

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

It is not easy to define what literature is. In general literature is a term used to describe written or spoken material. Robert and Jacob mention that literature refers to written and also spoken compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, reveal thoughts and emotions, and also interest, entertain, stimulate and broaden reader's mind (1981:1)

Literature helps to find meaning of the world and to express it and share it with others. The main function of literature is for understanding and communication. The other functions of literature are that literatures uses language to relate to the world of experience, and literature uses language to communicate to a reader in two ways, first is in the way these words are used either to create imaginary people and events, or, second, in the way to give immediate expression to ideas and feelings about experience (Scholes, Silverman and Klaus, 1978: xxv).

Robin Mayhead (1965:3) states that literature is to be enjoyed, it makes for relaxation; it brings distraction from the monotony or strain of day, today's concerns. The study of literature involves the students' imagination and feeling so that they feel as though they become the part of the story from the literary text they read. Literature can take us out of the track of weary routine, by leading us to understand something of that whole vast body of human living in which our day to day concerns have their place.

Little (1966:67) states that there are three forms of literature; they are fiction/novel, play and poetry. The writer chooses novel as his thesis because the speciality of the novel according to Foster (1955:84) is that the writer can talk about his characters as well as through them or can arrange for us to listen when they talk to themselves. In addition Milligan adds that reading a novel presents special problems to the reader because the novel traditionally attempted to offer an experience of life or reality through narrative commentary and the interaction of characters, particularly through dialogue (1987:8).

A novel is a literary work that teaches people about life, fact and truth. Moreover, a novel might be a kind of mirror which reflects man's attitude and behavior towards our society and life itself. Kennedy says "A novel is a book – length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that while we read, we experience actual life" (1983:231).

In this study the writer takes Alexandre Dumas as the author. Alexandre Dumas was famous with a lot of novels and play, for example like *The Three Musketeers*, *the Count of Monte Cristo*, *the Man in the Iron Mask*, etc. Here, the writer wanted to analyze one of his biggest works in literature which is *The Lady of the Camellias*. The story was inspired by his own passionate affair with a courtesan called Marie Duplessis, who died young from tuberculosis just like Marguerite Gautier. Alexandre Dumas and Marie Duplessis met when they were both twenty, and that she died three years later, after the end of their affair. According to Dumas, Marie never sacrificed anything for him, not because she did not want to, but because he would not let her. The novel does not try to hide its autobiographical connections.

The interesting thing about this novel is that it tells about a man who has a big heart to love a “demimondaine” (a woman "kept" by various lovers, frequently more than one at a time). This study can be taken as an example of literary character study.

The writer found that there are some elements in novel, like character, setting, plot, moral value, and conflict. In this study the writer wants to focus on analyzing the main character of Armand Duval in Alexandre Dumas' *Novel the Lady of the Camellias*.

The character of Armand Duval is chosen since he has committed himself to chasing Marguerite although he comes from good family background with a high class system in that era. He is supposed to marry the girl in the same level of class, but the love he feels inside is too big to be handled, tender and makes Marguerite falls upon him. The love conflict itself arouses both internal and external of Armand and brings a big impact to him. He has done everything in order to get Marguerite's love. The writer intends to analyze the motivation of Armand Duval in chasing Marguerite in Alexander Dumas' novel *The Lady of the Camellias*.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

In line with the background of the study, the writer wants to find out the answer to the following problem:

“What are the motivations of Armand Duval in chasing Marguerite Gautier despite the fact that she is a courtesan?”

1.3. Objective of the Study

This study aims at knowing the motivations of Armand Duval in chasing Marguerite Gautier despite the fact that she is a courtesan.

1.4. Theoretical Framework

This study is based on these following theories:

Objective Theory of Literature

Abrams (1953) states that objective theory is a literary approach of which major point is to see the work (the art) as the way it is. Objective theory believes that an art should have these following elements: setting, plot, characters, and theme.

Theory of Motivation

In the theory of motivation, Maslow (1997) uses the terms Physiological, Safety, Belongingness and Love, Esteem, Self-Actualization and Self-Transcendence needs to describe the pattern that human motivations generally move through. He uses the hierarchy of needs to analyze the human motivation itself.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The writer conducts this study with the expectation to raise the students' interest in reading literary work; especially the students of FKIP Widya Mandala in reading novels and become critical in understanding what the message behind the story itself is. The writer also hopes this thesis will give a lesson that teaches the reader about moral value consist in the novel. From this study, the writer expects to give some contributions to the students of FKIP Widya Mandala in understanding literary works. The

writer also believes that this study will give beneficial reference for the next researcher who wants to analyze this novel.

1.6. Scope and Limitation of the Study

Realizing that *The Lady of the Camellias* has many aspects to discuss, the writer focuses the discussion on main character. The discussion of this study is only focused on Armand Duval's motivation as one of the main characters, which plays an important role and influences the whole story of the novel.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

In the study, the writer uses some terms. It is necessary to define some key terms used in this study to avoid misinterpretation.

Novel

A novel is a fictitious narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of the real life of past or present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (Hawthorn, 1985:12).

Characters

Character is a person in literary work that generally refers to his whole nature, such as his personality, his attitude toward life, his spiritual qualities, as well as his moral attributes (Potter 1967:3). Characters not only act, but also are acted upon by other people, by circumstances, by the result, at some remove, of their own acts (Brooks, 1975:9). A character is an imaginary creation that possesses only those qualities, capacities, thoughts, and responses (McKenzie, 1978:25).

The Lady of the Camellias

The Lady of the Camellias is a novel by Alexandre Dumas, written and first published in 1848 in French and was originally written in French. Here, to conduct his study, the writer uses the English translation. The novel was translated by Sir Edmond Gosse with a new introduction by Toril Moi. The English novel was first published in 1972, 1984 and the introduction in 2004. It was published by New American Library, a division of Penguin group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, New York 10014, U.S.A. (*The Lady of the Camellias*, 1972).

Motivation

Maslow (1943) defines motivation as a process that starts with a physiological or psychological need that activates a behavior or a drive that is aimed at a goal.

1.8. Organization of the Study

This study will be divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that includes the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the definition of key terms, the scope and limitation, and the organization of the study. The second chapter will consist of the review of related literature. Chapter three will deal with research methodology. Chapter four will discuss the analysis of Armand's motivation and the last chapter is the conclusion of the study.