CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature has been known for ages, from the Sumerian ―Epic of Gilgamesh" written in 2000 BC which was considered as the very first literary work (Yale University Press online), to the famous Tolkien's *Lord of the Ring* or Rowling's *Harry Potter*. Many cultures have their epic works of literature, especially for those known as the old civilizations like Chinese, Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Hindu (Hansen 3). Greek literature is perceived as the most influential to the later generations of literature. Roman literature was believed to be influenced, as there are many similarities of both cultures including the myths (the Gods and Goddesses), the architectural works, sculptures, and literary works. It was Alexander the Great who succeeded in expanding the Greek imperialism to Egypt and Roma, and it was explained how Roman adapted Greek culture that much (Hansen 10). Even until nowadays, the Greek myth influence still can be found in modern literature.

The word ‗literature' itself, was originally derived from the Latin „*literatura"*, means writing formed with letters (Ong 10). However, traditionally literature also included the oral literature whereas in some cases, great ancient authors recorded it in the written forms. Even nowadays form of literature is not limited in written and oral forms only, since there is electronic literature that emerged as the development of the technology. Through the ages, literary work has been enriched as the number of authors in the world increase. From that

enormous number of works, people often found the similarities among those texts. It is possible since the creativity and inspiration in creating a work may come from other texts.

As Roman and Greek culture have similarities, either do literary works. They emerged since text does not stand as hermetic; instead they stand as hermeneutic (Endraswara 131). It means it certainly has relations to another work through influence, inspiration, re-production, modification, as well as allusion. The producer/ author of a text surely has read, experienced, or watched numerous kind of texts in his prior time and it could be started even since his/her baby or childhood. Consciously or not, these inspirations do have influence in author's creativity range in creating a new text. Briefly, there must be interrelating connections between the texts. The author processes his receptions from various texts in the prior and then expresses it into his invention (new text). This transformation occurred even in a classic text which possibly be reproduced into a modern form through some modifications/ modernization. In this study, the writer is interested in examining further the similarities and differences existing in the classic epic poem written by Homer ―Iiad" and a novel written by Leo Tolstoy entitled *Anna Karenina*.

―Iiad" was originally an epic poem written in Homeric Greek and several Greek local dialects in around 760-710 BC telling about the famous Trojan War involving the Spartans and the Trojans for the sake of the unearthly beauty of Helen. This work was considered as the legendary Greek literature, together with its sequel, ―Odyssey". Due to the language obstacles, the text used in this study is

the eBook of translated version by Samuel Butler under the project of Orange Street Press which was released in 1992 by David Campbell Publisher Ltd while it transferred into PDF version by Orange Street Press in 1998 (Butler 2).

―Iliad" tells the war between the two kingdoms fighting for Helen. Homer depicted that Helen was the most beautiful woman in the world. Helen was the daughter of Zeus and a beautiful mortal woman named Leda. Helen married to Menelaus, the King of Sparta. Helen's beauty was mentioned by the Goddess of beauty, Apphrodite. She promised to give Paris the most beautiful woman in the world only if he judged her as the most beautiful goddess compared to Hera and Athena. This occurrence is known as _the judgment of Paris' (Hard 441-444). He then agreed to pick Apphrodite among the three also because he wanted to avoid the war that might be caused by Hera's and Athena's offers (wealth and power). Apphrodite then fulfilled her promise but Hera and Athena hatred Paris. Paris met Helen when she had been being Menelaus' wife and the mother of Hermione. Menelaus regarded her wife's abduction as an insulting act by Paris, the Prince of Troy so then he set the war toward Trojan Kingdom. Helen's beauty then was hated so much by the whole of Troy, for the ten years of sorrow during the Trojan War which caused great destruction of their homeland; she had been well known as the beauty that launched a thousand ships, as how she is described in the poem ―The Face That Launched a Thousand Ships" (Marlowe in allpoetry.com):

> *Was this the face that launch'd a thousand ships,*
> *And burnt the topless towers of Ilium?*
> *Sweet Helen, make me immortal with a kiss…*

In 1878, a Russian author, Leo Tolstoy, released his masterpiece novel entitled *Anna Karenina.* The novel gained many praises as the best realist novel ever written as described by William Faulkner as the best novel ever written and by Fyodor Dostoevsky as ―flawless‖. Since it was released in 1876, the writer found minimum information about its award while Nobel and Pulitzer were just established in 1900s. However, as written by Shelokhonov, Tolstoy was an obvious candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature, but was initially omitted by the Nobel Committee for his views. The omission caused a strong response from a group of Swedish writers and artists. They sent an address to Tolstoy, but he answered by declining any future prize nomination (Shelokonov in IMDb). The book was an Oprah Book Club™ selection, with Liza Knapp chosen as the literary expert in the Oprah website (Knapp 4). The novel was adapted into various media such as opera, film, television, and ballet. The film adaptations are being reproduced from time to time and versions. There were *Anna Karenina,* directed by Julien Duvivier, starring Vivian Leigh in 1948; *Anna Karenina* directed by Aleksander Zarkhy, Russian (Soviet Union) in 1967 (Knapp 73); and the recent film adaptation in British version directed by Joe Wright which was released in 2012, starring Keira Knightley and Jude Law (IMDb).

Anna is the wife of Alexis Karenin, one of the senior states-man in the Ministry of Russian Parliament. They have an eight year old son named Seryozha whom Anna loves intensely. At a trip, she accidentally met Count Vronsky, a young and charming officer. The two cannot endure the desire and lust that melted their skeptical toward how the society‘s judgment will be in seeing their love

affair and then decide to put it aside while they prioritized their affair. As they have been expected, the society and their families set controversial opponents toward them, as well as the shame that had to face by Anna's husband and Vronsky's family. The novel also portrays a comparison true love seeking journey in the character of Anna and Levin. Obviously, Levin is the hero in the novel. Levin-Kitty is the counterpart couple of Anna-Vronsky whose presence is important in giving the meaning of the story. Since the writer faces problem with the original text's language, the writer then decided to use the translated version by Constance Garnett in 1901 which is performed in PDF format by Project Gutenberg in July 1998 (Gutenberg.org).

The novel mostly based on Tolstoy's own life. The author, Count Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy, was born in 1828 as the fourth of 5 children in his family. He had 3 brothers and a younger sister. To note also that, the hero's name, Levin, came from Tolstoy's ―Lev‖ while in English pronounced as ―Leo‖. One of his brother's name was Nikolai, which is the same as Levin's brother who died of alcohol consumption. Tolstoy's childhood was marked by death. His mother died when he was a toddler, leaving a void he spent his life trying to fill. Tolstoy's father died suddenly in 1837 when Tolstoy was about eight or nine. Afterward, he was raised by his aunt. Tolstoy enrolled in the University of Kazan, but he was bored by the lecturers. He decided to drop out and set about educating himself. His first serious about of diary-writing, which remained a passion, habit, even addiction, through most of his long life, and it might lead him into the his writing world in his later life (Knapp 52). Tolstoy's works mostly are inspired by his own

experience. Like, *War and Peace*, his other masterpiece beside *Anna Karenina*, was originally his own experience after joining army which involved him in the Crimean War (Knapp 52-54).

His marriage in 1862 to Sophia Andreevna Behrs, who is a beautiful and cultivated girl of eighteen also the daughter of an army doctor, helpfully reduce his depression which he suffered at the contemplation of the wrongs of the people. At the time he became absorbed in his domestic life with his family, taking part in the education of his children, of whom he had fifteen.

> ―Tolstoy felt this sense of responsibility for family legacy in part because two of his brothers had died young, and his remaining brother lived with and then married a gypsy mistress; his younger sister's marriage had been disastrous and she herself was involved in a love affair" (Knapp 53).

Critics said that the novel's hero, Levin, resembles Tolstoy's own life with his wife, which portrayed in the relationship between Kitty and Levin. Tolstoy was turning 30 when he married Sophia, as well as Levin and Kitty. Critics also said that it is the reason of why Levin is portrayed as hero in the novel; that he is Tolstoy textual form. Levin finally found the meaning of life, as Tolstoy did after his marriage. In the novel, Levin is given the same experience. His dying brother Nikolai, lives with a gypsy whom he loves so much but somehow Levin realized it is an embarrassing fact. In addition, the heroine of the story, Anna, more likely to portrays Tolstoy's sister. Tolstoy died of pneumonia in 1910 (Knapp 55).

The interesting issue of this study is the heroine of each story namely Helen and Anna. Both are blessed with beauty and trapped into a desire of love affair with their younger spouse. Their lasting beauty invited not only obsession and desire of the men to own but also misery of their later life. In mythology, it has been perceived that beauty is a curse instead of blessings (Hughes 1) which since 2,500 years ago the story of beautiful women invites men's passion and ends with tragedy is still recurs, and that is depicted in both texts as how the heroines face their downfall. The writer is interested in observing the similarities in the heroines and plots, and revealing the differences between the downfalls of those characters. Downfall, in this context, refers to the condition when one has lost power, moral, value, and prosperity that he/she feels at the very down condition in his/her life. Both stories' settings were produced from different socio-cultural background and era, which might cause different plot of downfall experienced by each heroine, Helen and Anna.

The goal of this study is to show the relation between both texts through Intertextual approach. Intertextuality is a part of Comparative Literature, and was first coined by Julia Kristeva in 1969 to deliver her idea of the presence of a text inside another's (Endraswara 131). In this case, the writer's hypothesis is that *Anna Karenina* might be the modern form of Helen; while Homer's ―Iliad" presupposed to stand as the hypogram or the prior text, and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* is the transformation. Frow (ibid) argues that Intertext occurred in the form of repetition/ transformation of one text into another, which is possible to happen between texts from different ages or centuries. Both stories are well

known as masterpieces of the world literature and came from different ages, and different cultural background.

Since the Greek myth and literature is acknowledged as one of the oldest cultures and civilizations of human being, it plays a big role in influencing the later literature until now, especially in Europe. ―Iliad" was written in Greek around 710 BC among the monarchy and ancient life setting, while *Anna Karenina* was originally a Russian novel written in 1870s among noble society and early modern setting. Therefore, the writer assumes if there is an influence(s) toward the characters' downfall based on the society they came from, since both characters main problem is that how they overcome the society reaction based on the social norms and values toward their love affairs whereas they came from different eras and socio-cultural backgrounds.

Another important point is that the writer found no discussion or previous study has been done about the similar issues. There are journals, thesis, or articles found the discussion on *Anna Karenina* and Helen in separated studies but not by comparing them and closely observing their different downfalls and relating it to the influence of social culture setting. However the writer will present the previous studies as supporting statement or data if it is possible and appropriate in this study. The prior studies using Intertextuality theory in English Department of Airlangga University regarded as good reference is *The Sea of Monsters Journey in Rick Riordan"s "The Sea of Monsters" Homer"s "The Odyssey" Translated by Samuel Butler: An Intertextual Study* by Awanda Eki Safitri. While another study is *Transformasi Tokoh-Tokoh Cerita Calon Arang dalam Novel Larung dan*

Manjali dan Cakrabhirawa Karya Ayu Utami: Kajian Intertekstualitas by Yosseva Resliantie. For the reason of the same theory used, both will surely give good examples in helping the writer to analyze the objects using Intertextuality theory as the knife of this study.

1.2   Statement of the Problems

From the issues explained in the Background of The Study, the analysis is going to solve the problems as follow:

1. What are the similarities found in the characteristics of Helen in Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*?

2. How are the socio-cultural settings related to the downfall experienced by Helen in Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*?

3. How Intertextuality relates Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina?*

1.3   Objective of the Study

Based on the formula of analyzing the questions stated in the Statement of The Problems, thus the writer would like to:

1. To find similarities in the characteristics of Helen in Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina.*

2. To reveal how the socio-cultural settings are related to the downfall experienced by Helen in Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina.*

3. To reveal how Intertextuality relates Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina.*

1.4 Significance of the Study

This study is to discover that an Intertextual transformation is done in the character of Helen in Homer's ―Iliad‖ into Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* which is never done before. The analysis may also expand the reader's perspective to the presence of the classic work's influence toward the modern work. However, the reproduction of the new text tends to having such modifications in some ways as the result of cultural and social conditions. Through Intertextuality, people can also expand the way of thinking that every single work is connected with others even through ages and any culture; how the influence still recurs and inspires from the classic to modern time. For general readers, this study is meant to be a brand new discovery regarding two world masterpieces from different eras, Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina.*

Furthermore, this study is meant to be a variant of research study and a good sample of reference for those who are going to use or need to understand deeper about the Intertextuality study in English Department The Faculty of Humanities of Universitas Airlangga and in the broader area of study.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The objects of analysis in this study are the characters, Helen, in Homer's ―Iliad‖ compared to Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*. The writer focuses the analysis on the similarities and differences in the plot and character of both stories related to the main issue of the study, that is the comparisons of the heroines' downfall. The purpose of limitation is to prevent the study being expanded

uncontrollably since the desire to analyze could be very radical and sometimes it is possible to blur the main focus of analysis.

1.6   Theoretical Background

In this study, the writer focuses on finding the similarities and differences and then reveals further understanding toward the downfall experienced of the heroines: Helen and Anna. Since the objects of analysis come from two different texts, the theory of Intertextuality is considered relevant to the study.

The writer chooses to use Intertextuality as the approach, theory, and method of analysis in the study. M. Enani in his *Theories of Comparative Literature* explains that Intertextuality is the relation between two or more texts which may affect the ways of reading the text (43). Intertextuality believes that every sign will have relationship with other signs; therefore, every literary work also has relationship with others. Intertextuality is a term coined by Julia Kristeva in 1960s, which argued that a text may present in other text, since it was believed that a text is created through references, allusions, quotations, criticism, and influences of the prior texts which is read and interpreted by the reader whom later roles as the co-producers of the new text (Worton & Still 8). In Intertextuality, the prior text that roles as the background of the new text creation is known as the hypogram, while the new text is known as the transformation text. That is why, the writer assumes that Homer's ―Iliad" stands as the hypogram to Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, in other words, Tolstoy transformed the heroine, Helen in Homer's ―Iliad" into Anna in Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

1.7   Method of the Study

Qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relates to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis with the only visual data may be maps, photographs, diagrams, or tables showing how ideas are related. The writer conducts the data into words-formed discussion of their significance, including quotes or descriptions. The writer uses qualitative method, which emphasizes the importance of social world through rich description, colorful detail, and unusual characters; they give the readers a feel for social settings (Neuman 321-333). There are merely three elements in qualitative method; those are the data, the analysis, and the arrangement of the written report.

The steps done in conducting this research will be as follows:

1. Collecting sources, a first action to collect data that have any related ideas to the statement of the problem of the study. The plot and character of Helen and Anna in Homer's ―Iliad‖ and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* are the primary sources in which the theory of Intertextuality later will be applied. However, since the minimum information about Helen and the cause of the Trojan War provided in Homer's ―Iliad‖, the writer obtains more from Robin Hard's *Handbook of Greek* Mythology. The secondary sources used are Julia Kristeva's *Desire in Language: A Semiotic Approach to Literature and Art* (pp. 36-91); Michael Riffaterre's *Semiotics of Poetry;* Michael Worton and Judith Still's *Intertextuality: Theories and Practices;* Nyoman Kutha Ratna's *Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra* (pp. 172-182); and Suwardi

Endraswara's *Metodologi Penelitian Sastra* (pp. 128-147). The action of collecting data will be continued by finding any other references, such as international journals and articles, which support the issues raised in the statement of the problem in this study. Electronic sources are also referred as further information if necessary.

2. Classifying Data, in finding the relation of each concept with the statement of the problem to be clearly accomplished, an action of arranging all of the data will be conducted. Thus, the intrinsic data in the text later will be systematically collected and interpreted.

3. Analyzing Data, an action of researching Homer's *Iliad* and Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, with the theory of Intertextuality is applied into it. The aim of this analysis is that to reveal that there are interrelated similarities and differences between both heroines and plots of the stories, and also observe closer to the downfall of the heroines.

   There are steps in analyzing the issues:

 a. Finding the similarities and differences of the heroines and the plots in the texts which are being the focus of the study.

 b. Explaining how the different downfalls between Helen and Anna are influenced by the socio-cultural background.

 c. Concluding the findings.

1.8   Definition of Key Terms

Downfall   : a loss of power, status, prosperity, moral.

Heroine   : female lead character in a literary work.

Hypogram : prior work/ other work which gave influence in the creation of a literary work.

Socio-cultural background : the combination of social and cultural aspects which became the background of the ; related to how beliefs, customs, practices, and behavior applied in a community/ environment as traditions.

Transformation : the work which is influenced/ transformed from the prior work through certain similarities or allusion.