CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Commitment is a promise by someone to do something or not. A promise is a manifestation of intention to act or refrain from acting in a specified way. It made to justify a promise in understanding that a commitment has been made. The person manifesting the intention is the promiser. The person to whom the manifestation is addressed is the promise. It needs in life especially in relationship to keep the secret between one and another. Beside that the loyalty is important too in our life.

*The Scarlet letter* is movie directed by Roland Joffe. The duration of the movie is about 205 minutes. This movie is released in 1995. Scarlet letter movie was adapted from the novel entitle scarlet letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Scarlet Letter* has been adapted many times on film, on television, and on the stage. The first film was a 1917 black and white silent film, while the most recent and much maligned film version opened in 1995 starring Demi Moore and Gary Oldman.

The movie tells about puritanism in Massachusetts. Puritanism was the religion practiced by the people of colonial Boston. The language used is English and Indian. English is used because the people in Massachusetts come from Europe. Indian language is used because there are Indian people in this movie. Puritanism makes the woman not have done something that different.
Another example is that the woman is not given permission to stay alone in home. In the scarlet letter there are 3 steps, which are: rule, order, and survive. Those steps should be done by everyone in Massachusetts. Hester Pryne is an individual with strong commitment. It can be seen from her longing to stay alone in her house, even though many people suggest her to stay with the Governor until her husband come. She run over the rules from the old man.

In 1996, Scarlet letter movie has category for the most Desirable Female Demi Moore in MTV Movie Award. Then PFS (Political film society) Award for the category humans right and peace. From Razzie Award scarlet letter won for category Worst Remake or Sequel Roland Joffé and Andrew G. Vajna. Besides entertainment this movie had the possibility of goading change, since it addressed a topic that was still relatively controversial, even taboo.

*The Scarlet Letter* also became intensely popular upon publication because it had the good fortune of becoming one of America's first mass-published books. The Scarlet Letter benefited not only from its implicit controversial subject matter but also from an unusually large available readership. The novel also benefited because of Hawthorne’s support and respect among New England’s literary establishment. Thus, the novel became popular not only with the masses. It was heralded as “appropriate” reading despite its attention to adulterous love. From Hawthorne’s novel given inspiring Roland Joffe to direct make the movie with similar title and story.
The story of scarlet letter in Massachusetts at 1666. Where there is Puritans, Indians and adultery come. The movie opens considerably in advance of the novel's first scene and the script by Douglas Day Stewart delves deeply into early events only hinted at in Hawthorne's tale. Much of this background, despite being speculative, works although it takes forever for the romance between Hester and Dimmesdale to get off the ground. Once we get through the scene with the two groping in a barn, things start moving.

When the Puritan colonists of 17th century Boston discover that Hester, the wife of an absent English doctor, is pregnant by a man whose name she refuses to yield, she is thrown into prison until the child is born. Dimmesdale pleads with her to let him reveal the truth but she extracts a pledge of silence from him. Her eventual punishment for fornication and adultery is to wear a scarlet "A" on her breast at all times to remind the townspeople of her sin. However, when her long-lost presumed dead husband, Roger Chillingworth (Robert Duvall) arrives after a period spent as an Indian captive, his wife's public humiliation does little to save his need for vengeance a cause to which he devotes all his efforts.

Roland Joffe who directed this movie is clearly interested in the conflict between man's view of sin and God's. This forms the core of the movie. Is love wrong just because it contravenes certain man-made laws? Themes of guilt which are so critical to the book are toned down in the movie and the character of Chillingworth has been reduced from a bitter, betrayed
man to a bent, sadistic killer. Robert Duvall's abilities are seriously underused in the role as envisioned by Roland Joffe and Stewart.

One area where this movie version of *The Scarlet Letter* is masterful is in its depiction of the setting. The mock up of colonial Boston is convincing and great care is taken to assure that there are no obvious anachronisms. The forest which is virtually a character in the novel, has its own life in the film as well. On the whole, this is a beautiful looking picture, but *The Scarlet Letter* is in need of more than a nice appearance.

The weakest part of the script is the ending. Aside from straying significantly from that of the book, the final quarter hour turns this rather lugubrious melodrama into an action film. Someone tuning in late in the proceedings might mistake the finale for a scene. In principle the writer does not have a problem with changing Hawthorne's downbeat conclusion, but the result should be more thoughtful than this painfully facile, "Hollywood -ized" version.

Credit should be given to the film makers for attempting to adapt a classic American novel for modern audiences. Unfortunately, poor casting and script choices have reduced this film to little more than a period piece soap opera. The letter placed upon Hester's breast may be an "A", but Roland Joffe's film doesn't deserve much better than a "C-" on its report card.

The writer wants to analyze *The Scarlet Letter* due to some reasons. The first, the writer is interested in this movie because it has good story.
Secondly, many messages can be found from this movie. One of the messages is believed to the God.

The third reason is the movie has many themes. The writer finds several themes which related to love, struggle, and affair. And the fourth, the movie has interesting major characters.

From the previous reasons, the writer wants to analyze the commitment of Hester Pryne in scarlet letter movie with Individual Psychology and the title is HESTER PRYNE’S COMMITMENT TO KEEP THE SECRET IN ROLAND JOFFE’S *THE SCARLET LETTER* MOVIE (1995): AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH

B. Literature Review

Before analyzing the movie, the researcher has read other paper that is relevant to the analysis, especially the object of the movie. The researcher found the study of Prihastuti Sri Lestari (2002). She was a student of Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta. the research paper entitles “*Hester Prynne’s self adjustment to the social expenctancies as reflected in the Scarlet Letter a novel by Nathaniel hawtrone a Social Psychological approach.*”

Based on the studies above, the writer wants to analyze with different focus on the research, although concern with same object. In this research the writer emphasizes the commitment to keep the secret using individual psychological approach.
C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and the background of the study, the main problem in this research is “How is to keep the secret of Hester Pryne’s commitment reflected in Roland Joffe’s *The Scarlet Letter* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on Hester Pryne to keep the secret in Scarlet letter movie based on individual psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the structural elements in *Scarlet Letter* movie.
2. To analyze the movie based on the individual psychological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretically Benefit

   To get additional contribution to literature researches dealing with Scarlet Letter Movie.

2. Practical Benefit

   To give deeper understanding about the content of the movie especially from the individual psychological aspect.
G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this study the researcher applies qualitative research.

2. Object of the Study

Object of the research in this case is *Scarlet Letter* movie. In inducting the research, the writer is going to analyze it by using individual psychological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source are taken from *The Scarlet Letter* movie.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other sources, which are related to the primary data that support the analysis. They are journals, books, and virtual references as documentation.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods used for collecting data are library research and documentation. These are the technique of data collecting:

a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly,

b. Reading the script to get more understanding,

c. Reading some related reference to observe the theory, data and information,

d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources, and
e. Classifying the data into some categories.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

   In this research, the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text relating to individual of major character in *The Scarlet Letter* movie using individual psychological perspective.

**II. Research Organization**

The writer organizes the paper into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which contains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and research method organization. The second chapter is dealing with underlying theory that consists of fictional finalism, inferiority feeling, striving, style of life, social interest, creative power and theoretical application. In third chapter, the researcher explains the structural element of the movie, which contain of plot, character, setting, point of view, style and theme. The forth chapter is dealing with the analysis of individual psychology toward the ambition of the major character. Finally, the researcher draws conclusion and suggestion in the fifth chapter.