CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Literature

Literature is the expression of human feeling, a product with imaginative process and creativity. Literature is said as the expression of human feeling because of its powerful meaning which conveys human sense, thoughts, and feeling in order to share ideas and experiences. Literature is made to express and communicate the feeling of the author through imagination process which needs creativity. Literature introduces us to the new idea and experience. We may discover and understand the meaning by looking at what the author says and how he/she says it.

2.1.1 Novel

Literature has three major divisions which is one of them is narrative fiction. Narrative fiction is a sort of literature that belongs to prose like novel, short story, etc and it refers to a work that tells something imaginatively. According to R. J. Rees (1973 : 106) “Novel is a fictitious prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity.” Eric Reader (1987 : 6) states novel is the fictitious prose narrative of volume length portraying characters and actions representative of real life in continuous plot.” Which Badudu and Zain (1994 : 949) describes novel as “Karangan dalam bentuk prosa tentang peristiwa yang menyangkut kehidupan manusia seperti yang dialami orang dalam kehidupan sehari – hari, tentang suka dan duka, kasih dan benci, tentang watak dan jiwanya, dan sebagainya.” The definitions above describes that novel is a medium for portraying the events in the
real life through imagination of the author and it can be seen from the plot or character of the story.

As we know, novel is a fiction that works in the form of stories that depict fictional characters and events. Although the characters and events are fictional, they have a resemblance to the real life. They are a reflection of real life. The similarities to real life distinguishes novel from other literary works such as novels or sagas. Novel is something narrative which means that novel is more about "telling" than "modeling". This characteristic distinguishes novel from drama, which the narrator rely more on demonstration and dialogue. The novel describes the real situation dramatically so the reader forget that what is seen about the characters and the background is not presented directly but through the help of the certain techniques of story or narration. In addition, the novel has what is called character, behavior, and plot. In other words, the novel involves a number of people who do things in a total context that is set in a logical sequence, chronological, cause and effect, and so on. And in most of the existing novel, the relationship between these three elements are close so it creates a harmonious unit.

2.1.1.1 Theme

In contemporary literary studies, a theme is the central topic that discuss in a text. Themes can be divided into two categories, a work's thematic concept is what readers think the work is about and its thematic statement is what the work says about the subject. The most common contemporary understanding of theme is an idea or concept that is central to a story, which can often be summed in a single word. Typical examples of themes of this type are conflict between the individual and society. A theme may be exemplified by the actions, utterances, or thoughts of
a character in a novel. A story may have several themes. Themes often explore historically common or cross-culturally recognizable ideas, such as ethical questions, and are usually implied rather than stated explicitly. Along with plot, character, setting, and style, theme is considered one of the fundamental components of fiction.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theme_(narrative))

A novel’s theme is the main idea that the writer expresses. Theme can also be defined as the underlying meaning of the story. The theme of a novel is more than its subject matter, because an author’s technique can play as strong a role in developing a theme as the actions of the characters do. Rarely a novel’s theme can be interpreted in only one way. Because of the length of novels, and the various characters, conflicts, and scenes found within them, readers can look at different aspects of the work to uncover different interpretations of the meaning of the story. Throughout the history of the novel, a major theme is found whether people can change their situations in life or whether they are in the grips of forces beyond their control. In this study, a theme which is found throughout the novel is slavery. The characters build this idea through the quotations and narration found in the text.

2.2 Review of Related Theories

According to Abrams, there are four theories of literature: objective theory, expressive or biographical theory, mimetic or imitative theory, and pragmatic theory. From those theories, I use mimetic or imitative theory to support the analysis. Mimetic or imitative theory is usually understood as a mirror, reflecting the real world, in some kind of mimesis/imitation. In other words, the subject matter of literature is a manifold experiences of living people. The imitation of life
is more than merely a copy of what is apparent to the eyes; in the sense that life should be reinterpreted and recreated. The story in a book, on the stage, in an essay, or even the feelings in a poem, not only resemble things, but also clarify real life. In this case, the writer’s imaginative power and talent plays an important role so that she or he able to create good literary works. I use mimetic or imitative theory because I want to focus on showing the reality and experiences that the writer trying to describe through the plot which is known as one of the theme in the novel. I will explain further about mimetic theory that will help analyse data deals with the topic of the analysis.

The basic concept of literary sociology has actually been developed by Plato who filed the term *mimesis* which pertains to the relationship between literature and society as a *mirror*. Mimesis is a critical and philosophical term that carries a wide range of meanings, which include imitation, representation, mimicry, *imitatio*, receptivity, nonsensuous similarity, the act of resembling, the act of expression, and the presentation of the self. The word mimesis is first used in the theories of art stated by Plato and greatly influenced literature in Europe. In his theory of *Mimesis*, Plato says that all art is mimetic by nature; art is an imitation of life. He believed that ‘idea’ is the ultimate reality. Art imitates idea and so it is imitation of reality. Aristoteles took Plato’s theory of mimetic which is art that depict reality, but he argues that mimesis is not simply copying reality but also create something such as emotion because reality depends also on the creative attitude of people in looking at the reality.

One of the literary sociology concept is expressed by George Lukacs which he states literature as mirror. I use his idea to analyse the relationship between the plot
in the novel and the reality which author has experienced and want to tell the readers through the novel. Lukacs uses the term “mirror” as a characteristic in his whole work. A novel does not only describe the reality but more than that, gives us a reflection of the reality in larger scale, more complete, more vibrant and more dynamic that may go beyond our common understanding. A literary work does not merely reflect a closed individual phenomenon but rather “a living process”. Literature does not express reality as a kind of photography, but rather as a specific form that reflects reality. Thus, the literature reflects the realities objectively and may show the subjective impression of reality.

2.3 Review of Related Literature

In writing this thesis, I need to concern and traces back the preceding research about slavery especially in America which relates to the topic I deal with. So, in supporting this thesis, a number of books related to the study are required. The several books are used as the sources that help to acquire further information deals with the analysis. Those books are:

*Uncle Tom’s Cabin and American Culture* by Thomas F. Gosset, 1985 is used to find out the historical events which happens in America, before and after war that cause slavery towards black people in America. It explains the examination of Stowe’s early life and the circumstances that led her from a largely introverted and with-drawn youth to a major public role in the antislavery struggle. It also shows public reactions to the several events.

*The West and the World : A Topical History of Civilization* by Kevin Reilly, 1980 is used to find out the history of western civilization, especially about slavery,
how it happens and what is the background of it. It makes the readers know the truth of the events that happened in the past.

## 2.4 Slavery in America

After 1619, when a Dutch ship brought 20 Africans ashore at the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia, slavery spread throughout the American colonies. Though it is impossible to give accurate figures, some historians have estimated that 6 to 7 million slaves were imported to the New World during the 18th century alone, depriving the African continent of some of its healthiest and ablest men and women. In the 17th and 18th centuries, black slaves worked mainly on the tobacco, rice and indigo plantations of the southern coast. After the American Revolution (1775-1783), many colonists particularly in the North, where slavery was relatively unimportant to the economy began to link the oppression of black slaves to their own oppression by the British, and to call for slavery's abolition. After the war's end, however, the new U.S. Constitution tacitly acknowledged the institution, counting each slave as three-fifths of a person for the purposes of taxation and representation in Congress and guaranteeing the right to repossess any person held to service or labor.

### 2.4.1 Importance of the Cotton Gin

In the late 18th century, with the land used to grow tobacco nearly exhausted, the South faced an economic crisis, and the continued growth of slavery in America seemed in doubt. Around the same time, the mechanization of the textile industry in England led to a huge demand for American cotton, a southern crop whose production was unfortunately limited by the difficulty of removing the seeds from raw cotton fibers by hand. In 1793, a young Yankee schoolteacher
named Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin, a simple mechanized device that efficiently removed the seeds. His device was widely copied, and within a few years the South would transition from the large-scale production of tobacco to that of cotton, a switch that reinforced the region's dependence on slave labor.

Slavery itself was never widespread in the North, though many of the region's businessmen grew rich on the slave trade and investments in southern plantations. Between 1774 and 1804, all of the northern states abolished slavery, but the so-called "peculiar institution" remained absolutely vital to the South. Though the U.S. Congress outlawed the African slave trade in 1808, the domestic trade flourished, and the slave population in the U.S. nearly tripled over the next 50 years. By 1860 it had reached nearly 4 million, with more than half living in the cotton-producing states of the South.

2.4.2 Rise of the Abolition Movement

From the 1830s to the 1860s, a movement to abolish slavery in America gained strength in the northern United States, led by free blacks such as Frederick Douglass and white supporters such as William Lloyd Garrison, founder of the radical newspaper The Liberator, and Harriet Beecher Stowe, who published the best selling antislavery novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852). While many abolitionists based their activism on the belief that slaveholding was a sin, others were more inclined to the non-religious free labor argument, which held that slaveholding was regressive, inefficient and made little economic sense.

Free blacks and other antislavery northerners had begun helping fugitive slaves escape from southern plantations to the North via a loose network of safe houses as early as the 1780s. This practice, known as the Underground Railroad,
gained real momentum in the 1830s and although estimates vary widely, it may have helped anywhere from 40,000 to 100,000 slaves reach freedom. The success of the Underground Railroad helped spread abolitionist feelings in the North; it also undoubtedly increased sectional tensions, convincing pro-slavery southerners of their northern countrymen's determination to defeat the institution that sustained them.