

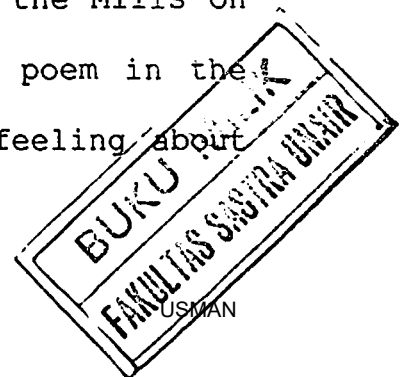
# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Robert G Carlson (*American literature*, 1979:89) identifies literature as means to transmit the loves and hates, the hopes and fears, ambitions and frustration, the failure and the triumphs, the questions, the problems, the experiences of people confronting life. Thus, desperation is one of the aspects above, as a common theme in literary works. Some writers have this idea in their works, Rudyard Kipling With his novel *The Light That Failed*, takes account on human desperation caused by the failure in finding love, George Eliot with her work on human desperation on *The Mill On The Floss*.

George Eliot is the pen name of Mary Ann Evans, who was born on November 22, 1819, at Arbury Farm near the English town of Shepperton, in Warwickshire. In the age of nineteen, Eliot (*Notes on the Mills On the Floss*, 1983:2) published her first poem in the *Christian Observer*. Eliot has her own feeling about



life: "ivy-like as I am by nature, I must...shoot out into isolated tree." Which makes her begin to question on her religious principles. In her 28<sup>th</sup>, she had reached comfortable balance between religion and moral. George Eliot was her man's name she got 1858 for her publication in Blackwood's Magazine.

George Eliot is considered to be the first modern novelist. She had reached the height of success in her days. Her works scored critical and popular scenes. She published *Adam Bede* and *The Lifted Veil* in 1859. *The Mills on The Floss*, followed by *Silas Marner* in 1861 and *Middlemarch* in 1872. Above all *The Mills on The floss* is considered her best work

*The Mills on The Floss* by George Eliot describes a life of family problem, a lost love, as the reflection of the family attitudes toward its member. It tells about Maggie Tulliver's dissatisfaction in the environment forms the central action of the Mill on the floss. Maggie as the heroine of the novel is intelligent, romantic, sensitive, sensual and introspective. She is generous giving with others but require a large of love in return.

George Eliot had always been sensitivity to criticism and was subject to bound of depression. Her unusual of masculine psychology coexisted with her deep feminine temperament. The theme of love and sentiment are everywhere in her works. Telling of human conflicts and problems as the reflection of the surrounding, where the central character lives.

Desperation is one of the results of human conflicts and problems, which come from their mentality that they can not handle due to any reasons. In (*The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary: 1971 : 252*), desperation is the action of loosing all hope, and a desperate state of mind in which on account of the hopelessness or extremely small change of success one is ready to do any violent or extravagant action ,regardless any risks. Maggie as a heroine in the novel *The Mill On the Floss* experiences this mental problem from her childhood to the rest of her life. In her child she has to face her family attitudes which are unfavorably to her, growing up she has to experience any hard problems which clash to her belief. This kind of feeling still continues to the end of her life that never finds happiness and hope in her life.

Desperation as a dominant aspect in the novel *The Mill on the Floss* can be revealed in a deep research. Any certain event related to other event could explain the desperation through the formal structure of the novel. The mentality problems of the main character in the novel are the reflection of the previous events she undergoes. The impacts of the events give certain contribution to the development of her attitude which lead her into a life of sorrow, sadness and desperation at last when she can not stand any further. The life of Maggie is compared to the life of Hamlet, the prince of Denmark for the destiny in similarity (*The Mill on the Floss*, 1860: 351). Hamlet, begin with a tragic period, some of the problems are insoluble, being rooted in the deepest mysteries of human fate (Introduction, Bibliographies and "Shakespeare and His Theatre", 1958:6). Further, The analysis on this matter is hopefully will give something positive for us on how human should avoid the feeling of desperation in their lives.

## 1.2 Statement of the Problem

Starting from the consideration above, the writer intends to take an account of the main character's desperate life related to the surrounding. The problem is:

- ◆ How is desperation described in the novel?

## 1.3 Objective of the Study

The only major objective of the study in this research is to reveal desperation described in the novel *The Mill on the Floss* by using Todorov's theory of literary structure.

## 1.4 Scope of Research

This analysis is concerned with the main character's desperation. The desperation is resulted from the interaction of her surrounding, in which her life is faced with prominent dominant of morality and religious conflicts.

## 1.5 Theory Used in the Research

Todorov's structural approach, by using semantic aspects: Sintagmatic and Paradigmatic elements.

## 1.6 Library Study

Based on the information search of the related works about the novel *The Mill on the Floss*, it has not been found the analysis about desperation in this novel. However in his final touch the writer found an important information about desperation in the work of literature in a different novel and theory of research. It is *Desperation, in Fear and Its Influence on The Character Development of Oliver Twist* (1984) by Amir Fatah. Due to the reason, this research is necessarily done to give additional knowledge about desperation in the literary work in general.

After the library study, some sources are found and used by the writer for his research. They are *The note on The Mill on the Floss* (1983) by John W. Campbell, *Penelitian Sastra: Sebuah Tinjauan Metodologis dan Teoritis* (1995) by Amir Fatah, *Identitas Manusia dalam Novel A Passage to India: Teori Struktural Todorov* (1995) by Amir Fatah, and *Tata Sastra* (1985) by Tzvetan Todorov.

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

By analyzing the story of *The Mill on the Floss*, the writer expects the readers something positive from the story. The importance of the family influence to the development of the member's life. In more specific term, this study may enrich knowledge about works of George Eliot. By reading this analysis the readers can have more knowledge of George Eliot in the form of novel.

### **1.8 Method And Technique of Research**

Method of research:

Library study

Techniques of research:

#### **1. Corpus**

The Novel *The Mill on the Floss* as a main sources is used. The related studies of the novel are collected and used to support the data.

#### **2. Technique of data collection.**

Data of desperation are collected, the data are taken from the main source *the novel The Mill on the Floss*.

### 3. Technique of data analysis

All the data are observed, and classified. The Major data used in the analysis are chosen. Further the interpretation of the analysis is necessarily done.

### 1.9. Organization of the Thesis

This writing is organized into four sections divided into following:

1. Chapter I : Introduction
2. Chapter II : Theory used in the research
3. Chapter III : Analysis: Desperation in the novel  
*The Mill on the Floss* by George  
Eliot
4. Chapter IV : Conclusion



**CHAPTER II**  
**THEORY USED IN**  
**THE RESEARCH.**