1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is writing or studying of books, valued as works of art. Roberts et al (1995:1) say, “Literature refers to composition that tell stories, dramatize situation, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas”. Taylor (1981: 1) says that literature is like other arts, it’s essentially an imaginative act, that is an act of the writer’s imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experience. Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective base for knowledge and understanding. It links us with the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which we are a part. It enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in difference places and times that we would never otherwise to know. It exercises our emotions through interest, concern, tension, excitement, hope, fear, regret, laughter, and sympathy. It encourages us to assist creative, talented people who need recognition and support.

Literature has three large genres; they are poetry, drama, and prose. Peck et al (1984:11) say that poetry is spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings. Roberts et al (1995:2) say that poetry expresses a conversation or interchange that is grounded in the most deeply felt experiences of human beings. Poetry exists in many formal and informal shapes, from the brief haiku to the extensive epic. Poetry relies heavily on imagery, figurative language, and sound.
Drama may focus on a single character or small number characters, and it enacts fictional events as if they were happening in the present, to be witnessed by audience. Roberts et al (1995:2) say that drama is literature designed to be performed by actors. Peck et al (1984:75) say that Drama is all plays employ the same basic structure of exposition, complication and resolution.

Siswanto (2008:127) says that prose is story carried by certain actors, with a role, setting along with and series and combination of specific stories that started from the results of the author's imagination (and reality) to establish a story. Prose divided in fiction prose and nonfiction prose. Nonfiction prose is the literary genre that consist of news reports, feature articles, essays, editorials, textbooks, historical and biographical works, and all of the describe or interpret facts and present judgments and opinions. Prose fiction or narrative fiction, includes myths, parables, romance, novels and short story.

In this paper, the writer would like to describe about novel. Rees (1973:106) says that novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and action representative of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity. The novel does generally have a long story but did not rule out the existence of a short novel. The novel itself is based on the content, objectives and purpose of the author. Novel has some kind of genres, such as: Picaresque Novel, Epistolary Novel, History Novel, Regional Novel, Satyr Novel, Thesis Novel, Roman Noir (Gothic Novel), Roman Feuilleton, Science Fiction, New Roman, and Fact Fiction. From all that kind of novels, we can conclude that the novel is divided into fiction and true story.
Novel has two elements; they are extrinsic element and intrinsic element. The intrinsic element consists of theme, plot, setting, and character. The extrinsic element consists of social value of the novel and psychology history. All the elements are important, but character is very important element, because characters make the novel runs. Characterization is the people in the novel that can be played by human. But some novels have animal and plant as the character that have human nature or we called Fable. Characterization is very important in the novel and Aziez et al 2010:60) say that the characters in a good novel are interesting, intriguing, consistent, convincing, complex, and realistic. If the author has created a particularly vivid or individualistic character, then we, as readers, will find that character interesting regardless of whether or not we sympathize with him or her. So, the writer would like to analysis the protagonist characters in Cloud Atlas novel by David Mitchell.

Cloud Atlas consists of six nested stories that take the reader from the remote South Pacific in the nineteenth century to a distant, post-apocalyptic future. Each tale is revealed to be a story that is read (or observed) by the main character in the next. The first five stories are interrupted at a key moment. After the sixth story, the other five stories are returned to and closed, in reverse chronological order, and each ends with the main character reading or observing the chronologically previous work in the chain. Eventually, readers end where they started, with Adam Ewing in the nineteenth century South Pacific.
1.2 The Problem of the study

The problem of the study is how the protagonist can be described in David Mitchell’s novel Cloud Atlas.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of writing this paper is to give the description of the protagonist found in the novel “Cloud Atlas” which is written by David Mitchell.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope is useful to avoid confusion of reader in understanding the analysis and acquire good result. The writer is sure that there are many important aspects of the novel can be discussed. In writing this paper, the writer only focuses on one element of intrinsic. Nurgiyantoro (2003:23) say that intrinsic element of a novel is the all elements that directly build a story. They are theme, plot, character, setting, and point of view that is characterization, especially protagonist characters. Theme is the main idea of the story. Plot is a series of stories. Character is the people in a novel. Setting is background of story. Point of view is the way of author seeing the story line. Therefore the writer discusses only the protagonist element.

1.5 Reasons for Choosing The Topic

The story in Cloud Atlas novel is very interesting, and also the writer wants to introduce the winner of the British Book Awards Literary Fiction Award that is Cloud Atlas novel by David Mitchell. It consists of six nested stories that take the reader from the remote South Pacific in the nineteenth century to a distant, post-apocalyptic future.
1.6 Method of the Study

In writing this paper, the writer uses a research method. The writer uses library method. Besides that, the writer also watches the movie that adapted from the novel for many times in order to be able to identify the characterization in the novel itself. The writer also searches the information about the novel and the author of the novel as her references.