

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are many literary works that we can find in our life. Usually, literature teaches us something to learn about life, that can be used to illustrate all the things that occur in reality. Through fiction, poetry and drama, people can learn about life, because sometimes fiction tells about reality. Fiction has a close relation with reality, that can be reflections of human lives, eventhough fiction is a product of imagination that refers to any narrative. Thus, fiction is the relationship between the created world of a given work and the real world of objective experience (Pickering and Hoepfer, 1981 : 11).

Novel is one example of prose fiction (Wellek and Warren, 1949 : 227). “Novel may consist of over 100.000 words, contain a number of characters – some of them are fully developed, have more incidents, sense, or episodes, have a number of settings and may take place in a long span of time” (Koesnosoebroto,1988 : 19). Novel has one theme, minor and major crises (conflicts) and climax. Compared to short story and epic, novel is more interesting to analyzed because novel has more characters, setting and conflicts. Novel is different because “novel is a story to be communicated silently, at whatever moment and at whatever place (whether quickly or slowly and meditatively) that the reader desired” (Kennedy, 1979 :231).

There are many elements of fiction: theme, character, setting, point of view, style, language, symbolism, plot and conflict (Kirszner and Mandell, 2000 :

4), which each of elements takes a part in a story to support and to make a story to become better. There is a relation between one element of literature and other elements, analyzing one element can help to reveal another element. For example to find theme in a story we can see through setting or conflicts.

The Family from One End Street was written by Eve Garnett, published by Frederick Muller in 1937. This novel won the Carnegie Medal on 1937 for the best children's book . It is a very simple novel that tells about a big poor family of Mr. and Mrs. Ruggles who have seven children. This novel has an interesting story that is written in simple language and easy to understand. It has many conflicts that make this story more interesting. The conflict maybe external or internal that happens on characters in this novel. It tells various conflicts and the solutions. Due the existence of those conflicts, the story develops.

Conflict is important to literature and as part of story, because conflict provides the basic materials for the construction of the plot. Conflict takes two opposing people or forces to produce plot. Without this opposing there is no conflict, and without the conflict there is no plot (Potter, 1967 : 25). Conflict happens dealing with characters with his/herself (internal conflict) and characters with other characters (external conflict). External conflict is conflict among characters that is very visible on the story and take part to make a story run better. In *The Family from One End Street*, one of major characters, Mrs. Ruggles has many conflicts, especially dealing with other characters. She faces conlicts with her family members, for example when she has different perceptions with her husband about their twins's name.

Theme in a story is also important, because theme is like a scaffold that is used by workers in the construction of a large building, when the building is complete, it is removed, but the effect of the scaffold is still apparent (Roberts & Henry, 1989 : 58). As the proces of writing a novel, the most important thing that the author has to think is about the theme of the novel. Wherever and whenever the author writes the novel, the theme will remain in her/his thoughts although the theme is not clearly written by the author. Therefore, the function of the theme is understated but it is essential ingredient to make a story meaningful. Finding the theme is interesting because theme is thecental idea about a subject that all the elements of a story work together to develop. There are several ways to find out the theme of a novel, it can be through from the characters, settings, conflicts, etc. This study focuses on finding theme from external conflict.

Formalistic approach is applied in generating theme through other intrinsic element, external conflict. It is the most basic approach to the analysis of literature, often used to develop the interpretation of literary texts. “Formalistic approach regards a work of literature as a world in itself that can be understood by its intrinsic nature-focusing on form over content” (Ann, 2007 : 1799).

This studyreveals the themethat is generated from external conflicts of Mrs. Ruggles in *The Family from One End Street*in the frame of formalistic approach.