

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 . Background of the Study

Literature is interesting to be learned because of three following reasons. First, literature can entertain. It can make the readers get pleasure and feel happy. Second, literature is a part of life; it can make the readers learn about the culture, costumes, value, religion and history of the story taking place. And the last reason is literature can teach and improve the reader' knowledge (Roberts and Jacob 1989:19). Roberts and Jacob (1989:21) argue that literature can also help people grow into the broader cultural, philosophic and religious world and to recognize human dreams and struggles in order to develop mature sensitivity.

Literature such as a poem, play or any other piece of writing is a crafted thing which also offers the reader an imaginative experience (Woolfe and Hampton 1984:1). Literature is like a mirror of life and reflection of human life. Most of what the author writes in literature happens in the real life. When the readers read literature such as poem, play, novel or any other piece of writing with interest, there is a point at which the readers become totally immersed in literature, but when the readers have finished reading a poem or play or novel, or any other piece of writing, the readers can go back through the work/ the real life and see how each part, language, characterization, plot, personality, history, the way to solve the problem, etc, give the readers impact to the real life (Woolfe and Hampton 1984:1).

Woolfe and Hampton statements above also supported by M.H Abrams on his book *The Mirror and The Lamp*. The mimetic theory is the explanation of art as essentially an imitation of aspects of the universe. All of the arts are imitation. (M.H Abrams 1953:8). It makes the writer interest to check whether it is true or not that all of the art are imitation and reflection of human life. If all the art are imitation and reflection of human life, it means from the story, it represented and showed human life where the story takes place. And the character in the story represents people at that time when the story takes place. Automatically, when the readers read a novel, they also learn about the history where the story takes place.

Literature can be divided into 3 (three) types. There are poetry, drama and fiction. While fiction is categorized into two kinds, those are novel and short story. This study is concerned to analyze a novel, which is fictitious prose narrative or tale considerable length in which character and actions representative of the real life

of past of present times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (Howthom 1985:1). Moreover, a novel is a part of literary work that teaches people about life, facts and truth. The story in a novel might reflect human's attitude, behavior toward life and society.

First, novel concerns with people and their problems including feeling, emotions, their behavior, and personality. A novel deals with people more and less "like us", in recognizable places and social settings, confronted with situation and problems that could happen in everyday life and often do (Robson 1982:65). Second, novel is natural. Novel always presents about the truth that actually happens in life. Even though, there are some imaginative novels but the imaginative novel tells the readers about someone's dream or someone's imagination about something. Dreaming and imagining about something is normal for human. Novel is natural, it helps to broaden the reader's mind and deepen insight toward human being (Roberts and Jacob 1989:2). Two significances above are the basics of the writer which makes her to choose novel to be her media to explore and write it.

There are many great and brilliant novelists in America. One of them is Ray Bradbury. He was born in Waukegan, Illinois on August 22, 1920. Ray Douglas Bradbury is an American mainstream, fantasy, horror, science fiction and mystery writer. His novel includes "Something Wicked This Way Comes", "Dandelion Wine", "Farewell Summer" and many of short stories. The writer chooses the work of Ray Bradbury because he is one of the greatest and most popular American writers of speculative fiction of the twentieth century. (<http://redwood.stormloader.com/Bradbury/>).

One of Bradbury's novels discussed in this study is Farewell Summer. This novel is published on October 17, 2006. Farewell Summer is a story about civil war on October 1929 in Green Town, Illinois. There were 2 (two) sides in this novel. The first were younger generations and the other was elderly generations. The characters of younger generations were Douglas Spaulding and his friends. In that time, they were entering puberty and in the time of growing up and the character of elderly generations were Calvin Quatermain and his friends. Younger generations made many problems to show their way to against older generation. Problems changed their perspective about life. Nobody was wrong but they had different perspective in their life.

Farewell Summer's setting was on October 1929 in Green Town, Illinois and the main character in this novel was Douglas Spaulding. To check whether it is true or not that all of the art are imitation and reflection of human life. The writer used the main character (Douglas Spaulding) to be her media to reflect the symbol of

people in 1929 and since the main character is the central character of a story. And American's history to be a bridge to make the writer know what happens on October 1929 in Green Town, Illinois.

People cannot live without other people. Realized it or not, society and surrounding give an effect in our life. All of us are different. People have different knowledge, background of family, the way to think, to solve and face the problem, etc. And people cannot avoid with conflict. The conflict is closely related with all of aspects which are influence to people (in physical, emotional, the way of thinking, speaking and act).

Based on the statement above, the writer is interested in making a study on "The Influence of Society and Surrounding to Douglas Spaulding in solving conflict in Bradbury's novel Farewell Summer"

## **1.2 .Statements of the problem**

In line with the background of the study, the research questions are formulated as follows

1. What conflicts does Douglas Spaulding get from his surrounding?
2. What does Douglas Spaulding do to solve his conflicts?
3. How do the conditions of the society influence Douglas Spaulding to solve his conflicts?

## **1.3 .Objective of the study**

In line with the problems, the purpose of this study is to analyze the novel entitled Farewell Summer as to find out what conflict Douglas Spaulding gets from his surrounding, what Douglas Spaulding does to solve his conflicts and to what extent the conditions of the society influence Douglas Spaulding to solve his conflicts.

## **1.4 .Significance of the study**

Literature is like a mirror of life and reflection of human life (Woolfe and Hampton 1984:1). The readers will learn and improve their vocabulary and grammar, learn about the feelings, emotions, dreams and the way to solve/survive in problems. The readers also learn about culture, costumes and history where an author lives or where the story taken places.

The writer hopes that this study can encourage more students, especially the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University, to read and study deeper about literature especially novels in order to open minded (to be critical), to broaden their cultural, philosophical, historical understanding the readers belong to.

Hope that this study can be useful for the teaching and learning of literature. She hopes the students and the teacher can see literature as multifunctional media. The readers will learn many things and entertain in the same time. Literature could be a reality and help the readers to see the world.

### **1.5 .Scope and Limitation**

In this study the writer only focuses on finding out what conflict Douglas Spaulding get from his surrounding, what Douglas Spaulding do to solve his conflicts and how the conditions of the society influence Douglas Spaulding to solve his conflicts.

The writer uses mimetic theory to analyze the main character Douglas Spaulding in Bradbury's novel Farewell Summer. Mimetic theory explains that a work of art is basically a representation of the background culture. Accordingly, the writer also discusses America's history to support his analysis.

### **1.6 .Theoretical Framework**

In the line with the topic of the study, some underlying theories are necessary to be discussed. They are:

- (1) Literature
- (2) Novel
- (3) The Elements of The Novel: setting, character and characterization, plot, theme
- (4) Conflict: the nature of conflicts, types of conflicts
- (5) Critical theories: mimetic theory
- (6) The 1920s (Modern Times) and in 1929 (The Great Depression)

### **1.7 Definition of Key Terms**

The researcher finds it necessary to define some key terms in title and problem statement used in this study to avoid misunderstanding and ambiguity.

1. Literature

Literature is a written (and also spoken) composition designed to tell the stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also, more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden and ennoble readers (Roberts and Jacobs, 1986:1)

2. Novel

Novel is a prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and action representative of the real life of past or present times portrayed in a plot of more or less complexities (Howthorn, 1987:1)

3. A character

A character is the imaginary people that writers create, sometimes identifying with them, something judging them (Diyanni 2000:35)

4. Main character

Main character is a character who plays an important and prominent role in story (Perrish 1977:497)

5. A conflict

A conflict is a clash of actions, ideas, desire, or wills (Perrine 1966:59)

6. Physical conflict

Physical conflict is a struggle between a person and the physical (Shawn, 1972:64)

7. Sociological conflict

Sociological conflict is a struggle between a person and the other person. (Shawn, 1972:64)

8. Psychological conflicts

Psychological conflicts is a conflicts within the mind of the character who is torn frequently between contrasting loyalties and ways of life or between two aspects of the self, usually one that is "idealized" and one that is "real" (Mzkenzie,1978:31)

9. Influence

Influence is the power of persons or things to affect others, seen only in its effects (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1996:693)

10. Surrounding

Surrounding is the totality of social relationships among humans (Webster's New World Dictionary, 1996:1401)

## 11. "Farewell Summer"

"Farewell Summer" is a novel written by Ray Bradbury published on October 17, 2006.

### **1.8 . Organization of The Thesis**

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I deal with the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, the scope and limitation, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms and the organization of the study. Chapter II presents the review of the related literature and previous related study. Chapter III is concerned with the research method of the study. Chapter IV deal with the analysis of Farewell Summer and chapter V presents the conclusion of the study and suggestion