CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Lot of authors defines literature as only an entertainment, until the reader only uses a literary work to spend their spare times (Paquette 20). But, there are so many benefits and brilliant definitions about literary work (Rokhmansyah 2). And the first important one, that is more beautiful than drink a black coffee (White 295). Through a measure of resonance with the reader's world, a literary text can "take up residence in its reader's transitional space where his self-other boundaries are temporarily fluid, allowing the text's form to reshape his experience of other and others and his ways of relating to them, a transformation whose repercussions extend to the culture in which he dwells" (Bruns 35).

Literary work was created with choosing good diction, in order that the sentences can be amazing and the reader enjoy to understanding the meaning or moral message that author conveys in their literary work. In addition, the beauty of literature is a part of its rhetoric, and a device which is intended to strengthen the overall persuasiveness and influence of the work on its audience (Richardson 3).

According to Wicaksono, literature is an expression of author's experience, that literature cannot be detached from the life experience of its author

and its scholar. Besides, it contains a projection of human anxiety with all kinds of cultural, social, and spiritual matter (2).

Wicaksono says that literary work is a form of creativity in a beautiful language which contains a set of internal experience and imagination that comes from the imagination of an author towards social reality (1). Damono, in Wicaksono's book, adds that literary work displays a reflection of life as social reality. It means that literary work is created due to the existence of author internal experience about a reflection of life or social reality.

Boon defines that literature is a creative and universal form of expression that indicates the emotional, spiritual, or intellectual concerns of humanity (214). So, the world presented and represented in literature is adopted from the writer's experience of a social and historical reality (Dani and Mohen ed 276). Therefore, these explanations lead to an argument of Dawson toward literature, that literature as a primary artistic product has a creative sense and critical commentary (37). Emotional, intellectual, sense of humanity, social and historical reality will be seen in a work of literature. Commonly, the work of literature can be said as literary work.

Literary work is an integral unity of some elements which construct it. The elements which construct a literary work can be categorized into two aspects: form and content aspect. In this case, Budi Darma through a book Babad Panjalu, states that the form aspect of literary work is a way of an author in delivering his ideas and concepts. Then, the content aspect of literary work is the ideas and

concepts that an author intends to deliver (Rosyadi, Kusumah, Aswan, and Udansyah 219). Therefore, there are some kinds of literary work, like drama, poetry, and prose in which these are used to deliver the ideas and concepts of an author (Rokhmansyah 2).

The first kind of literary work is drama. As Bloemendal, Eversmann, and Strictman, drama is a form of composition which is designed for performance in a theatre, in which actors take the roles of the characters to perform the indicated action, and utter the written dialogue (1). It also involves a presentation of a situation which tells a story in the term of some kind of physical action (Hartley and Ladu 1). Therefore, drama is the practice of a written work of literature.

The further kind of literary work is poetry. According to Runco and Pritzker, that poetry is the oldest form of literature in which it is an arrangement of words in verse, and always rhythmical and rhymed (409). It is also made up of a distinctive form which uses short sentences in its lines, and contains of rhythmic pattern, rhyming words, and word repetition (Cowen and Cohen 407). As one of genre of literary work, for Webster through Lawrence's book, argues that poetry also functions to tell a story and express any kind of emotion, idea, or state of being (149). Therefore, poetry is a beautiful language arranged systematically and with specific pattern within, in which it tells a story designed by the existence of emotion and idea of the poet.

The last genre of literary work is prose. Mardalena defines prose as writing that is organized in sentences and paragraphs (1). It is also a free composition

which is not banded with the principle of poetry, and it is usually used to describe an evidence and idea (Intisa 37). Therefore, prose is a piece of creative writing, in which its language is not in verse form, but it has a similar value. It makes the literary work in prose tend to be long as in novel.

Novel and short story are a kind of prose. Jassin through Nurgiyantoro in Wicaksono's book claims that novel is a work containing a story which plays within human world. Semi and Atas argue in the same sense of understanding that novel expresses a focus on life, and expresses a deeper aspect of humanity which is delivered smoothly (Wicaksono 76). Somehow, short story can also have its setting on a period of history and it can attempt to convey the spirit, manners, and social condition of a past time. This is what actually called as a historical novel (Kuiper 33).

The researcher is interested in analyzing short story, because short story brings more pressure. Short stories are precise with their delivery; they must capture the attention of the reader extraordinarily quickly, and tell a full tale from beginning to end in roughly a half hour of reading. Short stories will likely never be as widely read as novels, but they do matter to those who are paying attention (Kuiper 42).

The short stories the researcher analysis are God See The Truth, But Wait by Leo Tolstoy and A Latter For God by Gregoria Lopez. The short story of Leo Tolstoy entitled *God See The Truth, But Wait* tells about a merchant man, Aksionov was a merchant who likes to get drunk, but he was so friendly with the

environment, to the people around him who are so comfortable. Someday there is a problem that afflicts Aksionov, he is accused a murderer because there was a blood-stained knife in his bag. Then, he should be thrown in to the jail. The incident has been shown by the God through his wife's dream. But Aksionov is in ignorance of the dream and still goes to a fair of business venture. For twenty-six years he lived in prison, he decided to be himself and his life to God. All the prisoners in the prison were very happy close to Aksionov, he was wise and humble. Before the end of his life, he met with the accused killer of his time touring business twenty-six years ago. But at the moment, Aksionov is very angry and confused to see the real killer. Surprisingly, Aksionov help him in order that he is not heavily punished. No sooner Aksionov get out of the jail than he is dead.

The second short story is *A letter For God* by Gregoria Lopez. This short story tells about a poor farmer, the name is Lencho. Lencho is a poor Mexican farmer whose crop of corn and beans is in desperate need of rain. He and his family are delighted when rain finally comes, but to his horror, the rain changes to enormous hailstones which completely destroy his crops. Lencho and his family are facing hunger and perhaps starvation, and they realize that their only hope is God's help. That night Lencho writes a letter to God: "God, if you don't help me, I and my whole family will go hungry this year. I need a hundred pesos to plant again and to live on while the new harvest comes in, because the hail..." He addresses the letter simply "To God" and goes to the village post office to buy a stamp and mail his letter.

From stories above there were some similarities about two short stories, Aksionov and Lencho. They are the work hard men who want to have a good life, they are husband who already believed in God, and they are asking a help to the God in bad situation. Therefore, the researcher is interested in comparing the two short stories with the title A Comparative Study on Perception of God through the Character of Aksionov in Leo Tolstoy's Short Story "God Sees The Truth, But Wait" and Lencho in Gregoria Lopez's "A Letter For God".

1.2 Problems of The Study

This research has some problems of the study as formulated in the following below:

- 1.2.1 How is Aksionov perception of God in Leo Tolstoy's "God See The Truth, But Wait"?
- **1.2.2** How is Lencho perception of God in Gregoria Lopez's "A Letter for God"?
- **1.2.3** How is compariosn of God revealed through both characters in both short stories?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

As the problems of the study, this research has several objectives as follows:

1.3.1 To know Aksionov perception of God in Leo Tolstoy's "God See The Truth, But Wait".

- **1.3.2** To know Lencho perception of God in Gregoria Lopez's "A Letter for God".
- **1.3.3** To identify comparison of God revealed through both characters in both short stories.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of The Study

The scope of the study is made to make the discussion of the research clear and systematic. Therefore, the research stands on the scope or coverage area of Comparative perception of God in short story of *Leo Tolstoy* entitled 'God See The Truth, But Wait' and Gregoria Lopez entitled 'A Latter For God'.

Furthermore, the limitation of the study is trying to make the research focused on the specific discussions which the writer chooses. Therefore, the study intends to give a limitation of the research on the discussion of Aksionov and Lencho character in short story of *Leo Tolstoy* entitled 'God See The Truth, But Wait' and Gregoria Lopez entitled 'A Latter For God'.

1.5 Significance of The Study

Theoretically, this research with the title A Camporative Study on

Perception of God through the Character of Aksionov in Leo Tolstoy's Short Story

"God Sees The Truth, But Wait" and Lencho in Gregoria Lopez's "A Letter For

God" is supposed to be useful for further study in literature of English

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Ampel Surabaya in broadening the knowledge of literature.

In practically, that this research would be much more benefit for readers to know everyone perception of God in the same and different religion.

1.6 Method of Study

In this part of thesis, method of study tries to discuss about how the research is done scientifically. Therefore, there are several steps used in this study, they are research design, source of data, procedure of data collection, and procedure of data analysis.

1.6.1 Research Design

Due to the need of analyzing the object discussed, the study applies descriptive qualitative research method. According to Raco, the data in descriptive research will concern to text (60). This research does not take any concern on data counting, but it concerns on the interpretation and analysis on the object with some helps of library research. Thus, the study applies for qualitative research method based on library research.

1.6.2 Source of Data

Due to the methodology of research used is qualitative research method, therefore, the data will be taken from the text of the novel entitled Short Story Of Leo Tolstoy In The Title 'God See The Truth, But Wait' And Gregoria Lopez In The Title 'A Latter For God'. The research will then take some quotations in the novel involving both dialogue and prologue which is related to the statement of problem.

1.6.3 Technique of Data Collection

Technique of data collection is a strategic step in a research. In this case, the technique of data collection can be done in compare both of short stories. As Catherine Marshall and Gretchen B. Rossman's statement quoted by Sugiyono that "the basic methods relied on by qualitative researchers for information gathering contains at least several procedures are participation in the setting, direct observation, in-depth interview, and document review" (225). Therefore, due to the methodology of research used, the data is collected through documentary technique which relies on library research.

Therefore, there are several steps in collecting the data according to the problem of the study, and those will be classified in the following below:

- Reading the short stories of Leo Tolstoy in the Title 'God See The Truth,
 But Wait' And Gregoria Lopez in the Title 'A Latter For God'.
- Taking a note and understanding the differences and similarities in both of short stories, Leo Tolstoy in the Title 'God See The Truth, But Wait' And Gregoria Lopez in the Title 'A Latter For God'.
- Collect some related quotation including dialogue and prologue according to the statement of problem.

1.6.4 Technique of Data Analysis

In qualitative research method, the data is obtained from various sources by using various techniques of data collection, and it is done continuously up to the final and considered-sufficient data. Stainback through Sugiyono's book says, "Data analysis is critical to the qualitative research process. It is to recognition, study, and understanding of interrelationship and concepts in your data that hypotheses and assertions can be developed and evaluated".

Technique in this research uses comparing perception of God through main character, Aksionov and Lencho in both literary works.

1.7 Definition of Related Key Term

In this phase, the research cedes several clues which will help the readers to understand the topic and problem discussed in this thesis. The clues are formulated in the form of key term in which it would be defined clearly in order to be a useful point in reading the thesis. Therefore, those related key terms would be in the following below.

Comparative study: A study that explores vicissitude, alternation,

development and differences between two

literary works or more. In other word, this study

constitutes literary research that is not barren

and bored, because there are so many new

things inside (Giffod 1).

the lord is God. It is he, who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanks giving and

his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name (Psalin in The Journal of Beth Moore *Believing God*).

