

Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary literature are writings valued as works of art, especially fiction, drama and poetry (1990 : 728). For a further definition, Edgar V. Roberts stated in his Literature : An Introduction to Reading and Writing that :

literature, refers to written (and also spoken) compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and ennoble readers (1989 : 1).

As works of arts, literature is related to the truths of human life. Therefore, based on the truth, literature is classified into non-fiction and fiction. Non-fiction, the fact-based writing, contains of scientific writing, biography, autobiography, journalistic writing, etc.; whereas fiction, the fictional or fictitious writing, contains of prose, poetry, and play or drama.

Novel as one of the prose parts is "a world specially made in words by an author" (Gill, 1985 : 77). It exists in the way it does because an author has chosen to

put it together in that particular way. It is made as a portrait of the real life because it imitates the real life. This means that novel is not a real life. Novel, however, is fictional because it has been made up. For example, Daniel Defoe's novel, Robinson Crusoe, is based on contemporary fact, that is an experience of Alexander Selkirk, a Scotchman, who spent four years and four months alone on the island of Juan Fernandez off the coast of Chile. From Alexander Selkirk's experience, Daniel Defoe got an idea to write about a similar story in his own way. He arranged his words and finally Robinson Crusoe was created, and it has become a popular book in the world since.

As Daniel Defoe's masterpiece, Robinson Crusoe is one of the world's most famous book, not only among children but also adults. Borrow was largely justified in saying of Robinson Crusoe that it is :

a book which has exerted over the minds of Englishmen an influence certainly greater than any other of modern times, which has been in most people's hands, and with the content of which even those who cannot read are to a certain extent acquainted (Dobree, 1968 : 417).

It is also translated into many languages, imitated and adapted by many authors, as a German critic has called it :

a 'world-book', a label justified not only by the enormous number of translations, imitations, and adaptations that have appeared but by

the almost mythic power with which every reader can in some sense identify himself (The New Encyclopedia Britannica, vol. 5, 1981 : 552).

The experiences of Robinson Crusoe become a good example to symbolize the universal individual in his struggle against the forces of nature. For everyone in the world must struggle to live and no matter where he is, he has to struggle against nature. The struggle is important especially in a place where no one lives, for instance, in a desert island, because it is very difficult to struggle without human aid. The one who lives in the environment must do everything by himself because no one helps him. He has no interaction with others and has no friends to talk.

Such difficulties are experienced by Robinson Crusoe as he is cast away on a desert island, far from the civilization he knows. He has to survive by using his ability to make and use tools, to get food, and make the surroundings comfortable to him. He must master his environment by struggling against and defeating the nature. He must overcome the terrors of loneliness because he has no social relationship with others. Yet he has a never-ending spirit that is helpful in his condition. Robinson Crusoe has the experience, in living alone, for more than twenty-five years, and it becomes the unforgettable moment in his entirely life.

B. Statement of the Problem

Considering the background of the study, the writer is very eager to make a study upon the intrinsic elements to reveal and answer the following questions :

1. How does Robinson Crusoe survive on the desert island ?
2. What does Robinson Crusoe do to overcome his loneliness ?
3. What kind of spirit does Robinson Crusoe have in his struggle against nature ?

C. Objective of the Study

According to the statement of the problem above, the writer will answer the problems found through the analysis. Thus, the objective of the study is intended :

1. To reveal how Robinson Crusoe's efforts and the way he survives on the desert island.
2. To know how Robinson Crusoe overcomes his loneliness.
3. To find out what kind of spirit of Robinson Crusoe in his struggle against nature.

D. Significance of the Study

By analyzing the story of Robinson Crusoe, the writer expects the readers to get something valuable from the story, because it is about a life of a human being separated from his fellows and family and obliged to provide for his own spiritual and, especially, physical needs for over quarter of a century. His successful survival on a desert island with no one's help can be taken as an example to our life that we have to survive and struggle in this world. In addition, we must have the spirit like Robinson Crusoe's.

The writer also expects that the readers can especially examine Daniel Defoe's Robinson Crusoe because it deepens the understandings of life, for literary works are the imitation of real life. Besides, the detail descriptions of the condition of the island and the way Defoe tells the story make the novel interesting, so it can be enjoyable to read.

E. Scope and Limitation

To keep the study stay in the expected field, a limitation of the analysis is required. Thus, the study will be concentrated on the aspects related to the main study as stated in the objective of the study.

Since the study is about Robinson Crusoe's efforts, struggle, feeling, spirit, success, and character in his lonely life, therefore, the setting and the character are considered as the necessary elements to analyze the novel.

F. Theoretical Background

Because the main problem is about spirit, struggle, and loneliness of the main character and it concerns only the internal aspects of novel the writer will use the Objective Theory. To support the theory, an approach and a background are needed, they are Intrinsic Approach focused on Setting and Character, and Psychological Background that helps to get deeper understanding in analyzing the character.

G. Method of the Study

The method used in this study is the descriptive analysis method since it deals with describing the setting and the character, as said in Little's Approach to Literature "the descriptive method is generally the easier to understand" (1966 : 90). It is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through dialogues, events, and actions of the story.

Furthermore, the writer also uses the content analysis method because it reveals the main thoughts, which is based on the content of the story, rather than to describe it. Thus, by using the kind of method the struggle, the loneliness, and the spirit of the story will be revealed.

H. Definition of Key Terms

- Desert island* : an uninhabited island that is remote and isolated from other islands.
- Spirit* : a vitality in having ability to endure, survive and continue living.
- Struggle* : physical and mental action or conflict against nature.

Chapter II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK