CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter discusses about background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation, and the definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows:

1.1. Background of The Study

Literature is human expression. Literature can entertain and teach people various things in life. Literature can be a good reflection that can picture the whole life of mankind from very clear aspect of human experience. This notion goes in line with (Hake, 2001:1) who stated that literature present human experience without discussing but showing it in which appeals to the senses as well as to the mind of human.

Literature can be in the form of writing or text that comes from actual event or fictional story. According to Eagleton (1996: 2), “Literature' includes much 'factual' writing; it also includes quite a lot of fiction”. However, literature either includes of factual or fictions, both still have the value to the reader. People can learn through literary works such as drama, poetry, and novel. In this research, the writer will choose a novel as the object of analysis.

Novel contents fascinating story that deals with various issues about the character in the event. Child and Fowler (2006:157) stated “the fascination of the novel is that, because of its representational dimension, it raises the problem of the nature of a fiction at a point very near to familiar, unfictionalized versions of reality”. The novel is easy to understand because the issue is the representational from familiar story that happen to human. What the character deals with in the story will possibly happen to reality life. So that, by studying on depression of the main
character in the novel “The Perk of Being a Wallflower”, it will make the reader understand what the symptoms of depression are, what the cause are, and how the way to overcome the depression.

Some people think that life is sometimes hard to undergo. It is because they face a trouble in life. This problem might come after feeling lose, failure or disappointment. Those conditions may cause depression. People who get depression will think that life is not worth living and attending to feel lonely. They will feel horrible also bad for most of the time. This can be the reason of some people get stuck in long-term depression and even commit suicide. As the illustration above, the researcher is interested to analyze the depression of the main character found in the novel “The Perk of Being a Wallflower”

The novel that is analysed “The Perk of Being a Wallflower” is written by Stephen Chbosky. The writer chose Stephen Chbosky’s novel because this novel is a novel which confronts the issues that the majority of teens may go through in their adolescent years. For example, this novel explores the great depression of teen which is caused by complexity problems such as: sexual abuse, loneliness, drug and love. The novel gives the lessons how to find the way out of the dark life due to depression. In addition, this novel was first published in 1999 by MTV Books and has been recently adapted into a film (Jose, 2012:5). So, “The Perk of Being a Wallflower” is well-known novel that recommended to wide range of people old or young.

Based on the explanation above the writer discusses about the depression faced by Charlie as the main character in “The Perk of Being a Wallflower”.
1.2. Statement of The Problem

1. What were the symptoms of Charlie’s depression in Stephen Chbosky’s Novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower”?
2. What were the causes of Charlie’s depression in Stephen Chbosky’s Novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower”?
3. How did Charlie overcome his depression?

1.3. Purpose of The Study

1. To know the symptoms of Charlie’s depression in Stephen Chbosky’s Novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower”
2. To know the causes of Charlie’s depression in Stephen Chbosky’s Novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower”
3. To know how Charlie overcame his depression in Stephen Chbosky’s Novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower”

1.4. Significance of The Study

The writer hopes the result of this study can give contribution to some people that close to literary study.

- English department students, this study can inform the student that there are many varieties of studying literary work especially in the novel. By analysing the depression of the main character in the novel, the student at least has background knowledge to identify and overcome depression.
- The teachers especially in the literature teacher, the teacher can motivate the students that
studying literature can give unlimited sources such as psychological study.

- The last, this study is also expected to be used as reference for learning English literature and doing literary research.

1.5. Scope and limitation

This study, the writer focuses on the novel “The Perk of Being Wallflower” written by Stephen Chbosky. There are many topics that can be analysed in this novel but the writer focuses on the symptoms of Charlie’s depression, the cause and the ways of Charlie solved his depression. Meanwhile, the limitation of this study, the writer focuses on Charlie as the main character in “The Perk of Being a Wallflower”.

1.6. Definition of key terms

1. Depression is a medical condition that affects a person’s thoughts and feelings as well as the body, (Albrecht and Herrick, 2011: 16). Depression is the condition where the mood influences the feeling and thought.

2. Novel is an extended fictional and non-fictional prose of narrative (Baldick, 2001: 184). Novel as the non-fictional and fictional prose narrative which reflects the culture; it can be the true story, fable, or author’s past story which is based on author’s desire.

3. The perk of being a wallflower is a novel that was first published by MTV books that has been recently adapted into a film (Jose, 2012: 5). The Perk of Being a Wallflower is the title of the novel that writer want to analyse which written by American novelist Stephen Chbosky.

4. Steven Chbosky was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on January 25, 1972. He received his

5. *Charlie* is a sincere and sensitive character, who suffers from episodes of depression sparked by sexual abuse as a young child (Wolinsky, 2005). Charlie is the main character in the novel that the writer wants to analyze.