

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. The Background of the Study

... There have been various attempts. You can define it (literature), for example, as "imaginative" writing in the sense of fiction-writing which is not really true. But even the briefest reflection on what people commonly include under the heading of literature suggest that this will do... (1996:1)

Seen from Eagleton's statement above, literature can be defined as a piece of literary work which is the expression of artistic fact and imagination and using writing as the instruments. Literary works commonly use beauty and meaningful writing. The object itself generally tells about human's daily life who make contact or socialize with the environment as what the masterpiece writer wants. Roberts and Henry define literature refers to composition that tell stories, dramatize situation, express emotion, analyze and advocate ideas (1993 : 1)

Based on the forms, literature is divided into three major forms. They are poetry, prose and drama. Each form has its characteristic and beauty for the lovers.

Prose is a piece of literary work that is different with poetry seen from the form of writing and the language using. In other words prose has natural speech and ordinary grammatical structure, not bound by rhyme, rhythm and sonority sound. Prose can be classified into fiction and non-fiction. Based on the characteristic and the purpose, prose is divided into four types, narrative, descriptive, exposition and persuasive.

By the time, prose can be broken into two types. The first one is old prose. Writings included into old prose are saga, legend, story, fairytale (myth, fable, legend) and witty or silly. The second one is modern prose and writing that is included into modern proeses are romance, novel, short story, history, biography/autobiography, criticism, reviews and essay.

In this paper, the writer chooses novel as the object because the writer thinks that novel is one of the most impressive literary works to express feelings and life experiences. He thinks that author can be a God in the story he writes. The novel that the writer chooses, entitled *A Farewell to Arms* written by Ernest Miller Hemingway or more famous as Ernest Hemingway. He was a great author. He won "Pulitzer Prize for Fiction" (1953) and "Nobel Prize in Literature" (1954) for his literary works. He wrote a lot of books such as *The Sun Also Rises* (1926), *A farewell to Arms* (1929), *Whom the Bell Tolls* (1940) and so on.

A Farewell to Arms was published in 1929, the title is taken from a poem by 16th-century English dramatist George Peele. It tells about a first-person account of American Frederic Henry, serving as a Lieutenant ("Tenente") in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army. *A Farewell to Arms* is about a love affair between the expatriate American Henry and Catherine Barkley against the backdrop of the First World War, cynical soldiers, fighting and the displacement of populations.

The publication of *A Farewell to Arms* cemented Hemingway's stature as a modern American writer, became his first best-seller, and is described by

biographer Michael Reynolds as "*the premier American war novel from that debacle World War I*".

The novel was inspired by Hemingway's own experiences serving in the Italian campaigns during the First World War. The inspiration for Catherine Barkley was Agnes von Kurowsky, a real nurse who cared for Hemingway in a hospital in Milan after he had been wounded. He had planned to marry her but she spurned his love when he returned to America. Kitty Cannell, a Paris-based fashion correspondent, became Helen Ferguson.

The way of Hemingway's telling about the conflict makes him look different with the other authors. The writer chooses this novel because he feels interested in the plot, the raised conflicts, the story telling, the settings where the story took place and the main characters. The writer feels curious about it especially all conflict or event that makes the main character live his life tragically. How does the main character face his life?

It seems she had one hemorrhage after another. They couldn't stop it. I went into the room and stayed with Catherine until she died. She was unconscious all the time, and it did not take her very long to die. (1929 : 354-355)

...But after I had got them o...ut and shut the door and turned off the light it wasn't any good. It was like saying good-bye to a statue. After a while I went out and left the hospital and walked back to the hotel in the rain. (1929 : 355)

From the quotation above readers know that *A Farewell to Arms* is a tragedy novel. But what makes the main character lose his woman? What had he done?

Besides, the aim to reach mentioned earlier, the writer thinks that research concerning tragedy is still in small number. It causes references to doing same research is a little bit hard to find. Furthermore, the writer hopes that this research can be additional acknowledgment and references for those who makes the same research.

In order to solve the problem, the writer decides to analyze the way of main character faces conflict on this story. Two primary elements of Aristotles' concept character and plot which are included into structuralism theory will be used to solve the problem.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

In literature, tragedy and comedy are known as genres stated by Aristotles and known as Aristotles' concept. The genres mentioned earlier is more refering to drama rather than novel because drama is much more older than novel. Novel can be said as new genre in literature. The terms of novel was derived from Latin *novellus*, taken from *novies* which means "new". It is called new because compared to other literary works poems and drama, novel appeared lately. According to Liddell's statement (1965 : 17), born of the first English novel was *Famela* on 1740.

Novel and drama consist of two elements, intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The scope of intrinsic elements are characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, tone, theme. Intrinsic elements build the story directly. And the other elements called extrinsic elements. It does not build the story directly but influencing the story.

The writer conduct to analyze the way of main character faces each conflict in *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway seen from the character and plot. Based on the background study, this novel was written by one of greatest author, consists of interesting events that makes the main character lived his life tragically.

1.3 Research Questions

The reaserch questions will be:

- How does the main character face every conflict or event in the story?

1.4 Objectives of the Research

Objectives of this study:

1. To prove that *A Farewell to Arms* is a tragedy novel based on concept of Aristotles seen from the plot and character. In the process of making this paper the writer is going to find the evidences that supporting this novel as

a tragedy novel. At the end, the evidences will be the plot with the explanations of conflict and the way of main character faces the conflict or event in *A Farewell to Arms*.

2. To find the evidences of the raised problem which is the Aristotles' concept is more refering to drama. But, in this paper writer tries to apply it in a novel.

1.5 Significances of the Research

In making this paper the writer has some aims to get. Theoritically is the writer makes this paper to himself as acknowledgement in doing analysis of literary works. Especially about finding the way and the evidences that makes a literary works is called as tragedy novel. Practically is about to aim this paper to anyone who analyze Hemingway's novel entitled *A Farewell to Arms* as additional acknowledgments.