CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*Sister Carrie* is a novel written by Theodore Dreiser in 1900 published by Doubleday in United States. It consists of 47 chapters in 557 print pages and 408 or 994 pages in PDF. It is to translate in several languages, such as Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, and Dutch. *Sister Carrie* tells about young girl who have desire to realizing her American Dream. The source of the novel is the story of his sister Emma’s affair with L.A. Hopkins, a married man. *Sister Carrie* is called the "greatest of all American urban novels" in Donald L. Miller, *City Of The Century*. It is also as an influential example of naturalism and realism.

Theodore Herman Albert Dreiser (August 27, 1871 – December 28, 1945) was an American novelist and journalist. He was born in Terre Haute, Indiana from a strict Catholic family. Dreiser’s childhood was hard times in his life. Although Dreiser was a serious student, he never finished high school. After dropping out from Indiana University, Dreiser worked as a reporter in Chicago Globe newspaper then the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, St. Louis Republic and Pittsburgh Dispatch. He wrote several articles on writers such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, William Dean Howells, and interviewed public figures such as Andrew Carnegie, Thomas Edison, and Theodore Thomas. Other
interviewees included Lillian Nordica, Philip Armour and Alfred Stieglitz (http://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/rbm/dreiser/tdbio.html).

His first novel is *Sister Carrie* that published in 8 November 1900, and William Wyler made it into a 1952 film, which starred Laurence Olivier and Jennifer Jones. Other works of Dreiser such as fiction: Old Rogaum and His Theresa (1901), Jennie Gerhardt (1911), The Financier (1912), The Titan (1914), The "Genius" (1915), Free and Other Stories (1918), Twelve Men (1919), An American Tragedy (1925), Chains: Lesser Novels and Stories (1927), A Gallery of Women (1929), The Bulwark (1946), The Stoic (1947). In addition, drama Plays of the Natural and Supernatural (1916), The Hand of the Potter (1918), first produced 1921. Dreiser is also a socialist and writer of several books about politics such as Dreiser Looks at Russia (1928), Tragic America (1931) and America Is worth saving (1941).

From his wife encouragement, and his friend, Arthur Henry, Dreiser began writing the first novel, *Sister Carrie*. It tells about a young girl with eighteen-year-old, Caroline Meeber or Carrie. She was willing to leave her family in rural Wisconsin to Chicago to realize her “American Dream”. Carrie wanted to live like metropolis girl commonly with all of enchantment. Carrie met Charles Drouet, a traveling salesman, who was attracted to her because of her appearance. When they parted at the train station, they agreed to meet in the following week in Chicago.

Carrie’s life in Chicago was inappropriate with her expectation. Her brother in law expected Carrie’s wages could help them in rent payments.
Finally, Carrie found a job but the wages was low. When she wanted to go to the theater or enjoyed life in the city, her sister disapproved. Without enough money to bought warm clothes, when winter came, she turned ill and lost her job. When Carrie recovered from her illness, she searched for a new job, but failed. One day, she met Drouet on a downtown street and gave her twenty dollars for new clothes. Drouet persuaded her to left her sister and moved in with him. After several days of sightseeing and shopping, Carrie and Drouet began live together.

Someday Drouet introduced Carrie to George Hurstwood, the manager of Fitzgerald and Moy's saloon. Carrie and Hurstwood seem attracted each other and they had affair. Meanwhile, Drouet promised to found an actress to play a key role in an amateur theatrical presentation of Augustin Daly’s melodrama, “Under the Gaslight”. He encouraged Carrie to take part. Drouet gave name “Carrie Madenda” as stage name. Carrie’s performance was surprisingly good for a beginner.

The next day, the affair was uncovered. Julia divorced her husband, Hustwood. After that, Carrie and Hurstwood married illegally under the assumed name of Wheeler and move to New York City. Carrie and Hurstwood lived harmoniously in New York for two years. As the years pass, their routine became monotonous and Carrie discontented with her worn-out clothes and frugal lifestyle. Carrie then met Mrs. Vance’s cousin, Bob Ames who convinced her that wealth was not necessarily the means to all happiness. Carrie came to see Ames as the ideal man. Then Carrie decided to found a job
in the theater. She took a job in a chorus line at the Casino Theater and earned good money. Carrie’s career was grown. She moved into a new hotel with her friend Lola Osborne and lived with life that she has always dreamed.

In the end of the story, Drouet continued chased after women, as always. Hurstwood committed suicide by left the gas on in a cheap hotel room. Carrie was successful and became famous, but she continued to suffer from an unsatisfied desire for something even she could not name.

When Dreiser wants to publish *Sister Carrie*, he has difficulties to find publisher, because this novel regarded as immoral and obscene novel. Dreiser must hard work to publish his first work. Then Doubleday & McClure Company accepted the manuscript for publication after the “agreement to publish”. The novel not advertised and only 456 copies that sold. In 1901, William Heinemann published truncated version of Sister Carrie. It was received critical acclaim by the English reviewers. In 1981, University of Pennsylvania Press issued a scholarly edition of *Sister Carrie* based on the original manuscript in The New York Public Library.

Although *Sister Carrie* was not widely accepted and got many critics, sometimes this novel received positive reviews. The New Haven Journal Courier, which proclaimed, “One of the most affecting passages is where Hurstwood falls, ruined, disgraced”. Edna Kenton in the Chicago Daily News said that Sister Carrie is “well worth reading simply for this account of Hurstwood”. A 1901 review in the Academy said that Sister Carrie was “absolutely free from the slightest trace of sentimentality or pettiness, and
dominated everywhere by a serious and strenuous desire for truth”. This novel has also been praise for its accurate depiction of the protests in New York and the city life in Chicago (Saltzman, 1972: 5).

After thirty years, in 1930 Sinclair Lewis said that "Dreiser's great first novel, *Sister Carrie*, which he dared to publish thirty long years ago and which I read twenty-five years ago, came to housebound and airless America like a great free Western wind, and to our stuffy domesticity gave us the first fresh air since Mark Twain and Whitman". In 1998, the Modern Library ranked *Sister Carrie* 33rd on its list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century (Madison, 1974: 95).

Human in the world needs wealth. Sometimes wealth as a symbol of a power and successful, wealth can show the social class of society. For this reason, many people want to have wealth. They can do anything to get it, although the way is bad, because wealth is everything. Wealth has a big position in our life. Our life have intense bond with wealth.

Desire for wealth is a motivation from somebody to have material possession. This motivation likes an emotion. It can burn someone as a spirit to achieve his or her goal. Desire for wealth always progress follows with the life, because wealth does not have limitation. If someone is in one position, he or she will want to achieve the higher next position. This desire based on character of materialistic and consumptive. Therefore, it supports them to get material possession such money to enliven their life.
In The Signification of the Phallus (Lacan, 1977: 169), Lacan distinguishes “desire from need and demand”. Need is a biological instinct that is articulated in demand, yet demand has a double function, on one hand it articulates need and on the other acts as a demand for love. Even after the need articulated in demand is satisfied, the demand for love remains unsatisfied and this leftover is desire.

For Lacan "desire is neither the appetite for satisfaction nor the demand for love, but the difference that results from the subtraction of the first from the second”. Desire is the surplus produced by the articulation of need in demand. Lacan adds, "Desire begins to take shape in the margin in which demand becomes separated from need" (Lacan, 1977: 169).

The most influential philosopher of desire in the twentieth century has been Sigmund Freud. For Freud, “all desire goes back to the child’s origine desire for the mother, for the mother breast”. Freud argues that “desire is ‘essentially’ mobile – it has no essence, no proper object, beyond the child’s hallucinatory desire for the breast” (Bennet & Royle, 1995: 138).

Desire for wealth in this novel has relation to the national ethos of United States “American Dream”. This ethos is a promise that everyone has an opportunity to get success in society and economy. Then it makes the girl like Carrie have a big desire to get better life, especially desire for wealth.

There are four aspect that make this novel is really interesting. The first is character and characterization. In Sister Carrie, the major character, Caroline Mebeer or Carrie is interesting to study, because she is a young
country girl with eighteen-year-old, but have a big dream and have to realize it. In her eighteen year old, she can take decision to change her life.

The second is setting. Dreiser writes this novel in late nineteenth century. Urbanization as the background of the story, and there are an ethos “American Dream”. The American Dream is a national ethos of the United States in which freedom includes a promise of the possibility of prosperity and success. It means everyone can achieve prosperity, not except for the immigrant. In this novel, Carrie goes to Chicago to gain her “American Dream”, so she can freed from the poverty.

The third is plot of the novel. This novel tells about the struggle of a young girl from a rural Wincosin to freed from poverty and can realize her dreams. She is doing anything to realize it, moreover Carrie is willing to be a mistress. Her courage to take decision is interesting, because it is not easy for girl with eighteen years old.

The fourth is theme. Desire for wealth reflected in *Sister Carrie* is one appealing aspect that interesting to study. Carrie’s life in poverty makes she dreaming a luxurious life. So she has a desire to get wealth and more wealth, never satisfied with her condition.

Based on the reason the writer will observe *Sister Carrie* novel by using psychoanalytic theory by Sigmund Freud. So the researcher constructs the title “DESIRE FOR WEALTH IN THEODORE DREISER’S NOVEL *SISTER CARRIE* (1900): A PSYCHOANALYTIC APPROACH”.
B. Literature Review

The writer presents the previous study of the movie. There are studies that have relation with the researcher’s study. The first study is conducted by Laelatul Ardiati, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2008), entitled “American Dream in Theodore Dreiser’s Sister Carrie: Sosiological Approach”. She elaborates the portrait of American Dream in Theodore Dreiser’s novel, Sister Carrie, that are analyzed through sociological approach. Having analyzed the novel, she comes to the conclusion as follows: the portrait of American Dream in Sister Carrie are mostly found in the character drawn by Theodore Dreiser. The novel deals with the pursuit of success and happiness and there is correlation between the story with the social reality in American society in the late nineteenth century.

The second study is conducted by Umu Habibah, a Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student (2010), entitled “Portrait of Carrie’s Misery Living in Poverty in Theodore Dreiser’s Novel Sister Carrie (1900): A Sociological Approach”. The major problem of this study is to elucidate the portrait of Carrie’s misery living in poverty reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s novel Sister Carrie. Then she gets conclusion based on the sociological approach, there is close relation between the literary work and the social reality underlying it, such as a portrait of a man who lives in poverty. These approaches applied in order to get the appropriate analysis and answer the problem. She finds that living in poverty is full of struggle to survive.
The third study is conducted by Gao Juan, from Xiaogan University in June 2007, entitled “Brief Analysis Of Sister Carrie Based On Maslow’s Hierarchy Of Needs”. The paper analyzes the reasons why Carrie has various needs at different stages of life, mainly based on Maslow’s hierarchy of needs. One is Carrie’s inner desire; the other is the outside force, including temptations of environment, cities, etc. The interaction between them makes Carrie lose herself eventually. It seems to tell people that in modern society material supplies more and more abundantly, but we should never pursue it blindly and much importance should attached to happiness and stability created by spirit. It is essential to ponder the significance and the value of life.

The fourth study is conducted by Chengcheng Zhang and Hui Zhang (2009), in “From American Dreams to American Tragedies – Theodore Dreiser’s Ponderation on American Society and Ruination of Morality”. This thesis elaborates the portraits society from American Dreams to American Tragedies – Theodor Dreiser’s Ponderation on American Society and Ruination of Morality. The objectives of the thesis are to analyze the author exploration of the possibilities of 20th century American life with its material profusion and spiritual doubt of the life values by comparing Theodore Dreiser’s Sister Carrie and An American Tragedy.

The fifth study is conducted by Olivia Rosalyn (2006), from Christian Petra University in “A Study Of The Causes and Effects Of Carrie's Obsession With Material Wealth As Seen In Theodore Dreiser's Sister Carrie”. She wants to know the causes with Carrie become obsessed with material wealth and the
effects of her obsession. In her finding, it is discover that Carrie is tortured with her own poverty and her sister’s poverty, so Carrie surely wants to run away from these kinds of life. Therefore, Carrie gets along with two rich men and she is using them as the jumping stone to be rich. In the conclusion, Carrie is still unhappy and dissatisfied with her success, which she used to be longed with all her heart, but she herself does not know why the reason of her unhappiness. Carrie learns that now wealth is not everything in her life and she wants to find true happiness.

The sixth study is conducted by Irawati (1999), a Christian Petra University entitled “A Comparative study on the external and internal factors which influence the two main male characters in determining their final decision in Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* and Jennie Gerhardt”. By doing this analysis, the thesis writer wants to show as well as to prove that indeed, there are some kinds of both external and internal forces, which used as considerations for the two main male characters before determining their final decision. She also wants to describe and to classify the forces that work in the two main male characters' life due to their final decision. Finally, after doing her analysis, the thesis writer can conclude that both Hurstwood and Lester, indeed, have similarities and differences in their external and internal forces, which used as their consideration before they determine their final decision.

Then seventh study is conducted by Jin Rong (2007), a lecturer at a School Of International Studies Of Xi’an Jiaotong University, entitled “*Sister Carrie* in Consumer Society as Seen from Deception Within Non-verbal and
Verbal Framework and the Fulfillment of Desires”. This essay attempts to analyze the theme of deception which is presented by two forms, one is silence, the other is lie, which are known as the deception within the non-verbal and verbal framework respectively. Widely employed in *Sister Carrie*, the theme of deception reveals the conflicts between feminine and masculine power through the utterances. In addition, the materialization in the relationship between man and woman especially Carrie and her two lovers is presented in the consumer society. In addition, the protagonists in the novel are tragic products of the ability to communicate with each other and the victims of their desires and consumer society.

The eighth study is conducted by Qiu Yanhong (2007), from Xiaogan University entitled “On Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* From The Perspective Of Naturalism”. This thesis from the perspective of Naturalism in American literature, taking *Sister Carrie* as an example, attempts to study it from naturalistic point of view and explain how environmental factors and heredity factors influence the hero and heroine’s fate. The paper aims to discuss naturalism in *Sister Carrie* with critical eyes, criticizing pessimistic determinism and the concept of human beast as reflected in the novel. By criticizing pessimistic determinism as reflected in the novel, the paper points out that we should not be so pessimistic. In addition, the paper also points out that the concept of human best should not be justified and the confining and regulating effect of morality should not neglected, otherwise our human society will turn into a chaotic jungle-like place.
The ninth study is conducted by Zhang Yu in “Dreiser’s Naturalism in *Sister Carrie*”. The thesis referred to three great historical and cultural background of the novel, which is Darwinism, Determinism, American Naturalism and Consumerism. Meanwhile, the thesis analyzes three features of naturalism. At last, the conclusion is that the leading character of the novel—Carrie’s destiny has a great connection with Dreiser himself and the decline of Hurstwood is a result of Dreiser’s fear of failure, but Dreiser attributes Carrie and Hurstwood’s unhappiness to their insatiable desire for life and from which we can see Dreiser’s naturalism easily.

The tenth study is conducted by Mia Mial in “*Sister Carrie*’s Pursuit of Happiness as an Actress”. This paper attempts to explore how Sister Carrie’s pursuit of happiness was associated with her career as an actress. The goal of it is to find out what a role did her occupation played in her mental state. By bringing up Carrie’s endless longing after she had acquired worldly success, this paper also tries to associate one’s spiritual condition with his education. Carrie was no doubt rich in feeling but dull in understanding, for she could not tell exactly what was on her mind and how to control it. As it turned out, Carrie’s discontent was largely due to her lack of education in her early life.

The differences between the researcher and the previous researchers are the theme and the perspective. This research focuses on desire for wealth reflected in Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* novel with a psychoanalytic approach.
C. Problem Statement

The problem of study of this research is how desire for wealth is reflected in *Sister Carrie* novel written by Theodore Dreiser.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is desire for wealth. The researcher is going to analyze Caroline Meeber as the major character in novel *Sister Carrie* based on psychoanalytic approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follow:

1. To analyze the structural elements of *Sister Carrie* novel.

2. To analyze desire for wealth in Theodore Dreiser *Sister Carrie* novel based on a psychoanalytic approach by Sigmund Freud.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to contribute to the development of the body knowledge, especially the literary study Theodore Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie* : A Psychoanalytic Approach

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to give and additional contribution on understanding the major character in the *Sister Carrie* viewed by A Psychoanalytic Approach - Sigmund Freud.
G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

   In this research, researcher uses descriptive qualitative research. Moleong (1989: 3) affirms, “Qualitative research is a research of which the data in the form of written or oral word are descriptively analyzes”. The descriptive qualitative research is a type of research, which it research, is not present in digits or statistic but the data in the form of descriptive. The steps to conduct this research are:

   a. Determining the type of the study,
   b. Determining the object of the study,
   c. Determining data and data source,
   d. Determining technique of collecting data, and
   e. Determining of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

   The object of the study is desire for wealth in Sister Carrie novel written by Theodore Dreiser and publishing by Doubleday in 1900. In addition, it is analyze by psychoanalytic approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

   The primary data in this research is desire for wealth in Sister Carrie novel written by Theodore Dreiser from Doubleday and the novel itself. The secondary data sources are Psychoanalytic Theory books and other sources.
4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method used for collecting data is library research by collecting and selecting both primary and secondary data. The researcher will involves some required steps:

a. Reading the text of the novel to get the messages, and better understanding.

b. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information.

c. Making notes of important part in both primary and secondary data sources.

d. Classifying the data into some categories.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of data analysis in this study is descriptive. Descriptive means that the researcher interprets the text to analyze text and content relating to psychological condition.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of Desire for Wealth In Theodore Dreiser’s Novel *Sister Carrie* (1900): A Psychoanalytic Approach is as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction. It consists of background of study, previous study, and problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is Underlying theory. It elaborated with Psychoanalytic perspective
and Structural Elements of the Novel. Chapter III is Structural analysis of Sister Carrie novel. It elaborates with the structural analysis of Sister Carrie novel and discussion. Chapter IV is Psychoanalytic approach in Sister Carrie novel. Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. And for the last part is bibliography and appendix.