CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 The Narrative Poetry

Narrative poetry is poetry which its purpose to tell story by using poetic devices like rhythm, rhyme, beautiful words, and sound tension. Narrative poem is the oldest type of poetry because it has been used before printing tool is found. Blank verse or unrhymed iambic pentameter is the most used in writing the narrative poem. People are used to use narrative poem as the media to share a story to entertain their self. The story which is shared orally then attached with rhythm and rhyme to make the story has a musical rhythm in order to make the story easier to remember.

Character, setting, and plot are the elements which are existed in a narrative poem. Those elements nowadays become an approach which is used in analyzing a literary works, especially narrative poem. Kennedy said that “evidently the art of narrative poetry invites the skills of a writer of fiction; the ability to draw characters and settings briefly, to engage attention, to shape a plot” (1991:504). Meanwhile other critics Robert & Jacobs presented a same concept evidently that the essence of fiction is a narration, to tell a story, events and actions (1995:49). Based on the statement from Kennedy and Roberts & Jacobs, there is a similarity between prose fiction and narrative poem that is to tell a story. Therefore, a narrative poem absolutely has all of the elements which is contain in a prose fiction like characters, settings, plot, theme, and others. The theory by Roberts & Jacobs above becomes a theory which will be used in analyzing “The Knight’s Tale” to identify and elaborate the subtheme of the story that is the chivalry of knights. The subtheme can be identified by analyzing the characters, setting, and the theme of the story.
2.1.1 Characters in Poetry

Characters in poetry are not static; they also interact with their surroundings. Characters are able to express their minds, doing something, and also giving a response to what they feel. Roberts & Jacobs said “just as in fiction, poetic characters are defined by what they say, what they do, and how they react, and also by other characters say about them (1995:569). In poetry, there are three types of characters; speaker, listener, and participants major and minor. The type of character – speaker, listener, and participants can be described as above:

a. The Speaker or persona is the first type character in poetry. Persona derived from an Etruscan-Latin word which mean “mask”. Persona has an important role in poetry because it plays double role, as the narrator and as the speaking characters in poetry. Persona becomes narrator when prologue section and becomes characters when the characters interacting with the surroundings or with their self. Roberts and Jacobs said “in prose fiction we also use “speaker” or “persona” but we often prefer the word “narrator” because of the obvious role of story teller. This distinction emphasizes the personal & psychological importance of poetic speaker. Sometimes, a speaker is distinct character…” (1995:570).

b. The listener is the second type of character in poetry. Listener plays a role as character who listen the speaker’s speech in poetry. Oftentimes there are dialogues between two characters, which both as the speaker and listener. Speaker can be identified by the pronoun “I” and the listener can be identified by “you” which is said by the speaker. Roberts & Jacobs said “listener – a person, not the reader, whom a speaker addressed directly and who is
therefore “inside” the poem (1995:572)”. The reader of the poem must be involved in that poetry, not as listener, but as the audience of the dialogue which existed in that poem.

c. *The participants*, major and minor are the third type of characters found in narrative poetry. The participants are the characters which are involved in an event in poetry, but do not play a role as speaker or listener. Participants play a role as the complement to the speaker or listener in a dialogue in order to make a dramatic situation. Roberts & Jacobs stated “because poetry is dramatic, it often involves a third type of character – major and minor participants… not all participants are human. Poets frequently include description of the animal kingdom, such as swimmers (shark, large fish), flyers (orioles, nightingales), and walkers and runners (bears, deer, lambs, and tiger) (1995:574,575)”.

2.1.2 Theme and Subtheme

Theme is the idea which becomes the main idea in a story. Theme is the basic of a story because the acts of the characters which are existed in a story are created to support the theme. Roberts & Jacobs in their book said “stories embody values along with ideas. This means that ideas are presented along with expression or implication that certain conditions and standards should be – or should not be - highly valued (1995:406)”.

A theme can has several subthemes, because subthemes are generated from a theme. The idea which is contained in a theme becomes the primary source in generating the subthemes. Subthemes are more specific than the theme itself because theme contains the general idea meanwhile subthemes try to specialize the general
idea itself. By the descriptions above, can be concluded that subtheme is a descendant of a theme.

2.1.3 Setting

Setting is the condition or situation of time, place and culture which is existed in a story. In narrative poetry, setting is the media where the characters interact to make the story clearly. Setting shows us about where an event takes the places, when it happened, and how is the culture of the story. Setting in narrative poetry can be identified by the speech of the persona. According to Roberts & Jacobs “when they speak and act, they reflect the time, place, thought, social conventions, and general circumstances of their lives (1995:575)”.

2.2 Chivalry

Chivalry which was popular in the middle age of Britain derived from the word *chivalrye*. *Chivalrye* comes from old French word that is *chevalery/chevalier*. *Chevalier* means horsemanship, the norm or attitude of the horseman. Chivalry reflects a knight’s attitude. According to online Oxford dictionary, chivalry means The combination of qualities expected of an ideal knight, namely courage, honour, religious, and a readiness to help the weak.

Knights in middle age must have the ethics or norms in interact with their social. These norms are highly-uphold by the knights, because by keeping act in that norms, automatically it will shows them as a knight and also higher their knight’s quality for their self. An ideal knight must uphold chivalry because it becomes the primary guidance or the ways how they live their life.
Some review of literature also used as the support materials to complete this thesis. First, a journal which titled *Sacrificial Desire in Chaucer’s Knight Tale: The Journal of Medieval and Early* written by Louise Olga, explaining about the sacrificial that are done by the characters in “The Knight’s Tale” in acquiring something which they want. This journal also analyze about the role of destiny and lucky which also dominate the plot of the tale. Second, the whole material which is the whole text of *The Knight’s Tale* in *The Canterbury Tales*, written by Chaucer in Middle Age formed in manuscript. *The Canterbury Tales* is translated then in modern English by A.S Kline and can be found in e book (2005). Third, *History of English Literature* (1945) written by Emile Legouis. This book helps the writer to know deeper about middle age’s literary works, especially *The Canterbury Tales*. This book also helps the writer in collecting data and biography of Geoffrey Chaucer. Fourth, *Old and Middle English* (2010) edited by Elaine Trehare. This book discusses about the story and literary works in Old and Middle English era. This book also shows the example of literary works in the old version and the revision. This book helps the writer to understand deeply about the topic of this thesis.