CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*The Silver Chair* is a fantasy genre novel, which entertains readers by taking them to an adventure of another world of fantasy.

“Far from here in the land of Narnia there lives an aged king who is sad because he has no prince of his blood to be king after him. He has no heir because his only son was stolen from him many years ago, and no one in Narnia knows where that prince went or whether he is still alive. But he is. I lay on you this command, that you seek this lost prince until either you have found him and brought him to his father’s house, or else died in the attempt, or else gone back into your own world.” (The Silver Chair. pp. 25)

The above quotation is taken from C. S. Lewis’s *The Silver Chair*. Jill Pole as the main character was sent from the real world to the other world to find the lost prince. Lukens stated in her book, *A Critical Handbook of Children Literature*, that the writer of fantasy creates another world for character and readers, and asks readers to believe this the other world could and does exist within the framework of the book. By creating another world, the author gives the readers especially the young readers a pleasure and understanding that they may have not experience before.
The Silver Chair presents an adventure of the main character, Jill Pole, in two different worlds, which later changes his characteristics. Lukens points out (1990: 37-41) that if the functions of literature include the giving of pleasure and the discovery and understanding of ideas and of other human being, then character development in literature makes its own contribution to these ends. She also emphasized that the most important thing in understanding any fiction was analyzing the character and action, since the character was the determination of incident and incident was the illustration of character. She added that the skillful writer showed characters by means of actions and speeches so that character, incident, and outcome seem interwoven and at the end inevitable.

In this paper, the writer wanted to analyze the plot of the story to find Jill Pole’s character development as the main character in the novel written by C. S. Lewis entitled The Silver Chair. The writer thought that the problem is interesting to be analyzed because the author develop Jill’s characteristics through a fantasy journey so that it could give the readers, especially young ones, the understanding.

The novel is about two Junior High School students, Jill Pole and Eustace Scrubb, who had been bullied by a school gang in their school. One day they had an opportunity to travel to another world, called Aslan’s world or Narnia. As they entered to that place, Aslan gave them a task to find the lost prince. On their way to find the lost prince, Prince Rilian, they should past through many events like sailing to the ocean, having a parliament of owls, having Puddleglum, taking journey
through the wild waste land of the North, being trapped in the dark castle, and many more.

They also had to obey the four signs given by Aslan: firstly, Eustace should meet his old friend; secondly, they should journey out of Narnia to the north till the ruined city of the ancient giants; thirdly, they shall find a writing on a stone in that ruined city and do what the writing tells them; and the last, the prince was the first person who will ask them to do something in the name of Aslan. Those events and signs were parts of the sequences of the plot, which would change Jill’s characteristics.

In this study the writer is going to find out Jill’s character development through plot. In order to arrived at the purpose, the writer would firstly analysing the plot because plot is the one of the literary element which is intentionaly be chosen and ordered by the author as the best way of telling his story, through out the plot, the author revealed the character. Therefore, the writer chose plot as one of literary element to know Jill’s character development.