

# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

History, mystery, and fact of the life are always interested to be discussed. This is not only because everyone has his or her own life in various ways, but also because life has its answer for each individual question. Therefore, life and literature have a close connection.

Literature can be defined as the attempt to describe human experience by means of written language. The authors can convey their expression of ideas or mind and their imagination of life to the readers through literary works. Taylor (1981: 1) says, "Literature like other arts is essentially an imagination act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experience."

Thus , literary work is able to enlarge human knowledge about life, social problems, and philosophy because there are some literary works describe certain situation and illustrate something important for us, as Rene Wellek and Austen (1956:111) states that,

*"To be sure, literature can be treated as a document in the history of ideas and philosophy, for literature parallels and intellectual history. Frequently either explicit statements of allusion show the allegiance of a poet to a specific philosophy once well known or at least that he is aware of their general assumption."*

Literature, as a discipline, has its own characters, which makes it different from other disciplines. It has literary elements, which convey direct object of sense and perception such as color, shape, and texture. Literature also has its complex

expression of actions, characters, setting, point of view, and style. These elements arranged in such a way in order to make sense and have a direct relation to actual life.

Taylor (1981:2) says, “More than, any other arts, literature reflects or comments on actual experience, social, philosophical, psychological, and more concern”. By analyzing a literary work, we also learn about moral lesson. It describes about human attitude more than psychologist can do as what is written in *Theory of Literature* by Rene Wellek: The novelist can teach you more about human nature.

Literature is mainly divided into three genres classified in accordance with certain characters and features. The common genetic divisions are prose, poetry, and drama. And in Richard Taylor’s opinion, that narrative fiction including novel is the only genre that is meant to be written down for private reading.

Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* is a famous and controversial masterpiece. *The Da Vinci Code* gets much attention around the world because of the intriguing and brave theme that Dan Brown brings in this novel. Even there are some accusations that Brown tries to attack the church and holy bible as Dr. Erwin Lutzer, a theology expert says, “*The Da Vinci Code* is the most serious attack to the Christianity I have ever found”. Moreover, Brown gives a brief and interesting theme with the touch of religious theme in his novel. He uses real names in naming the sects or organizations, such as The Opus Dey, Knight Templar, The Massion, etc. He also uses the real places to support the reality effects in his novel, such as The Louvre Museum, The Depository Bank of Zurich, Saint-Sulpice Church, Temple Church, etc. Brown also gives a detail ritual of the secret sect on his novel like the Hieros Gamos

ritual that is believed by many people as a real ritual of Pagan religion in which the followers of this ritual have a sex ritual to get closer to their God (Stewart). Brown's amazing skill in telling the story makes the novel very interesting and the readers' brain work when they read this novel.

One point that Brown tries to figure out in *The Da Vinci Code* novel is the history of the biggest religion in the world, Christian. Christian is a big religion, which has an old and long history, the history of Mary Magdalene. In *The Da Vinci Code*, Brown says that Magdalene is a famous woman in Christian history, especially when she is related to Jesus. Jesus and Magdalene had a close relationship. Besides, Magdalene was one of Jesus' twelve apostles (disciples). In addition, some stories stated that Magdalene was Jesus' wife. Some stories also tell that Magdalene was Jesus' favorite disciple more than Saint Peter. Moreover, Peter felt jealous of Magdalene because Jesus preferred Magdalene. Bible in The Gospel of Philip states that,

*“And the companion of the Savior is Mary Magdalene. Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him, “Why do you love her more than all of us?””* (Bible: The Gospel of Philip)

However, there is also a misconception about Magdalene, which states that she was a prostitute. The early church spread that issue in order to cover up her dangerous secret that she was the Holy Grail and the woman to whom Jesus fell in love. The history of Magdalene spreads out along *The Da Vinci Code* novel. This novel gives another point of view about the holy woman in Jesus' life.

On this occasion, the writer is going to analyze Dan Brown's novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, but the analyzing about the controversy within. It is a very interesting novel to read, it tells about the secret history is opened in this era and that make many controversial, especially for Christian. Because that is too connected with religion.

### **1.2 Problem of Study**

In order for the discussion of writing this paper is not very width, the writer focuses on writing into to main questions:

- 1) How does *The Da Vinci Code* state about the marriage of Jesus?
- 2) How do the response of Christian figures about the marriage of Jesus in *The Da Vinci Code*?

### **1.3 Purpose of Study**

The purpose of the study in this paper, as follows:

- 1) Through this paper, the writer wants to increase the objective understanding of the controversy and the response of Christian figures about the marriage of Jesus in *The Da Vinci Code*.
- 2) Then, the writer has to fulfill the requirement in Diploma III English Study Program Faculty of Culture Studies, University of North Sumatera.

### **1.4 Scope of Study**

The focus of the study in this paper is to analyze the issue of the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene, and the writer limits the analysis just on this problem that

about controversy and response. *The Da Vinci Code* is taken as the context of this paper because of its controversy. And the other topics which have no relation to the context will not be included in this paper.

### **1.5 Method of Study**

This paper is the result of library research in which the main data is obtained from the Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Some supplement data are derived from various books or other literatures that relates to this discussion available in library.

The methods that used are descriptive, analytical, and comparative. Descriptive method will be used to give an objective description of the concept of the material covered. The analytical method used to see more about the response of Christians and the controversy. The comparative method will be used on things contained in the material in this paper.

### **1.6 Reason for Choosing Topic**

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