

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the study

*The Scarlet Letter* is a famous literary work. This novel was made in mid of nineteenth century which was published by Ticknor and Field at 1850. It consists of 232 pages which are divided into 24 chapters. The author of *the Scarlet Letter* is Nathaniel Hawthorne who is one of famous authors in America. There is story about The Custom – House as his experience on pre – story of *the Scarlet Letter*. The author, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote his experience in the mid of his age. This novel tells a romance in the puritan society. It discusses human's relationship of Puritan life in the Puritan society. The novel has a symbol of scarlet letter. The shape of scarlet letter is "A". It means adultery. Furthermore, the symbol of "A" tells about sin of human who broke Puritan's rule.

This novel has published in many languages. The writer uses *the Scarlet Letter* which was published by Oxford University Press at 2007. Actually, Oxford University Press had published its novel into two editions. First published was paperback as Oxford World's Classic in 1990. The second published was arranged by Brian Harding in 1990 at Chronology and Explanatory Notes; Cindy

Weinstein in 2007 at Introduction and Select Bibliography; and Text of *The Scarlet Letter* by Ohio State University Press in 1962. The second edition was published in the United State in 2007.

Nathaniel Hawthorne is a famous writer in America. He was born at July, 4<sup>th</sup> 1804 in Salem, Massachusets. His father, Hathorne as sea captain was dead when Nathaniel was four years old by yellow fever in Suriname. Nathaniel lives with his mother, Elizabeth Clarke Manning. He had education in Bowdoin College. After his graduation from Bowdoin, he worked as a writer for some magazine. His first novel is *Fanshawe* in 1828. He also had collection of stories which had been collected in *Twice Told Tale* in 1837. He had ever worked at the Custom – House as an editor in *America Magazine of Useful and Entertaining Knowledge*. His love life was greater after met with Sophia Peabody and then married with her on July 9, 1842. After their marriage, they have three children. They are Una as daughter who was born on March 3, 1844; Julian as son who was born in 1846; and last child, Rose who was born in 1851. Nathaniel had retired from the Custom – House in 1846 and wrote *The Scarlet Letter* again in mid of March 1850. His life was spent out for writing. Nathaniel was very productive writer by writing short stories collection such as *the House of Seven Gables*; *a Wonder – Book for Girls and Boys*; *the Blithedale Romance* (1852); *Tangledwood Tales* (1853). The other short stories which written by Nathaniel are *Roger*

*Malvin's Burial* (1835); *My Kinsman*; *Major Molineux* (1832); *Young Goodman Brown* (1835); *The Gray Champion* (1835); *The Minister's Black Veil* (1836); *Ethan Brand* (1850); *Feathertop* (1852) and many other stories else. The most famous novel of Nathaniel is *the Scarlet Letter*.

*The Scarlet Letter* is a story about sin. This story is based on the puritan society which punished its member who had done deviation rules of Puritanism. This story was started from Hester Prynne who immigrated to the New England. She was a beautiful smart woman who had been punished by society. Her crime was adultery with a priest of the New England, Arthur Dimmesdale. The result of their crime was Pearl, a child who had smart character. Actually, Hester Prynne had a husband who stayed for his duty in America along two years. Governor Bellingham gave punishment to Hester. She had prison law and wearing the scarlet letter "A" upon her bosom at her gown. The scarlet letter "A" means adultery. Her husband was appearing in the middle of spectators when Hester was punished at the scaffold. Hester was asked for recognizing about her crime partner. Hester refused to utter the name of her partner. After her husband knew his wife's crime, he decided to hide his identity to society. He introduced himself as Roger Chillingworth, a medical person. This matter made a revenge for Roger. He decided to reveal Hester's crime partner.

Hester's prison punishment was ended, but she would wear the scarlet letter "A" along her life. Furthermore, the society looked at Hester and her baby Pearl differently. They lived without friends or people who care to them. Their life was isolated by society. Pearl had growth as smart child. On the other side, Arthur's health was decline. Roger had to serve medical treatment for him. Roger had much time which spent out for Arthur. This matter made new hypothesis about Arthur Dimmesdale. He assumed that Arthur was Pearl's father. Furthermore, Arthur was a saint personage on the New England society. Roger felt enough evidence for killing him as slowly as possible by pressed his psychic.

One day, Hester decided to reveal the identity of Roger Chillingworth to Arthur. She told to Arthur that Roger was her former husband. Arthur was very surprised. Suddenly, he was panic after hearing the news. Therefore, a priest fell into deep soul. He was really under pressured. Although, a clergyman did not wear the scarlet letter on his bosom, he had put the scarlet letter on his heart. He seldom put his hand over his heart. When the New England holiday was holding on the town, Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale made unpredictable action to the spectator of town. He cried Hester and Pearl to come at the scaffold. In the intensity of the heat of the sun, Arthur revealed the secret which was hidden to society along seven years ago. He revealed the scarlet letter which stuck on his heart. The spectator of town had

murmured about his sin revelation. Finally, he had expired breath after the great and strong statement which uttered from his lip to society.

The readers have many responses after reading *The Scarlet Letter*. This novel developed reader's knowledge and vision towards this book. Some people argued that *The Scarlet Letter* is a good book. Leight T. Moore likes *The Scarlet Letter*'s major character. She very likes Hester Prynne as major character. Furthermore, Leight tent to praise Hester. Leight assumed that Hester is smart brave woman, although Hester was punished by her society about her sin. Leight stated that "it's a good book. I recommend picking it up sometime" (<http://leightmoore.blogspot.com/2011/05/hs-rereading-review-scarlet-letter.html>). There is Dan Moipurgo who likes *The Scarlet Letter* because its story which seems real happened. Moreover, the core of this story made satisfaction for him ([www.associatedcontent.com/article/567627/the\\_scarlet\\_letter\\_a\\_book\\_review.html?cat=38](http://www.associatedcontent.com/article/567627/the_scarlet_letter_a_book_review.html?cat=38)). On other side Gautamic Typathy likes Hawthorne's writing in this novel. She stated that "Hawthorne's writing is refreshing and real" (<http://books.gather.com/viewArticle.action?articleid=281474976798876>).

Although a lot of people said that this novel is good, some people gave negative responses. According to Dr. George Bailey Loring said that "it is not pleasant matter to contemplate what is called the guilt of this woman; but it may be instructive, nevertheless".

([www.iblibio.org/eldritch/nh/loring.html](http://www.iblibio.org/eldritch/nh/loring.html)). Furthermore, Jandy argued that “since I read this novel with a modern viewpoint, I was very upset at the man involved with Hester Prynne”. ([www.jandysbook.com/genfic/scrlttr.html](http://www.jandysbook.com/genfic/scrlttr.html)).

There are six points which make this novel interesting. They are the title; the character; plot; theme; style; and Puritanism. Most of all characters of the novel are interesting point in *The Scarlet Letter* especially.

First is the title of *The Scarlet Letter*. This phrase seems unique and mysterious meaning for its story. The Scarlet refers to old red color which has seen mysterious meaning. Furthermore, it shows a symbol of Puritanism rule which was applied on The New England society at nineteenth century. Its symbol was used to punish their inhabitant who broke the Puritanism rule.

Secondly, the writer interests to Hester Prynne as the major character of *The Scarlet Letter*. Hester has good mental in this novel. In this story, she lives bravely, although society has isolated her. She builds her vigil towards society’s oppression. Character building of Hester is great way in this novel. She makes great story by her character. It is infrequently when a woman has good defense towards her deep problem in her environment. She keeps fight her life alone with her lovely child, Pearl.

Third, plot of *The Scarlet Letter* is interesting too. Hawthorne divides the story into 24 chapters. Each chapter provides the rule of story in its part. The author wrote the novel greatly by described plot clearly. Each part of the title tells story clearly. Plot of *The Scarlet Letter* is arranged systematically. It helps understanding of the story clearly. The reader gets clue of this story by the plot.

Fourth, Style of Hawthorne's writing is cool. He brings the readers into the story by fantastic words. His writing will be very length sentence to describe what it is. However, the readers amaze Hawthorne's writing. The readers can explore the words series of *the Scarlet Letter*.

Fifth, the theme of novel is religious. The theme of its novel talks about sin. Sin is a part of the individual life. It is a part of human's instinct. Sometimes, they break law for human instinct. *The Scarlet Letter* talks about the sin where a human has deep punishment complexly by the society. The theme relates to the social value on the society. It explains the relationship between religious and social value. This relationship is guidance of their life.

The last is Puritanism value which is applied on *the Scarlet Letter*. This story was based on the sect of Christian society. This society purified their church and rule. Puritanism appeared in sixteenth century in English. The story is interesting because it elevates puritan value. There is saint personage of Puritan society who

breaks the role of Puritan. The most attention of this novel is the Puritanism value which contains in the New England society.

Based on the previous reason the writer will observe *The Scarlet Letter* by analysis the Puritanism value by using sociological theory by Swingewood and Laurensen. So the writer constructs the title **PURITANISM VALUES of THE NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY REFLECTED in NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S THE SCARLET LETTER (1850): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

The writer found another research using novel *the Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta's library. The first is Ika Ambarsari (2010) which entitled her research "*Against the Dominant Ideology in Nathaniel Hawthorne's the Scarlet Letter: A Marxist Approach*". In her research, she describes Hester's struggle against the dominant Ideology to get her freedom and right from the pain of punishment and the authority of oppressor in Government.

Second by Apriliana Dewi Saptarini (2011) which entitled her research "*Unfavorable Effect of Mental Stress in Arthur Dimmesdale's Role as A Priest in Nathaniel Hawthorne's Novel the Scarlet Letter (1850): A Psychoanalytic Approach*". She emphasized

on Major Character of Arthur Dimmesdale as A Priest on his society towards his crime of sin. The result of this research shows human emotion and desire.

The writer found another researches in Sebelas Maret University's web. First is Nurin Anitasari which entitled her research "*Arthur Dimmesdale's Hypocrisy as a Puritan Clergyman in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter (A Sociological Approach)*". She focused on Arthur Dimmesdale's character about his position in the New England Society.

Second, Widya Trisnawati wrote her research also which entitled "*The Three Main Characters' Moralities in Nathaniel Hawthorne's The Scarlet Letter (The Moral Philosophical Approach)*". Widya focused on the three main character of *The Scarlet Letter*. They are Hester Prynne, Arthur Dimmesdale, and Roger Chillingworth. She analyzed the moralities of the three main characters in *The Scarlet Letter*.

Based on the literature above, the writer argues that there are no researches who analyze "Puritanism Values of The New England Society Reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850)" using Sociological Approach by Alan Swingewood and Laurenson.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of this research is how Puritanism values are reflected in Hawthorne's *the Scarlet Letter*.

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing Puritan values which reflected in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* based on sociological approach by Alan Swingewood and Laurenson.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel.
2. To describe the Puritan values which reflected in Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* based on a sociological approach.

### **F. The Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of this study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is hoped to give new contribution and knowledge especially on *The Scarlet Letter* novel.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer.

## **G. Research Method**

### 1. Object of the Study

The object of its study is *the Scarlet Letter* novel which is written by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

### 2. Type of the Data and Data Source

The type of this data is text which is formed narrative of the story towards the core of the problem. Their types of data are divided into two types, namely primary and secondary data, they are:

- a. Primary Data is taken from *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.
- b. Secondary data source are taken from another data which have related with the research including books, article, and internets.

### 3. Technique of Data Collection

The writer will collect the data by taking note from the primary and secondary resource.

### 4. Technique of the Data Analysis

This research uses descriptive analysis which it will describe the phenomenon that occurred in this research by available resource. The analysis is started from the structural analysis of the study to the sociological analysis of the literary work.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organizations of this research are divided into six chapters. Chapter I is Introduction which explain the background of the study, problem statement, the literature review, the objective of the study, the benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II contains the underlying theory which uses in analyzing this research by using sociological approach. Chapter III is the background of The New England Society in the mid of nineteenth century. Chapter IV is structural analysis of the work which includes the structural element of *The Scarlet Letter* such as characterization, setting plot and other elements. Chapter V is the sociological analysis of the Puritan value which reflected in *The Scarlet Letter*. The last is Chapter VI which contains conclusion and suggestion of this research.