## **CHAPTER 1**

### INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is an imaginative written art that can relation of a real life and society. Literature and society have a relation. Usually in literature there are culture and expression of society.

Rene Wellek and Austin Warren said that Literature is a social institution. Literature uses as its medium language in society. Literature such traditional literary in literature has as symbolism and meter social in their world. There are conventions and norms in literature which could have arisen only in society. And then, literature imitates of life. Sometimes literature can appear from happened for life or habit of someone in society. Literature has also a social function which cannot be purely individual. There is economic system, situation social and political, tradition and norms in literature. The relations of literature to given social situation, to an economic, social, and political system. People may perceive a difference between literature and some popular forms of written work or fiction (89).

The relation between literature and society is usually discussed by starting with the phrase, derived from De Bonald, that literature is an expression of society. If it assumes that literature at any given time mirrors the current social situation "correctly", it is false; it is common place, trite and vague if it means only that literature depicts some aspects of social reality (90).

Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually. It provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding. Literature can make us good people, have knowledge, and experience in society. It helps us to connect ourselves to the cultural context of which we are a part; it enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different societies that we would never otherwise get to know (Roberts and Jacobs 2).

According to Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs that Imaginative literature is usually classified into three forms; it is prose fiction, poetry and drama. These three forms have many common characteristics. Imaginative literature differs from textbooks, historical, biographical works and new articles, all of which are based on fact or recount facts. Imaginative literature, while related to the truths of human life. Although the three main genres have much in common, they also differ in many ways. Prose fiction or narrative fiction is in prose form and includes short stories, poetry, drama, myths, parables, romances, epics and novels (3).

Thus, Wellek's idea of literature as social institution that uses as its medium language in society. And then Robert's and Henry's idea of literature is giving knowledge and experience in society and the truth of life confirms the statement above. One of the literary works that can relation of a real life and society is Toni Morrison's Sula.

Sula is talking about rebellion. The Black people lives during slavery era.

Sula who grew into a woman in their town was all about, and what they themselves were all about, tucked up there in the Bottom. The Bottom in the

hills above the once all-White town of Medallion. The old buildings that once functioned as the site of a vibrant African-American community are leveled to make way for a golf course as rich White people begin to encroach on the Bottom. Shortly after Nel's wedding, *Sula* has doing rebellion. Starting of *Sula*'s rebellion because *Sula* cannot live in Bottom longer and resident in the Bottom have powerlessness. *Sula* leaves the Bottom for a period of 10 years. *Sula*'s reason doing rebellion because she felt surfeited or boring in the Bottom. She doesn't like system of life in society there. She wants her life become different, and then *Sula* leaves the Bottom and changes her life. After that, *Sula* return to the Bottom and make effect around her in the Bottom. So that why I choose is Toni Morrison' *Sula*. It is her second novel. I am interested in this novel because of this novel explanation about *Sula*'s rebellion in this Toni Morrison's *Sula* (1973), explanation about struggle of Black people lives in the Bottom.

Sula was nominated for the National Book Award after it was published (<a href="http://www.biography.com/people/toni-morrison">http://www.biography.com/people/toni-morrison</a>). It was also a latter-day Oprah's Book Club pick, by the author that is America's most recent Nobel laureate in literature. (Isak 2012).

One of the most important African American writers is Toni Morrison, who encourages African American literature, since she "has been instrumental in facilitating the work of other contemporary African American writers" (Lubiano, 1996, 225). Toni Morrison is original name of Chloe Anthony Wofford (born February 18, 1931, Lorain, Ohio, U.S.), American writer noted

for her examination of Black experience (particularly Black female experience) within the Black community

(http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/393004/Toni-Morrison). As one of the most distinguished African American writers, Toni Morrison has written several novels concerning Black people in American society. Besides *Sula* which I use in this thesis, some Morrison's other works are *The Bluest Eye* which is a history of abstractions, *Song of Solomon* which deals a lot with black male characters, and *Beloved* which tells the story of an emancipated slave woman who is haunted by the ghost of the daughter she kills. We can see that her works have certain characteristics including that the main characters as well as the society are always Black, and that the general themes of her work concern with the issues of slavery, racism, and mainly about African American's problem and struggle in the American society (Lubiano, 1996, 255).

Through the explanation above, it is clear enough what this study will talk about. It will describe the reason behind the rebellion and its effects to the main character *Sula*. To support the analysis, the New Criticism theory will be used on this study.

#### 1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of study, the statement of problems can be described as follows:

- 1. How is the Characteristic of Sula in Toni Morrison's Sula?
- 2. What makes *Sula* do the rebellion in Toni Morrison's *Sula*?

## 1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of this study, based on the statements of problems, are:

- 1. To describe the characteristic of *Sula* in Toni Morrison's *Sula*.
- 2. To describe *Sula*'s reason why doing rebellion in Toni Morrison's *Sula*.

## 1.4 Significance of Study

This study is supposed to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies, particularly in analyzing using New Criticism approach and practically gives contribution for the next writer to understand and improve the knowledge about characteristic of *Sula*. In addition, the writer hopes that this study can give a new input to the readers, especially the student of English Department Faculty of Letters and Humanities in State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya who are interested in New Criticism theory.

#### 1.5 Scope and Limitation of Study

To avoid a broad and an unspecific analysis the writer limited her study. In this study the writer only talks about the *Sula*'s Characteristic in Toni Morrison's Sula as the major character and the reason why she had done rebellion, the other character just support the main issues on the main character.

## 1.6 Method of Study

The writer describes and analysis the problem uses descriptive research.

Descriptive research is a study designed to depict the participants in an accurate way. More simply put, descriptive research is all about describing people who take part in the study

(http://study.com/academy/lesson/descriptive-research-design-definition-examples-types.html).

The data is taken from the Toni Morrison's *Sula* original novel which published in 1973. It is including the quotations, phrases, dialogues or monologues that reveal the rebellion experience of *Sula*. The other data is taken from criticism, essays, books, biographies and internet which support the analysis on the novel. Then the data are collected, classified, analyzed and finally made a conclusion. In presenting the analysis, the writer follows steps:

- First step the observation, which is inferred to expected data from
  the novel by extensive and intensive reading throughout the novel.
   It will use describe the characteristic of *Sula* in the story.
- 2. Second analysis directed to analyze the data based on the process think derived from the author. The analysis is about the Sula's rebellion that appears events in the story.
- 3. The third step is descriptive; it used to get a description about the result from analysis of *Sula*'s rebellion in Toni Morrison's *Sula*.

# 1.7 Definition of Key Terms

Rebellion : Rebellion is somewhat analogous to crime in general and organized crime in particularity. (The Journal of Conflict Resolution)

Character : is one of the important elements that make a story good and reliable.

Characterization : is the technique an author uses help the readers become acquainted with a person, a character, in his writing

Society : Society is means that a larger group of individuals who are associative with each other.

Powerlessness : powerlessness is often an aversive state that will lead consumers to attempt to attenuate or alter this state.

Slavery : Slavery is a legal or economic system under which people are treated as property. While laws and systems vary, as property, slaves may be bought and sold. (Wikipedia)

