

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a kind of writing which most persistently and provocatively engages with the uncanny aspects of experience, thought and feeling (Bennet and Royle 35). With this statement, literature was the writing that stimulates and influences the reader because a literary work was the result of thoughts, feelings, and the mind of a writer that embeds in a work. In addition, Wolfreys, Robbins & Womack state that literature has been used to designate any imaginative, creative, and fictional writing, whether in poetry, drama or prose (62).

Novel is a kind of prose. The term "novel" is now applied to a great variety of writing that has in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose (Abrams 190). According to the definition, prose has variety of writing; novel is one of prose which tells about human life. Novel was also called the work of fiction extended in prose.

The psychology and literature are closely related in the field of human inquiry. The author uses psychological insights to inform their art, literature and psychologists to use literature in order to help their research into human behavior and even readers can do the same (Gillespie 43). From the statement, literature and

psychology fields that have a function in life. Both of them are used in researching human beings as individuals and social beings, especially in everyday behavior. Therefore, the psychological approach is considered important to investigate the behavior of character that exists in the literary work.

The novel *A Thousand Splendid Suns* was published in 2007. The author is Khaled Hosseini. He is an Afghanistan-American writer. He lives in the San Jose with his family, California now ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaled\\_Hosseini](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khaled_Hosseini)). Mariam is the main character in *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel. The novel tells Mariam's tragic life starting from her age of five to her death.

The researcher uses *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel because it has good story which tells about the life of Mariam which is an illegitimate child of Nana and Jalil. Formerly Nana is a servant in the house of Jalil. Mariam is a quiet, thoughtful child at the beginning of the story. Her mother commits suicide after Mariam runs away at age 15 because Mariam visits Jalil's house, but she is rejected by Jalil. Mariam is plagued by guilt that controls her for much of her life, which contributes to her tolerance at being married to the abusive Rasheed, although she was fifteen year old and he was forty five year old. Rasheed is a widower and shoemaker in Kabul. At first, she was comfortable because Rasheed treated her decently. Mariam's happiness was lost when she was miscarried. During her long marriage to Rasheed, Mariam's inability to have children turns her into a resentful, bitter, and fearful woman. This helps her understand her own mother better. However, Mariam's life changes with the

arrival of Laila, Rasheed's second wife. Through her love for Laila and Laila's children, Mariam is able to fulfill her wish to be a mother and to finally give and receive love. Even she is brave to sacrifice for the happiness of Laila and Laila's children. The last, before Mariam is dead, she was thinking if her life is full of happiness and not regret. She is simply grateful for the opportunity to know Laila and her children for as long as she could.

Then the researcher chooses *A Thousand Splendid Suns* novel because there is interesting part in the story is how the major character Mariam sacrifices herself for the sake of her affection for Laila, Aziza, and Zalmi. She has killed Rasheed who would kill Laila. Mariam was aware if she will be executed, but she did not regret because she want to protect Laila. If Laila was dead, Aziza and Zalmi will be sad. The second interesting part is how Mariam tries to be happy by loving of Laila, Aziza, and Zalmi. Laila is the second wife of her husband. Considering the explanation, this thesis tries to find out unstated idea from the author by analyzing the sacrifice that is portrayed in the story by Mariam and it will be a guidance to know the effect of the sacrifice to her.

The researcher chooses one of Hosseini's novels because he is the author which follows up with another searing epic of Afghanistan in turmoil. The story covers three decades of anti-Soviet jihad, civil war and Taliban tyranny through the lives of two women. Two of these women are struggling with their destiny. The novel is having a set of war in Afghanistan from 1970 until the 2000s is endorsed by hard



1. To describe Mariam's personalities that affect her decision to sacrifice for other in Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.
2. To know Mariam's personalities influence her sacrifice in Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.

#### **1.4 Scope and Limitation**

This study focuses on the character of Mariam, the main character in Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns*. The limitation of the study is certainly about Mariam's sacrifice that has a relation with her psychological aspect. This study also limits the analysis on Mariam's sacrifice for Laila, Aziza, and Zalmi. The researcher wants to analyze it from psychological side. Therefore, this study will only be concentrating on finding Mariam's personalities influence her sacrifice that is portrayed in the story and the effect that she has experienced.

#### **1.5 Significant of the Study**

The study would like to discuss about Mariam's sacrifice for other. By using psychoanalytic theory, it is expected that the reader can get further understanding about human's mind and behavior of Mariam sacrifices herself. Hopefully, this research will be very useful in helping student toward good comprehension in analyzing literary character, to be closer and care about people's condition around



