Chapter I

Introduction

A. Background of Study

According to David Carter before18's the meaning of literature is all of the kinds of writing. All of the kinds of writing which is present whatever about history, philosophy and so on is included in literature. Carter concludes that literature is the society's distribution in that time (17). So literature is the written work that had some influence from the society.

In other hand, Rees in *An Introduction to Literature and Literary Criticism* said that literature is the expression, thought, and feelings about life and world that is shown permanently in words (2). In the same book Boulton argued that literary work have some functions like recreation, recognition, revelation and redemption (2). From those explanations we know that literature have some function and some sources especially from and for our life.

In *An Introduction to Literature and Literary Criticism* literary work have some genres those are drama, poetry and prose (Natl. Open university of Nigeria 6). *Teaching and Learning to Standards Reading and Literature – A Glossary of Literary Terms* book describe that novel is one of the fictional prose story (2). Kuiper argues that novel is a genre of fiction, and fiction is the written words that define as the art or craft or contriving about human life (1).

According to Wellek and Warren there are instrinsic and extrinsic approach that develop the literary work. Extrinsic approach are the applicable study which is not only in the past day but also applicable for the literature in present day. Historical, environmental, biography of the writer and social and political condition are the extrinsic factor that can help the work art shapely (65).

Meanwhile, the intrinsic approach is the interpretation and analysis of the works of literature themselves. All of the intrinsic elements can give expression of the whole story itself (139). So the intrinsic approach came from the literary work itself like plot, setting, point of view, character etc.

Blindness is one of the novel that got Nobel Prize for literature in 1998. This novel is written by Jose Saramago. Jose Saramago is the Portuguese author. *Blindness* was first published in 1995 in Portuguese language and translated in English in 1997. Jose Saramago's novel was published when he was sixty. He was dead in 2010 in the age 87. Before he published *Blindness* he wrote *The Gospel according to Jesus Christ* in 1991.

Blindness talks about the unnamed city with the epidemic of blindness. This epidemic known as white blindness because their eyes are full with the whiteness like a milk and that is unusual blindness. The epidemic has no identifiable cause. The first person attacked is the man in traffic light. Following him is the car thief, the doctor, the girl with the dark glasses, the boy with the squint and so on. Only the doctor's wife is still normal. The government has a policy that all of the blind people and suspected of contamination people will be quarantined in mental hospital. The freely

life happen after that. All of the blind people come together in that place. Without eyesight they have to life.

The great work comes from the supporting elements which is intrinsic element or extrinsic element. Jose Saramago with his ability as a great writer wrote this novel with unusual way. He describes all of the situation and condition in detail. In the blind city with blind people everywhere, he helps the reader to know well and to feel the situation and condition. From that the researcher is attracted to analyze this novel as the object and setting as the topic for analysis. Therefore the applicable literary theory to analyze is New Criticism.

B. Statement of Problem

1. What are the types of setting being used in *Blindness*?

2. How does the setting affect the whole meaning of the story?

C. Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the setting used by Jose Saramago in *Blindness*

2. To find out the effect of the setting with the whole meaning in *Blindness*

D. Significance of the problem

Some people have already analyzed this novel, especially about the character and characterization. Therefore, this thesis focuses in setting analyzed with New Criticism theory. This thesis aims to help some people to know about Jose Saramago's setting. The researcher hopes this thesis will help another researcher who will consentration in setting with another literary work.

E. Scope and Limitation

The researcher focus to analyze the Setting of Jose Saramago in *Blindness*. The researcher analyzes the setting in the novel also the effect of those settings towards the whole meaning of the novel.

F. Research Method

This research is library based. Therefore, the researcher uses *Blindness* as the source of primary data and use another data source from journals, articles, online resources as the secondary data. From that data this research use qualitative methods. According to Elliot and Timulak qualitative methods rely on word because the data is not numerical data (147). The researcher will use the following steps to collect and analyze the data :

1. Reading the novel the get well understanding about the story.

2. Selecting and collecting the data in form of narration and conversation from the novel related to the problem of the study.

3. Analizing the data collected, firstly collect the story which setting rises up and analyze the setting that appear in that statement or conversation then analyzing the effect of the setting towards the novel's whole meaning.

4. Making conclusion based on the result of data analysis.