CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is the creative writing of recognized artistic value that exists in novel, drama, short story, poetry, prose, calligraphy, etc. According to Macmillan (1984), literature can give experiences to people and represent someone’s expression. Besides, literature has several benefits for people who want to know it more. It can educate people to find the knowledge of the morality because literature contains advance moral. Not only does literature give aesthetic value or religious value, it can also show some good attitudes and give good aesthetic feeling that amuses people. Therefore, literature can be the special thing because it is related with good value.

A novel is one of the most popular forms of literature. According to Macmillan (1987), a novel can best be defined as a book-length prose fiction. Unlike poetry and drama, novels are relatively modern invention. Commonly, novel contains story of life around the author or represents author’s feeling and spirit. Novel contains story of life, love, war, and many more, has got a good appreciation from people who love literature, because it gives new experiences to the readers. By reading novel, people get new experiences like the spirit of life from story that can be adapted in our daily life. Not only can we enhance our knowledge about literature, but we can also get an implicit message, which is useful for life.
When people read novels they will find the conflicts faced by each character of the story. The conflict can be about fighting, sadness, worried etc.

Conflict in a work of fiction is the battle that the main characters must wage against an opposing force (Macmillan, 1984:351). Conflicts happen not only in our society, but also in the novels, usually between the characters. Both of the conflicts in the novel and in real life can teach people to be wise because conflicts contain important messages such as courage to face complicated things. Related with literature, there are several conflicts in the novel such as: conflict between two characters, conflict between a character and the laws of society, conflict between a character and chance or fate, and inner conflict in which a character struggles with personal weaknesses (Macmillan, 1984:352). Based on the explanations above, the conflicts that are analyzed in this study are the conflicts faced by the four main characters in the novel “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter.”

“The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers is analyzed in the study because of three reasons. First, it contains messages about struggling, love, and loneliness so it can educate people in real life. Secondly, in 1998, the Modern Library ranked “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” as one of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century. Time magazine included the novel in its Time’s 100 Best English-language Novels from 1923 to 2005 (Khara, 2011).
The last, the novel was chosen as a selection for Oprah’s Book Club 2004, because according to Oprah, this novel gives contribution to a unique era in American experience and powerfully illuminates the frailty of human heart (2004).

This novel tells about the story of life in the past around the author. This novel has four main characters that have their own problems. Besides, one of the characters in this novel is Mick Kelly who represents the character of youth spirit, which also represents the autobiographical aspect of the author. Therefore, “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” becomes one of the best novels, which is interesting to be analyzed.

According to three previous studies that tell about conflicts faced by main characters, each study focused on different problems. First, Triwesrini (2003) focused on the kinds of conflicts and the effects of the conflicts. The second study, Artato (2003), analyzed the conflict faced by one main character, why the conflict happens to the main character, and how to solve the conflict. The differences are also found in the third previous study, written by Nurhaini (2005). She only focused on one conflict faced by one main character.

The statement of the problems of the three previous studies create a gap that is going to be filled in this study by adding more conflicts, more main characters, and why the conflicts happen to the main characters.
Therefore, it is expected that there will be relations between why the conflicts happen to the main characters and how each of the main characters solves the conflicts.

### 1.2 Statement of the Problems

The problems that will be analyzed in this study are stated as follows:

1. What are the kinds of conflicts faced by the four main characters: Mick Kelly, John Singer, Dr. Copeland, and Jake Blount in “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers?
2. What are the causes of conflicts faced by the four main characters?
3. How does each of the main characters solve the conflicts?

### 1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purposes of the study are formulated as follows:

1. To find out the kinds of conflicts faced by the four main characters: Mick Kelly, John Singer, Dr. Copeland, and Jake Blount in “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers.
2. To find out why the cause of conflicts, that happen to the four main characters.
3. To find out how the four main characters solve the conflicts.

### 1.4 Significant of the Study

The writer hopes the result of this study can give contribution to teachers especially in literature teaching, that literature has several morality values that can be given to the students, appropriate with the norms.
This study is also expected to add students’ knowledge about literature and the content of it (conflicts, message, morality values, etc.). By reading literature, students will know more information that can be used for their education.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is focused on the novel “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter”, written by Carson McCullers. In this study, conflicts are limited on the conflicts faced by four main characters: Mick Kelly, Jake Blount, John Singer, and Dr. Copeland because these main characters have different conflicts that represent their personality.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

In order to help understanding this study and avoid misunderstanding, some descriptions of the title are written in this definition of key terms:

**Analysis** is the way to comprehend the things or even to know how the things and events happen (Sudjiman, 1984).

**Main Characters** are the dominant people in the novel because they are often described specifically. Main characters in “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” take important role to make the story more interesting. They have different attitudes and personality, have different conflicts in each chapter, and always exist and dominate in all chapters (Adapted from Koesnobroto, 1988).
Conflicts are the battle that the main character must wage against an opposing force (Macmillan, 1984:351). Conflicts are commonly found in the novel such as psychological conflict, social conflict and physical conflict (Macmillan, 1984).

“The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” is one of the novels written by Carson McCullers.

Carson McCullers is the author of “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter”.

Novel is one of fiction works that tell author’s imagination, experience of life, which can be about love, adventure, story of life etc (Nurgiyantoro, 2005).