CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

The mixture between literature with any other field of studies can easily be found, for example with psychology, history, sociology, politics, and many other field of studies. For this thesis, the analysis will be literature studies that is connected with journalistic studies. What makes it really interesting to be researched for is these two fields are completely different. The only basic similarity is, both literature and journalism use words as their raw material.

Susanto (2011: 32) says that literary work is written in order to entertain readers and to express the author’s mind. While in the other hand, what journalism offers is essentially useful for the society and covering the public needs that could be entertaining or not.

Wellek and Warren (1989: 14) explain that literature is frequently used to refer to imaginative works. It has been generally considered that literature comes up from the imaginative minds of people who had talent to create stories. It is definitely upside-down from journalistic paradigm, which main responsibility is to the truth, as said by Kovach and Rosenstiel (2006: 38).

However, both literature and journalism are in the business of giving meaning to this world.

The explanation above is to emphasize how different literature and journalism is, but it is not impossible these two can go well together. Literary journalism is a result of the mixture between those two opposite study fields. Connery (1992: xi) says literary journalism is a type of writing that combines the
information-gathering methods of journalistic reporting with the narrative techniques or realistic fiction. For that reason, it also known as ‘narrative reporting’ because it adopts narrative writing style in reporting the news.

With the development of technology and massive needs to be up-dated, the public is capable to get information as quick as possible. It makes the mass media becomes an industry that competes with each other in delivering the fastest news. Live report from television or radio and accessing news from online media become the first choices compare to printed media that still need time to get published and distributed to the hands of the readers. Automatically, printed media these days almost cannot deliver the breaking news. Narrative becomes one form of solution as Kramer (October 2001) states that newspapers might both improve coverage and retain more readers by employing storytelling techniques to convey news. That is the whole point in literary journalism; employ storytelling techniques to convey news. Kurnia (2002: 3) tells that American journalists at mid 1960s commonly used literature approach because of two things. First, the form and style of novel writing was being a trendsetter at those times. Then, the ambition to compete with electronic media, which is more attractive and obviously faster in delivering whatever the media wants.

In Harsono and Setiyono (2008: viii), Roy Peter Clark, a writing teacher from Poynter Institute, Florida, explains that in conventional journalism we get used to 5W1H, that stands for ‘who’, ‘what’, ‘when’, ‘where’, ‘why’, and ‘how’. Literary journalism just expands the idea. ‘Who’ becomes characters, ‘what’ becomes the plot, ‘when’ becomes the chronology, ‘where’ becomes the setting, ‘why’ becomes the motives, and ‘how’ becomes the narrative. It turns out like a novel. Wolfe in
Kurnia (2002: 32) states that journalistic work in 1960s had indeed become like a novel.

Rogers and Kaswanti (2005: 30) state that a narrative is simply a story. Wellek and Warren (1989: 280) also say that narrative is a story, which linked to sequence of times. The generic structures of narrative according to Rogers and Kaswanti are orientation, complication, and resolution. Narrative deals with problematic events which lead to a crisis or turning point of some kind which in turn finds a resolution where the crisis is resolved for better or worse. *Hiroshima* as a literary journalism work which written in narrative style is expected to represent all said above.

Harsono and Setiyono (2008: ix) inform that *Hiroshima* by John Hersey was first published as an article in The New Yorker magazine, 31st August 1946. The article consisted of 31,000 words and took all pages in that magazine and in the same year, the article was published in book form. It is clear from its title that John Hersey’s *Hiroshima* tells readers something about the atomic bombing happened in Hiroshima, Japan in August 6th, 1945.

It is a masterpiece in journalistic world since it is awarded as ‘The Best Works of Journalism in the United States in the 20th Century’. The award was given in March 1999 at New York University as selected by 37 capable historians, journalists, writers, and academicians, as stated by Harsono and Setiyono (2008: xiv).

For *Hiroshima*, Hersey interviewed a clerk, a physician, a tailor’s widow, a German priest, a surgeon, and a pastor. A hundred thousand people were killed by the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan. These six were among the survivors and
Hersey tells readers their stories by reconstructing the bombing in Hiroshima through their eyes.

Rothman (January 1997) states that John Hersey studied at Yale University and Cambridge University. He worked several years as a journalist and in the beginning of 1947 he devoted his time mainly to writing fiction. He won the Pulitzer Prize for his novel A Bell for Adano, taught for twenty years at Yale University, was president of the Authors League of America, and as chancellor of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. He died in 1993.

One thing that becomes an inspiration to create a literature thesis as also a learning about journalistic is because Kovach and Rosenstiel (2006: 2) tell that the development and the quality of society is dependent to the mass media they have, read, watch, and produce. The quality of journalism in a country is equal to the quality of its civilization. Therefore, by producing a good act of journalism, people are also producing a good kind of civilization.

There is another one strong reason why this thesis is narrowing its research to literary journalism. The article by Mark Kramer in January 1995 has triggered the author of this thesis to dig deeper about literary journalism:

Literary journalism helps sort out the new complexity. If it is not an antidote to bewilderment, at least it unites daily experiences – including emotional ones – with the wild plentitude of information that can be applied to experience. Literary journalism couples cold fact and personal event, in the author’s humane company. And that broadens readers’ scans, allows them to behold others’ lives, often set within far clearer contexts than we can bring to our own. The process moves readers, and writers, toward realization, compassion, and in the best of cases, wisdom. I’ll even claim that there is something intrinsically political – and strongly democratic – about literary journalism, something pluralistic, pro-individual, anti-cant, and anti-elite. That seems inherent in the common practices of the form. Informal style cuts through the obfuscating generalities of creeds, countries, companies, bureaucracies, and experts. And
narratives of the felt lives of everyday people test idealizations against actualities. Truth is in the details of real lives. (Kramer, January 1995)

Kramer modifies literary journalism as a product of emotion that is able to hold the reader’s attention. Kramer even says that from literary journalism, both the writer and the reader are able to find wisdom because it tells story of everyday people.

1.2 Problems of The Study
Based on the background of the study above, the problems of the study are:

1. What narrative indicators found in John Hersey’s Hiroshima?
2. How is the impact of narrative to literary journalism as seen through John Hersey’s Hiroshima?

1.3 Objectives of the Study
The purposes in analyzing this topic are:

1. To show the indicators in John Hersey’s Hiroshima that makes it be categorized as narrative.
2. To describe the impact of narrative to literary journalism as seen through John Hersey’s Hiroshima.

1.4 Scope of the Study
John Hersey’s Hiroshima is chosen for this thesis as one of the example of literary journalism works to comprehend the impact of narrative to literary journalism. The result of this thesis is not intended to be the parameter for all other narrative found in any literary journalism works. By scoping the study, this thesis is
more focus to modify its main topic and is able to help readers to understand its content thoroughly. The scope of the study in this thesis is narrowed to identify the narrative structure in John Hersey’s *Hiroshima* and to explore the impact of narrative to John Hersey’s *Hiroshima*.

### 1.5 Significances of the Study

By analyzing this topic, these significances below are expected to be acquired. The significances of the study are:

1. Theoretically, this thesis will enrich the knowledge of literature and journalistic, especially about the impact of narrative in literary journalism.
2. Academically, this thesis will be given to English Department, Faculty of Cultural Studies, University of Sumatera Utara, to enrich the collection of object of research and object of reading.
3. Practically, this thesis will be useful for readers as a learning about journalistic with literature concept in it. Readers are expected to get useful information, comprehension, and inspiration, about the using of narrative in journalistic work. Readers also are expected to be able to criticize and smartly filter the information that media gives today.