

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

The word 'literature' derives from the Latin word '*Littera*' which means letter. It primarily refers to the written or printed words. Literature can be defined as 'imaginative' writing in the sense of fiction (Eagleton, 2008). According to Lizbeth Goodman, literature includes forms of writing which deliberately and creatively experiment with language in order to suggest images and ideas which engage the readers' imagination (Goodman, 1996).

Literature is important because it will expand people's mind and sense of life. It also gives the pleasure of reading, enjoying the story, and giving the possibilities that we may gain in our real life. Thus, literature is a tool to learn not only language but also learn about life, moral and so on because by reading literary we can get lessons about life, moral values or moral messages that contain in the story which is written by the writer. The lesson from the literary work can be applied in the real life so that it will increase our moral to be a better person in the future.

There are some kinds of literary works are such as poetry, short story, drama, and novel. A novel develops a theme to express the authors' thoughts by using obvious pictures to guide the readers to perceive what the storyline is. A novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length. Not all novels are written

in prose, there are novels in verse (Eagleton, 2005). A novel is not the same as a short story. A short story can be read in one sitting while a novel has more content to be read so it is impossible to read in one sitting only. In every novel, it has some particular messages to be presented by author to the readers. The ideas of the novelist are transformed through the order of the story which influenced by social background. Reading novels don't only give the pleasure of enjoying the story, but it also realizes the messages which contain in the novel. In addition, there are some cultures or values that can be learnt from it.

Nowadays, in our society, people have lack of something called moral. It is something which is very important to the society. Moral helps to be a better person. However, there are some people who are not able to differentiate what is right or what is wrong and this is a really bad. It may cause bad influences to the next generation. Thus, we need to improve the moral. Moral improvement needs to be taught in the early age, in order to not get into bad influences. Moral values may not always be taught by discussion in the class lesson but we can get it from the society we live in, from the friends we be friend with, also we can get the moral values lessons through reading literary books. In some certain books, it may carry some moral values or moral messages which we can apply in our real life.

The Secret Garden was created by Frances Eliza Hodgson Burnett. It was created in 19th century (1911). Frances was born on 24 November 1849 in Cheetham, England. After her father died in 1852, the family fell on straitened circumstances and in 1865 immigrated to the United States. Frances began writing to help earn money for the family, publishing stories in magazines from the age of

19. In 1870, her mother died and in 1872 Frances married Swan Burnett, who was a medical doctor. They lived for two years in Paris, where their two sons were born, before returning to the United States to live in Washington D.C., Burnett then began to write novels, the first of which *That Lass o' Lowrie's* was published to good reviews. *Little Lord Fauntleroy* was published in 1886 and made her a popular writer of children's fiction, although her romantic adult novels written in the 180s were also popular.

Beginning in the 1880s, she began to travel to England frequently and in the 1890s bought a home there where she wrote *The Secret Garden*. Her oldest son, Lionel, died of tuberculosis in 1890, which caused a relapse of the depression she has struggled. She divorced Swan Burnett in 1898 and married Stephen Townsend in 1900, and divorced him in 1902. A few years later she settled in Nassau County, Long Island, where she died in 1924 and was buried in Roslyn Cemetery.

In this research, the writer chooses the title "*Moral Values Found in 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett; A Moral Philosophical Approach*". The reason of choosing this title because the writer sees the major points of this novel is about children, friendship among friends, respect of every servants to their master, and the feeling affection from the daughter to mother. From the story it can bring some great impacts by reading it, and can be applied to real life in order to be a better person. According to the background above, the writer determines the title of this research is "*Moral Values Found in 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett; A Moral Philosophical Approach*". The

writer uses Fundamental Moral Attitudes by Dietrich Von Hildebrand to analyze this thesis.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

The identification of the problem is needed to give clarification about the problem that will be investigated. The writer arranged the identifications of the problem refer to the background above, they are:

1. The moral values found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
2. The moral messages found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
3. The life philosophy found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
4. The moral values that influences the characters in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

1.3 Limitation of the Research

Based on the identification of the problem above, the writer limited the problems that are going to be discussed, only:

1. The moral values found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
2. The moral messages found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

3. Not the life philosophy found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
4. Not the moral values that influences the characters in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

1.4 Formulation of the Research

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the writer arranged the formulations of the research, they are:

1. What are the moral values found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett?
2. What are the moral messages found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett?

1.5 Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the research above, the writer arranged the objectives of the research, they are:

1. To find out the moral values found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.
2. To find out the moral messages found in The Secret Garden novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

1.6 Significance of the Research

Based on the objective of the research above, the writer arranged the significances of the research are:

1.6.1 Theoretically

After studying this research, it is expected to be beneficial to the world of literature and complement to the study of Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel "*The Secret Garden*".

1.6.2 Practically

The writer expects that the study can contribute to the development of literary study, particularly among students in Putera Batam University who are interested in this study. And the writer also expects the readers to get more educational and moral values by reading this study.

1.7 Definition of Key Term

Moral Philosophy : The branch of philosophy concerned with ethics.
(Oxford Dictionary)

Moral Values : The standard of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. (All about Philosophy)

Moral Message : A short piece of information that you give to a person relating to the standards of good or bad behavior, fairness, honesty, etc. (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary)