

CHAPTER I

INRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

During their life time, people have experience of watching, listening, studying, or even for some people participating in a war itself. War, in international law, is an armed conflict between two or more governments or states. When such conflicts assume global proportions, they are known as world wars. War between different parts or factions of the same nation is called civil war (Beacham). Both sides involved have a battle involving their military forces to get the winner of the conflict. It has progressed in time from sticks & stones, through swords & bows to powerful weapons such as rifles. There are a lot of war occurred during the existence of this world. Even nowadays, war still occurred in the other side of the world without people ever noticed.

In the twentieth century, where there were a lot of war happened, the war influenced so many authors to write literature (especially novel) which is taking a set in the battle condition. One of the authors is Stephen Crane, a man who had never seen a battle himself who wrote *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895). It is a fiction based loosely on the events of the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville (May 2–6, 1863) (Beacham). Though initially not well received in the United States, *The Red Badge of Courage* was a success in England. The attention of the English critics caused many Americans to view the novel with renewed enthusiasm, made Crane into international literary writer.

Literature has a function to entertain the readers and to enlarge their visions. Through literature, people express their ideas, desires, and thoughts that often happen in reality. Meanwhile, by reading the literature of other countries, our understanding of the world deepens, and our sense of humanity increases. We might learn that other people living in distant places under different climatic and cultural conditions might face similar problem to us. On the other hand, we may also learn about new values, new emotions, and many more. The story in a literature work shows the readers the reality of life, its problem, and some way to cope with it.

Literary works are categorized into prose, drama, and poetry. Meanwhile a novel is a literary work in the form of prose or fiction. *The Red Badge of Courage* is one among them. The work itself is concerned with universal themes involving human emotion and the ways they are related one to another. Wellek and Austin say that a novel is a picture of real life and manner of time in which it is written (1956: 282). It means that everything in daily life which is described in a novel may happen in someone's real life. It also helps the reader to understand the attitudes, characters, emotions, and relationship among human beings, cultures, and other's way of life.

There are two elements of literature works, intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic element is working to develop the literary works directly. It consists of: theme, plot, setting, also character and characterization. On the other side, the extrinsic element is working to develop literary works indirectly

and consist of sociology, politic, economy, ideology, religion, and many more.
(Roberts: 60)

Stephen Crane (1871-1900) had started to write stories at the age of eight and at 16 he was writing articles for the New York Tribune. Crane studied at Lafayette College and Syracuse University. He worked as a freelance writer and journalist and supporting himself by his writings. In 1895, he wrote *The Red Badge of Courage* which depicted the American Civil War from the point of view of an ordinary soldier. It has been called the first modern war novel because it taken place in the modern era. He published volumes of poetry as well as many works of fiction, including the landmark *The Open Boat* (1897). In 1899, Crane moved into a medieval castle in England. Here his health began to fail, and he died of tuberculosis in June 1900 at the age of twenty-eight.

The writer is taking an interest in this novel because he has recognized other Stephen Crane's work that has made a success before (*Maggie, a Girl of the Streets* that published in 1893). The thing that makes *The Red Badge of Courage* considered as an amazing novel is because even it is a story based on Crane's imagination; it was depicted so realistic that even a war veteran such as Joe Haldeman admits that he seems to repeat his own war experience (Crane v). In fact, Crane has never undergone the battle himself. It has affected the writer to reveal the way how Crane was able to create such a lively character and atmosphere in his novel.

Based on this interest, the writer decides to make a deeper study using an objective approach to analyze the literary work. To maintain the focus of the

study, the writer intends to limit the analysis regarding to intrinsic elements found in Stephen Crane's *The Red Badge of Courage*. The novel contains the early ideal and dream of an inexperienced soldier which undergo many trials to finally achieve the qualities of a soldier.

B. Statement of the Problem

Looking at the background of the study which tells about the literary work entitled "*The Red Badge of Courage*" and all things that make it an interesting subject of a study, some problems are found in order to start the writing to be scientific.

1. How is the development of the main character depicted in the novel?
2. What is the theme of the novel?

The statement of the problem will help us to look at a novel such as "*The Red Badge of Courage*" from the function as a literary work, which always has something interesting to be deeply analyzed.

C. Objective of the Study

The statement of the problem will lead us to be able to see the objective of the study below.

1. To find out the main character development in the novel.
2. To find out the theme of the novel

D. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that through his analysis of *The Red Badge of Courage*, the readers will get the knowledge in understanding intrinsic elements that can be found in the novel. It will give an accurate analysis of the main character development by applying objective approach. Hopefully this research may also give valuable inputs for other students who are interested in studying the intrinsic elements in literary works, and know more of Stephen Crane's work.

E. Scope and Limitation

The novel has too many aspects that can be analyzed. In order to avoid the overlapping explanation, the writer specialize the analysis to the main character development by focusing on the plot of the novel and finding the theme. The analysis will be related to the development of Henry as the main character before enlisted, during the battle, and the resolution which taken by him. The character will be analyzed through dialogues, events and actions to help the writer accomplish the purpose of the study.

F. Theoretical Background

As stated previously, this study concentrates on analyzing intrinsic elements that can be found in *The Red Badge of Courage*. In analyzing it, the writer will use an approach as a primary point of view for getting the determined purpose. The writer applies objective approach since it is considered to be appropriate to support the analysis of the novel. Objective approach is an

approach that focuses on the work itself which reveals intrinsic elements to be developed into a structure. In other words, objective approach is an approach to analyze a literary work as a system of meanings which has several elements. They were theme, plot, setting and character and characterization (Roberts 70). The meaning can be understood and fully appreciated from the understanding of the literary work itself. Other opinion by Abrams is saying that objective approach is an approach that emphasizes a literary work as a structure that is more or less autonomous (Abrams, 1979: 29). The writer himself focused the study on the plot as it is appropriate to be able to fully explore the development of the main character, so that theme can be inferred in the end of the analysis.

G. Method of the Study

The writer will use the descriptive analysis method to give a clear explanation that found in the novel through the dialogues, event, and actions in the novel. The technique of data collecting consists of library & online search, and the main source is the novel itself, *The Red Badge of Courage* (1895). The study will use the procedures of the technique of data collections on this novel, by having a close reading to the novel, making the data classification, and determining the data based on the criteria. In addition, the criterion which is used to determine the data analysis is the data that can explain the intrinsic elements that can be found in the novel. The writer gets the information from books, critics, reviews, journals, commentaries, dictionaries, and other printed material from both library and DVD-ROM which are needed to support the analysis. With the

information, the writer will start to go deeper into the intrinsic elements of the novel. To complete the study, the writer will draw the conclusion from the analysis.

H. Definition of key term

Denial: Believing that the problem doesn't exist or the unpleasant incident never

Dreams: something that somebody hopes, longs, or is ambitious for, usually something difficult to attain or far removed from present circumstances

Fear: Feeling of anxiety: An unpleasant feeling of anxiety or apprehension caused by the presence or anticipation of danger.

Grief: A natural response to loss. It's the emotional suffering we feel when something or someone we love is taken away.

Hero: somebody who commits an act of remarkable bravery or who has shown an admirable quality such as great courage or strength of character

Ideals: a standard or principle to which people aspire

Projection: Ascribing our fear, problem, or guilty desire to someone else, and condemning them for it, in order to deny that we have it ourselves.

Regression: the temporary return to a former psychological state, which is not just imagined but relived.