

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background of Study

Literature is writing that are valued as works of art, fiction, drama and poetry (Oxford dictionary; 687). In other word literature is a personal expression of feeling including experiences, ideas and motivation in the concrete description in written stories. Kinds of literature are novel, short story, drama, poetry, end other. In this paper the writer tends to analyze the novel until detail. As Richard Taylor, Berne stated that “novel is a normally a prose work with a quite length complexity with attempt to reflect an express something of the quality of value of human experience. (Berne; 1981).

*Scarlet Letter* is an interesting novel for me because the story is telling us about love affair between protagonist Hester Prynne and puritan minister Arthur Dimmesdale. The *Scarlet Letter* is a story of love that has good values. Such as: religious, culture and social values.

The story begins when Hester Prynne, a wife from Mr. Prynne or Roger as nickname move to America (Boston). Firstly, Hester and Roger get married, but Hester didn't love Roger, because her father has debt to Roger until he can't to pay it. From this case, Hester must marry with Roger. She always tried to love Roger but she always can't to love him. Roger very focuses to him study about medicinal treatment and he never care attention to her. That becomes she feels tortured when she lives

with Roger. So, everything becomes different in her life when she moves to America. She can free from her husband and free to pray.

Mr. Prynne (Roger) still arranges other things before his move to America. Because of that Hester Prynne moves first than Mr. Prynne or Roger nickname. Two years later after Hester moved to America her husband didn't come to her. Her husband still around some Europe state and other America district for study about medicinal treatment.

One day she met with Arthur when she wants to join in mesa (every Sunday protestant do it such as pray, listen the speech of holy bible). Hester Prynne meets with Arthur when Hester horse gets problem. So, Arthur and Hester go to the place for fix her horse. Everything starts to change Arthur and Hester are falling in love in that time, but they try to hidden their feelings.

One day Arthur comes to express his feelings, and Hester also said the same thing because two years hester husband, Mr Prynne or roger nickname has passed way. In that time they decide to split up and keep their distance. Sometime later, there is news that Roger had died from being robbed by the Indian ship and all its passengers were confirmed dead. Then Arthur came to the Hester's house to convey the news about Hester husband, but Hester didn't look sad. They effusive to their feelings so strong and eventually they desperate to adultery.

From this relationship, Hester finally became pregnant and she ostracizes in her community. This news finally comes to the society and people interview to Hester and people to government. The government claim and judges impregnated in their

city, but Hester still did not care about it. Eventually she was ostracized and applied “A” letter on the front of her breast, which means Adultery. In that time the person who is doing adultery when the husband still alive, who adultery will be give the death execution by government. Hester bring to prison with government until she born her baby in prison. Government announces to the citizen if in the town of Boston will give big punishment to young women, Hester Prynne. She has been adultery in this town and must wear “A” on her dress as sign of shame. Not only that, she walk to some place by music. She must stand on the high wood for many hours to court herself in public, after that she must admit the father name of her child. But Hester never admit about name of the father. Arthur always fell mistaken with Hester because Pearl is his babies, and he always orders to Hester to admit about the father of this child, but Hester always refuses.

Hester didn't know that her husband was still alive and returned to his house, his husband roger angry immediately with Hester and forced him to confess, but he still didn't confess. Finally her husband so angry and assembles plans to find out who the real father of this baby while he went from his house and he will never reveal his real identity and calling his name Roger Chillingworth as a Doctor.

Confidential relationship between Hester and Arthur still entwined even though only with a letter delivered by a Hester's servant. Roger plotting to revenge to Hester. Roger Chillingworth always revenge to Arthur, because he is take Hester from him hand. He always looking for about Hester mistaken and give to a judgment. Hester always come to jail because of Arthur and Pearl almost become a child of

devil that to because his born without father. Roger Chillingworth provocation the people to execute Pearl because she is a reincarnation from devil. Hester disagreement with people's thinking. Hester always refuses to honest to government. The government decides to Hester if she will execute tomorrow, but Hester still get forgiveness if she confess and mention who is the real father from Pearl but Hester still don't confess.

One night, Roger decided to kill the Arthur by the Indian way but he killed the wrong target. This incident makes wrong perception and then triggers a war that began with the arrest of the Indian that are in village. It makes Indian tribes angry and planning to attack the village. from that case Arthur known this people killed by Roger because some things has fall beside died person and that is Roger things. It makes Arthur so angry and then him looking for Roger. He found Roger in him room in a bad condition. He hanged himself because he feel wrong target.

One day, Hester will be excused with the government by hang her up but Arthur admits if he is father of this child. Arthur admitted to government if he was the real husband from Hester and real father from Pearl. When Arthur will be the executed, suddenly Indian tribes aggress Boston city that make disturbance in that city. Than Arthur, Hester and Pearl can broke away from that disturbance. And years after that Arthur has passed way and Hester never married again. And many people say that the damnation of Arthur and Hester howler. But from Pearl perspective that her parent has strong love and decide they love better than other people that build in Pearl live and her child forever.

In this Novel have many characters such as: Hester Prynne is a beautiful girl from Boston strong character. But, she often goes to Amsterdam before her going to Boston. She lives in Boston by herself nobody accompany her. She has relationship affair with Arthur Dimmesdale, the popular protestant in Boston. Arthur Dimmesdale is a person respectable with people in Boston. He is a good protestant in Boston. Every Sunday he gives speech to people Boston and people like him. Roger Chillingworth is Hester husband. He sent Hester to Boston by herself. He is intellectual and smart. But he is resentment person. Pearl is Hester and Arthur child. She is active and cheerful. Although she didn't have friend because of her mother used symbol A in Hester clothes, she still love her mother.

The story of this novel is more different than movie. Novel has many character more than the movie. There are many characters in the novel are Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, Roger chilingworth and Pearl. The end of the novel is unhappy because ending because in the next year Arthur die because of his illness. Hester never married again and Pearl gets married, she happily with her family. But in the end of the movie are Hester, Arthur and Pearl living together happily. That makes me so confuse to analyze about scarlet letter. Finally I take this novel for analyze and focus about the punishment of Hester Prynne based on Islamic perspective.

I want to discuss detail about the theme and the moral value of Scarlet Letter.

In the theme is about story of Dimmesdale who saint person make big sin in him life.

He has broken the rule of religion. He has adultery with a girl who has husband

before (Hester Prynne). Consequence of their act is they get punishment from government. Hester must use symbol “A” in her clothes for her proof if she has make big sin and Dimmesdale fell heart torture during he didn’t say honest to other people.

In the perspective Islam there are many verse of Al-Qur'an has explained about adultery. The writer prefer to describe the punishment of Hester Prynne based on Islam. There are "And come not near to unlawful sex. Verily, it is fashihah (i.e. anything that transgresses its limits: a great sin) and an evil way (that leads one to hell unless Allah forgives him)" (QS. Al-Isra' (17):32). From that verse of Al-Qur'an the adultery is very dangerous and forbidden we adult with other people. And based on that verse of Al-Qur'an adultery is making love with other people that not her husband self. And Allah SWT and prophet Muhammad SAW in Al-Qur'an and hardest have agreed with Muslim leader about adultery is forbidden. But, there are two perspectives in Islam about the punishment of adult people. First is adultery person who has husband or wife or they never married and their make adultery and the second is person who never has husband or wife or they never married and their make adultery. And the punishment in Islam for the first about person has ever married is people around them must throw some stone until they die. And the second is person has never married and they make adultery .The punishment is whip until one hundred whips. In this movie too resemble describe about Islamic punishment. But the movie the punishment gave to Hester is hanged until die.

By taking the theme and moral value from this novel that can be understood about formalism theory. Because Hester loved to Dimmesdale and she defends her

love. Hester present as a woman who understands herself as the subject not the object, as a woman actually she is not weak but she is stronger than a man, in a case a woman is able to endure a pressure of life it is possible for a woman to be heroine of her love. Like what Hester has done for Dimmesdale. Therefore what Hester does shows that she is woman who has equal passion.

To avoid the discussion, the writer will focus this paper in analyzing theme and moral value in the scarlet letter novel by using formalism theory related to the motive.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problems

Related with the background of study, the problems are:

1. What is the theme of *Scarlet Letter's* novel?
2. What is the moral value of *Scarlet Letter's* novel?

### 1.3 Objective Of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, the writer conduct this study to answer her statement of problem to:

1. To describe the theme of “*Scarlet Letter*” novel.
2. To describe the moral value of “*Scarlet Letter*” novel







