Chapter I of this research presents such topics as: background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key term. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the reflection of human’s imagination written by words to show the author’s feeling in showing happiness, sadness, or anger. According to Risdianto (2011: 5), “Literature is written material that deals with thought and feeling in imaginative or ‘serious’ literature.”

Reading literature certainly has several advantages. Commonly it for entertaining by the power of the wonderful selected words that bringing a certain emotion for the readers.

According to Endraswara (2003: 22), “Literature is not only a dead object or paralyzed phenomenon, except full of alive imaginations.” So, readers may enter to the emotion expressed in the words by comprehending the dialogues.

According to Risdianto (2011: 5), “Literature is generally divided into three groups respectively prose, drama, and poetry”. The study focuses on prose, especially on novel. Novel is a long written literature that has complex story and consists of many characters. According to Nurgiyantoro (1994: 4), “Novel is a fiction work offering an imaginative ideal world formed by the intrinsic elements
such as, scene, plot, character (characterization), background, point of view, and other imaginative elements.”

One of the parts of a novel is conflict that can be defined as the most important thing to make a story more alive. According to Risdianto (2011: 17), “Conflict is the basic tension, or challenge that propels a story’s plot.” From the theory above, by conflicts, readers will be more curious to finish the story. Conflicts themselves are classified into two general parts, internal and external. According to Susanto (2012: 131), “Internal conflict occurs because of tension or struggle among two expectation in the human’s mind. Contrary, external conflict occurs because of the differences of expectation among one character and another.” Based on the theory, it can be concluded that internal conflict is similar with psychological conflict is about a character’s mind and external conflict is similar with physical conflict is about a character and others, human or not human.

*The Little Friend* is a kind of detective or mystery novel written by Donna Tartt. It is an interesting novel that is full of psychological conflict of the main character. It tells about Harriet who lost her only brother who found hanged on the trees in front of his house. The cop and all of his family declared that he was committed suicide. But Harriet felt there was an oddity in that accident. She thought that Robin was murdered. So she tried to investigate that accident with her close friend.

From the explanation above, this study attempts to analyze the psychological conflicts faced by Harriet in the novel ‘The Little Friend’ by Donna
The reasons for choosing this novel are because in 2003 this novel was awarded WH Smith Literary award as the bestselling novel. The other reason is because this novel has brought a new way of thinking about a child’s mind and her struggle to break her own curiosity without being knew by her family.

The study is aimed at analyzing Harriet’s psychological conflicts in her way of solving her only brother’s death. The study focuses more on the main character’s internal or psychological conflicts rather than the external or physical because the power of this novel is on the conflicts from Harriet internally. She had high ambition to solve her brother’s death. She was far away from her father, while her mother has been insane since the accident. So, it seems that the internal conflicts faced by Harriet are interesting to analyze.

There have been several previous studies analyzing conflict. The first is Herawaty (2010) who analyzed psychological dilemma of the major characters in Jodi Picoult’s My Sister’s Keeper. Another is Fauziah (2008) who focused on the psychological analysis of the main character’s personality in Go Ask Alice. This study has the same subject of analysis, that is the young main characters, but this study has difference from the others, it is the character who analyzed in this study expresses her psychological conflicts by revenging to the man who estimated as the killer of her brother. So that, unconsciously the character’s psychological problem guide her to do a crime.
1.2 Statement of the Study

Based on the background of study above, this study states two problems in this analysis;

1. What are the psychological conflicts faced by Harriet in the novel “The Little Friend” by Donna Tartt?
2. How does Harriet solve her psychological conflicts in the novel “The Little Friend” by Donna Tartt?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

From the statements of the problems above, this study has several purposes, as follow;

1. To find out the psychological conflicts faced by Harriet in the novel “The Little Friend” by Donna Tartt.
2. To find out the way Harriet solves her psychological conflicts in the novel “The Little Friend” by Donna Tartt.

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study will give added significance in education because this novel tells about wrong way of life of a child named Harriet, who far away from his father and has no communication with her mother even they live in a home. Therefore, it can be life learning for the educators in giving education about the importance of communication and thinking logically.
For students, this study will give life learning about how to think logically in doing something. The other is this study will give more knowledge in learning literature. About how to selects certain words in writing literature in order to get the readers’ emotion.

1.5 Scope And Limitation

There are many elements that can be analyzed in this novel. However, this study focuses on psychological conflicts in the novel *The Little Friend* by Donna Tartt, while the limitation is Harriet as the main character.

1.6 Definition of the Key Term

In order to avoid misunderstanding of some words about this study, there are some definitions of the key term of this study provided below;

Psychological Conflicts: The conflicts that were caused by the psychological needs of humans, such as desire for power, control, autonomy, recognition of love (Wandle and Warren, 2013).

Main Character: A character who becomes priority in the story, as a doer or a victim (Nurgiyantoro, 1994: 165).

Donna Tartt: The author of *The Little Friend*.

Harriet: The female main character of “The Little Friend” novel by Donna Tartt.

The Little Friend: The second novel written by Donna Tartt, it was published in 2002 and has become a best seller.