CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Human life is divided into several developmental stages moving from one stage to another, started from infant to elderly. One of those developmental stages is called adolescence, a period of time in a person's life when they are developing into an adult. During that period, a person has started to leave their childhood and begun to move to the adult world. The search for identity in this period, then, arises because adolescents are forced to be able to integrate their past experience, to identify their present role, and to meet their expectations at the same time. They are also expected to actively seek a perspective on their functions as the adult members of society. Therefore, the search for identity becomes an unavoidable experience for the adolescents. The search for identity may lead adolescents to an identity crisis and the identity crisis itself is led by two factors. One of the factors is the passive acceptance of a role defined by one's parents and the other factor is the uncertain sense of identity and the low self-esteem that many adolescents experience.

Some authors have brought up identity crisis issue into their literary works. One of those authors is Isabel Allende. Not only does her reputation become the reason for the writer to choose her novel to be analysed in this thesis, but the writer also sees she as a unique person with a rich background. Originally, she is a Chilean but now she lives with her husband and children in California, the

United States. Although she inhabits America, the land of freedom and promise, she does not leave her native culture behind. It can be proved from her writings or literary works. Instead of using English as the language in her novels, she used Spanish, her mother language. Her love to keep her original identity through the use of Spanish in her novels was not an obstacle for her in gaining success. Her novels have been translated into more than twenty seven languages and become bestsellers in Europe, America, Asia, and Australia (Sarah 2010). The writer sees the translation of her novels as obvious evidence that Isabel Allende has received great appreciation in the United States as well as in many other countries.

Isabel Allende is a novelist who has succeeded to present literary world with great novels which are eminent in the world. One of her successful works is her debut novel *La Casa de Los Espiritus* translated as *The House of the Spirit*. The other prominent works written by Isabel Allende are *Of Love and Shadow* (*De Amor y de Sombra*), *Eva Luna*, *The Infinite Plan* (*El Plan Infinitivo*), *Paula*, and *Daughter of Fortune* which is translated from its original title *Hija de la Fortuna*. Her works have been adapted into other sorts of works, for example, her novels *The House of the Spirit* and *Of Love and Shadow* have been adapted into motion pictures with the same titles. The awards and honors she has received from associations in many different countries also confirm her success. She got Quality Paper Black Club New Voice Award in the United States in 1986 for her novel *The House of the Spirit*, Book of the Year in Switzerland in 1987 and 'Mulheres' Best Foreign Novel Award in 1987 in Portugal for *Eva Luna*, also Critics' Choice Award in 1996 in the United States for her based-on-experience novel *Paula*.

Moreover, she was honored as a member of the "Academia de la Lengua" in her native land Chile in 1989, Marin Women's hall of Fame in United States in 1994, honorary member of American Academy of Arts and Letters in United States in 2004 (Sarah 2010).

A further illustrious novel of Isabel Allende is *Daughter of Fortune*. This novel won WILLA Literary Award in the United States in 2000 and had been chosen as one of the best books in Oprah Winfrey Book's Club which consequently brought some influences on its recognition (Sarah 2010). The writer is interested in *Daughter of Fortune* because this novel crosses continents and cultures. In this novel, the main settings are in the Chilean port of Valparaiso and California in the Gold Rush era, however, the writer also can picture the cultural phenomena in Hong Kong, Canton, a community village of China and London as an aristocratic town.

Daughter of Fortune provides an enchanting story about a girl, Eliza Sommers, an adopted child of the Sommers family. She is living in two cultures, English and Chilean. She felt not comfortable with the people around her. It happens because she confused with her self-identity. When she has conflicts with herself, other people and her society, she met Joaquin and makes love relationship with him. Her relationship became a conflict when she knows that she is pregnant. Besides to find Joaquin, her journey to California also makes her character development. In this thesis, the writer is interested in analyzing Eliza Sommers' character development based on the conflict in the story.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the writer would like to state these following questions:

1. How does Eliza Sommers' character develop starting from the beginning until the ending of the novel?

2. How do the conflicts in the novel help to develop the character of Eliza Sommers to be a mature woman?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study will be intended to answer the question, as it have been mentioned in the statement of the problem, by using the chosen theory as the parameter to analyze. The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe Eliza Sommers' character development starting from the beginning until the ending of the novel.

2. To analyze the conflict in the novel help to develop the character of Eliza Sommers to be a mature woman

1.4. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this thesis will give benefit to the readers in understanding the novel using New Criticism theory, focusing on the formal elements in the novel, especially characters and characterization, plot, setting, and conflict elements. Furthermore, the writer also hopes that the readers, especially the students in English Department Airlangga University will become familiar

with Isabel Allende, a Chilean novelist, as one of the famous female writers today and with her works which have impressed the world.

Most English Department students are accustomed to English literature, authors, playwrights, or poets, and have little knowledge about other literary works from other countries. Thus, the writer wishes that this analysis will encourage the students of English Department to know and learn more about Latin American literature, which will widen their horizons and enrich their knowledge.

1.5. Scope and Limitations

There are many issues, problems, events, and conflicts in discussing *Daughter of Fortune*. The writer did not analyze all of the issues in the novel in order to make this study focused on the problems described in the statement of the problem that need to be analyzed and answered.

Therefore, the writer decided to limit this study and focused on Eliza Sommers' character development based on the conflict as narrated in the novel. Furthermore, New Criticism theory was used to analyze the novel and the analysis of the novel itself focused on the formal elements of the novel, namely character and characterization, plot, setting and conflict.

1.6. Theoretical Background

This study focused its analysis on the formal elements of the novel and Eliza Sommers as the main character in *Daughter of Fortune*. According to Lois Tyson in his book entitled *Critical Theory Today: A User Friendly Guide*, in

America the New Critics called "close reading". It focuses on the individual literary work (135). New Criticism is an interpretation based on text and language itself (136). New Critics believed that their interpretation was based on text and language of the text itself called Formal Element. Formal Elements consist of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Conflict and Theme. However, in this study, the writer did not analyze all of the formal elements in the novel, only character and characterization, plot, setting and conflict were analyzed in this study.

1.7. Method of the Study

The writer used two kinds of data collection. The main source of the data collection was the novel itself. The writer read the novel and scanned the events which became the major events in the story to be further analysis. After completing the reading, the next data collection method was doing library research during the writing process of this study. The writer collected data from various books, articles, commentaries, encyclopedias, and other printed materials from library and the internet. Those materials were used to support the analysis of this study. The supporting sources include other supporting information about the background of the author, commentaries and articles about the novel, and everything that are related with *Daughter of Fortune* novel.

For this character development study, the writer used several steps as follow:

a. Close reading

The writer collects the main data to analyze the characters and characterization, plot, setting and conflicts in the *Daughter of Fortune* novel. The writer uses the novel as the main data for the analysis.

b. Theory

The writer looked for suitable theory to analyze the novel and the writer decided to use the New Criticism as the main theory in this study.

c. Analysis

The writer analyzed the data with the New Criticsm theory to find the answers for the research questions. The analysis focuses on the characters and characterization, plot, conflicts and setting in *Daughter of Fortune* novel.

d. Conclusion

The writer gathered the information gained from the analysis and drew some conclusions about the result of analysis in this study.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

In writing this thesis, there are some important terms which are used and appeared for several times. This definition of key terms section is provided to help the readers understand the analysis in this thesis and is defined in order to give the readers the same and accurate meaning.

Adolescence : the period in human development that occurs between the beginning of puberty and adulthood.

Character development	:	a series of stages that everyone must go through to determine who they are as an individual.
Immature	:	in an early period of life or development or growth; "young people"
Mature	:	characteristic of full development, either mental or physical
Origin	:	parentage, identity based on the father blood.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW