CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1.Background of Study

Literature is the expression of beautiful thoughts, feeling, and human experience in beautiful language. Literature is an art activity that is related to imaginative or creative writing. Every person has imaginative thought in their minds. They think about something unreal or even real things in this world (Borges 18). It is the result of creative activity in form of text that uses language as medium to reveal or draw the life, humanity, or reality.

Luxemburg, et al (1986) said that literature is not something that we meet, but literature is a name which with a particular reason entitled to some particular result in a custom. The language which is used in literature is a beautiful language which has an impact to soul, authentic and artistic (Poewadarmita). It can be said that literature itself is actually the product of human's mind that is poured in form of textual item. It is a thought that is expressed by the writer by writing it. As a product of human thoughts and feeling, it is like a mirror of how human life is.

From the explanation above the fictional literature is about imagination. The content consists of fiction, something that is not created only as communicative aim. It is a text which the content is open to interpretation.

The author who writes it does not just to convey information, but also an element of art.

Imaginative literature is a creation, not just imitation; out of this world and has its own world (Luxemburg 4). It has a harmony in its form and content, and also always tries to reveal unrevealed things. It is a recording of the author's soul that could be interpreted by people.

As an imaginative product, there are three genre of literature, which is prose, poem, and drama. Novel, one of the genres of prose, a form of literature in which there are the way of life, event, and also behavior done by the character inside (siswantoro 29). Fiction prose is a story which is carried by particular characters that the characterization, setting, and series of event are from the imagination of the author. It is the drawing of the character that tells whole story about him or her (Aminudin 66).

In a literature work, we could find characters that have psychological problem that can influence her or his way to see life. To understand that character, often the theories from psychology are valid to be used, thus we are able to identify and explain why the character experience the psychological problem (Wiyatmi 2). What happened to the character is actually possible to happen in real world that has been written down, although the essence is not always written literary, such as figurative words of symbols.

It can be said from what has been told above is the character inside has human's way of thinking, capable of feeling and also decision making. As we progress to the story, the development of character should be shown in a novel. Just like human who is a social creature, the character inside novel is also able to have relationship. The character can meet the other and make friends, enemies, or even lovers. It is the same with real human who could feel much kind of feelings, including the feeling of guilt. *Man on Fire* by A.J Quinnell is one of novel that has a particular character that endure his exhausted life from mercenary to find his new point of view in life, only to be slammed to fall in guilt because of the loss of that new point of life.

Creasy is an interesting character that experiences a complicated twist of personality, from that of cold hearted mercenary that will not care about anyone else except his own life and his job, to someone who shows genuine smile. The harsh life from his past makes him unable to find something to do when all of his 'fire' has been exhausted in his young age, his lingering guilt which is the afterglow of his past does not help either, for he think that he is only capable of destroying something. However, after trying to find another job and meeting new people, there is still hope to acquire his new look in life, then after he lose that new hope, his 'fire' is lit again by guilt and desire to revenge.

Creasy as a character is taken as the title of this research because of how unique creasy's way of life and how that life is changed so easily through interaction to one particular subject. If it is looked from normal point of view, it is impossible for a cold person like Creasy to change after all of his past life.

However in this novel, Creasy is able to do that change, even suffered overwhelming guilt, enough to make him want to commit revenge.

People seek everything that can be their way of life, doing anything so that their path will always open forward, some will look back to study the mistake, some will not even glance at the past fall that have been occurred.

Man on Fire by A.J Quinnel shows that even one of the greatest veteran in his own life could still be drown in exhaustion and find the very little thing in which change his life in whole. Then by losing it, he fell to the abyss of guilt and revenge.

An impression that forces itself upon one that men measure by false standards, that everyone seeks power, success, riches for himself and admires others who attain them, while undervaluing the truly precious things in life (Freud 2).

Quinell's way of telling Man on Fire brought the reader to realize the simple picture of the complexity of life and that everything that has been met in life has potential to be something that binds a human; opening a new view to understand life's problems. The visualization of conflict that seems to be light but not cliché makes *Man on Fire* becomes unique novel. Creasy's past that told from Guido's point of view is full of violence, could be the source of reader's empathy of Creasy's exhausted condition that has lost the real purpose of his life. (en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Man_on_Fire_(novel))

Through Psychological criticism, Creasy as a character and his guilt will be learned and explained. Sigmund Freuds one of radical insights that says that human beings are motivated, even driven, by desires, fears, needs,

and conflicts of which they are unaware, which is unconscious (Tyson 12). Many factors that change human are centered to their unconsciousness that they are not aware of what happen inside their own mind and even if they are aware, the change has been there. It is the same with what happened to Creasy and his guilt. He is never aware about his own guilt that has been eaten his door to interact with more people. Thus, this approach was used to analyze his psychology.

Man on Fire became a best seller after its publication in 1981. It has been sold over eight million paperback copies and received many translations by 2005. There are two film adaptations made from this novel, in 1987 and in 2004 with the same plot as the novel.

1.2. Statement of Problem

In accordance of the background of study, the research problem is formulated as follows:

- 1.1.1 What is Creasy's character?
- 1.2.1 What causes Creasy's guilt?
- 1.3.1 How does sense of guilt change Creasy as a character?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of study are formulated as follows:

- 1.2.1. To demonstrate Creasy's character.
- 1.2.2. To understand and describe the cause of Creasy's guilt.
- 1.2.3. To reveal how the guilt changes Creasy as a character.

1.4. Significant of Study

Theoretically this research is expected to increase the knowledge of readers on psychological part on which influences the Creasy character and his guilt in A. J. Quinnell's *Man on Fire*. Practically this research id also expected to enrich the understanding on how guilt will even affect a stoic character such as Creasy to change. This research may raise the reader's understanding about guilt studied through psychological criticism which is the main topic of this research.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is about the main character on A. J. Quinnell's *Man on Fire*, Creasy who has undergone some significant changes in his character caused by guilt. The limitation only focuses on Creasy as a character and his guilt. This research will discuss about guilt which is studied through psychological criticism.

1.6. Method of Study

Library research is used to fulfill the required material such as book, e-books, and online resources which supplied as valid data sources. The main data is taken from A. J. Quinnell's *Man on Fire novel* which is the main source of this research. The application of this study is in form of descriptive analytic.

Furthermore, the process of analysis is presented as follows:

- Reading and understanding the whole of novel entitled *Man on Fire* by
 A. J. Quinnell.
- 2. Reading about psychoanalysis theory used in this research to uphold the analysis.
- 3. Collecting the data related to statement of problem.
- 4. Classifying the data based on objectives of the study and analyzing them each.
- 5. Making conclusion from the result of the analysis.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

- 1.7.1. Guilt : The feeling of a person when he or she has done something which is known to be 'bad'.
- 1.7.2. Id : The deepest level of personality that gives human basic instint of their need.
- 1.7.3. Ego : The executive of personality that regulates the basic instict of id so that satisfaction accords with the demands of reality.
- 1.7.4. Superego : The source of moral censorship and of conscience.

Round Character the story.

: Character who has undergone changes in the course of

