CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents some topics dealing with introduction. These topics are background of the study, statement of the problems, purposes of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definitions of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

Language is a tool for communication. It has an important role to reveal intention to someone. People can express their thought and feeling by using language. English has become the primary language of communication. It is spoken by millions of people all over the world. English has become the dominant language in many fields of activity such as industry, military, business, tourism, transportation, sports, international relation, art etc. In Indonesia, English is adopted as the foreign language.

One of English studies in art aspect is literature. “Literature is a speech act or textual event that elicits certain kinds of attention. It contrasts with other sorts of speech acts, such as imparting information, asking questions or making promises” (Culler, 2000). It can be stated that literature is the kind of work that is be able to be the entertainment that catch the attention of the reader. Literary works in Indonesia has been developed since a long time ago both in their quantity and their quality. Literature comes from human being’s life such as
feeling, attitude, human problem, and personal experience. Tiastuti (2011) states “Reading literature will enrich our mental life and moral improvement as a prospective toward life because, the majority, literary works have many valuable experiences from human life and are the imitation of social life”. But, they are still mixed with the imagination of the author. Literature consists of short story, poem, drama, and novel.

Novel as one of literary works is a kind of prose fiction. Koesnosoebroto (1988) stated that prose fiction is a work of imagination which is different from an essay and according to Wright (in Koesnosoebroto, 1988) “Novel is a long work of prose fiction which makes some claims to be considered as a work of art”. So, novel has a long story, chapter to chapter to entertain the reader and they will come into the world of imagination created by the author. Moreover, by reading from page to page, the reader will feel the real emotion (laugh, cry, get angry) even it is only a fiction. According to Arp and Johnson (2006), “Novel gives more detail awareness of humanity in the world that is sometimes friendly and unfriendly. It also helps the readers to understand their world, neighbors, and themselves.” Because novel tells about human being and life, provides information and lesson, and can affect readers’ emotion, in this case, the researcher only focuses on novel to be analyzed.

Human’s persistence is one of the topics that usually the novel tells about. Edison says, “Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up”. This is a motivational quote to help people who feel like giving up on a goal, a dream, a pursuit or a belief. Edison
says if people lack persistence and motivation, they often give up too easily just when they may be at the brink of success. Seligman & Peterson (in Simbolon, 2013) argues that persistence is one of the character strengths. It is the voluntary action that is done in order to reach goals although there are obstacles, difficulties or despairs. Cloninger (in Gautam, 2008) also states that someone who are persistent, they are are eager to start work, do not give up easily, tend to work extra hard and will make major sacrifices to be a success.

Based on the previous study intended by Hamidah (2012), in her thesis “An analysis of Akeelah’s struggle to become the winner in spelling bee at “Akeelah and The Bee” film” stated that the girl who names Akeelah is persistent to become the winner in spelling bee contest. She faced many problems, but she is really persistent to reach his goal, and finally she became the winner in spelling bee contest. The result of this research shows that persistence is one of the characteristic that human should have. Persistence is included of the struggle. It is important and interesting to discuss because people have to struggle and persistence to get what they want and face their problem.

The researcher chooses the novel entitled “The Land of Five Towers” (2011) directed by Ahmad Fuadi to be analyzed. This novel is a popular novel. It was adapted into a film with the title ”Negeri 5 Menara” which released on March 2012. More specifically, this study analyzes the persistence of Alif in reaching his dream. He is still persistent to find his bright future which began half-heartedly decision. The researcher and also the reader can take many lessons of Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream since knowing that persistence is totally needed
in human life. Just like phrase that is always held by Alif, *man jadda wa jada*, he who gives his all will surely succeed. This novel is inspired by a true story. It is inspired by the author's enlightening education experience at Pondok Modern Gontor, East Java. The main character (Alif) is inspired by his friend, and some are a composite of several people

1.2 **Statement of Problems**

The problems which are going to be discussed in this study are as follows:

1. What is Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”?

2. How is Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”?

1.3 **Purposes of the Study**

Related to the statement problems above, the purposes of the study are as follows:

1. To find out Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”.

2. To describe how Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”.
1.4 **Significance of the Study**

In the significance of the study, the researcher would like to show the contribution of this study. It might contributes special information for the students, teachers and lectures, even the next researchers, especially in English Department and also for the public reader.

For students, it is hoped this study can help them to learn more and analyze about Alif’s persistence in reaching his dream in order to reflect it to the real life.

For teachers and lecturers, the result of this study can help them to give a valuable contribution in teaching English, especially related with literature and hopefully can be the alternative reference to the teacher in teaching literature.

For the next researcher, it is expected that the study can be a reference for developing the research.

For the public readers, it is hoped that it can overcome the problem that may happen in their life which has similarity with the problem in this novel.

1.5 **Scope and Limitation**

Based on the research objective above, there are many topics and lessons that can be taken from the novel being analyzed but this research is only focus on Alif’s persistence in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”.
Therefore, this research is only limited on the kind of Alif’s persistence and how Alif’s persistence.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

The definition of key term is used in this study in order to avoid the misunderstanding, so that is why the researcher makes the term that defined to:

1. **An analysis** is separating the object of the study into parts in order to examine in details its aspect

2. **Persistence** is the voluntary action that is done in order to reach goals although there are obstacles, difficulties or despairs (Seligman & Peterson, 2004)

3. **Dream** is a strongly desired goal or purpose (Vischer, 2008)

4. **Novel** is a long story about imaginary or partly imaginary characters and events” (Madden, 2007)

5. **Alif** is one of the main characters in Ahmad Fuadi’s “The Land of Five Towers”

6. **Ahmad Fuadi** is the author of the “The Land of Five Towers” novel

7. **The Land of Five Towers** is the title of novel studied in this thesis.