CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer would like to present the background of the study, the statement problems, the objective of the study, scope and limitation, the purpose of the study, and also the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature refers to writing that has little to do with feeling or artful form, as in scientific literature on a particular subject or campaign literature (Beaty: 2002). It is a writing that has the power to move the reader’s heart or to stir her or his emotion. Literature represents the expression of human life in the form of experience, thought, idea and feeling in concrete description by using a language as a medium. It gives us the information about human experience in which it is usually talking about something important of life like human problem, feeling and situation.

Generally, literary is categorized into poetry (poem), prose (fiction) and drama (play). In addition, Beaty (2002) divides literature as oral and even visual forms (film and video that being closely related to drama). People use oral literature to express their ideas, belief, and values, and negotiate through their net of social relationship. The examples of oral literature itself are myths, legends, folktales, fairytales, songs, proverbs, etc. Meanwhile, the visual literature is an art that can be
enjoyed by the sense of hearing and the sense of sight, for instance performing music, poetry, dance, drama or film.

According to Beaty (2002:14), literary work is not always written yet even is sung like epics, acted out in the stage as play (drama), and oral storytellers that mostly talk about cultures. Performance or play aims more overtly to move or persuade the group or community. The persuasion usually concerns with messages or moral values that represent to the reflection of human life. One kind of drama is movie or film.

Therefore, film is one of literary works that is interested to be analyzed for some reasons. First, the expressions or acts of the actor can give the audience a real entertainment since it is acted by talented actor and actress. Second, the technologies (visual and sound effect) are made by the film maker that supports the story that can make the audiences go and flow with a feeling of scared, angry, sad, excited, etc. Third, the events (the story of the film) can be based on experience or phenomena or imagination that can give the audience knowledge about life style, language, culture, illumination to solve problems and so on.

Film is a combination of quite disparate parts, expressions, technologies and events, and produces a whole unit. Film as an art and culture has the functionality and benefits of a broad and nice big field of social, economic, or cultural phenomenon. It is also as a means of empowering the public and a source of information (Bazin in Colman, 2009: 17). Furthermore, DiYanni (2004: 913) states that when we evaluate a play, it derives cultural, moral and aesthetic values that reflect to our ethical norms—what we consider to be good or evil, right or wrong. It means that by watching film,
the audience can get some situations in the story and determine or interpret which are good or wrong to be applied in the real life.

Film elements are the same with drama elements that consist of characters, plot, setting, theme, dialogue, and conflict (Schmidt, 2006: 1418). One that can be learned in the film is conflict. From conflict, we can take a message or lesson that we can apply in everyday life. There are two kinds of conflict; internal conflict and external conflict.

Internal conflict is complication that happens within a character; it may be a moral dilemma the character is facing, or it may take the shape of a choice or a desire (Richards, 2012). It deals with the character’s own mixed feeling and emotion. For instance, a character may have to decide between right and wrong or between two solutions to a problem.

Furthermore, Madden (2007: 91) explains external conflict is able to be in the form of physical (characters against natural) or social (characters against each other or against society). It means that external conflict is the conflict between a character with the natural environment (physical conflict) or the human environment (social conflict). Social conflict is caused by the relationship between the human or social problems. The causes are the difference of individual principle and feelings; the difference of cultural backgrounds that form the distinct personalities, individual or group differences, and the last is rapid and sudden change of values in the community.

In relation of this study, the film with title “Gifted hand” was launched on February 7th, 2009. It is an American drama film directed by Thomas Carter and
written by John Pielmeier. The film is the true story of a black child raised by a single mother who constantly encourage him to use his God-given gifts. He grows from being a poor student to the top of his class and then to become a world-famous neurosurgeon. It would be hard not to be inspired by this movie. There are many struggles in facing conflicts in his life both internal and external conflicts. The researcher is interested in analyzing the external conflicts especially in the social one since the film character faced most these conflicts in his life.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The writer intends to find out the answers to the following questions related to the main character’s social conflict:

1. What are Benjamin Carson’s social conflicts?
2. What are the causes of Benjamin Carson’s social conflicts?

1.3 Purpose of Study

Based on the statement of the problems, the purpose of this study is presented as follows:

1. To know Benjamin Carson’s social conflicts.
2. To know the causes of Benjamin Carson’s social conflicts.

1.4 Significance of Study

The writer wants to present some contributions based on the result of the study to the reader, especially the students and lecturers of English Department in
University of Muhammadiyah Malang. The students that read this study will get information and knowledge about literature. Besides, this study also can be used as the reference when the students want to analyze film, especially about social conflict in their research. In addition, the lecturers that also read this study can use it as an additional reference in teaching and learning literature.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study

This study is focused on the film “Gifted hand” there are many topics that can be analyzed in this film, but in this study, the writer only focuses on social conflict. In this film, there are also many social conflicts, which are done by some characters. Meanwhile, for the scope of the study, the writer tries to analyze the main character’s social conflict that is Benjamin Carson. Social conflict itself has many parts that can be analyzed yet the limitation of the study is to analyze the way and the result of Benjamin’s social conflict to get his success life.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid making mistakes and misunderstanding, the key terms of this study are given below:

a. Film : film is as visual form of literary work that is analyzed in this research. The film contains the real story of someone.

b. Social conflict : Social conflict is one element of film (drama) that is analyzed in this research. It is the problems faced by the
character in his social relationship during his struggle to get the dream.

c. *Gifted hand*: It is the title of the film that will be discussed in this study. It is American drama film directed by Thomas Carter and written by John Pielmeier in 2009.