

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contain of several sub chapters that will be explained in general. They are Background of study, Statement of research problems, Objectives of the study, Significant of the study, and Scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature may represent the condition of the society and reveals the author's response to it. It contains the record of people's values, their thoughts, their problems, and their conflicts. Bonald stated that literature is an expression about experiences and views of life (Wellek and Werren, 1977: 7). Novel, Short story, among the forms of literary works, is also an attempt to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience or morale conduct. Moreover, Stanton (1964: 3) affirms that novel also helps the readers to understand about human experience, most of all are about the life as well.

In this thesis the writer has chosen one issue of the condition of the society. This issue became the main thing in the life of society. It is about a better life. The fact about a better life, having the capability to fulfill necessity in life is the goal of most of the people. Everyone wants to have an established life. However, they have different view about what established life means. Some people have already felt satisfied with their life if they at least can fulfill their basic needs, such as food, clothes, car, and shelter. While others never feel satisfied. Though they have already had more than what they need. These people

have high level of desire to have more possessions. They do not make effort to control it. This phenomenon is known as materialism.

In fact, Materialism always exists in society and priorities in commodities something as people properties to increase their social status in society. The people need money from commodity something for buying something that can makes their appearance better in society (Parker, 2011: 15). Because materialism concerns more in using matter as the way for solve the problem rather than using feeling. Sometimes, people think that money can give the happiness for them or giving luxurious gift as the symbol of happiness. It is not always true, because happiness sometimes cannot be bought by money or luxurious gift, but by sacrificing something that is important to the people for the sake of other people.

Karl Marx is the most well-known person who is the first talking about materialism (1818-1883). He presented his approached as "the materialist conception of history". Historical materialism looks for the causes of developments and changes in human society in the means by which humans collectively produce the necessities of life.

Here are Karl Max's historical materialism principles:

1. There is a division of labor into social classes based on property ownership where some people live from the labor of others.
 2. The system of class division is dependent on the mode of production.
- (Marx: 1859)

By the principles above, Marx makes a classification in human life based on economy. By this fact it can be concluded that to make a classification in human life, material is used as measurable thing. Although social class is an abstract things but still how to measure someone's social class is by looking up material things. In addition, Richins stated "More generally, what this means is that everything in the universe –from subatomic particles, to tables, chairs, dogs, and cats, to thoughts, feelings, perceptions, and ideas-everything is reducible to matter which it's motions and qualities , to physical states, to a position in space and time, to what can be quantified (Richins and Dawson, 1992)".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. So, the the writer has chosen two famous authors to analyze their best works.

The first is David Herbert (D. H.) Lawrence was born on Sept. 11, 1885 in the small coal-mining village of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire in central England. Lawrence is one of the most versatile and influential figures in 20th century literature. Best known for his novels, Lawrence was also an accomplished poet, short story writer, essayist, critic, and travel writer. The controversial themes for which he is remembered - namely, the celebration of sensuality in an over-intellectualized world - and his relationship with censors sometimes overshadow the work of a master craftsman and profound thinker. The second is Guy de Maupassant (the author of *The Necklace*) was born in château de Miromesnil, France in 1850. Guy de Maupassant was one of the greatest French writers in the 19th century. His stories strikingly captured various aspects of day-to-day life in

France during that time. Both authors are famous short story writers in the 19th century. So that's why the best short story of both authors chosen as the data to be analyzed by the writer.

Then, *The Rocking-Horse Winner* and *The Necklace* are chosen as data to be analyzed by the writer because there are parts in this stories that talk about materialism. In “The Rocking-Horse Winner” relates the desperate and foredoomed efforts of a young boy to win his mother’s love by seeking the luck that she bitterly maintains she does not have. By bringing her the luxurious life for which she longs, Paul hopes to win her love, to compensate her for her unhappiness with his father, and to bring peace to their anxious, unhappy household. He determines to find luck after a conversation with his mother, in which she tells him that she is not lucky, having married an unlucky husband and that it is better to have luck than money because luck brings money.

Also in *The Necklace*, Guy de Maupassant intriguing story “The Necklace” features an unusual protagonist. Loisel could also serve as the antagonist in the story since she is her own worst enemy. Loisel’s personal characteristics were not admirable. She was pretty on the outside, but what was inside Loisel was somewhat despicable. She was not satisfied with any part of her life. Her determination of success was entirely materialistic. That’s why the writer interested in analyzing *The Rocking-Horse Winner* and *The Necklace* with entitled his thesis **Materialism Represented by The Properties and The Main Characters in *The Rocking-Horse Winner* and *The Necklace*.**

1.2 Statement of Research Problems

During the process of analysis, it is important to make the specification of problems that are going to be analyzed in order to avoid the ambiguity of the analysis and to support the writer to get clear description about the object of analysis itself. So, in this analysis and based on the explanation of background of the study above the writer finds and decides some problems that needed to answer further. They are:

1. What are the characteristics of materialism that portray in The Rocking-Horse Winner and The Necklace?
2. What are the influences of materialism to the main characters in The Rocking-Horse Winner and The Necklace?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Objectives of analysis are the statements about activities and objects that are going to be analyzed based on the problem of analysis. The writer holds on these objectives in doing the analysis. There are two objectives found in this analysis, they are:

1. To shows the characteristic of materialism that is portrayed in The Rocking-Horse Winner and The Necklace.
2. To shows the influences of materialism to the main characters in The Rocking-Horse Winner and The Necklace.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In this study, there are two significance of the study. The first is theoretical significance of the study and the second is practical significance of the study.

The theoretical significance of this study is the writer hopes that this analysis can be very useful for all people who interested in literature, so this analysis can enrich their knowledge about the theory of materialism and to make the reader understand about the theory of materialism. It is because materialism which happens in fiction story, actually it always exists in society. Therefore, to understand about materialism in fiction story, the reader should study about materialism. The writer also hopes that this analysis can be very useful for anyone who interested in analyzing philosophy in the literary works especially materialism. They may make this analysis as their review of related literature. It also can be a reference to the reader who wants to take this theory.

Then, the practical significance of this study is to make the reader get a learning of social condition. So, after reading this thesis, the reader may realize that materialism have a negative impact, because materialistic people will never be satisfied and do not want to be grateful for what they already have and they will do anything to get what they want. Because sometimes they do an offense in order to achieve their goals. As the result, by having materialism will make people more suffer.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In doing this research, the writer has to restrict the fields that are going to be analyzed in order to make sure that the analysis still stays in track. It also helps the writer choose which factors can be categorized into range of the study and which cannot. Therefore, the scope of this analysis is focused on characteristics and the influences of materialism that used Materialism theory. Then, the limitations of this study are the properties and the main characters in *The Rocking-Horse Winner* and *The Necklace* which are relevant with this study.