a child. Eighteen years later, Rasheed takes another wife, fourteen year-old Laila, a smart and spirited girl who only other options, after her parents are killed by rocket fire, are prostitution or starvation. Mariam and Laila become allies in a battle with Rasheed, whose violent abuse is endorsed by custom and law. This novel gives a forceful portrait of despotism where women are dependent on fathers, husbands and especially sons, the bearing of male children being their only path to an accepted social status. Each woman in the end is forced to accept a path that will never be completely happy for them: Mariam will have to sacrifice her life to save Laila after she murders their husband while Laila, even though marrying her childhood love, must find a way to keep the sacrifice Mariam has made from not becoming an act done in vain.

Finally, the research of this paper focuses on the suffering in the novel written by Khaled Hosseini entitle A Thousand Splendid Suns. This is the background as well as the reason as why this paper focuses on describing the suffering in this paper.
1.2 Problems of the Study

In a novel, the author tries to write the events on each plot rapidly and clearly. The events can be happily or sadness. In this paper, the writer wants to see any sufferings experienced by Maryam and Laila. The main problems: What kinds of sufferings are experienced by Maryam and Laila.

1.3 Scope of the Study

When we want to talk about the analysis or description of a novel, there can be many aspects to discussed, therefore, the writer of this paper wants to give the limitation of the writing. The sufferings will describe on this paper is the sufferings that experienced by Maryam and Laila two victimized women that give battered heart even physic.

1.4 Purpose of Study

The purpose of writing this paper is to give any sufferings experienced by Maryam and Laila.

1.5 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

The writer’s reasons to choose Khaled Hosseini’s novel “A Thousand Splendid Suns” are after the writer has read it for many times, the writer believes that is an interesting novel because though it is a fiction, but it seemed to be true. After finished three times of reading, the writer bought it and decided this novel as the subject of paper.
1.6 Method of the Study

The writer uses library research in writing this paper because all the data are taken from written text. The first step is the writer reads the novel to understand the events in the novel. After having reading, the writer wants to find other information from written books deal with literature and collect some data needed for the paper. Then, after the data collected, the data are selected, while making notes and giving some tabulation before writing the paper. It is also needed a search from internet to support and complete the data that had been collected. And the last step, after the data had been collected is to interpret and analyze the data into a description. This method is known as descriptive method.