

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is interpreted as reflecting norms and values in a particular place, as revealing the ethos of culture of some people in a place, the processes of class struggle in the place in a particular era, and certain type of social facts in a place at that time (Albrecht 5). Literature has social function as can be an answer of a social question, such as question of tradition and convention, norms and genres, symbols and myths (Wellek, Warren 89).

Kenneth Burke also stated that literature as systematic reflections of society and societal behavior, it means all of systematic society and societal behavior can reflect in literature (Adams 942). In one hand Dr. Karen A. Hegtvedt stated in a sociology and literature journal that literature is a reflection of society, a force in society that is described in literature, or simply a separate part of social life (Hegtvedt 2).

Literature reflects society and society shapes literature, some written works of literature can reflect society and society also has contribution and influence the literature or literary work. Literature and society sometimes are like two sides of a coin, they cannot be separated. Through literature, we could see how author depicts the society and their social circumstances (89).

As to an imitation of society, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren stated that literature can be imitation of life, life in large measure and a society reality, even though it uses natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitation (89). In one hand De Bonald said that literature is an expression of society, a society can be expressed by literature (90). Therefore, from the statements above the researcher can conclude that literature is a written work that sometimes can be a reflection and imitation of the society or social life in a particular place in each era. So sometimes a literary work or written work can be an expression of society in a particular place and sometimes literature imitates or mirrors the social life and we can say that the subject matter of literature is the manifold experiences of human being and society.

Literature is an institutional society that use language medium. It means that literature has relation with society and the institutional in society, the problem in literature also as implication of problem in society (109). There are many kinds of institution in society, one of them is religion. There are relationship between literature and social institution such as religion, culture and the value to literature (13). Religion is one of institution in society that has the function to the society. The function of religion also has influence in society. Functionalism looks religion in the experience's aspect that shows some of accident in each day, it means involves believe and idea for something beyond of human. From

Magdalen laundry for redemption their sins. They must work in that laundry without fee and all of them must work in the laundry is as a redemption of their sins. In exchange for their work, the nuns in the convent will feed them and give them a place to stay. At the mercy of the nuns, and working mostly in silence, they spend their days in the magdalen laundry and cannot be free. Every day they eat with bad food and wear bad clothes, also everyone who take their clothes in Magdalen Laundry always expel them and look at them disgustingly, and also Magdalen Laundry's workers famous named as a sinner. Although woman in this Magdalen Laundry like prisoner of God that always work hard without fee, eat the bad food, wear the bad clothes and also called as a sinner, but they always be patient for redemption their sins. The society of fallen woman also influenced by Christian religion at that time which that religion believe that by hard work in Magdalen laundry they can delete their sins and also cover their mistakes in their society life. Further, the religion that influences the fallen women acts functionally and dysfunctionally. From the brief story, the researcher raises into a thesis "*Religion Influence of Fallen Women in Holy Saint Magdalen Home for Redemption of Sins in Marita Conlon-McKenna's The Magdalen*".

This novel is one of literary works that reflects the society at that time. As the researcher knows before it was happening at Ireland in 1955 until very recently. The society that tells in that novel is especially talk about the struggle of fallen women for redemption their sins. This story is

a reflection of society or social life at that time. This novel is regularly top the best seller list and have been widely translated. The researcher chooses this novel because the story of this novel gives an education for the researcher as a woman. This novel also tells to the reader about how the condition of society at that time which has religion influence. The researcher describes the society or social life side that depicted in this novel to know how the religion influence of the fallen women in Holy Saint Magdalen Home for redemption their sins. It means that how is the function and dysfunction of religion that depicted in the novel "*The Magdalen*".

1.2 Statement of Problems

1. What is the cause of fallen women sent to Holy Saint Magdalen Home?
2. How is the function of religion to fallen women in Holy Saint Magdalen Home depicted in Marita Conlon-McKenna's "*The Magdalen*"?
3. How is the dysfunction of religion to fallen women in Holy Saint Magdalen Home depicted in Marita Conlon-McKenna's "*The Magdalen*"?

1.4 Significance of Study

The result of this research is expected to be useful for the readers and the researcher. The readers of this novel "*The Magdalen*" can take the result of the study as new information. They will know about the social life of the women in the Holy Saint Magdalen Home for redemption their sins. The second, it is expected that the result of the study will help those want to conduct the same study for other novel, or continue this study from other side.

1.5 Method of Study

This research uses descriptive qualitative, it means the researcher describes the research. In other words it means how the data are organized depends upon the researcher and how the data were rendered (Lambert 2).

In order to describe the research that talk about fallen women in Holy Saint Magdalen Home, the researcher also uses the library-based study. It means the researcher uses references such as: books, articles, and journals in collecting the data. The researcher also reads information of some internet sources that support my study to improve the knowledge. The researcher evaluates, interprets, and uses the data collected as the source of the topic. The researcher uses several steps:

- a. Reading the novel of *The Magdalen* by Marita Conlon-McKenna as the primary data in order to comprehend it well.

diversion from the perceived ideal order for human living. To sin has been defined as to miss the mark (www.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sin)

Religion: is a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, that is to say, things set apart and forbidden (Henslin 512).

Questions about ultimate meaning: it means that religions provide answers to perplexing questions about ultimate meaning, such as the purpose of life, why people suffer, and the existence of an afterlife (Henslin 515)

Social solidarity: it means religious teachings and practices unite believers into a community that shares values and perspective (Henslin 515)

Guidelines for everyday life: it means religion provide practical directions on how to live our everyday lives (Henslin 515).

Social control: it means religion not only provides guidelines for everyday life, but also controls people's behaviors (Henslin 515).

Adaptation: it means religion can help people adapt to new environments (Henslin 515)

Support for the government: as we know that most religions provide support for the government to lead the country (Henslin 515)

Social change: it means although religion is often so bound up with the prevailing social order that it resists social change, occasionally religion spearheads change (Henslin 515).

