CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In the Literature world many are born interesting works to learn even to be reviewed. Literature is interesting because it deals with human life, experience, action which represent of real life, passion or ambition, desire, joy, sadness, feeling, thought, egoism, corrupted and discriminated. It also means that understanding literature cannot be separated from life and look life deeply. Stephen (1987: 10) regards literature as a particular function of the whole social organization. It means that literature is the social organization between the individual and society. The author is an individual and social beings, what the novelist wrote representing what happens in society (social matters). It also can be concluded that literature is one of the bridges to make someone communicate with the society about the life’s condition by his works. The literature in the present very rapid form of the type in which may raised about aspects of individual human life or social, this literature has a lot of topic or object of analysis in its existence. This topic or object of analysis poured into literary work. This literary work can be a novel, poetry, and drama. In its content, topic or object of analysis can be psychological aspect of life, feminism, conflict of the main character and etc.

In this paper, a novel is used as one of substance’s discussions. Novel is one of the fiction works that usually known as narrative prose. Peek (1983: 1) says that “novels are often about the relantionship individuals and the society in which they live”.

A story of the novel often tells about the characters explained in his or her social life, and it relates with where the story takes place. Characters as an individual presentation in a
story also have conflict. Character can not be separated from literature, because the author always uses character as the main point and participant in the story. Character is revealed by how a character responds to conflict, by his or her dialogue, and through descriptions. And besides that, their actions can also express their character. There are so many conflicts in this life and many factors as a cause race, nationality, religion, love, family, etc, all this aspect can cause the conflict that happened to the character. Conflict is happen because people is in two or more choices in life and have to choose or when people can not fulfill all choices in their life. Tennyson (1967: 14) said that, the basic conflict most frequently cited is: 1) when the individual in conflict with another individual, 2) the individual in conflict with himself, 3) the individual in conflict with an outside force or forces. Without conflict, nothing would happen and just likes a song without melody.

From the statement above, it can get idea that conflict divided into two part such as internal conflict (when the individual in conflict with himself), and external conflict (when the individual in conflict with another individual and outside force and forces). Conflicts are interesting thing to find out in the novel or story, because it takes and plays our emotion. Conflict really complete the whole story and make the reader becomes addicted to read again and again.

In this paper, the writer would like to analysis about the conflicts of the main character in William P. Young’s novel titled The Shack, his first novel best seller that was published in November 2009. The writer choose The Shack is because the novel ever broke into New York Times best seller list over ten million exemplars, besides the writer think the novel has many conflicts that can be found in character of Mackenzie Allen Philips(Sam Worthington) his nickname Mack, as the main character in The Shack is a Father whose
daughter is abducted and presumably brutally murdered (though her death isn’t confirmed four years). Where the reason the author also analyzes the novel because the novel The Shack is a Christian fiction, a genre that is rapidly growing in contemporary Christian culture. This book communicates a message in a relaxed, readable, and non-offensive way. From his personal experience, Young tries to answer some questions in life: Who is the Lord? Who is Jesus? What is the Trinity? Is it salvation? Is Jesus the only way to Heaven? If God, then why evil? What happens after I die? Then in the final section of the book entitled "The Story Behind The Shack, he reveals that the motivation for this story comes from his personal struggle to answer many tough questions in life. He claims that his seminary training does not provide answers to his urgent questions. Then one day in 2005, he felt the whisper of the Lord in his ear that the year would be the year of his celebration and restoration. Departing from his experience, he felt led to write The Shack. According to Young, most of the contents of the book was formed according to personal conversations with God, family, and friends. He tells the readers that his main character "Mack" is not a real person, but a fictional character used to communicate the message in his book.

The conflicts began when Mack takes three of his children on a camping trip to Wallowa Lake near Joseph, Oregon. Two of his children are playing in a canoe when it flips and almost drowns Mack's son. Mack is able to save his son by rushing to the water and freeing him from the canoe's webbing, but unintentionally leaves his youngest daughter Missy alone at their campsite. After Mack returns, he sees that Missy is missing. The police are called, and the family discovers that Missy has been abducted and murdered by a serial killer known as the "Little Ladykiller".

The police find an abandoned shack in the woods where Missy was taken. Her bloodied clothing is found, but her body is not located. Mack's life sinks into what he calls "The Great Sadness".
As the novel begins, Mack receives a note in his mailbox from "Papa", saying that he would like to meet with Mack that coming weekend at the shack. Mack is puzzled by the note. He has had no relationship with his abusive father since he left home at age 13. He suspects that the note may be from God whom his wife Nan refers to as "Papa".

1.2 Problem of Study

Based on the explanation of the background above, there are many certain problems will be discussed in this paper. What conflicts are faced and solved through Mackenzie Allen Philips as the main character found in the novel *The Shack*?

1.3 The Scope of Study

Based on the problem of study, the scope of this analysis is limited to the main character’s conflicts such as internal conflicts and how the main character faces the conflict and eventually solves the conflicts. The writer would like to find out how the conflicts appear in the novel.

1.4 The Purpose of Study

The writer activity should have a clear purpose and is based at least on some scientific criteria. The writer also has chosen the purpose of this study is to find the main character’s conflicts and how the main character to solve his problems that are portrayed in the novel *The Shack* by William P. Young.

1.5 Method of Study
In writing this paper, the writer uses library research as the method of the study. The writer reads the novel to understand the story and the writer read some reference books and browses data from the internet in quotation form. Finally the data are collected, sorted, summarized and described in this paper.

7. Significance of The Study

The significances of study are:

1) Theoretically, the significance of study is the reader will understand about the conflicts in the novel *The Shack* by William P. Young, especially on the main character of the novel and increase the literary understanding of conflicts of a character in novel.

2) Practically, the study can be used as reference for learning and understanding about conflicts in a novel besides to give contribution to some study of literature to reader through this paper. This paper also can be used as reference for further study those who are interested in doing the same topic.