

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is intended to present the background of the study, statement problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of the Study

Everybody communicate by using language. Language is a system of communication which is needed in human life. Hornby stated that language is the system of communication in speech and writing that is used by people of a particular country.¹ Based on that statement we know that language is an important thing in human life and makes humans understand and can communicate easily with others in social life.

Literature is a world that full of beauty. In literary works we can find human emotions, such as happiness, sadness, love, worry, etc. Emotions represent the essential part of literary works and written in an artistic way. The writers of literature express their thought, feelings, emotions, and attitudes towards life.² Literature is a permanent expression in words of some thoughts or feeling or idea about life and the world.³ Taylor said that, "Literature, like other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer's

¹ A. S. Hornby, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), 752.

² Manindra Nath. Sinha, *A Handbook of The Study of Literature. First Edition* (Bareilly: Prakash Book Depot, 1977), 1.

³ R. J. Rees, *English Literature* (Hong Kong: The Macmillan Press Limited, 1973), 9.

imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life experiences".⁴ Wellek said that "Literature is a creative act and an art".⁵ So, generally literature is a creative expression of human imagination or wishes, which is hardly ever reflected in our actual life. It is a mirror of human life that portrays the human feeling, thought, imagination, and perception can be viewed based on personal judgment.

Roberts and Jacobs stated that literature is classified into four categories of genre: prose fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction prose.⁶ Prose fiction, poetry, and drama are classed as imaginative literature. From the various types of imaginative literature, poetry is the shortest category of literature than other categories. Poetry is a form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to, or in lieu of, its apparent meaning. Poetry and poem describe a wide variety of spoken and written forms, styles, patterns, and also a wide variety of subjects. Because of the variety, it is not possible to make a single, comprehensive definition.⁷ Richard Gill said that poetry is both a specially made object and an important form of communication between people.⁸ We must remember that these are not two separate elements within any poem. Poetry communicates in and communication between people that make it different

⁴ Richard Taylor, *Understanding the Element of Literature* (Hong Kong: The Macmillan Company, 1981), 15.

⁵ Rene Wellek and Austin Warren, *Theory of Literature* (New York: Harcourt Brace and World, Inc., 1956), 3.

⁶ Edgar V. Roberts and Henry E. Jacobs, *Literature An Introduction to Reading and Writing* (New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc., 1995), 2.

⁷ Ibid., 547.

⁸ Richard Gill, *Mastering English Literature* (London: Macmillan Education LTD, 1985), 4.

from ordinary speech or writing. Everybody communicate or express their feeling by using some genre categories of literature, such as poetry. Poets include advice/moral message in their poems, so the poem readers can get the moral values from the poems they read and apply them in their life. By reading a poem, the intention of a poet can be understood.

Bertens stated that Moral value is a reality that is hidden behind other realities. Judging means to judge a human activity to connect something with something else then for the next decision is made. Rooted in moral values that serve to encourage and direct (motivator) attitudes and human behavior. Value as a system is one manifestation of culture in addition to the social system and work. Then, there are four characteristic of moral value: moral value is related with responsibility, moral value is related with pure heart, obligation, and formality.⁹

There are so many conflicts in the world, one of them is Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Many tragedies in Palestine is the results of ongoing dispute between the Jewish and Arab population in the former Ottoman Empire region of Palestine, consisting the state of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. This phenomenon happens for many years and invites attention from all of people in the world. Many people give their help and pray to God for this case.

Many artists express their feeling about Palestinian-Israeli conflict by making many literature works that are appropriate with their skill or their job,

⁹ Bertens, *The Elements of Moral Philosophy* (New York: McGrawHill Companies, 2000), 143-147.

for example poems, poets express their feeling about the conflict by making poems. People who live in Palestine observe or experience the tragedies in Palestine directly. They can feel deeper than people who do not live in Palestine. Palestinian poets can express their feeling about the tragedies better than poets who do not live in Palestine. Because of that, the researcher take a popular Palestinian poet, he is Mahmoud Darwish. He made ninety five poems and some of them are about the conflict. His poems are in five books of poems. In this research, the researcher wants to know the moral values found in Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems. The researcher chooses the four selection poems of Mahmoud Darwish's poems because of the good form, content, and figure of speech of the poems.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher decides to conduct an analysis entitled **"Moral Values Found in Mahmoud Darwish's Book of Poems"**.

B. Statement of the Problem

This research is conducted to answer the question about problem found in Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems. The research question is: What are the moral values found in Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the question stated before, it can be summarized that the main purpose of conducting this research is to explain the moral values found in Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems.

D. Significance of the Study

The significance of the study is getting clear description about moral values found in Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems. Hopefully this research gives contribution to all society, especially in education. The reflection of moral value is useful for the readers and the teacher.

For the readers, this research is expected to give more understanding about technique to write good poem by reading the good poems. The readers can follow the example of good poems, included the form, figure of speech, and the content of the poems. Besides that, this research is expected to give knowledge about moral value and practice it in life. After reading this research, hopefully the readers have better attitude, more religious than before, and closer to God.

For the teachers, this research is expected to give lesson about moral value and teach it to the students. The student will have more knowledge about moral value and practice it in their life. Hopefully the students will have better attitude, more religious, and closer to God after taught moral values in this research.

E. Scope and Limitation

There are some books of many poems made by Mahmoud Darwish, a popular Palestinian poet. In this research, the scope of the research is all of Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems. To make this research more effective, the researcher makes the limitation. The researcher only analyzes the moral

values found in Mahmoud Darwish's poems that only discuss/tell about war and death in Palestine, as we know that Palestine has a conflict with Israel. The name of poems are mentioned below. The names of poems taken from Mahmoud Darwish's books of poems are "*A Gentle Rain in a Distant Autumn*", "*The Lute of Ismael*", "*As Fate Would Have It*", and "*Truce with the Mongols by the Holm Oak Forest*"

F. Definition of Key Terms

The term used in this research might give confusion, unless they are briefly and clearly described. To avoid some understanding or misinterpretation and make the reader not feel confused, uncertain, and ambiguous in reading this research, the researcher provides some definition of key terms as follow:

1. Poem

A poem is a single piece of poetry, complete in itself. Poetry is the collective term used to describe a group of poems, which may or may not be related by theme, author, or style. Robert Penn Warren has whimsically defined a poem as a group of lines that printed evenly along the left-hand margin of a page.¹⁰ So poetry is so varied than poem. But it's not possible to make a single comprehensive definition between them.

¹⁰ Ruth Miller & Robert A. Greenberg, *Poetry an Introduction* (Hong Kong: MacMillan Education Limited, 1981), 44.

2. Moral Value

Moral values are the standards of good and evil, which govern an individual's behavior and choices. Individual's morals may derived from society and government, religion, or itself. When moral values derived from society and government of necessity, may change as the laws and morals of the society change.¹¹ Rooted in moral values that serve to encourage and direct (motivator) attitudes and human behavior. Value as a system is one manifestation of culture in addition to the social system and work.

3. Mahmoud Darwish

Mahmoud Darwish is considered to be the most important contemporary Arab poet. He is a Palestinian. His poems are known throughout the Arab world, and several of them have been put to music. He published 95 poetry and prose collections, which have been translated into 35 languages.

¹¹ "Moral Value", <http://allaboutphilosophy.org/moral-values-faq.htm>, accessed on April 24th, 2015.