CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Literature and Society

Damono in his book entitled *Pedoman Penelitian Sociologi Sastra* (1957) gives a brief explanation about literature and society. This book explained about the social and environmental aspects, so it is called the sociology of literature. The important factors that should be considered in analyzing the sociology of literature are the writers, the literary works itself, and the readers. Nowadays, the sociological approach that is most done by the researcher is paying attention to the aspects of documentary of literature. The basic idea is that literature is a mirror of its era. In this case, the job of sociology of literature is to connect the experience of the imaginative characters and situation created by the writer to the real condition that happen in one state or country.

Literary sociology comes from sociology and literature. Literature is a reflection of society. Through literature, the author reveal of the problems of life. Literary works receive influence from society and also is able to make an impact on society. Sociology can be defined as the science or systemic knowledge about the life of human groups in relation to other human beings is generally called society.

Literature presents a picture of life, and life itself is a social reality. In this sense, life includes relationships between people, between people with individuals, between people, and between the events that occur in someone’s mind. However, the events that occur in someone’s mind that often the material of literature, is a
reflection of someone’s relationship with other people or with the public and foster particular social attitudes or even to trigger certain social events.

Warren and Wellek in their book entitled *Theory of Literature* explained about the relation between literature and society. Wellek (1977:94) state that “...literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’.” It means that literature, as with any art form, should hold a mirror up to society and reflects what is happening there. Besides using his creative imagination or the ability of writing, the writer should connect his work to the real life about what the write sees in the society. But sometimes, a literary work doesn’t represent life directly but it just indirectly appears that there is a social life issue portrayed inside.

Warren and Wellek (1985:89) state that literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "imitates" "life" and "life" is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation." Literature has also a social function, or "use," which cannot be purely individual.” From the quotation above we will know that the interaction between people create a society. Literature as a social institution also tells about the society and it is the imitation of the social life. By reading a literature we will know about the social life at that time.
In analyzing social problems in the story we have to know about the social approach. Attempts are made to describe and define the influence of society on literature and to prescribe and judge the position of literature in society. This sociological approach to literature is particularly cultivated by those who profess a specific social philosophy.

The relation between literature and society is usually discussed by starting with the phrase that "literature is an expression of society." If it assumes that literature, at any given time, mirrors the current social situation "correctly," it is false; it is commonplace, trite, and vague if it means only that literature depicts some aspects of social reality. To say that literature mirrors or expresses life is even more ambiguous. A writer inevitably expresses his experience and total conception of life; but it would be manifestly untrue to say that he expresses the whole of life or even the whole life of a given time—completely and exhaustively. It is a specific evaluative criterion to say that an author should express the life of his own time fully, that he should be "representative" of his age and society. Besides, of course, the terms "fully" and "representative" require much interpretation: in most social criticism they seem to mean that an author should be aware of specific social situations.

According to Wellek and Warren, there are three points in literature and society; they are the author, the work, and the reader. The author cannot be freed from his unconsciousness between reality and imagination in write his literary works. These descriptive about the actual relations between literature and society (as distinct from normative) relations admit of rather ready classification. First, there is the sociology of the writer and the profession and institutions of literature, the whole
question of the economic basis of literary production, the social provenience and status of the writer, his social ideology, which may find expression in extra literary pronouncements and activities. Then there is the problem of the social content, the implications and social purpose of the works of literature themselves. Lastly, there are the problems of the audience and the actual social influence of literature. Since every writer is a member of society, he can be studied as a social being. Though his biography is the main source, such a study can easily widen into one of the whole milieu from which he came and in which he lived. It will be possible to accumulate information about social provenance, the family background, the economic position of writers. The question how far literature is actually determined by or dependent on its social setting, on social change and development, is one which, in one way or another, will enter into all the three divisions of our problem: the sociology of the writer, the social content of the works themselves, and the influence of literature on society.

Sociology is the study of human social institutions and processes are objective and scientific society. Sociology is trying to figure out how society is possible, how it progresses, and how they stay there. By studying the social institutions and the problems of economic, religion, political and others – all of which form the social structure – we get an overview of the way people adapt to their environment, socialization mechanisms, civilizing process that puts members of the public in their respective places. Indeed, sociology and literature share the same problem. As well as sociology, literature also deals with people in the community as a business man and his efforts to adapt to changing society. It can be concluded that sociology can provide a useful explanation of the literature, and it can even be said that without sociology, our understanding of the literature is not yet complete.
Sociological approach to literature the most widely practiced today paid great attention to the documentary aspects of literature and its foundation is the idea that literature is a mirror of its time. This view assumes that literature is a direct mirror of the various aspects of the social structure of kinship, class conflict, and others. In the literature it is the task of sociology to connect the experience of fictional characters and situations created by the author with a state historical origin. Themes and styles that exist in the literature of a personal nature must be changed into things that are social.

2.2 Social Problems

Social problems are the results of social change and cultural lag. Social change reflects the disparity in rate of change between the elements of society especially that between behavior and the values that define it. Social problems are the heritage of a dynamic, democratic society, where change is rapid and social values favoring ameliorative action are strongly developed. Therefore, social problem is defined as a condition believed to threaten a social value and conceived to be capable of change by constructive social action. The elements of social problem are: (a) the social situation, (b) the value judgment, and (c) the appropriate social action. Social problem thus arises when large numbers of persons engage in behavior believed both contrary and injurious to some value that the society considers important. When these related conditions exist, social problem exists.

Coleman in his book Social Problems (1947) explained about the definition of social problem. In this book explained that the social problems arise when society decides that something should be done about them. Society has other problems, as do
the people who make it up. Those problems which arise as part of the system into which a society is historically oriented which are denoted by the term social problems. Many types of individual problems may be fraught with human tragedy, but not necessarily constitute a social problem. It is only when such individual problems are widespread, when they are caused to a considerable extent by existing social institution, when they become a burden to society, and where known methods of coping with them are neglected, that they become social problem.

A more precise sociological definition holds that a social problem exists when there is a sizable difference between the ideals of society and its actual achievements (Coleman and Donal, 1984:3). Social problem are created by failure to close the gap between the way people believe things should be and the way things really are. For example, according to this definition, racial discrimination is a social problem because we believe that everyone should receive fair and equal treatment, yet certain groups are still denied equal access to education, employment, and housing.

Social problems involve both objective and subjective considerations. The objective elements comprise over human behavior, whether in the form of cases disposed of by juvenile courts, crimes known to the police, person unemployed and seeking employment, or married broken by divorce. Most (but not all) of the situations constituting the foundation of social problems can be measured, and statistical techniques have greatly improved our knowledge of these situations in recent years. The subjective aspects of social problems, on the other hand, involve social values and normative definitions of the situation. The objective situation must be defined before it is a social problem. Whether real or imaginary, the threat to social values is important if it is believed to be real. Many social problems are no less
important because they exist largely in the minds of the public.

A society in which social problems are prevalent is also a disorganized society, although the two concepts are not synonymous. Social problems, as we have suggested, involve situations though to threaten social values and believed to be remediable by social action. Social disorganization is the process whereby the group is broken. The disparity between behavior and its definition (social problems) often arises out of social disorganization, but the two are not the same thing. The group has reality only in and through the reciprocal social relationships between its members. When these relationships are broken, social disorganization exists.

Nisbet in his book *Sociology and Social Problems* (1978:2) states that a social problem is a condition that is harmful to society. But the matter is not as simple, for the meaning of such every day term as harm and society are not clear. Every society has different measure about social problems. For instance, alcoholism is a social problem for a certain society but not for another one. Social problem are also different, based on the time factor. Gambling has probably dilemmatic social problems in the past. But nowadays, it is not dilemmatic anymore because there have been rules that determine gambling is social problem. Clearly, most people define social problems as conditions that harm or seem to harm their own interest.

Soekanto in his book *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar* (1990) give brief explanation about social problems, the kinds of social problem, how those social problems occur in the society. Soekanto states that social problems arise from the inside of human, personality and social community. The writer states that there are four factors in social problems; they are economic, biological, biopsychological, and cultural factors. Economic factors for examples are poverty, unemployment, and so
on. Biological factors can be varied problems which come from diseases. Biopsychological factor for examples can be caused by neurosis, suicide, and so on. Cultural factors, for examples divorce, child disobedience, racial conflict, and others.

2.2.1 Race Discrimination

Thio in his book entitle Sociology: A Brief Introduction states that discrimination is not the same as prejudice. Prejudice refers to one’s judgment, attitude, or state of mind; it is wrong judgment towards others whereas discrimination refers to one’s action towards others. Discrimination is “the differential treatment of individuals considered to belong to a particular social group. To treat a member of a subordinate group as inferior is to discriminate against that person. Members of dominant group tend to use one standard of behavior among themselves and a different standard for any member of a subordinate group.

Discrimination is overt behavior but to justify and explain that behavior to themselves, people tend to rationalized their behavior on the ground that those whom they discriminate against are less worthy of respect or fair treatment than people like themselves- a perspective to which we return at greater length later in the chapter. Moreover, people tend to be ethnocentric- to see their own behavioral patterns and belief structures as desirable and natural and those of others as less natural and desirable.

Discrimination is the practice of treating some people as second-class citizen because of their ethnic status. Usually, it surfaces when members of a dominant group deny equality to the members of a subordinate group.
In the twentieth century, Blackman was made as a slave to Whiteman. They had no right for their self and as if any hope and better future for them. Nowadays, Racism still exists in our life, especially in America even though it is not as extreme as in the twentieth century. It is called Modern Racism. Feldman (1995:95) defines Modern Racism as a subtle form of prejudice in which people appear, on the surface, not to harbor prejudice, but who actually do hold racist attitudes. It arises because people often hold several competing beliefs and values. They want to see themselves as part of the mainstream of society and as fair, humanitarian, and egalitarian. They still hold on negative views of groups out of their group and think that their group is better than others. In most cases, they could wrap their prejudice and try to live as if there are no differences, but when they are placed in a situation in which they are given social support of racism, they are willing to express and sometimes to act on, their unfavorable opinion.

2.2.2 Poverty

Poverty is said exists when people lack, it means to satisfy their basic needs. Hornby (1995:904) defines poverty as the state of being poor. The word poverty brings into mind thoughts about poor, lack of money and basic needs insufficient such as: food, shelter or entertainment. It also brings thoughts into inability to buy and enjoy whatever one wants.

Coleman (1980:15) defines that poverty is lack of some of goods and services that are enjoyed by others. Further, the American Heritage Dictionary (1995: 652) defines that poverty is the state of one who lack a usual or socially acceptable amount of money or material possession.
According also to Coleman (1980:153) poverty may be defined in two ways relative approach and absolute approach. The absolute approach defines poverty as the lack of a sufficient amount of money to purchase the essentials of life-food, shelter and clothing. The relative approach holds that people are poor if they have significantly less money than the average person in their society.

The differences between the poor and the rich have influences on life style, attitudes toward others and event attitude towards oneself. The poor lack the free freedom and autonomy in our society. They are trapped in their surrounding, living in rundown, crime-ridden neighborhoods that they cannot afford to leave. They are constantly confronted with things they desire, but have little chance to own. On the other hand, wealth provides power, freedom, and the ability to direct one’s own fate. The rich live where they choose and do as they please, with few economic constants. Poverty also cannot offer education and travel to the poor. It means the poor do not have education and money for travel: they will have no chance to get education because they have no money to pay it. Contrast with the rich who can raise their status and increase their knowledge through their travel.

Furthermore, Julce (2001: 13) states that poverty is deprivation of those things that determine the quality of life, including food, clothing, shelter and safe drinking water. It means that poverty is generally considered to be undesirable to the pain and suffering. Poverty may affect individuals or group, and it is not confined to the developing nations. Poverty is developed countries is manifest in a set of social problems including homelessness.
The effects of living poverty may cause lacking access to essential health services, suffering hunger or even starvation, experience mental and physical health problems which make it harder for them to improve their situation. It means that living in poverty make lower life expectancy, suffer from hunger, increases the risk of homelessness, and disease.

Poverty and wealth are close related. A person who has poverty is called the poor and who has wealth is called the rich. The poor live with anxiously. They can do any kinds of jobs in proportion to survive. Some of them might be success to have better life after hard working. Three types of explanations of poverty have been offered: economic, political and cultural.

1. Economic

   Much poverty can be traced directly to simple economic causes-low wages and too few job. In technological societies like Canada and the United States, people without education and skills find it hard to get any kind of employment, and those who find work are likely to be employed in low-paying job. As a result, many of these working people are poor.

   A major cause of poverty is lack of jobs and low wages paid for many jobs. Half of the poor families are headed by someone who works, and one-third of those family heads work full time. Poverty among those who work is due to lower pay for jobs traditionally filled by unskilled workers, minorities, and women.

   The high rates of unemployment in recent years are reflected in low family incomes. Unemployment is much higher among young people, older people, and
minorities. Permanent unemployment is a characteristic of some poor people, and even temporary unemployment may produce poverty.

2. Political

Poverty is as much a political problem of economics and culture. This is evidence from the fact that industrialized nations that are less wealthy than the United States have been more successful in reducing the gap between the haves and the have-nots. Herbert Gans (1971) suggest the existence of poverty serves the interests of many who are more rich and powerful than the poor. Without poverty, much of society’s dirty work would not get done; the prices of many goods and services would be much higher; many welfare workers and some group other than the poor would need to bear the costs of change and growth in American society.

3. Cultural

Banfield (1960) suggest that the cause of poverty is the present rather than future orientation of poor people. In these views, people must change their attitudes if they are to escape poverty. Each generation faces the conditions of political isolation and economic deprivation that may create similar behaviors in each succeeding generation. When economic conditions improve, individuals will change their behavior and values and escape poverty.

2.2.3 Alcoholism

Alcohol like most other drugs is rather harmless when used in moderation but is extremely dangerous when used to excess. Alcohol is called a depressant because it depresses the activity of the central nervous system and thereby interferes with coordination, reaction time, and reasoning ability.
Soekanto in his book entitled *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar* (1990: 406) states that the problem of alcoholism and drunkard in society generally not only focus on the question ‘is alcohol allowed or prohibit in use?’ The main problem is who can use it, where, how, in what condition the people can use it. Common people usually think that alcohol is a simultaneous, but actually alcohol is a protoplasm poison which has depression effect in nerve system. As the consequence a drunkard gets less ability in controlling himself both physical, and social.

After drinking, people usually feel pleasure and become talkative at first. The feelings are usually replaced by drowsiness as the alcohol is eliminated from body, and the drinker may become withdrawn. This pattern often encourages people to drink more to keep the buzz going.

Alcoholic has a biphasic effect on the body, which is to say that its effects change over time. Initially, alcohol generally produces feelings of relaxation and cheerfulness, but further consumption can lead to blurred vision and coordination problems. Cell membranes are highly permeable to alcohol, so once alcohol is in the bloodstream it can diffuse into nearly every biological tissue of the body. After excessive drinking, unconsciousness can occur and extreme levels of consumption can lead to alcohol poisoning and death. Death can also occur through asphyxiation by vomit. An appropriate first aid response to an unconscious, drunken person is to place them in the recovery position.

Immediate medical attention is necessary if a person becomes unconscious, is impossible to arouse or seems to have trouble breathing. Drinking a high concentration of alcohol in a short period of time can suppress the centers of the
brain that control breathing and cause a person to pass out or even die. When people pass out, their bodies continue to absorb alcohol. The amount of alcohol in the blood can reach dangerous level, and they can die in their sleep.

Alcoholism also has negative effects on the spouse of an alcoholic. The spouse may have feeling of hatred, self-pity, avoidance of social contact, may suffer exhaustion and become physically or mentally ill (Berger, 1993). Very often the spouse has to perform the roles of both parents. Family responsibilities shift from two parents to one parent. As a result, the non-alcoholic parent may be inconsistent, demanding, and often neglect the children. Having financial difficulties is another issue that families of alcoholics have to deal with. The family may have to give up certain privileges because of the large amount of money spent on alcohol and also possible joblessness.

While alcoholism has been drawing increasing national attention in the United States and Canada, the term is applied very loosely and is often little more than a derogatory label. More precisely, an alcoholic is a persons whose drinking problem disrupts his or her life, interfering with the ability to hold a job, accomplish household task, or participate in family and social affairs. There are many people drink alcohol and many of them get problem with it. The problem drunkard and the alcoholic are terms applied to problems in which we call alcoholism. These problems have been there since long time ago.

Alcohol depresses the activity of the central nervous system and thereby interferes with. As coordination, reaction time, large doses of alcohol may produce disorientation, loss of consciousness, and even death. As already noted, the
psychological reaction to alcohol varies from person to person, from group to group, and from culture to culture. However, the effects of alcohol first become apparent when the concentration of alcohol in the blood reaches 0.1 percent, and extreme intoxication occurs at 0.2 percent. A user with over 0.4 percent blood alcohol is likely to pass out, and concert over 0.7 percent are usually fatal.

2.2.4 Criminality

Crime is generally defined as an act or omission of an act for which the state can apply sanctions. The criminal law, a subdivision of the rules governing society, prohibits certain acts and prescribes punishments to be meted out to violators. Confusion frequently arises because, although the criminal law prescribes certain rules for living in society, not all violations of social rules are violations of criminal laws.

Most of us tend to think of crime in an over generalized way and to have stereotyped nations about criminals. We usually speak of the “criminal problem” without specifying which crimes we mean, and we often label people who break laws “criminals” without realizing that they do not break laws all the time. The very words “crime” is too broad to be useful in describing certain acts or individuals. Actually, criminal acts and lawbreakers are almost as varied as noncriminal acts and law abiders. No one term can encompass the wide range of behaviors that are illegal, nor can one term meaningfully describe people who break the law.

Julian in his book *Social Problems 5th edition* (1974:151) explained about there are eight major types of crime and criminals. Seven of these have been classified by sociologists Marshall B. Clinard and Richard Quinney (1973), who categorized criminal behavior according to how great a part criminal activity plays in
people’s lives, that is, whether or not people see themselves as criminals and the extent to which they commit themselves to a life of crime. Such distinctions help sociologists understand why and how different lawbreaking behaviors occur. The seven major categories of crime and lawbreakers are (1) violent personal; (2) occasional property; (3) occupational (white-collar); (4) public-order; (5) conventional; (6) organized; and (7) professional. To these we add an eight category; juvenile delinquency. We will look at each of these types and examine what kinds of activities they involve and where their perpetrators fit into the picture of criminality. Two forms of illegal activity-occupational and organized crime- will receive more extensive treatment because their social costs probably exceed those of all the others combined.

2.2.5 Drug Addiction

Colema in his book entitled Social Problems (1947) states that addiction is defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain; they change its structure and how it works. These brain changes can be long lasting and can lead to many harmful, often self-destructive, behaviors.

Drug addiction is a complex disease that overcomes both the addict and those who love them. After abusing drugs for a period of time, the user becomes both physically and emotionally dependent upon the drug. Substance abuse, also known as drug abuse, is a patterned use of a substance (drug) in which the user consumes the substance in amounts or with methods which are harmful to themselves or others.
There are many cases in which criminal or anti-social behavior occur when the person is under the influence of a drug.

A person who abuses drugs is not necessarily dependent upon the drug, they will however, ultimately develop a dependency for the substance. The amount of time it takes for person to become dependent on a drug depends on the individual and the type of drug that is abused. For some people, abusing a drug just one time can lead to dependency. For others, it may take several incidents of abuse for a dependency to develop. In addition, drugs such as alcohol and codeine often need to be abused several times before dependency occurs. On the other hand, a person may become addicted to heroin or cocaine after just one use. A person who is dependent on the drug is considered to be addicted. This is because the person feels the need to abuse the drug in order to feel "normal." This dependence can be either physical or psychological, or both.

Drug addiction is a dependence on an illegal drug or a medication. When you're addicted, you may not be able to control your drug use and you may continue using the drug despite the harm it causes. Drug addiction can cause an intense craving for the drug. You may want to quit, but most people find they can't do it on their own.

For many people, what starts as casual use leads to drug addiction. Drug addiction can cause serious, long-term consequences, including problems with physical and mental health, relationships, employment and the law.
Sociologists, religious adherents, and government agents see addictive behavior as being criminal or sinful. These kinds of social judgments do little to help the addict, yet, they do cause harm, making the addict feel shameful, weak, or helpless. Suddenly he feels like a child who wets the bed, or can’t control his impulse to explore, and then is shamed or punished. Trying to demand or force a behavior which is in direct conflict with the natural drives and motivations of the individual is dangerous. It will usually worsen his situation, potentially driving the addict to suicide, or overdose. But for the lucky ones and those who are strong enough, this kind of malpractice will only lead the addict to psychological misery, self loathing, and submission.

2.3 Review of Related Studies

In doing this thesis, I consult and use the information data from some thesis. This thesis which discusses the short story Sonny’s Blues by James Baldwin has not been discussed, So I use some thesis that discuss about the social problems, they are:

First, the thesis entitles The Social Problems in Stephen Crane’s Maggie: a Girl of the Streets, A thesis written by Denny Thiorida. S.S. In the thesis the author gives an explanation about social problems. Reading this thesis there are some reference that can help the writer to analyze social problems. There are two kinds of social problems which is analyze in the thesis and those social problems also occur in the text that I want to analyst such as poverty and alcoholism. The explanation of social problems in Denny’s thesis is too general, but in this thesis the analysis about social problems is more deeply and focuses on Black American people social problems.
Next, the thesis entitles *An Analysis Racial Discrimination in Sue Monk Kidd’s Novel “The Secret Life of Bees”* by Syaiful Nazar. In this thesis the author gives a deep explanation about Racial Discrimination. Reading this thesis there are some reference and explanation about racial discrimination that can guide me to understand the topic about race discrimination. The last thesis is about *The Effect of alcoholic mothers in Dave Pelzer’s A Child called “It”* and *Stephen Cravers Maggie* by Maria Ruchmini Natasia. From this thesis I got understanding about alcoholism and the effect of alcoholism. Although this thesis explains about the alcoholic mother but it is same with the topic that I want to discuss about alcoholism in *Sonny’s Blues*. There is explanation about the cause and effect of Alcoholism in human life.