

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Scarlet Letter is a 1850 famous romantic work of fiction in a historical setting written by Nathaniel Hawthorne's. Set in 17th-century Puritan Boston during the years 1642 to 1649, *The Scarlet Letter* first edition was published by Ticknor, Reed and Field in America in years 1850. This novel consists of 24 chapters, which are explained detailly and beautifully in 232 pages, whereas the novel which the researcher has read consisting of 329 pages, 24 chapters, published by Planet PDF, eBook version and the website is at <http://www.planetpdf.com/>.

Hawthorne is a descendant of New England Puritan; He was born at Salem Massachusetts on July 4, 1804 and died on May 19, 1864 at Plymouth, New Hampshire. His father was a ship captain who died in 1808. After his is father death, Hawthorne, his mother became widower and his two sisters lived with their uncle in poor condition. In 1821, he attended school in Bowdoin Colleges of Brunswick and graduated in 1825. Then he returned in Salem, worked in The Custom House for three years and later he married Sophia Amelia Peabody in 1842. With the support of his wife he wrote more famous novels, such as: *Twice-Told Tales*, 1842; *The Scarlet Letter* (1850); *The House of the Seven Gables* (1851). When *The Scarlet Letter* was

released, he was already a man in forty-six, and a tale writer of some twenty-four years stand.

The story is about a woman named Hester Prynne who had an affair with Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale. The story began with her departure from the Prison. She wore The Scarlet Letter A while carrying her baby daughter named Pearl in her arms, Pearl was born in prison. Then they walked to the scaffold in hall town, they were watched by the people in town, she pushed to confess her partner in adultery but she refused to reveal the name. Hester old husband who lost long time also arrived there. He visited her in prison before she released, he gave medical for them and he also told to Hester about his identity now. He was as a Physician in fake names Roger Chillingworth. Then he also asked Hester not to tell it to everyone, even he also told that he would reveal Hester lovers. It is easy for him to reveal Hester lovers. He could identify someone physically by his ability as a physician. He finally realized that the Minister Arthur Dimmesdale liked Pearl; he pursued the minister and also remembered his guilty everyday for seven years.

Whereas, Dimmesdale was afraid of confessing his sin to public, then his guilty destroyed his physicals. Investigation which was done by Chillingworth to Dimmesdale made him in serious condition. Seven years passed, finally Hester realized the evil acts her old husband to her loves. Then, she told Chillingworth the truth to identity the Dimmesdale, and both plans for leaving Boston to England, hide from Chillingworth and created new life together.

The Minister finally was unable to do their plans and Dimmesdale more chose to reveal his sin to the people in town, and was died by being opened his shirt to show A sign in his chest. Then there found his die in peace in scaffold with Hester and Pearl beside him. Chillingworth died a year after him. He was leaving his all legacy to Pearl. Hester and Pearl left Boston then, but Hester returned for resuming *The Scarlet Letter* of her own will, and when she died, she was buried near the minister and shared a gravestone, which was written: 'ON A FIELD, SABLE, THE LETTER A, GULES'

The Scarlet Letter novel has many responses from the people who have read it. They give positive and negative responses about the novels. The first is positive responses. First, it comes from Sher Schwartz, she said that she liked *The Scarlet Letter* and the shadow of this story will remain in her memory for a long while; unlike some books that pass from thought so quickly (Schwartz S,1996:<http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~tanguay/book48.htm>).

Secondly, it comes from Edward Tanguay, he thought that Hawthorne has a deep understanding of human shame and the torture of the soul. The story was necessarily dreamlike, but this "radiating power" of the letter seemed to just get a little spooky and unbelievable. This story has its unique dreaminess, uncanniness, and clearly a classic (Tanguay E, 1996: <http://userpage.fu-berlin.de/~tanguay/book48.htm>).

Thirdly, Henry James said about the novel, "It is beautiful, admirable, extraordinary and it supports familiarity and has the inexhaustible charm and mystery of great works of art." (<http://www.gradesaver.com/the-scarlet-letter/>).

The negative responses come from Orestes Brownson. He complained that Hawthorne did not understand Christianity, confession, and remorse. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Scarlet_Letter).

Upon its release in 1850 *The Scarlet Letter*, it became an instant best-seller over fourteen years, it brought its author only \$1,500 and reprint 2,500-copy second edition. It was a also popular novel, Many Americans were excited to read the book that explored an integral chapter in their country's history. *The Scarlet Letter* was the sixth most frequently taught book in American high schools in 1990, but according to a 2010 study by Sandra Stotsky, the novel is now taught in fewer than seven percent of English classes. *The Scarlet Letter* has been adapted to numerous films, plays and operas and remains frequently referenced in modern popular culture.

The Scarlet Letter was also one of the first mass-produced books in America. In the mid-nineteenth century, literature types hand-made and sold them in small quantities. The first mechanized printing of *The Scarlet Letter*, 2,500 volumes, sold out within ten days, and was widely read and discussed to an extent not much experienced in the young country up until that time.

Copies of the first edition are often sought by collectors as rare books, and may fetch up to around \$18,000 USD. This novel had filmed in 1995 starring by Demi Moore and Garry Oldman.

There are some considerations why *The Scarlet Letter* is taken into account. This is an interesting novel. It can be looked from the characters of the novel, and setting of the novel. For the first interesting one is the characters, Hester Prynne is such an interesting character. Hester Prynne, who conceives a daughter through an adulterous affair, struggles to create a new life of repentance and dignity. Hester's treatment is unfair and she knows it, yet she puts up with it. The researcher thinks in her own way, she punishes the villagers by not hiding her shame. She wears the letter openly; she's almost showing it in their faces. The researcher thinks it reminds them of their own sins.

The second appeal is setting; that is in mid-17th century Boston (Massachusetts Bay Colony). In that time everything was very strict and everyone was expected to follow the laws, which Relationships between men and women were very constrained and that is what made adultery such a bad sin in the eyes of everyone in the community. Religion seemed to govern over all, people would look up to reverends and the community believed that fate was their destiny. Public discipline and punishment were used to discourage everyone else from committing the same crime or sin as the offending "criminal" did. The community was to follow the beliefs of god and to do

their duties the best they could, yet were there to criticize and punish all who disobeyed the religion or laws. It's than makes Hester's sin such an excellent example of the beliefs of that time period. The *Scarlet Letter* expresses the aspects of relationships, religion, community, discipline and punishment in the puritan community of 17th century Boston.

One of the dominant issues that is most reflected in *The Scarlet Letter* is about public shaming and punishment. Punishment of a young woman named Hester Prynne in mid-17th century Boston. When Hester becomes pregnant, everyone believes her to be guilty of adultery. The local law enforcers and ministers order her to wear a scarlet letter "A" on the bodice of her dress, so that everyone can know about her adultery and also she must leave in the border town for exile. This punishment is cruel, shaming, and hurt feeling. This is unfair to Hester, so that, she must keep fighting for Pearl, for her lovers Dimmesdale. And the researcher thinks Hester Prynne needs to replay Chillingworth act evil and her townspeople to her. She must struggle to create a new life of repentance and dignity. So, actually she has own strategy in coping her exile punishment. Such as, she wears the letter A openly in daily life and show it in their face.

Based on the background that has been explained above, the researcher conducts a research entitled HESTER PRYNNE'S STRATEGY OF COPING WITH THE EXILE PUNISHMENT IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S *THE SCARLET LETTER*: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.

B. Literature Review

There are two researchers who have studied the *Scarlet Letter*. First, Fitri Sri Ariyanti (2009) has studied conducted research entitled: “*Anxiety of Arthur Dimmesdale in the Scarlet Letter Movie: a Psychoanalytic Approach*”. Second, Parikesit (2011) conducted the research with thesis title: “*A Comparison between Novel and Movie Version of Nathaniel Hawthorne’s, the Scarlet Letter: a Structural Analysis*”. He was also a student in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

The different of this study and two previous studies are in theme and perspectives. The researcher uses theme about people need to find a way out of their problem and individual psychological perspectives. Here, the researcher presents the study of Hester Prynne’s strategy of coping with the exile punishment that is reflected in the *Scarlet Letter* novels using an individual psychological perspective. The researcher uses *The Scarlet Letter* novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne as the data source to be analyzed.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how Hester Prynne’s strategy of coping with the exile punishment that is reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *The Scarlet Letter* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focused on analyzing Hester Prynne's strategy of coping with the exile punishment that is reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* novel.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural element of *The Scarlet Letter* novel.
2. To analyze *The Scarlet Letter* novel based on an individual psychological perspectives.

F. Benefits of the Study

Two kinds of benefits which can be gained from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The study is expected to give additional information, particularly to the further studies of Nathaniel Hawthorne *The Scarlet Letter* by using An Individual Psychological perspective.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to give the writer understand about people need to find a way out of their problem.

G. Research Method

The research method of this research paper is broken down into four aspects:

1. Type of the Study

Type of this study is qualitative research. It is based on qualitative data taken from *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

Type of data of this study is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences. Meanwhile, the data sources in this study are categorized into primary data sources and secondary data sources.

a. Primary data source

The primary data are taken from the novel of *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, that is published by Planet PDF.

b. Secondary data source

Secondary data sources are some references and materials related to the primary data source as biography of the author, website about the novel.

3. Technique of Data Collection

In conducting the study, the researcher uses the method of note taking in steps of collecting, are:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly to get deep understanding.

- b. Taking important notes in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Browsing the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- d. Selecting the data by rejecting the irrelevant information which does not support the topic of the study.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis of the data.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer uses descriptive qualitative analysis. It concerns with the Structural Elements of the Novel and the Individual Psychological theory to show how Hester Prynne's strategy of coping with the exile punishment is reflected in the novel *The Scarlet Letter*.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is classified into five chapters. The first chapter deals with the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter deals the underlying theory of an Individual Psychological perspective analyzing Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*. It includes the notion of an Individual Psychological Perspective, the notion of the structural of the novel and the theoretical application. The third chapter deals with the structural analysis of the novels and discussion, which includes the structural elements

of *The Scarlet Letter*. The fourth chapter deals with the Individual Psychological analysis of the novel and the discussion. The last chapter deals with the conclusion and suggestion.