

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a single body of written works. The name has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of authors execution. The art of literature is not reducible to the words on the page; they are there solely because of the craft of writing. As an art, literature might be described as the organization of words to give pleasure. Yet through words literature elevates and transforms experience beyond “mere” pleasure. Jacobs (1995:1) stated that literature refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas.

Its Latin root *literatura/litteratura* (derived itself from *littera: letter* or *handwriting*) was used to refer to all written accounts, though contemporary definitions extend the term to include texts that are spoken or sung (oral literature). Literature can be classified according to whether it poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction; it can be further distinguished according to major forms such as the novel, short story or drama; and works are often categorized according to historical periods or their adherence to certain aesthetic features or expectations (genre).

Altenbern and Levis (1996:14) says that Fiction is interpreted as narrative prose, it's a imaginative, usually in logical and contain the truth of dramatization in the relationship of human being. Fiction is concerned with the place of individual in the environments in the story, and the environment is a background or setting which characters speak and act.

Taylor (1981:49) says that there are two essential elements of fiction prose they are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. It means that Literature have two elements that directly build a story it are intrinsic elements and extrinsic elements. Intrinsic elements are theme, plot, characters, conflict, point of view, setting and language style. Extrinsic elements is everything which inspiring the writing of literature namely the background of the writer life, beliefs and point of view, also the customs, politics, historical problems, economics and psychological life.

From the classification of literature, the writer decided to discuss the fiction prose which is novel. Novel is a part of literary work. Novel is the modern or living form of fictional narrative prose. Novel can we get everywhere, especially in bookstore and supermarket. Novel tells something which describe the human life, but sometimes novel describe about fairytale like imagination of the author although for something fictitious, but it becomes as something that people may understand with the same principle in daily life, such as psychological truth or holding the mirror up to nature, a consciousness of moral values and many more.

In this paper, the writer would like to study about the main characters in James Rollins's Novel *Altar Of Eden*. We know that Character is one of important element in prose. Character is the representation of a person in a narrative or dramatic work of art such as novel, play, or film. Character is important part in build a story which has function to play the story and to convey the ideas, motive, plot, and themes and also key point of understanding the story and its conflict as a whole. Therefore, this is the reason as idea as the background why this paper study the main character depicted. The main characters are the player through whom the audience experiences the story first hand. The main characters have important role in a novel which appear in every part and also dominate the story. The main characters always appear as subject or object that influence the story. The main characters could be more than one in novel, they are an antagonist and protagonist.

The description focused on main characters in the novel *Altar of Eden*, they are Lorna Polk, Jack Menard, and Exotic animals. They are protagonist character. Lorna and Jack were assigned to uncover a mystery in a fishing trawler shipwrecked on an island

1.2 Problem of the Study

Problem that the writer would like to study is how the main characters depicted in James Rollins' novel *Altar of Eden*

1.3 Scope of the Study

In my paper, I want to describe about Main Characters in terms of physical appearances of the main characters, what they say about themselves, what other people say about them, and their environmental setting in James Rollins' novel *Altar of Eden*

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to describe the main characters in James Rollins' novel *Altar of Eden*.

1.5 Method of the study

The writer uses the library method in doing this paper. The writer reads some books especially literature books and novel, and browsing from the internet to get other information/data to support the writer's idea of the related topic of this paper. The last step, the writer summarizes the data which have been collected and make conclusion

1.6 Significance of the Study

The significance of the study are:

- a. Theoretically: The reader will understand about the main character depicted in James Rollins's novel *Altar of Eden* and increase the literary understanding of the main character.
- b. Practically: It becomes reference of the next writer who wants to continue a research on this topic.

1.7 Reason choose the topic

The writer choose to analyze the main characters in Altar of Eden Novel, because the main character is one of elements of literature. The story in this novel is very interesting. Because ALTAR OF EDEN is a science thriller and the science is based on reality even while the story is fiction, the theme in this story is adventure and there are something interest that contain in this novel. So, I choose to analyze the characters of main characters which in this novel.