

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Language is a system of words or sign that people use to express thoughts and feelings to each other (Webster, n.d). Language and human are unity; they can not be separated because human needs the language to express what in their mind and heart are. Moreover, language is used in the literacy work because it becomes the media of communication, to tell someone else about the writer's experiences, thoughts and feelings, either the spoken form like in the play (drama), poetry and song, or the writtenlike in the novel, short story,the song lyric etc.

From the description above, the writer concludes that it is so important for human beings to learn about the language and all the aspects that related to the language itself. Literature is one of the media that uses language as the most essential tool to express the human's thoughts and expressions.

Literature is considered as written experience and imagination of what human has in mind, which has the value of an art work that exposes about ideas and things in real life. As quoted by Dyke, literature consists of those writing which interprets the meanings of nature and life, in words

of charm and power, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest.

Literature should be learned and read by everyone because it is the part of cultural heritage which is freely available to everyone, and which can enrich the reader's life in all kind of ways. Once we have broken the barriers that make studying and reading literature seem daunting, the reader finds that literary works can be entertaining, beautiful, funny, or tragic. It can convey profundity of thought, richness of emotion, values in life and insight into character. It takes the reader beyond his limited experience of life to show about the life of other people at other times. Literature stirs us intellectually and emotionally, and deepens our understanding of the history, society, culture and his own individual life.

According to Little (1970, p.1) who takes Arnold's statement (Culture and Anarchy) looks a literature as principal element of its culture. It contains the record of the people's values, thoughts, problems and conflicts-in short his or her whole life. Whether transmitted through the spoken or the written word, literature may fairly be regarded as the chief art of mankind. Therefore, literature can be one of the source or media for delivering the messages or moral and education to the reader. Play (drama), poetry and songs are the spoken form of literature, meanwhile, novel, short story, song lyric etc. are the written form of it.

Novel as one of the examples of literature is a fictional story in writing and has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. It usually tells about human life in its interaction with the environment and each other. In a novel author makes every effort how to connect directly to the reader and shows him the descriptions about the reality of life through the stories contained in the novel.

Novel as one of the literary works will absolutely contain so many messages that are written based on the real life of human. Those messages absolutely will be useful for the reader and somewhat will affect to their life. Novel always has precious value and interesting story to read. The valuesometimes would be well-remembered and leaves such a good impression to the reader.

Allah said in the Holy Qur'an on Sura Al-'Alaq, verse 1-5:

بِالْقَلَمِ عَلَّمَ الَّذِي ﴿١﴾ الْاَكْرَمُ وَرَبُّكَ اَقْرَبُ ﴿٢﴾ عَلَقٍ مِّنْ اِلْنَسْنِ خَلَقَ ﴿٣﴾ خَلَقَ الَّذِي رَبِّكَ بِاسْمِ اَقْرَبُ ﴿٤﴾ يَعْلَمُ لَمْ مَّا اِلْنَسْنِ عَلَّمَ ﴿٥﴾

From the verse above, the writer can conclude that it is so important to learn and read especially about literary works that can give its reader some benefits as the writer has mentioned above.

The writer is interested in analyzing about the educational values that found in the novel *Little House in the Big Woods*. This novel was

written by Laura Ingalls Wilder and the first published in 1932. This novel tells the reader about Laura's real experiences when she was five (her age in the novel). This little girl lived in the Big Woods of Wisconsin, in a little gray house made of logs. Thus, begins the first of nine books based on the frontier existence of the Ingalls family, fixing the time at 1873 and introducing the main character of the series. The simplicity of presentation fixes Laura's perspective as the lens for the story, and all facets the tale remains true to a child's point of view. Wilder used capital letters to highlight Laura's wonder at her surroundings.

Little House in the Big Woods novel is a very charming story about the Ingalls' family. The novel has been read by thousands children in the world because the book is very unique. It is served in a light writing style, just like a little diary of a five years old girl, because she wrote the novel by using kid's language, simple and no need to open the dictionary often even the reader is not using English in their daily life. The novel serves the reader the life that he never has been through before.

Little House in the Big Woods make the reader knows how to live in the big woods with the wild bear that always ready for taking the hog that Laura's family have. The novel also tells us how to make maple sugar syrup at Grandpa's house and how fun it was when Laura and Mary went to town for the first time and so on. *Little House in the Big Woods* also tells

us about the love and the togetherness that Laura and family always have even they live in a shortage and restrictiveness.

This novel is loved by the children also the parents around the world because of the interesting story that Laura had written in the novel, besides, this novel also has so many positive values that good for the reader. So, the writer is interested to choose *Little House in the Big Woods* novel and analyze the educational values that are found in this novel.

The concept of value is basically right or wrong, good or bad, accepted or rejected according to neighborhood and the society where the people lived. One of the examples of the educational values that found in the novel is “Laura that is very rude. You must never interrupt,” said Pa. This value is found on page 22 chapter 1. By sentence that Pa had said, we know that Pa wanted Laura and all of his children to know and understand that interrupting was rude and it occurred in the family as a “rule”. It is one of the educational values that the reader can learn from the novel. Based on the description above, the writer wants to conduct a research with a title “**AN ANALYSIS OF EDUCATIONAL VALUES IN THE NOVEL *LITTLE HOUSE IN THE BIG WOODS***”.

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the main problem investigated in this study is what the educational values found in the novel *Little House in the Big Woods* are.

To be more specific, the writer formulates the problem as follow:

What are the educational values of the novel *Little House in the Big Woods*?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem above, the purpose of the study is:

To identify the educational values found in novel *Little House in the Big Woods*.

D. Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this study will be useful and become a reference for the students especially the students of English Department of Tarbiyah and Teachers Training Faculty of IAIN Antasari Banjarmasin who want to learn about educational values in the novel especially the novel by Laura Ingalls Wilder; *Little House in the Big Woods*. The writer also expects her study will encourage the students be more interested in reading literature for it can be fun activity and will give so many benefits in life.

E. Definition of Key Terms

The writer thinks it is very important to explain about the key terms to avoid the misunderstanding towards the tittle adapted on this research as follows:

1. An analysis is study something by examining its part, what they do, and how they are related to each other (Hornby, 1995 p. 234).
2. Educational values are something (as principle or entity) intrinsically valuable or desirable into human being (Naquip, 1991, p.8). Linda (1997, p.03) divided educational values into two groups, they are:

- 1) Values of being

The value of being is a value that is within involved human beings into the behavior and the way we treat others. They are such as; honesty, bravely, peace, confidence and capability, self-discipline and moderation, purity and pureness.

- 2) Values of giving

The values of giving is that values need to be practiced or provided which would then be accepted as a given. They are such as; loyalty and trustworthy, respect to other, respect for natural environment, love and affection, sensitive and not selfish, kind and friendly, fair and humane.

3. *Little house in the Big Woods* is the first book in the Laura Years Series that written by Laura Ingals Wilder. The book published first in 1932 and consists of 13 chapters and 238 pages. There are nine books in the series; *Little House in the Big Woods*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Farmer Boy*, *On the Banks of Plum Creek*, *By the Shores of Silver Lake*, *The Long Winter*, *Little Town on the Prairie*, *These Happy Golden Years*, and *the First Four Years*.