

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains the background of the study, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, and definition of key terms.

#### **1.1 Background of the study**

Literature can be called as fictional imagination due to its nature. As a fiction, literary work is not the same as the fact of life in which the events happening in literature do not necessarily happen in real life. However, events in a literary work are highly connected with human reality. When it tells about animals, a fable, a story where the animals can talk and act like humans, people can still connect what happens among the animals' lives with the reality of human life. In many ways, the events created by the author aim to symbolize real life via the animal's form or behavior. As an imaginary or a reflection of life, the literature contains the value of life. That is why people still preserve literary work and pass it down from generation to generation because it contains the truth about human life though readers realize that all of them are only fiction. That is why Kennedy (1991) urged that not all of the stories are true but at least partially formed and made from imagination (p. 1).

Since literature is a fiction, the fact or the truth in literature is different from the other types of writing in journalism. Unlike the news in the newspaper which gives the readers general information, the literature describes the events more vividly since the authors describe the events very clearly based on their feelings and experiences so that the readers can imagine

and feel the things that the authors had poured into their work. Along with this line, an author is not a historian who records events in the past as accurately as possible as lesson learnt for a community or country. An author, on the other hand, is concerned on the meanings behind the events.

The implicit meanings in a literary work encourages the researcher to find the hidden meaning of a literary work. Through this research, the researcher reads a book entitled *The Diary of a Young Girl* which was written by Anne Frank because this book reveals her own life clearly as a tortured Jewish people. This book tells the story of Anne Frank's life based on a true story in the Second World War. Anne Frank was one of the teenage girls who had the blood of Jews and became the victims of Nazi torture. Even though she was still a teenager, she had good writing skills. During her life, Anne poured out all the views and feelings she experienced over the Nazi torture in her diary. Anne's Diary shows how hard her life was but she persevered in facing the misery she experiences. This makes the writer interested in raising Anne Frank's story in this study. Furthermore, it shows us a way to survive in such a misery. Therefore, this study aims to look for the history of persecution by Nazi against Jewish people in Anne Frank's book

The fact that this book is Anne Frank's autobiography book leads the researcher to use historical approach in this study. Acerbi (2013) stated that "books are one of the media which can deliver positive and negative moods which related to historical events and refers to reduce emotion by putting it into words" (p. 3). Anne Frank, in *The Diary of a Young Girl*,

poured her emotion during World War II and thus, her emotion is delivered to us, the readers, who exists long after her death. The misery events happened to Anne Frank is a fact, experienced by her and could be proven and through this book, her emotion, innocence, optimism, and humanity, is shown. Anne Frank's literary work prove that history talks about the fact of the events while literature shows real emotions.

This book is an inspiring book which tells the readers about how to struggle in misery during the Second World War. Because it inspires many people, this book has been read by readers from all over the world. As is known, according to Heims (2006) the background of this story is during the Second World War (p. 2), which is largely influenced by European history, where many people especially people from outside Europe lack of the Second World War knowledge so that the readers cannot understand the story well. Despite the fact that the readers of Anne Frank from outside Europe have a lack knowledge of the Second World War, the researcher hopes that the readers can understand Anne Frank's story with the background knowledge provided by the researcher.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The research question in this study is “How can the history of Jewish persecution during World War II enlighten the content of *Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl* about her perseverance in the misery?”

However, this research question can be achieved after answering the following preliminary questions:

1. How can the history of Jewish persecution shed light the settings of the novel?
2. How can the history of Jewish persecution shed light the character of Anne in the novel?
3. How can the history of Jewish persecution shed light the plot of the novel?

### **1.3 The Objectives of Study**

Based on the statement of problems above, the main objective of this study is to learn Anne Frank's perseverance in the misery she experienced during the persecution against Jewish people by Nazi in World War II in the Anne Frank's book that can be achieved by some preliminary objectives:

1. To find out the Jewish persecution through the settings in the novel.
2. To find out the Jewish persecution through the character of Anne in the novel
3. To find out the Jewish persecution through the plot of the novel

### **1.4 The Significance of the Study**

The novel under study, *Anne Frank's The Diary of a Young Girl*, improves the relationship between historical facts and literary works. The

novel portrays the severe persecution against Jewish people in Europe during the World War II which might not be familiar for readers in Indonesia. This study provides some information of literary study especially for people who are interested in history about anti-semitism and literary study. By giving more historical information as the background of the novel, readers can understand the content of this book.

### **1.5 The Scope of the study**

This research concentrates on the historical approach of the persecution against Jewish people that is experienced by Anne Frank.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

#### **1. Historical Approach**

The historical approach to literature is done by investigating the social, cultural and intellectual contexts that affect the author's results. In addition, it should contain the biography and environment of the author. The aim of this approach is to understand the effects of literary work on the readers' perspective (Kennedy and Gioia, 1995,pp. 1790-1818)

#### **2. Perseverance**

In Latin, perseverance means "the person who looks to the end" or "the person who does not give up. English describes the word with the

meaning of the situation in which humans maintain their activities despite difficulties (Wheatley, 2010).

### **3. Misery**

According to Rapley, Mocncriff & Dillon (2011) misery defined as a situation where human feel great anxiety and depression (p.30).

### **4. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank**

This book is an autobiography book and has a form as a diary. The diary that was written by Anne Frank was in Dutch so the first publication was in Dutch, but now this book has been published in various languages. The first book published in 1947 with the title “*Het Achterhuis*” after Anne’s father, Otto Frank, found his daughter diary in their house (Prose,2009,p. 10). Anne Frank began to write her diary in 1942, the diary contains about her life before that she hid in Secret Annex until the last day before the Nazi found her and took her to the camp.

However, the writer uses the book that written in English entitled “The Diary of a Young girl” which contains an introduction about Anne Frank that has been written by Eleanor Roosevelt and published in 1993 by Bantam books and in Bantam edition.