

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background information for the research report. There are five sub chapters which is provided in the introduction. They are background of study, statement of research problems, objectives, significance, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of study

A literary work can be written to gives consciousness for the readers about the condition that they never seen before. Literature can be influenced by society or society is influenced by literature. Literature is influenced by society means that the social condition gives an influence to the writer to produce a literary work. For example, Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* (2008) and Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* (1982) which concern of the thought and action of white people to discriminate the black people. Society is influenced by literature means that a literary work is written as means to criticize the social condition that happen in a certain time. For example, in W.S. Rendra's work entitled *Bersatulah Pelacur-Pelacur Kota Jakarta* that tries to criticize the social injustice of government toward prostitutions in Indonesia.

There are several kinds of literary work, such as poem, short story, drama, and novel. Novel is chosen in this study because it displays the story deeper and broader than other literary works, thus, the reader is easy to catch the content or the message from the text. *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis is chosen

because the novel shows the relationship between society and literature. Many of the situations in the novel were based on events that occurred in the 1920s, during a time known as the Great Depression (Curtis, 1999: 237). *Bud, Not Buddy* is a novel that tells about the journey of African American life during the Great Depression era in 19th century. Bud Caldwell as the main character of this story invites the reader to experience his journey from one to another city. By knowing Bud's, experiences finding his grandfather, Herman E. Calloway, the reader also know how the depression era happen during 19th century. The period that was especially hard on African American.

Regarding to the social condition described above, many authors adapt those social condition phenomena in their literary works. Christopher Paul Curtis is one of authors who concerns with the social condition phenomena happen in the period between 1929 and 1941. He wrote those phenomena in his novel entitled *Bud, Not Buddy* written in 1999. This novel is chosen because of several reason. First, it is based on the real condition that happen in Michigan during 19th century era. Therefore, the story and the characters in this novel is adapted based on the real event and real people. In his novel *Bud, Not Buddy*, Curtis stated that:

Although *Bud, Not Buddy* is fictional, many of the situations Bud encounters are based on events that occurred in the 1930s, during a time known as the Great Depression. (Curtis, 1999: 237)

The quotation above proves that story of the novel entitled *Bud, Not Buddy* are adapted based on the real event happen in the 19th century. Second, a novel gives many advantages toward the readers. The readers are able get an information about the social condition and history of the society in the certain time after read

this novel. This novel described about the social condition known as Great Depression Era in 19th century.

Since this study focuses on the social condition of African American in 19th century, this study uses sociology of literature as the theory. This theory is chosen to analyze the data because this theory help the study in analyzing the Michigan's Great Depression Era portrayed in *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis. In other words, this theory is chosen because it is relevant with the title of this study, *The Portrait of Michigan's Great Depression Era in 19th Century in C. Paul Curtis's Bud, Not Buddy*.

Related to the source of data in this study, *Bud, Not Buddy* novel by Christopher Paul Curtis has been used as the source of data by other writer. He is Dr. Denise Johnson in his titled *Literary Analysis Christopher Paul Curtis: Bringing History to Life Amy Moser Literature for Elementary Students (R21)*. He used comparative approach in his study. It can be concluded that novel *Bud, Not Buddy* has been analyzed using different approach.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study discusses the portrait of Michigan's Great Depression Era in 19th Century in C. Paul Curtis's *Bud, Not Buddy*. The study is formulated as the following questions:

1. How is the Great Depression of African American in Michigan during 19th century portray in *Bud, Not Buddy*?
2. What are the effects of the Great Depression era toward African American in Michigan during 19th century in *Bud, Not Buddy*?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

The objective of the study describes the answers of the question in the statement of the research problems. The objectives of the study are:

1. To explain the Great Depression condition of African American in Michigan during 19th century that portrayed in *Bud, Not Buddy*.
2. To explain the effects of the Great Depression era toward African American in Michigan during 19th century in *Bud, Not Buddy*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

For academic purposes, this study gives further understanding about literary theories, especially sociology of literature, because this study focuses on the social condition of African American in 19th century. This study is also hopefully gives the contribution for upcoming study. Furthermore, this study is hoped as a reference that can help the English literature students to finish their study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is the concept of sociology of literature that proposed by Wellek Warren, Madame Stael and Traine. Since this study discusses the portrait of Michigan's Great Depression Era in 19th century in C. Paul Curtis's *Bud, Not Buddy*, this study focuses on observing the social condition that happened in 19th era in Michigan and the effects of the condition toward African American's life that portrayed in the novel. This study also concerns on the characters's utterances and the author's narration that relevant with this study.