CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Life is shaped by small and uncertain things; hung by a thread (Roberts and Jacobs 11). The statement indicates that life is seen such as unrealistic and unconvinced things that always plague in mind. It is very small things, but people are often deceived by desire which always brings to wrong path. *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant shows that someone who is tricked by longing will feel a complicated life. This case is experienced by Mathilde as the main character of this work. Her action which drives her into suffering life is described as follows: She always dreams to be rich without doing anything, she is unceasingly jealous with someone else's belonging, and she is not honest or afraid of telling the truth.

Mathilde always follows her desire without thinking twice about the effects. Her unlucky fate is caused by herself. She is a dreamer. Notwithstanding, her dream is unrealistic. It is not changing or moving. It is only living in her mind and her imagination.

Her true mistake is that she cannot accept her condition. She is so ambitious to be rich and respected that she will be so suffered and frustrated if she sees other women with a better life. She is depressing all the time with everything that she has had. She is never satisfied with her belongings. Even more, she is afraid of telling her friend the truth which in the end causes her to pass through a hard life because of her dishonesty.

On the other hand, she is actually a responsible woman, although she has to pass a hardship life first before she is brought out better qualities in herself. She learns a valuable thing from her past mistakes, although it is cost so much for her, and she should sacrifices many things to get it.

An interesting point of this story is Mathilde as character and her suffering. What she has dreamt all the time does not come true, instead of that she should work hard in order to return her friend's necklace. It is unexpected that she decides not to tell her friend the truth and she chooses to suffer in replacing the necklace. Finally, she knows that she has slaved for no reason at all for ten years because the lost necklace is just an imitation. However, it is not useless because she learns much thing from it.

Through Psychological criticism Malthide as character and her suffering will be revealed and learned. Tyson says that the notion that human beings are motivated, even driven, by desires, fears, needs, and conflicts of which they are unaware—that is, unconscious—was one of Sigmund Freud's most radical insights and it still governs classical psychoanalysis today (12). Human's action is often covered by the notion which they are unaware. Then, the notion which covering their action will determine and drive them to what life they will pass.

This case of human inquiry is probably analyzed through psychological approach.

Minderop explains related to the case that literary works are possibly analyzed through psychological approach because a literary work shows the personality of the character, although it is imaginative, but it can present a variety of psychological problems (55). Endraswara quotes in Minderop that literature is a

creation of a psychological process and author's thought which hang on subconscious condition, furthermore it is sent in the conscious condition (55). Literature may be classified into four categories or genres: prose fiction; poetry; drama; and nonfiction prose. Anyways, prose fiction, or narrative fiction includes myths, parables, romances, novels, and short stories (Roberts and Jacobs 2). The statements indicate that psychology and literature are closely related fields of human inquiry. So, it is possible to use psychoanalysis theory as a tool in analyzing Mathilde as character and her suffering in Guy de Maupassant's short story entitled *The Necklace* which is classified into one of genres in literature.

The Necklaces written by Guy de Maupassant was published in 1884 in the French Newspaper Le Gaulois (Roberts and Jacobs 4). The story tells about Mathilde, a pretty and attractive woman, but cannot accept her true condition. She really thinks that she is born for a good destiny in which she can display finery so that other woman will envy her. Moreover, she is frustrated with her desires and her unrealistic dreams. That is why, she always suffers.

Her husband gives her an invitation of nice party, but, she refuse to join because she does not have anything to wear. So, her husband purchases her for expensive dress. Anyways, it does not satisfy her because of her lack of jewelry. Then, her husband asks her to borrow it from her friend, Mrs. Forrestier.

Mathilde has a wonderful time at the party, but afterward she discovers that the necklace is lost. She passes through a hardship life of hard working to pay her debt in order to replace the necklace. However, this occurrence is a good lesson for her because she can show her mettle by taking responsibility.

After years living in penury and debt that ruin Mathilde's looks, Mathilde meets Madame Forestier, to whom she confesses the whole story; Madame Forestier is deeply moved, and she tells her that the necklace was a fake.

1.2. Statement of Problem

In connection to the background of study, the research is formulated as follows:

- 1.1.1. How is Mathilde in the short story characterized?
- 1.2.1. What causes Mathilde's suffering?
- 1.3.1. How does Mathilde overcome her suffering?

1.3. Objective of Study

Dealing with statement of problem, objective of study are formulated as follows:

- 1.2.1. To demonstrate the characterization of Mathilde.
- 1.2.2. To describe and reveal the cause of Mathilde's suffering.
- 1.2.3. To uncover how Mathilde deals with her suffering.

1.4. Significant of Study

It is expected that this research will enrich the knowledge of the readers especially for English students on psychological aspect which influence the main character, Mathilde as character and her suffering in Guy de Maupassant's the *Necklace*. Besides, this research may raise their understanding about suffering studied trough psychological criticism which becomes one of important case in this research.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research discusses about the main character on the Necklaces written by Guy de Maupassant, Mathilde who experiences a suffering life. Whereas, the limitation focuses on Mathilde as character and her suffering. In other words, this research will take more discussion about suffering studied through psychological criticism.

1.6. Method of Study

A method utilized in this research to support the analysis is descriptive qualitative method which tries to describe and uncover the data related to statement of problems in details through some processes of describing phenomena, classifying it, and seeing how the concepts interconnect (Dey 31). In the other hand, the data taken from *The Necklaces* by Guy de Maupassant is based on library research which supplies a number of valid data such as books, e-books, and online resources. Furthermore, the process of analysis is presented as follows:

- 1. Reading and understanding the whole of short story entitled *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant.
- 2. To make reading comprehension about the theories especially for psychoanalysis theory used in this research to uphold the analysis.
- 3. Collecting the data related to statement of problems.
- 4. Classifying the data based on objectives of the study and analyzing them one by one.
- 5. Giving the conclusion from the result of analysis.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

1.7.1. Suffering

: an equally persuasive appreciation which is contrasted against for the intrinsic value and importance of the sufferer as an instance of a type of being whose meaning is monumental enough to inspire got-wrenching sorrow for the person's ultimate defeat or destruction (Ellis 184).

1.7.2. Motive

: a power inside individual or organism which is driving to act or driving force (Walgito 168)

1.7.3. Desire

: essentially mobile and has no essence, no proper object, beyond the child hallucinatory desire for the breast (Bennett and Royle 178).