1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature has been classified into prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose. From the classification, the writer decides to discuss the prose fiction, which is novel. Altenbernd and Lewis (1966: 14) say, “fiction is interpreted as prose narrative, it’s imaginative, usually in logical and contain the truth of dramatization in the relationship of human being”. Fiction is not created by dreaming at all, but using the comprehension of narrative prose in the life. Fiction is concerned with the place of individual in the environment in the story. And the environment is a background or setting which characters speak, and act.

The main characters have the important role in a novel, which appear in every part and also dominate the story. They always appear as the subject or the object to influence the story. Their main depend on domination, many conversations, story about them and their influence of the story entirely. And the main characters could be more than one in a novel, they are an antagonist and protagonist.

Through the function of the characters’ performance, the main characters are divided into Protagonist and Antagonist. Altenbernd & Lewis (1966 : 59) say, “protagonist is a character which is admired, and one of the kind of its admire popularly called hero—a character who use the morals, and has the values that is ideal for the reader”. Usually, a protagonist is the kind person, gets much sympathy and emphaty from the reader, and its performance is suitable with the reader’s hope. Meanwhile, the antagonist is the character who causes the conflict. It moves against a potagonist directly and indirectly. An antagonist acts contrast with protagonist, and usually it is the enemy of protagonist.

The writer is interested in analyze this novel which entitled The Underside of Joy, because the story is emotionally complex and the characterizations are unique. It has all the
elements of fiction, it has some events that contain conflicts, and it has many characters by various characterizations. By this novel, the writer tries to analyze the main characters. That novel tells about the step mother, Ella Benne, as the antagonist. And the birthmother, Paige, as the protagonist who have contrast characterization with Ella. Usually, a step mother is a killer mom but in this story the step mother is a kind mom. She loves her step-children like birth-children. On the contrary, the birthmother is an unkind mom, she leaves her husband and her children while they are too young. But, after her husband’s death, Paige comes to Elbow to visit her children, and she wants her rights as the birthmother of her children. She wants Annie and Zach live with her in California. Ella can not refuse Paige’s request because she does not have the rights of the children, but Ella can not live without the children because she loves them so much and they do too. Actually the children love their two moms and want to live together, but Paige does not want to live together with Ella. Because of an accident, finally Paige wants to live together with her children and Ella in Elbow.

1.2 The Problem of the Study

The problems of this study are:

a. How is Ella Benne portrayed as the protagonist?

b. How is Paige portrayed as the antagonist?

1.3 The Scope of the Study

Base on the problem, then this study is focused on finding out the antagonist and protagonist characters in the novel of The Underside of Joy.

1.4 The Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study are:

a. To explain how Ella becomes protagonist.
b. To clarify how Paige is character.

1.5 The Method of the Study

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method in doing this paper. Since there are many books must be read to complete this paper, the writer uses library research. Firstly, the writer reads the novel, and then selects each chapters. Secondly, the writer chooses the text in each chapters to make it as the quotations. After that, the writer interpretes the data by using some books about literature from the library, and browsing from internet. And the last, the writer analyzes the data and makes conclusion.

Here is the chart of the method: