CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Everyone has a story, a story which is about true life and even imagination that never happens in the real life. Many people put out their story and imagination to write and now we know the result of their story in writing as a literary work. Literature is certainly the least pure of all the arts and least capable of such purity or abstraction (Taylor, 1981:22). Someone’s idea that puts into letters with beautiful languages or dictions make literature as the arts of human mind. Literature becomes a means of passing on the present age the values and the cultural systems from the generation to generation, it even includes criteria of beauty and the morality of the classical texts (Withla, 2010:6). Literature was used as the heritage from one generation to the next generation and as the knowledge which could tell history of the past. The criteria of beauty and morality of the classical texts means that literature is not only a text but also beauty in its words or sentences and has the messages as the purpose of the text. Many definitions of literature are made by many people but to be sure, people use literature to express their feeling, put out their imagination and their ideas. There are three genres of literature, they are Drama, Poetry, and Prose Fiction.

One of the prose fiction part is novel. Novel is an extended work of prose fiction, longer than a short story or a medium-length fiction. It is written in prose and so is distinguished from a long fictional tale in verse (Withla, 2010 : 155). From that definition, novel can be considered as a literary work which is filled with long story and complexity. Novel always tells about the novelist’s life experience or about life
of someone in novelist’s imagination and represents the condition of one area in that time. The novelist puts out their idea into a novel.

Every novel has characters, the characters make the novels have story. Novels usually tell about people, scenes that present about the real life and the events that may never happen in the real life. A character is a mere construction of the words meant to express an idea or view of experience and must be considered in relation to features of the composition, such as action and setting, before its full significance can be appreciated (Taylor, 1981:62). Characters have the important elements in novel because characters activate the story by their action, attitude and behaviour. Characters and novel have a close relation which cannot be separated. Novelists make the story interesting through the characters. Novelists write their novels with special purposes, there must be messages that novelists want to say to the readers. Sometimes, novelists use novel as the reflection of themselves, about their true lives or novelist just wrote novel for entertainments. Many things can be known from reading a novel, including information about the novelist and the most important thing that can be learned from the characters in the novel is about the good and bad things. In a novel, the characters do actions which can be evaluated by people or the readers as good or bad actions. From the action, behavior, and dialogues, the readers can know the characterization of characters. Novelists also put out the knowledge in their story for the readers, such as social, culture, ethnic and even about the morality.

A novel can portray characters and actions which represent the real life. Those actions and characters may deal with human life, ambition, desire, joy, feeling and many things. A novel also can give precious lesson for the reader that may be considered as moral teaching that may be usefull in one’s life.
According to Titus, moral is how the human beings make decision of their life. Take and do the right or the wrong ways. Moral connect to the social life. Moral practices and standards depend on the stage of social development, on the general level of intelligence and on the knowledge available at the time. (Titus, 1959: 343). Everyone has a moral, just how they do the right or wrong things, people will judge someone by their behavior and action which is good or bad things they do. The morality of someone will be perceived in social life, when they have interaction with another people. Moral as the judgement of goodness and badness through human action and character, talking about the good and evil, even educating goodness of character’s behavior. The judgement about the bad or good by human action is based on the principles of right in their custom and human beings must obey life norm as a moral standard which is acceptable in society.

From the phenomenon of morality which is happened in many region or group of society, many novelists is inspired to put the moral value into their story in novel through the characters’ behavior or action in there. This case would be interested in discussing, while the novelists put in morality into their work as the message or lesson to the readers.

Futhermore, this thesis discusses about the morality that is found in novel Forrest Gump by Wiston Groom through the main characters. Wiston Groom is American novelist who was born in Washington D.C in 1944. His work, Forrest Gump was published in 1986. This novel is popular after one of director make this novel be film. Groom wrote this novel with many wrongs grammar in writing although the reader can understand what he wants to say. Winston Groom uses
misspellings and grammatical errors to indicate his Southern accent, education, and cognitive disabilities.

This novel tells about the life’s journey of Forrest Gump. Forrest Gump is the leading character which does many things as his jobs. With his simplicity, he faces his life and makes his life to meaningful. He meets many people in his life; there are people who hate him and mock him because he has IQ 70. People said he is idiot man and he realizes about that but not because that IQ he cannot does many things. He has good personality, he always tries to make good relation with everyone. Jenny Curran is his first friend, she always supports Gump. Jenny is a kind girl, she has ambition to be famous people like an artist. She makes relation with many men, but it is not work. She likes Gump, they love each other but at the end she left Gump and gets married with another man. Gump does many good things to many people, which make people happy with him. Although his IQ is low but he knows to do good things that can give the happiness. His friend Dan, in the beginning teaches Gump with his philosophy to face the life with courage, he gives supports to Gump that he says life is difficult but you have to face it. But at the end Dan cannot do it to himself. He gives up because of his condition and situation that is not suitable with his hopes.

There are some the goodness and badness that can be found from those three characters, Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran and Dan. The morality in this novel is reflected in daily life. The morality about goodness can teach us to better in facing our lives. That case makes the writer interested chose this topic, talking about the goodness and badness which reflected from the characters in literary work. The goodness and badness from the novel can applied in the real life to create the happiness.
1.2 Problem of the Study

1. What are the kinds of moral behavior found in *Forrest Gump*?
2. How are morality portrayed through main character in *Forrest Gump*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objects of this thesis are:

1. To find out the moral behavior found in *Forrest Gump*.
2. To describe the morality portrayed through main character in *Forrest Gump*.

1.4 Scope of the Study

With regards to the problems and objectives of the study, the writer has to limit the scope of the study. Therefore, the writer just focuses on the analysis of the morality which is found in Winston Groom’s *Forrest Gump* through the character of Forrest Gump, Jenny Curran and Lt. Dan in this novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Theoretically, the writer hopes to increase the literary understanding in terms of literary works and characters through the novel, and to enrich the knowledge about moral analysis.

Practically, this thesis is expected to provide some valuable information, particularly to another researcher who has curiosity and interest in analysis of novel especially about the morality.