CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

“... My Edward and I, then, are happy; and the more so, because those we most love are happy likewise.”

It is a common phrase that exists in fairy tales. This idea is also found in the novel "Jane Eyre". Jane, the main character, would like to pursue her happiness. She felt that she would find external happiness with Edward Rochester.

A person’s characteristics usually change gradually as the time goes. When a child starts to go to school, he would interact and build relationships with his or her friends. In his or her relationships, he or she might face problems like having different opinions, competing for small things, fighting, and other things. From facing those things, he or she will learn how to adapt the situations by solving the problems. This kind of situation was described by Van Moll and Kortland as a character development which refers to changes in character because of human contacts and experiences (1967:12).
A character development is figured out by the writer as he was reading a very interesting novel entitled *Jane Eyre*. This novel told readers about a story of a woman, named Jane Eyre, who was raised by her cruel aunt, Mrs. Reed. Jane Eyre was abused by her aunt and bullied by her cousin, John Reed. It was a servant named Bessie who strengthened and cared for her until the day she was sent to school. She had to face many problems there like dealing with a cunning abusive headmaster, Mr. Brocklehurst, and losing her bestfriend, Helen. However, she survived and became a teacher. Her new life conflicts were started when she worked as a private teacher at Thornfield where she fell in love with a cold Mr. Rochester. Though they finally got married but Jane Eyre’s problem did not finished as she knew that her husband had married before and his wife, Bertha, was still alive. Jane experienced many other things but at the end she held her marriage with Mr. Rochester, though this man had turned to be blind and poor. The writer is interested to find out how Jane Eyre survived from all her problems and changed her characteristics from weak to strong after all the events and conflicts happen in her life.

The writer chooses to use external conflict to search the character development from Jane Eyre. External conflict is a conflict that emerges between individuals to the other individuals, forces
major, or community. This theory helps the writer in seeking the character development of Jane Eyre.

The writer would use formalistic approach to know Jane Eyre’s characteristics through conflicts. Formalist criticism regards literature as a unique form of human knowledge that needs to be examined on its own terms. “The natural and sensible starting point for work in literary scholarship,” René Wellek and Austin Warren wrote in their influential *Theory of Literature*, is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves.

"In other words, formalistic approach focuses on the elements inside the text. The two elements that are going to be analyzed are characteristics and conflicts. It is in line with the theories of character development that somebody’s characteristics can develop after he or she experiences events, and the events can be conflicts.

This study is going to analyze Jane Eyre’s character development through her external conflicts."