CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents such topics as research background, research problems, research objectives, scope and limitation, research significance and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Research Background

As people widely known, literature is a spoken or written artwork which has value in its artistic or intellect for the authors or the readers. It refers to the amount of literary works that have been developed. Literature could be supposed as portray of mirror in life. It is often presented by imaginative form through human expression. Therefore, literature is able to stir the human senses in understanding the message or meaning that contain inside.

According to Long (2014) literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man's spirit, of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations; it is the history, and the only history, of the human soul. It means literature is a masterpiece which derives from the author’s mind and heart then it poured in either spoken or written form. It consists of beautiful language. Probably it grows to be one of the reasons why the readers are interested to use their imagination to figure out the message or meaning of the history.

Literature could be classified into several genres whether it is fiction or non-fiction and the major forms are poetry, drama and prose. While literary works are divided into varieties such as novel, film, poem, short story and etc. Among all of
the literary works which have been mentioned previously, the researcher decided
to select short story to be analyzed.

Shaw (2013) stated that short story as stretch of fictional prose which is
shaped and controlled so as to leave no margin of error in the way it creates a
pleasing, unified impression of the reader’s imagination. It concerns for the
readers to think instinctually to get interpretation about the short story. The short
story has no set of length. It makes the readers should be able to read the story in
one sitting. The short story consists of several elements which are character, point
of view (POV), plot, conflict, theme, drama and setting.

Based on the elements above, the researcher is interested to analyze the
character of the short story. A character is an artificial construction given
individual and personal qualities by the author—a created personality with
actions, attitudes, thoughts, and expressions (Ammann, 2011). “The Tell-Tale
Heart” short story is narrated by two characters and has no name. One of the
characters is portrayed as the murderer and the other as the old man. However, the
relationships between those two characters and the gender of the murderer are still
unclear.

In this study, the researcher focuses on paranoia as portrayed by the murderer.
Ryan (2012) points that the etymology of the term paranoia means “near the
mind” or “out of mind” and indicates in its most general form, a system of ideas
or beliefs that differ from reality as it commonly perceived. Paranoia is a
symptom of pathological condition through the fear or distress which is suffered
by someone. People who suffer paranoia have unusual ways of thinking. It
commonly refers to persecution idea. According to the Foster (2016), the causes
of paranoia are identified into several factors which are life experiences, experiences in childhood, external environment, mental health, physical illness, lack of sleep, the effects of drugs and alcohol, and genetics. Based on DSM-IV-TR (2000), the diagnostic criteria of paranoia that affected the sufferer are: 1) suspects, without sufficient basis, that others are exploiting, harming, or deceiving him or her, 2) is preoccupied with unjustified doubts about the loyalty or trustworthiness of friends or associates, 3) is reluctant to confide in other because of unwarranted fear that the information will be used maliciously against him or her, 4) reads hidden demeaning or threatening meanings into benign remarks or events, 5) persistently bears grudges, i.e., is unforgiving of insults, injuries, or slights, 6) perceives attacks on his or her character or reputation that are not apparent to others and is quick to act angrily or to counter attack, has recurrent suspicions, without justification, regarding fidelity of spouse or sexual partner.

“The Tell-Tale Heart” is one of the popular short story’s titles written by Edgar Allan Poe. It was first published in 1843. The story is delivered in gothic literature genre which related with fiction and horror. It could be attracted the researcher’s interest to read the story. Moreover, there was a monologue performance of “The Tell-Tale Heart” in Bahasa Indonesia which presented by LSO Teater Katamati FKIP-UMM. It certainly helps the researcher to analyze the story.

In this case, paranoia is important to be analyzed because this symptoms figure out how the murderer is. The researcher is also interested with “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story because of the higher curiosity about the story. It
contained such a mystery inside. It is not easier to be guessed. Thus, this one is worth to be analyzed.

The similar study has been described in previous by Nicholas Zalomon (2007). He analyzed the paranoia of Oedipa Maas in Thomas Pynchon’s *The Crying of Lot 49*. From this study, the researcher tries to improve about paranoia as portrayed by the murderer. In this case, “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe is chosen as the object of analysis.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background study above, the researcher has several problems related to the paranoia as portrayed by the murderer which are formulated in the following questions:

1. How does the paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe?
2. What is the cause of paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe?
3. What are the effects of paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe?

1.3 Research Objectives

The aims of this study are to gain the answer of the problems. They are formulated as follows:

1. To identify the paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.
2. To describe the cause of paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. To find out the effects of paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study focuses in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe. The limitation of this study focuses on paranoia as portrayed by the murderer in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

1.5 Research Significance

The researcher expected that the results of this study are being useful for several people as follows: first, the researcher. It is worth for the researcher to have more knowledge about paranoia. Second, the readers. This study expected the readers to be able in identifying about paranoia and third is for English Department students. The result of this study can be used as a reference to do the similar research in literature.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

To avoid misunderstanding in this study, the researcher provides some definitions as follows:

1. Literature is the expression of life in words of truth and beauty; it is the written record of man’s spirit, of his thoughts, emotions, aspirations; it is the history, and the only history, of the human soul (Long, 2014).
2. In this research, literature is a creative writing that has value and offered as an imaginative work in beautiful language written by Edgar Allan Poe.

3. The etymology of the term paranoia means “near the mind” or “out of mind” and indicates in its most general form, a system of ideas or beliefs that differ from reality as it commonly perceived (Ryan, 2012).

4. Based on this research, paranoia is pathological condition due to the fears about something that suffered by the character in “The Tell-Tale Heart” short story written by Edgar Allan Poe.

5. A character is an artificial construction given individual and personal qualities by the author—a created personality with actions, attitudes, thoughts, and expressions (Ammann, 2011).

6. According to this research, characters are the person or narrators with personal qualities who drive the story.

7. Short Story as stretch of fictional prose which is shaped and controlled so as to leave no margin of error in the way it creates a pleasing, unified impression of the reader’s imagination (Shaw, 2013).

8. In this research, short story is one of narrative literary works that deals with a few characters, event, and plot.