

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is an excellence work of the author's writing that is put into a narrative story or anything else. There are many kinds of literature such as novel, short story, drama, poetry, and etc (Cuddon 472). Novel is a long written story about imaginary people and events. Short story is a written story about imaginary events that is only a few pages long. A good literature is the literature that can be classified from the genre elements that contained in the literary work into specific genre.

Every literary works has a main story and the readers' understanding of everything related to the book. It can be any sizeable group of fiction authors and or specific title that have similar characteristics and appeal, these books written to a particular, specific pattern. The characteristic which is shown in the elements in the literary works is called as genre (Saricks 6).

One of the genre in the novel is fantasy genre. Fantasy genre is an imaginative story that explains detail from the specific order to illustrate the point of the story. Fantasy novels tell a wide range of stories, but the success of each is dependent upon the author's skill in creating a believable, albeit magical world populated by the characters to whom readers relate. The presence of magic or

enchantment is the element that most clearly distinguishes Fantasy from other genres (Saricks 265).

According to Terry Eagleton's book entitled *An Introduction to Literary theory*, there is a distinction between 'fact' and 'fiction', then, seems unlikely to get us very far, not least because the distinction itself is often a questionable one (1). It means that the fact is the realism that happens in this world like a world, human living or history. The fiction is unreal like fairy tales, or an artistic writing that will never happen (Eagleton 1). Fiction is a literary work that is created from the writer's imagination to entertain the viewers and readers. The imaginative fiction is a literary work produced by the imagination that arranged into the beautiful shape in the story, the different character from the others and incorporated into a fictional literature. Imagination is the creativity of the author because of the creativity that makes the work highlight the beauty in the story and make the readers can be entertained while reading the story (Eagleton 2).

The fantasy fiction genre which is an imaginative fictional story of the author, the idea depicted by the author can be a 'deeper and richer' imagination (Upshaw 5). The present of the magic in the story can be a story's classical epics in particular, through their roots in myth from the other country, history and religion that inspire the novel to reflect a self-contained world-view of the particular periods and nationalities (Klarer 10). Although a fairy tales, the fantasy fiction is both complex and sophisticate. Fantasy novel more like rich language

sparkling fantasy stories and fantasy creatures such as hobbits and dwarves that are very characteristic in the works of J. R. R. Tolkien, the example of fantasy fiction is *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien that contains many names and words derived from Norse mythology, and central elements from Beowulf epic, and using of Anglo-Saxon Runes, and detailed geographical descriptions that fit well with the accompanying maps. Near the end, the tale takes on epic proportions of the author's idea. (The Hobbit)

The illustrations of magic or the fairy tales and the characteristic of the fantasy genre are explained in the story. In the Tolkien library websites explained that *The Hobbit* or the other title called *There and Back Again* is a fantasy novel. *There and Back Again* is the other name of Tolkien literary work of the hobbit story. John Ronald Reuel Tolkien was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa, but he spent the majority of his life in Oxford, England. It was published in 21 September 1937 from George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. of London this is the first edition of *The Hobbit*. It was illustrated with many black-and-white drawing by Tolkien himself. The original printing numbered a mere 1.500 copies. Houghton Mifflin of Boston and New York release the American edition early in 1938.

Tolkien success by his greatness fantasy fiction story, *The Hobbit* tells about the journey of a hobbit called Bilbo Baggins lives a simple life with his fellow hobbits in the Shire (hometown) of Bilbo, along with Gandalf the Grey (wizard), and the thirteen dwarves (Thorin, Fili, Killi, Balin, Dwalin, Oin, Ori,

Nori, Dori, Bombur, Bifur, Bofur, Gloin). They are the group of dwarves, that Gandalf convinces him to join that group of twelve dwarves, the purpose for their journey was to reach the misty mountain (reclaim the kingdom of Erebor) and take back Thorin's treasures (the arkenstone and a gold from the mountain) from the dragon, Smaug. Bilbo was to act as their "burglar" as a thief in Erebor, and also to increase their number, since they were thirteen travelers without him (which was, according to Gandalf, bad luck). The journey takes Bilbo on a path through the dangerous lands that assembly with orcs, goblins and other dangers, then he meet Gollum (the sacred creatures) who lost his precious (the ring) in the cave. A gold ring or Sauron's ring that Bilbo take from the Goblin cave. Bilbo anxious with the number of enemies that he has not encountered until engaging in war between human, dwarves, elves, and the enemies of Middle Earth Necromancer's armies consisting of orc, goblin wants to seize the Erebor from Thorin hands. The enemies that want to attack Erebor, the enemy also wants human civilizations to be destroyed and can rule in Middle Earth.

From the story of *The Hobbit* novel, the main character is unique from the other character; he acts as a good character (Royle and Bennet 67). Bilbo is a unique character because many believe that a hobbit is better than the other character, like Gandalf says hobbit is good but hobbit is more than that because Gandalf says he is unique from the uniqueness of Bilbo is also found in his customs such as his hospitality and his fondness for taking care of Bilbo's ancestral heritage and loving comfort in his home. His good character such as

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Thus, out of these issues and the explanation background of the study, this study raises the following questions:

1. How is Bilbo Baggins' characteristic that helps him to decide his choice?
2. How are the choices that Bilbo Baggins does in the novel?
3. How is he being responsible for his choice in the story?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the characteristics of Bilbo Baggins that helps Bilbo to decide his choice in the novel.
2. To know of all the choice of Bilbo Baggins in his life in the story and to write down whatever options Bilbo Baggins chose in the before adventure, in adventure and after adventure.
3. To describe how Bilbo Baggins has responsible after what he chooses from the story in the before adventure, in adventure and after adventure.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit* in terms of Bilbo's character in his journey to fulfill the mission. The study only focuses on existentialism to make the discussion focus on the order of study and it create the scope and limitation in this research. The study focuses on the character of this

novel that deals with what the choices he takes. The choices and personal responsibility are in the range of existentialism.

From the theory of existentialism, this study uses the term of freedom of choice that is from the character based on the stories. The responsibility from Bilbo has established towards the courage are analyzed from the plot of novel. The other subject outside the limitation will not be considered in process of the study analysis. Thus, this will only discuss about the choice of the character's choice and the personal responsibility of the choice from the plot of the story.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The study of "The Choice and Personal Responsibility of Bilbo Baggins Character in J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit Novel*" is expected to contribute to the student literary studies and literary readers as well. Theoretically, this study is to help as a reference in order to understand the content of the existentialism theory that applies to this research. The writer hopes it can be a study by students or people who will be interested to the novel.

This study is practically expected to be a reference for the students who want to analyze in the novel or the other novel, it can be used as a supporting source, and the writer hopes this will be a reading source or the material in order to stand the novel and the research.

In this study, the authors hope for the common readers to make the readers get the things learned after reading this study. The second so that the reader can solve the problem with his correct choice and fully responsible for what he chooses.

1.6 Method of the Study

This is the library research, to conduct the character and plot analysis. This study uses the library research works. From the issue, those are close reading to find the data that relate to the research problem like; books, journal, websites, article, or the other data that written material to support the idea of this research.

Second, the data of this research divided into 2 sources of data: the primary and secondary. The primary data is taken from the novel of *The Hobbit*. The secondary data is the written material which explained before, in order to concerns about the existentialism theory.

Third, the collecting data is finding the data from book and the other supporting data will be the data that relates about his free choice and his personal responsibility in existentialism theory. The choice of Bilbo Baggins from *The Hobbit* novel and the responsibility for his choice and that is focus on the novel (primary data).

Fourth, the analyzing the data, the data that found in both two sources will be selected to analyzing the necessary of the research problem. First source is data

from a novel that explains about Bilbo Baggins do which he is reflection on existentialist in the novel. The second is Bilbo choose from several options he choose. The third is data explaining the responsibility of Bilbo Baggins of his choice in the novel.

Therefore, from the collecting data it will reach the result of the analysis and concludes the discussion of the data from the selected data into the conclusion of the research.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

- **Imaginative:** action that create of showing an ability to think of new and interesting ideas (Cuddon 304).
- **Responsibility:** A condition that relates an agent to actions of, and consequences connected to, that agent, and is always necessary and sometimes sufficient for the appropriateness of certain kinds of appraisals of that agent (Robert 794).
- **Choice:** act of choosing between two or more possibilities, the options that exist to fix the problem (Frede 123).