CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

The word Literature derives from the Latin (‘littera’) that refers to the written or printed works (Wellek 1965:1). But, not all of the written and printed works can be said as literature because literary language is different with the other writing text. The subject matters of literature is subjective because its language is connotative, while other writing such as the medical, history, geography use the scientific language, so they can not be classified as literary works.

Literature is considered as the reflection of human imagination. It is commonly known as a written of art. Literature is writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes to life. Literature may consist of texts based on factual information (journalists or non-fiction), as well as an original imagination. In literature, there are three branches of literature such as drama, poetry, and prose. Prose is a type of literature that is written expression without rhyme scheme or lyrical structure. Meanwhile, prose can also divided into novel, short story, romance, etc.

In this paper, the object to be discussed is a novel. Richard (1981: 46) says, “novel is a normally a prose work with a quiet length complexity which attempts to reflect an express something of the quality of value of human experience.” In other words, novels are long prose works with a great amount of detail on every page. The effect of this detail is that the readers can recognize the complex reality of a character or event in the story. Novels, however, are long works with great
amount of detail on every page. They present all the complicating facts that need to be taken into account before we can reach any sort of judgement.

Novel always tells about the novelist’s experience or about life of someone in novelist’s imagination and represents the condition of one are in that time. The novelist puts out their idea into a novel.

Every novel has characters, the characters make the novel have story. Novels usually tell about people, scenes that present about the real life and the events that may never happen in the real life. A character is a mere construction of the words meant to express an idea or view of experience and must be considered in relation to features of the composition, such as action and setting, before its full significance can be appreciated (Taylor,1981:62). Character is an important element in novel. Character is a person who acts in the story.

The main characters are who appear in every part and also dominate the story. They always appear as the subject or the object to influence the story. Their main depend on domination, many conversations, story about them and their influence of the story entirely.

The writer interested in describe the main characters in this novel which entitled Hallowe’en Party, because the story is unpredictable. Hallowe’en Party is consist of three hundred and thirty six pages by Agatha Christie with setting of a little village named Woodleigh Common in England, it tells about solve the mysterious girl murder.
1.2 The Problem of the Study

Based on the explanation above, problem which will discuss in this paper is:

1. How the main characters are portrayed in the novel?

1.3 The Scope of the Study

In fact there are aspects in this novel, so it is important to make the limitation of description in order to write effectively and avoid the readers of getting confused. Then this paper is focused on discuss about how the protagonist and antagonist characters are portrayed in Agatha Christie’s novel *Hallowe’en Party*, they are Hercule Poirot, Mrs. Ariadne Oliver, Rowena Drake, and Michael Garfield.

1.4 The Objective of the Study

To describe the protagonist and antagonist characters are portrayed in the novel.

1.5 The Significance of the study

By this paper, the writer may help the English Diploma students to improve literature study, especially to know how the main characters are portrayed in a novel; through the characters in Agatha Christie’s novel, *Hallowe’en Party*; to enrich English comprehension through English literary text. Then it can improve the English Diploma Student’s interest in studying literature that can enrich our knowledge especially in literary term.
1.5 The Method of the Study

The writer uses descriptive qualitative method in doing this paper by borrowed and read some books from library. Then the writer read the novel in several times to make her understand about the story. After having understood about it, the writer focuses to describe the main character. And the writer watched the film twice to make more understood the story. Then the writer browsed data from internet to look for the compliment sources and also to know the biography of the writer, then the writer makes conclusions about it.