CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

In this modern era, the development of technology makes directly people to get everything around them. That situations will make people to do everything or many ways to get whatever they want. There is one thing why people to be like that, it is money or material. And it is happening in the reality of life nowadays. That’s why in this thesis, the writer interest to analyze about materialism in George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner.

Novel as a literary works gives information to readers about reflection reality that existed in human’s life. As Taylor (1981:46) state, “a novel is a normally a quite length of complexity which attempt to reflect and express something of the quality of value of human experience”, it can be concluded that the author express their idea about something or the other experience of life around them by write a novel or the other of literary works. Human experience in life may influence the whole life of human including the way of life.

Material is a thing that can be called as a basic of human’s nature needs that can bring human getting problems, or happiness. And, materialism in the literary work also can be something that cause the conflict arouses, as Marx’s theory which is used to explore about social class or alienation. Materialism and social economy here serve as basis of the problems. It can be called as a literary criticism theory dealing with Marxism; a theory that is pioneered by Karl Marx through his Historical Materialism and Dialectical Materialism.

The theory of materialism holds that all things are composed of material, and all phenomena are the result of material interactions, that things are built not found as
in the historically important but scientifically unimportant physicals. Materialism places all hopes, desires and needs in material objects rather than pay consideration to moral qualities, meaning altruism, and solidarity. It means that people become bad in moral qualities, altruism rejection and solidarity ignorance. In reality, the materialists only seek to reach social success. Consequently, they have a way of life that regulates everything exclusively in terms of material prosperity and earthly satisfactions, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Materialism).

The researcher takes materialism in this study is caused that it is a term that can represent the discussion of this study. Taken from the term of “material”, the researcher can be defined as a need by human being. It means material that can be processed well and be useful. And then the term “materialism” itself can be referred as a doctrine that material success and progress are the highest values in life. This doctrine appears to be general in western society today. So, materialism is a tendency of human being forced by material need. They have been pressed by the condition of material need, because the economic systems can move their nature of life. They become of the economic system’s slaver to get material although it can break their nature as human being.

In novel Silas Marnertells about a man who lived in an industrial town that then moved far to another place in a rural area. Silas Marner was told as the alienated man; because he wanted to live only with his money and gold that he had ever got from weaving. Besides, it also shows the action and reaction of the universal moral forces in each individual character. In this novel, Silas Marneris depressed.

George Eliot set this man who is far from his community and rarely communicated with many people around him. But it would be over then, George Eliot then set how materialism does not always become an emphasis on
Silas’s life, because he had met a baby who made him actively keeping her as his child. George Eliot did not set him as a person who confronted with a baby who changed his life to be different and better than before.

Because it is very interesting topic and people face this reality in daily life, the writer feels that he should make further analysis about this idea, materialism. Again, the writer chooses The George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner as the source because there are parts in this novel that talks about materialism and the novel was written as a literary work that can convince the reader on the author's own life and experience.

1.2. Problem of the Study

In this thesis, the writer will analyze a problem based on the George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner:

1. What are the impacts of materialism in George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner to destroy humanity?

1.3. Objective of the Study

In doing the analysis, there is an objective found in this analysis, that is:

1. To find out what the impacts of materialism in George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner are to destroy humanity.

1.4. Scope of the Study

In doing this analysis, the writer must limit the field which is going to be analyzed in order not to be wider and out of the topic. So, in this thesis the writer limits the scope of analysis by focused on knowing the influences of materialism especially about moral aspect and social problems to the characters which found in George Eliot’s novel Silas Marner.
1.5. Significance of the Study

The analysis of this thesis expects some significant:

1. This thesis is expected to be able to give significance for the reader, both theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the significance is to enlarge the literary study through novel.

2. This thesis can give the information about the relation between the literature and the society as the extrinsic approach of the novel and also it can enlarge the knowledge of English Department students in studying about materialism as a part of sociology of literature.

3. Practically, the writer hopes that everyone may make this analysis as their review of related literature or as reference and this analysis can be very useful for anyone who interested in analyzing philosophy in the literary works especially materialism.