CHAPTER I

I.1. Background of the Study

Life is full of experiences and people are learning from it. Everything happens in the lifetime; the joy, the happiness, the sadness, or the sorrow, is a lesson and a good teacher for people in running life. Life is not always as easy as it would turn out to be and people not always feel its sweetness. Sometimes they have to face the bitterness of life. That is the circle of life; there are always happiness facing sadness, joy facing sorrow, and success facing failure. Everyone experiences the up and down of life. Something that makes different is the way they face and see life.

The way people see the past and the future influences the way they undertake the problems on their life. Everyone has his or her past life and background, but the ways he or she sees and reacts to it are rather different. There are people who can accept their past and see it through the positive side, and there are ones who find it difficult to accept their past, because they see it through their negative point of view. The first kind of persons will enjoy life better than the second.

If people are sensitive and objective enough in seeing and accepting their life, they can feel the beauty of life; that actually they can learn many things from life. They can see and learn the lessons of life from many different things, not

only from their personal experiences but also from the other sources such as other people's experiences, historical events, and even from a literary work.

It contains the record of the peoples' values, their thoughts, their problems and conflicts - in short, their whole way of life. (Little 1)

From the statement people know that literature is one of the important aspects of life. They can see and learn about life through literature because there are so many things that they can get from a literary work.

According to Robert G. Carlson, literature is a means to transmit the loves and hates, the hopes and fears, ambitious and frustrations, the failures and the triumphs, the questions, the problem, the experience of people confronting life (p. 89). A literary work is a media, for an author, to express his or her feelings and views about life. An author is expressing his or her views, ideas, feelings, dreams, and thoughts, in the work.

Through literature, people's understanding and perception of life can be increased and they will lead to the self-introspection. In other words, literature is not merely or simply as a tool to help the readers in spending their leisure time, but it can do more than that. By reading and understanding a literary work the readers can grasp the meaning and the values from it and they can use it in their own life. Literature broadens and stimulates the readers' mind, make people of wider human sympathy, and enhances their enjoyment of life (Little 3-5).

Among the forms of imaginative literatures, novel has long been the favorite of writers and readers. A novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, while people read, they experienced actual life. Reading a novel is like seeing the life itself. The story and description presented in the content of the story, if people read it, they seemly experienced the real life. The story presented in a novel introduces the readers the real human life and depicts a world where they live.

Among many of great and famous authors and novels, this thesis will focus on the analysis of one of the great novels of Virginia Woolf entitled *Mrs. Dalloway.* Adeline Virginia Stephen, well known as Virginia Woolf, is a female English writer who was born on 25 January 1882. She is one of the most important literary and cultural figures of the twentieth century.

Her life and her character are often considered full of "madness". She is well-known for her 'madness' and the link between memory and writing is always strong for Woolf. In other words, Virginia Woolf's life and work are inseparable (Hanson 22).

Aspects of Woolf's well-documented life have by now attained the status of inter texts, which interweave with her fiction and influenced the readers' interpretation of it. She is aware that her writing is intensely retrospective and rooted in personal experience (Hanson 1). There are novels of her middle period which she draws repeatedly on the events and occurrences in her life and on her emotional and psychological experiences, most notably the trauma of mental breakdown (*Mrs. Dalloway, The Waves*), and on the joy and security of childhood

(*To The Lighthouse, The Waves*). Her novels are "autobiographical" novels because they embody phases in Virginia Woolf's life or explore aspects of her personality (McNichol 7).

One of Virginia Woolf's well-known novels is *Mrs. Dalloway*. The idea of this novel was properly born on 14 October 1922 and the first title of this novel was *The Hour. Mrs. Dalloway* was originally a short story entitled *Mrs. Dalloway in Bond Street*. It took two years, from 1922 to 1924, for Virginia Woolf to write *Mrs. Dalloway*, though it was already in her mind for some time before she began to put it down.

The phase of Virginia Woolf's life behind *Mrs. Dalloway* is that of the years following her mother's death. In this novel she writes the events and occurrences in her life and on her emotional and psychological experiences, and during that period she is suffering from severe mental breakdown (McNichol 9).

According to the author, this novel is one of her most refractory and tantalizing of her books. In this novel she uses her technique called the *tunneling process*. She proceeds by "digging out caves" behind her characters. This technique enabled her to explore the consciousness of her central characters more fully (McNichol 9).

Woolf also applies her technique called *stream-of-consciousness*. She is not only reveal conscious thoughts of the characters, but she lays bare thoughts and feelings which lay beneath the surface of consciousness (Bakker 22). A modern variation on the first-point of view is the device called *stream-of-consciousness*, by which not the spoken or written words of a character but his

very thoughts become the medium of the story (Danziger 26). The *stream-of-consciousness* can be called the ultimate attempt by a writer to absorb plot into character.

Mrs. Dalloway is the most thoroughly psychological novel. It is structured essentially through the interaction of the two characters, Clarissa Dalloway (Mrs. Dalloway) and Septimus Warren Smith (McNichol 3-4). Woolf explores the consciousness of the two contrast characters and the conflict between life and death.

Mrs. Dalloway is a story that explores the two different ways of thinking in seeing life. The author explores the conflicts and the feelings of Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Smith toward life. Both of the characters came from different backgrounds and their point of views about life are very contradict.

Their contrast views of life is a problem interesting to be analyzed. The ways the two characters see life and how their ways of thinking connect with their life will be analyzed in the thesis. This novel talks and explores the two different ways of thinking in facing life. It contains the essential message that each person faces his or her own problems, but each of them can have a very different view in facing it. Due to the descriptions mentioned, the writer is eager to focus the analysis on the characters of Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Smith.

I.2. Statement of the Problems

Intertwined with the preceding discussion on the background of the study of this thesis, the writer intends to focus the attention on Clarissa's optimism and Septimus' pessimism in facing life, by suggesting certain questions :

1. What kind of figures are Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Smith ?

2. How do they see their past and how it influences their life ?

I.3. Objective of the Study

The objective studies of this thesis are:

1. To reveal the figures of Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Smith.

2. To explore their ways of thinking in seeing their past and to reveal the influence of their ways of thinking on their life.

I.4. Significance of the Study

The analysis of the novel entitled *Mrs. Dalloway* focused and concentrated on the different ways of thinking of the two characters in facing life. This novel shows that every people actually has his or her own problems in life. They have the right to choose whether they will make and consider the problems as the obstacles or they will see it from its bright side and consider it as a lesson in running their life and facing the future.

The writer hopes that the analysis of the psychological aspects of the novel can give a contribution to the readers. This thesis is an attempt to give a deeper insight into human's mind and human's problems in facing life. The writer hopes that by reading and understanding the essential meaning of the novel as well as the analysis in this thesis, the readers can grasp the message and the moral values that they can use so that they can have a better understanding of life.

Furthermore, hopefully, this thesis can give a better understanding, appreciation, and knowledge on literary works. By reading this thesis, the reader is expected to get more information about literary works, especially the work of Virginia Woolf for other further study.

I.5. Scope and Limitation

Since the analysis will talk about the vision of life of the two characters in the novel, this thesis will focus on the description and the explanation of the characterization of Clarissa Dalloway and Septimus Smith, and also their ways of thinking toward life and how it affects their life, connected with the author's views and life background.

I.6. Theoretical Background

As stated above, this thesis is an analysis of Mrs. Dalloway's optimism and Septimus' pessimism in seeing life. It intends to explore the characterizations

and their vision of life. The writer decided to use the expressive theory that will be supported by biographical and psychological approaches.

As one of literary works, a novel can be used by the author as a medium for expressing his thoughts, ideas, and feelings. The expressive theory is applied due to the consideration that *Mrs. Dalloway* is a novel which shows the thoughts, ideas, and feelings of Virginia Woolf. There is a connection between the author's background of life and the work.

A work of art is essentially the internal made external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulse feeling, and embodying the combined product of the poet's perceptions, thoughts, and feeling. (Abrams 22)

In order to support the analysis of the novel, the writer applies the biographical approach and psychological approach. The using of biographical approach is based on the assumption that this approach regards the author as an important aspect of a literary work. A literary work is considered as the expression of the author. The using of psychological approach is based on the assumption that this approach puts the attention to the importance of the characterization of the novel.

I.7. Method of the Study

I.7.1. Corpus

In analyzing the novel in this thesis, the data sources are gained from the information found in the story and from the biographical information of Virginia Woolf, the author of *Mrs. Dalloway*. The data sources are used and applied in order to support the analysis.

I.7.2. Technique of Data Collecting

The technique of data collecting consists of certain steps. The first step is the library research. In the trial to gain the information that can support the analysis, the writer uses and applies the library research. It is applied by gaining and collecting the important information from books, articles, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, and other printed materials related to the life and the works of Virginia Woolf, particularly of *Mrs. Dalloway*. The other sources are also gained from books dealing with the literary theory and approach used in the analysis of the novel. The additional data is accessed from the Internet.

After collecting the data, the next step is the close-reading. It's done by reading the materials which are successfully collected. The third step is the classification. It is the step of classifying the data. The data consists of the primary data and the secondary data. After making the classification, the writer determines

the data that can be used in the analysis. The data used in the analysis is only the primary data that has the connection with the vision of the author and the vision of the characters in *Mrs. Dalloway*.

I.7.3. Technique of Data Analysis

In this thesis, the writer will use the descriptive analysis that is applied to give descriptive explanation of the problems found in the work through the dialogues, events, and actions of the story. The writer will also make the interpretations of the story. In analyzing the novel entitled *Mrs. Dalloway*, the writer does not intend to separate the data found in the novel with the biographical aspects of the author.

I.8. Definition of Key Terms

Life   : qualities, events and experiences that characterize existence as a human being.

Optimism   : the tendency to take the most hopeful view of matters or to expect the best outcome in any circumstances: practice of looking on the bright side of things.

Pessimism   : the tendency to expect misfortune or the worst outcome in any circumstances: the practice of looking on the dark side of things.

I.9. Organization of the Paper

Chapter I   : the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, definition of key terms, and organization of the paper.

Chapter II   : the theoretical framework, contains the scheme of theory and approaches used in the analysis.

Chapter III   : the biographical sketch of the author.

Chapter IV   : the analysis.

Chapter V   : the conclusion.