CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Hope is necessary in every condition. The miseries of poverty, sickness and captivity would, without this comfort, be insupportable. (Johnson, 1750:67)

Many people in the world have different point of view about hope. Hope is a feeling of expectation and desire for certain thing to happen. It can be the way they live, their plans, or even their future. It is a motivation to someone who wants to raise after a big trouble in his life. It is deep inside of heart and it makes suggestion to everyone who believes it.

According to Maslow, basically, all humans have basic needs. They are Physiological needs (hunger, thirst, and so on), security needs (feeling safe and protected, away from danger), esteem needs (achievement, competence, and gain support and recognition), Self-actualization needs (cognitive needs: to know, understand, and explore), aesthetic needs (harmony, order, and beauty), self-actualization needs (self-gratification and realizing their potential). These basic needs motivate people to have hope in their life and to fulfill those needs, people have to try, fight, and sometimes pray.
Someone can lose hope when he has a really big trouble, struggle, and pressure. He may say that he has hope but actually, inside of his heart he is hopeless. Many people think that it is very hard to defend on hope for so many problems may arise. In this condition, not a few who then give up, no longer dared to hope. Sometimes, hope it is not tangible or abstract, which is only found in the minds of each of us. Yet despite the abstract, hope is the fuel for the spirit of our lives. People who lose hope, then their spirit will slack off and of course it will affect in any activity that they do. People try and pray to make their hope realized. They have to fight the doubt inside them and reach what they are looking for.

For some people, hope is never gone. Everyone has hope in their lives although sometimes they do not recognize it. When people wake up, dress up, make plan of the day, and do activities everyday, it means that they still have hope in their life. Their will to live is a hope. Hope follows as people live. When people fight for something, they are building hope for something better than what they are or what they have today.

There are three main branches of literature. They are: poetry, drama, and novel. Novel has a deep role to express people’s feeling. Roberts and Jacobs (1995:2) say, “literature may be classified into four categories or genre: (1) prose fiction, (2) poetry, (3) drama, (4) nonfiction prose.” From the four categories of literature, the writer chooses to discuss the prose fiction, especially on novel. Fiction is a name for stories not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up, and imagined. Novel is one of the prose fictions. It reflects a move away from an essentially religious view of life towards a new interest in the complexities of daily experience.
Life of Pi is a novel that tells mostly about hope and the belief in supernatural power (God). The novel is about the life story of an Indian boy whose name is Pi Patel that is asked by a Canadian writer to tell his story of life. Pi lived in Pondicherry, India, with his parents and an older brother named Ravi Patel. Pi's father is the owner and administrator of a zoo in the city. Once when Pi was 16 years old, his father was planning to move with the rest of his family to Canada, the first step they had to take is to sell the entire collection of zoo. The reason his father moves to make a better life for his family, because he felt if India is under the leadership of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, their life will be uncomfortable.

Many important collections of their zoo was bought by some zoos from several US cities. The animals were sent to a Japanese-owned cargo ship flagged Panama, named Tsimtsum. On June 21, 1977, Tsimtsum sailed from Madras to Canada. On July 2, 1977, the ship was hit by a violent storm and sank in the Pacific Ocean. There is only one lifeboat that was reduced, bringing its passengers, consisting of Pi, a broken legged zebra, an orangutan, a ferocious leopard hyana, and a Royal Bengal tiger weighing 225 pounds.

For more than seven months, or 227 days, the lifeboat was bobbing in the middle of the blue Pacific Ocean, as without the edge, very deep and vicious. It is where the story of an adventurous Pi begins. Those extraordinary and miraculous stories make a character in the novel says, this story will make people believe in God which leads them to have hope.
Starting from an incredible and terrible experience, Pi watched over the animals seat each other in that lifeboat before his eyes, including making himself as the next target. The phenomenon of the natural landscape of the Pacific Ocean and its inhabitants are like being in a fairy tale world to the struggle of Pi’s life above lifeboat along with Richard Parker, the name of the Royal Bengaltiger that was stuck in the lifeboat with him.

The amazing life and death struggle story of Pi and Richard Parker at the top of the lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean for 227 days (July 21-14 February 1978) is core of the story *Life of Pi.*

It is fantastic to know how Pi can exist with a tiger over the lifeboat narrow, as in the natural ocean without the edge, around the sharks that are milling about below sea level, outstanding during the heat of the air and in the exceptional cold nights, the dwindling supplies of food and beverages and eventually discharged, and from a huge storm that still come crashing. Thousands of flying fish jumping out of the sea crossing and hit them, dozens of whales and dolphins swimming and jumping like playing in a giant circus in the middle of the ocean silence, and the beautiful greenish light magic. Finding Algae Island in the Pacific Ocean with its carnivores trees, which on the island there are algae eaters and the producer of freshwater fish, and there are aquatic rodents, looks like meerkats, a kind of mongoose, eating dead fish which live in trees, and so on.

One more important thing is the experience and relationship between Pi with Richard Parker, the 255 kilograms weighing Royal Bengaltiger. Initially, of course, Pi was very frightened to stay alone with that tiger, to the extent that they made
raft of existing signage buoys in the lifeboat, float and rise above it. Away from the lifeboat with the rope that still connects with the lifeboat raft, meanwhile the tiger was eyeing Pi to be a meal. However, these two different creatures then feel the same fate, and need each other, requiring mutual friends in the middle of the Pacific Ocean silence.

Then, Pi felt that the presence of the tiger was the motivation for him to keep alive. The plan to kill and eliminate that tiger forever by making a principle “me or him” then turned into “me and him”. Pi always shared the fish and turtles with Richard Parker. Of course, Richard Parker’s portion is larger. Because of it, Richard Parker felt that he needs Pi, so he did not kill his supplier.

Pi often asked himself of how long can last a good relationship, or when it will end, or how long they can keep alive. Hallucinations were often to Pi. In this situation, he often shouted to God, said he surrenders and he believes in Him. It means, he gave all of his hope in God’s arms.

When Pi finally survived, and was found stranded on the coast of a village in Mexico on February 14, 1978, in the hospital, he was visited by two Japanese, Tomohiro Chiba, Atsuro Okamoto and his assistant from the Department of Maritime in the Japan Ministry of Transport. They asked for a description of Pi Patel about the sinking Tsimtsum.

Pi told them the story. But those two Japanese did not believe him. Especially the story about how the animals existed in his lifeboat, and they have a great doubt in Pi’s story about how he survived with Richard Parker.
There is another interesting part in this novel; it is the part of the spiritual experience of Pi Patel in finding God. He went and studied religion at Temple (Hindu), Church (Christian), and Moeslem (Islam). In the next story, Pi Patel decided not only one religion. But all three at once. He became a Hindu, was baptized in the church, and said the shahada, converted to Islam.

When in the life and death struggle in the Pacific Ocean for more than 7 months, or 227 days, Pi prayed, cried, called God, that God would touch him and help him, by using methods of the three religions in turn. And, he then really felt the touch of God.

Although it seems so hopeless to live such a way, hope keeps him alive. Pi uses every single lesson and advice he ever got from his father, and everything he believes in. Instead of surrendering, Pi makes his hope as the key of staying alive. There are a sequence of situations that show hope is reflected in Pi’s life. Hope that is reflected in this novel story is a strong reason for people just like Pi, all over the world, to overcome their problems. It shows that after a crisis or hopeless situation, there always be hope if people want to try, fight, learn, and pray. This is the motive why the writer writes this thesis.

*Life of Pi* is written by Yann Martel. He was born in Salamanca, on 25th of June 1963. He was raised in Costa Rica, France, Mexico, and Canada. As an adult, Martel has spent time in Iran, Turkey and India. After studying philosophy at Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, Martel spent 13 months in India visiting mosques, churches, temples and zoos, and spent two years reading religious texts and castaway stories. In 2001, he published the novel *Life of Pi*, his fourth book, which was
awarded the Man Booker Prize in 2002. He now lives in Saskatoon, Canada. This novel has been adapted into a Hollywood movie by Ang Lee as the director in 2012 entitled Life of Pi.

In analyzing thesis, the writer uses novel as the object. Through the analysis, the meaning and the function of having of hope as reflected in the novel may be discovered. A structural approach is applied by the writer to find out the meaning and function of having hope as reflected in Life of Pi. Endaswara says:


The elements of structure builder consist of themes, stories and literary devices. The fact of story consists of plots, characters (characterization), and background, while literary devices of the story consist of language style and context (Suwondo in Jabrohim, 2001:58). Structural analysis of literary works, in this case, can be done by identifying, assessing, and describing function and relationship between the intrinsic elements of the concerned story.

In Life of Pi, every sequence of event tells something to the reader, and the hope is what it tells mostly. By using structural approach, the writer will divide each sequence of events that talk about hope and it will make it easier to analyze.
hope in the novel. It means that one sequence of event moves to the next sequence of event is driven by hope, and at last, it will conclude that hope is the dominant idea in the story.

The writer applies hermeneutics reading technique in analyzing the texts. Hermeneutics talks about interpretation. The writing of novel is based on a particular theme or idea. The statement of theme itself is generally not stated explicitly. The theme comes together and combined with another structural elements so that what it is only encountered in a novel is only the story. Hope in this thesis deals with theme in Life of Pi. Hermeneutics reading technique helps the writer to find out the meaning and the function of having hope as reflected in the novel by interpreting what the author says about it.

Finally, through this thesis, the writer wants to show the reader that novel is not only made to entertain. It also enriches readers with knowledge, especially about literary works. Life of Pi is a novel that will give so many knowledge and reasons why hope is something that must be defended.

1.2. Problem of the Study

From the preceding background, there are some problems which is important to be discussed in this study. They are:

1. How is hope reflected in Life of Pi?

2. What is the function of having hope as reflected in Life of Pi?
1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the problems of the study, the objective the writers wants to reach are:

1. To find out how hope as reflected in *Life of Pi*

2. To find out the function of having hope as reflected in *Life of Pi*

1.4 Scope of The Study

To do an analysis, it is important to limit the problem that will be analyzed. Limiting the problem makes the writer focus in doing the analysis. The scope of the study is only focused on how hope is reflected in *Life of Pi* and the function of having hope as reflected in *Life of Pi*.

1.5 Significance of the Study

1. Academically, the writer hopes that this analysis can be very useful for those who are interested in literature, so this analysis can enrich their knowledge about literature especially in studying the novel.

2. Practically, the writer hopes that this analysis can be very useful for those who are interested in studying novel, especially the analysis about hope as a review of related literature.