CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is talking about human life which is expressed in story or another types of fiction. According to Podis (1984:287), literature gives insight to human being in general or the experience of society. It proves that it is the reflection or description of human happiness or soreness in their life.

The reflection of human life can be expressed in poems, short stories, or novels. Every literary work has different characteristics. According to Koesnosobroto (1988:18), a novel is a fiction story that has length of over 100,000 words, contain a number of characters, some of them are fully developed, have more incidents, have taken place in a long span of time. Meanwhile, the readers of a novel cannot finish his reading at once because there are many words and many incidents, so he has to continue at other time. A novel usually concerns with human life and gives many moral values. Sometimes, there is correlation between the story in the novel and the reader’s experience. Besides, the story also gives new information such as problem solving or gives inspiration to the readers to do something.

The previous research done by Shinta Isaura (2012) “Analysis of Ishaan Aswathi’s struggle to heal his language disorder in Amole Gumpte’s film Like Stars on Earth” analyzed about the main character’s struggle to heal his language disorder to make his life better than before. It is interested film because the main character tries to give his life spirit and can change his life more valuable.
In addition, another research entitled “The struggle for human right of gay and AIDS-infected person of the main character in Jonathan Demme’s Philadelphia film” by Sandra Hapsari (2012) is about someone who suffered from a disease but he struggled to change his life to be better. The result is the main character success to prove the discrimination, to get lawyer, and get over from AIDS.

Based on the previous research, the researcher is interested in someone’s effort who suffers from a disease but he tries to be alive although physically he cannot do anything. Yet, he tries to give something important to someone’s life before he died. Therefore, the researcher decides to analyze the novel “Tuesday with Morrie” by Mitch Albom. That novel is written by the alumnus of Brandeis University, Massachusetts, who has a professor who suffered from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) or Lou Gerhig, a serious disease which infected the nerve system.

The researcher thinks that the novel is interesting to analyze the main character done. It is because the message and effort done by Morrie can inspire the reader to understand more and always thank to God for everything. Morrie as the main character of the novel is a popular professor of Brandeis University in America. He suffered from ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) which infected the nerve system. The effect of the disease is he could not walk because he got paralyzed. Moreover, he would die.

After he knew the final effect during a few time left, he felt alone. Meanwhile, his friends who heard his condition came to his house. They wanted to see his condition after he got the disease. From this visiting, Morrie felt that he was not alone anymore because he had many friends who cared of him. This is the fact of human life, someone who is the popular person will have many friends and they will always care of their friends. For someone who is not special or popular they might not have many friends who care of him.
We know that people are always disappointed with what they have. People always want to have another thing although they have got it. Even though they can reach it, many people try to suicide without any logical reason, or the teens decide to die because they think there is no space for them. Those incidents describe that many people need personal approach or someone else in order to know what life actually means. They want to share about their problem or their happiness even that will take many times but it will make them satisfied. We know that many legends did not do best things in the world alone. Therefore, by reading this novel, we will be aware that we have a chance to be successful although we do not have a perfect condition.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. What kinds of Morrie’s struggle?
2. What are Morrie’s reasons to struggle?
3. What are the moral values stated in the novel based on Morrie’s struggle for his family and his friends?

1.3 Purpose of the Study

This study is conducted in order to answer the question stated in statement of the problem. The purposes of this study are:

1. To describe kinds of Morrie’s struggle
2. To describe Morrie’s reasons to struggle
3. To describe the moral values stated in the novel based on Morrie’s struggle for his family and friends

1.4 Significance of the Study
This study is expected to enrich the readers’ knowledge about kind of literary work that has many stories and many styles. Therefore, the variation of story will be more interesting for the reader to read more.

It is also expected to teacher to substitute literary work such as novel into language teaching. It is due to the assumption that novel can be the material to analyze a literary work. The students will read the novel when they need to know part of the novel or characteristic of the novel. Therefore, that way might increase the students’ reading motivation indirectly.

1.5 **Scope and Limitation**

A novel has some elements such as character, plot, theme, setting, point of view, etc. The writer does not describe all of them, but she only focuses on the main character. Further, she limits the main character’s struggle that is Morrie’s struggle in Mitch Albom’s novel.

1.6 **Definition of Key Terms**

In order to avoid misunderstanding, it is necessary to describe the meaning of words stated in the title.

1. **Study** is giving time and attention to learning something (Oxford: 340)
2. **Struggle** is an energetic attempt to achieve something (Artikata.com)
3. **Novel** is long written story (Oxford: 290)
4. **Tuesdays with Morrie** is the title of the novel written by Mitch Albom