

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).

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's *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 (<http://www.biography.com/people/toni-morrison>). . 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.

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)

