CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Religion is important thing in life. Religion contributes to lead the human’s life and the way of life of every human. Hick in Pandey (2009: 50) has classified various definitions of religion under following heads: phenomenological, psychological, sociological, naturalistic, and religious.

C.P. Tiele wrote that “Religion is, in truth, that pure and reverential disposition or frame of mind which we call piety.” F.H. Bradley stated that “Religion is rather the attempt to express the complete reality of goodness through every aspect of our being.” And James Martineau claimed that “Religion is the belief in an ever living God, that is, in a Divine Mind and Will ruling the Universe and holding moral relations with mankind.” It is apparent that each of these definitions specifies a different characteristic: Tiele accents the attitude of piety, Bradley links religion with goodness, and Martineau focuses on belief in ethnical monotheism. Other attempted definitions of religion touch upon additional traits, such as ritualistic acts, prayer, and communication with gods, and so on, and each definition seems to have some measure of relevance (Peterson, 1998: 08).

In spite of difficulties in defining and applying the term “religion,” Peterson needed to arrive at a tentative working definition. For humans purposes, Peterson assumed that religion is constituted by set a belief, actions, and experiences, both personal and corporate, organized around a concept of
an Ultimate Reality. This reality may be understood as a unity or a plurality, personal or non-personal, divine or not, differing from religion to religion. Yet it seems that every cultural phenomenon that we call a religion fits this definition. The prescribed actions vary from ritualistic patterns to ethnical living; the desired emotions vary from feeling of piety and humility to a sense of optimism about life and the universe (Peterson, 1998: 09).

According to Peterson, the religious beliefs tend five basics areas, there are: humans find themselves in a predicament, humans need a way to resolve the predicament, there exists something transcendent that assists humans or is the goal of humans existence, peoples must do something to achieve salvation or liberation way, and the last “something” can be known or approached in some specified.

“As the title of the text suggests, our present study of philosophy of religion is directed at beliefs, specifically, religious beliefs. But how shall we think about this? Beliefs, for our purposes, are statements (i.e., propositions) that are taken as true, they are truth-claims. In a certain sense, every religion rests on beliefs. These religious beliefs tend to revolve around five basics areas. First, humans find themselves in a predicament (e.g., sin from Judaism and Christianity, samsara for Hinduism, mortality for Taoism). Second, humans need a way to resolve the predicament (e.g., salvation, liberation). Third, there exists something transcendent that assists us or is the goal of our existence (e.g., Ultimate Reality, God, Brahman, Nirvana). Fourth, this “something” can be known or approached in some specified way (e.g., holy scriptures, shamans). Fifth, we must do something to achieve salvation or liberation (e.g., have faith, deny self, engage in meditation, follow the Five Pillars of Islam)” (Peterson, 1998: 09).

The lifestyle begins to develop and form early in life when experiences are limited and even before language has fully developed. It functions as blueprint for actions. It is the characteristic way in which we act, think, perceive, and cope with life’s challenges. Mosak (1954) broke down the lifestyle into four basic components: self concept, self ideal, picture of the
world (Weltbild), and ethnical convictions of what we believe is right and wrong. Consider the lifestyle of a person suffering from any anxiety disorder (Johansen, 2010: 30).

As humans lifestyle develops preverbally, these beliefs are often out of awareness (i.e., unconscious). They are often represented in visual representations and images, intuitions, and affective states (Milliren & Clemmer, 2006). The lifestyle is the schema through which we filter incoming information. It represents the glasses that color our interpretation of the world. Therefore we do not see the world as it is; we see our subjective interpretation of it (Johansen, 2010: 31).

Belief is the main measure used in literature, because that is how religion itself measures its successes or failures. Every religion wants more believers, even if they do not follow all its commandments. A public statement of faith is considered sufficient for membership in many religious groups, and this makes sense from a social-psychological point of view. A public stand means public commitment, and that is what any group would wish to have. Data about both rituals and beliefs should not be based on official dogma, but on what believers say (Beit-Hallahmi and Argyle: 1997: 40).

Belief means to admit or believe the truth. Beliefs are matters relating to admission or faith of the truth. Religious beliefs are the things associated with recognition or conviction of the truth of religion. Even though religious beliefs are not based on any evidence, they do not fail to impress so many people (Pandey, 2009: 01).
A *Christmas Carol* is a novel by English author Charles Dickens, published by Chapman & Hall on December 19th 1843. Dickens divides the book into five chapters, which he labels "staves" in each chapter. Staves one about Marley’s Ghost, Staves II about The Fist of the Three Spirits, Staves III The Second of the Three Spirits, Staves IV about The Last of The Spirits, and Staves V about The End of It. The novel tells about Ebenezer Scrooge who didn’t believe at Christmas tradition and the joyful of Christmas. Scrooge’s assume that Christmas is like a time for paying bills without money and time for finding yourself a year older.

Charles Dickens was an English writer. Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth on February 7, 1812 by John Dickens and Elizabeth Dickens. He was the second children of eight childrens. He wrote several novels, one of them is *A Christmas Carol* novel.

The Story begins when the funeral of Jacob Marley (Scrooge’s partner). Seven years later, Scrooge's partner, Jacob Marley; dead for seven years visits him in the form of a spirit or ghost. He has come to warn Scrooge to the same fate happen, he tells Scrooge that Three Spirits will come to him in three nights.

Ghost of Christmas Past shows Scrooge scenes from the past. Ghost of Christmas Present shows Scrooge several scenes of the joyful of Christmas, shows Scrooge the Cratchit (Scrooge’s clerk) household and Fred's party (Scrooge’s nephew). The last Ghost of Christmas Yet To Come
shows Scrooge several scenes of people discussing someone's death; no one seems sad by the death.

He woke up after the three ghosts came to him. It happened in one night not like Marley’s explanation that Scrooge will be visited by three spirits over three nights. Finally Scrooge is friendlier to everyone, he sends a large turkey to Cratchit’s family, gives a donation to the charity worker he previously refused, and has a great time at Fred's party. The next day he raises Cratchit’s salary.

Since it was published in 1843, many responses have been addressed to this book. One of the most positive responder is Sabrina DeMagio, the costumer of Amazon wrote a review in December 25, 2012: “A great reminder to not take any moment for granted. Also that nothing is as bad as it seems, and v someone always has it worse”. Despite many good responses there are also negative responses toward A Christmas Carol come from Valerie, she write a review on Goodreads in December 21, 2009: “The only problem I had with the book was that I had to really concentrate on the writing. I didn’t have to drag along like I used to when I read books like this but I don’t think I could enjoy the book as much because I was confused at what Dickens was trying to say some times. With all the semicolons and commas sentences are very long and it was difficult for me to keep up. I’ll say that I didn’t feel smart all the time. I also couldn’t fully understand how the first ghost was supposed to look like either. He’s supposed to look like an old man but young too?”
There are four reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel; the first reason is because this novel tells about religious belief influence on individual behavior, the second reason is the novel tells the story of a character that is very wealthy, but he is very stingy and tends out of social life, the third reason is the setting of the story is very interesting, because the story is set in an ancient London where Dickens’ live in the 19th century and the last reason is because this novel is so well known at the time, so the researcher is interested to see more of the content of the novel.

The first reason is because this novel tells about religious belief influence on individual behavior, so the researcher wants to know more about what aspect in religious belief that can influence individual behavior is.

The second reason is the novel tells the story of a character that is very wealthy, but he is very stingy and tends out of social life, namely Ebenezer Scrooge and he can change his life to be better because of the ghosts of the past, present, and future.

The third reason is the setting of the story is very interesting, because the story is set in an ancient London where Dickens’ live in the 19th century at which time the population has never celebrated Christmas as a celebration in general in the present.

The last reason is because this novel is so well known at the time, so the researcher is interested to see more of the content of the novel. Even the novel *A Christmas Carol* has been adapted to film, stage, opera, and other
media. Until now the novel *A Christmas Carol* is still very popular with readers and provides a lot of argument from the public.

Based on the reason in the background above, the researcher is interesting to studying more detail about Charles Dickens’s novel namely *A Christmas Carol* by using Behaviorist Perspective. The writer gives the title: **THE INFLUENCE OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF ON INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIOR AT CHARLES DICKENS’ *A CHRISTMAS CAROL* (1843) NOVEL: A BEHAVIORIST PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Literature review

* A Christmas Carol novel (1843) written by Charles Dickens is very popular. Some people have been attracted to conduct research toward this artistic work. The first researcher who studied this book is Alex Syahputra (2008) entitled *The Traumatic Experience Of An Accountant In Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol: A Psychological Analysis*. Syahputra (Silvya, thesis, 2011) focuses on the traumatic experience which influences the id, ego, and superego then the effect toward his life. Syahputra is intended to analyze the mental process of each behavior by relating to Scrooge experience in his life. Thus, the findings of Syahputra’s psychological analysis will be much more different with the writer Marxist study that reveal about the bourgeois ideologies in Victorian Era along with the contradictions and conflicts of capitalist society reflected in the literary work.
The second researcher is Dery Silvya (2011) from Andalas University entitled *The Bourgeois Ideologies in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol: A Marxist Study*. She analyzes her novel use Marxist Theory focusing on the emerging ideology of the capitalist system.

The third researcher comes from University of Sumatra Utara named Junastri Elfina R. Siahaan (2010) with the research title *An Analysis of Moral Lesson in Charles Dickens’ A Christmas Carol*. Her research is conducted to analyze morals through some major character concerns to human behavior as depicted in the novel A Christmas Carol.

The fourth researcher is written by Novi Kresnawati (2006) entitled *The Impacts of Industrial Revolution on English Society as Seen in A Christmas Carol By Charles Dickens*. In analyzing her thesis, Kresnawati focused on the perspectives that analyze literary work as the reflection or social document of society.

The fifth researcher is by Dessi Fatrahuty (2007) entitled *Moral Values in Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol*. In her thesis, Fatrahuty applies the theory of Hans Bartens that focus on three moral values as reflected on Ebenezer Scrooge character they are responsibility, obligation, and conscience. The bad behavior of Scrooge as depicted in the first of the novel implies that he does not achieve his responsibility, obligation, and conscience until he warns and transforms to be a good behavior man. In her thesis, Fatrahuty indicate that the transformation of Scrooge has brought him to fulfill the responsibility, obligation, and conscience that refer to moral values.
The sixth researcher is from international journal by Lee Erickson (1997) from United States with the research title *The Primitive Keynesianism of Dickens's A Christmas Carol*. His journal describes about the transformation of Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" reflects Dickens' understanding of the psychological basis of economic activity and the financial depression that gripped England in 1843.

The seventh researcher is by Michael Timko (2001) from United States with the research title *Why Dickens' Wrote A Christmas Carol*. His journal discussed about why Charles Dickens wrote “A Christmas Carol," noting that the novel is a product of the quintessential Dickensian mixture of sentimentality and commercialism. Desperately seeking recognition in the 1840s, Dickens was the inventor of a completely new genre, a muted social commentary presented in the form of an inspirational seasonal story.

The last researcher comes from Sanata Dharma University named Susana Sunarsasi (2002) with the research title *The Cold and Closed Heart Character of Ebenezer Scrooge, the Main Character in Charles Dicken's A Christmas Carol*. Her analysis focuses on Ebenezer Scrooge as a main character of the novel. Her study aims at showing the readers that there are a lot of supporting experience, persons, actions, and events that could influence a person becoming whoever he is.

Based on the researchers above, the writer here wants to conduct a study on Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* novel based on behaviorist perspective. The writer focuses on the influence of religious belief on
individual behavior in *A Christmas Carol* novel. The similarity of these researches is the use of *A Christmas Carol* novel (1843) as the data source.

C. **Problem Statement**

The writers proposed the problem statement of this research “How does the religious belief influence on individual behavior at Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* (1843)?”

D. **Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing the religious belief influence on individual behavior at Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* (1843) based on behaviorist perspective.

E. **Objectives of the Study**

In carrying this research the researcher formulates the objectives of the study of the follows are:

1. To analyze *A Christmas Carol* based on structural elements of novel.
2. To analyze the religious belief influence on individual behavior at Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* (1843) based on behaviorist perspective.
F. The Benefit of the Study

The researcher really hopes that her research on *A Christmas Carol* (1843) has benefits. The benefits of the study will be distinguished into two benefits:

1. **Theoretical Benefits**

   The result of the study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other researchers to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *A Christmas Carol* novel.

2. **Practical Benefits**

   The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer.

G. **Research Method**

   Research method is significance to organize a research. It makes easy for the writer to analyze the data and to arrange a research paper. The writer elaborates five main points concerning how to conduct the research. They are: (1) type of research, (2) object of the study, (3) data and data source, (4) method of collecting data, and (5) technique of analyzing data.

1. **Type of the Study**

   In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using library data. The purpose of this
research is to analyze novel using Behaviorist Perspective. The steps to conduct the research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is religious belief influence on individual behavior at Charles Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* (1843) based on behaviorist perspective.

3. Type of Data and the Data Source

There are two types of data sources that are used in this research, namely primary and secondary data sources as follows:

a. Primary Data Sources

The primary data sources is *A Christmas Carol* novel (1843) written by Charles Dickens.

b. Secondary Data Sources

The secondary data sources are the sustaining data from other sources related to the novel. The secondary data of the study are taken from any information from internet and books related to the novel.
4. Technique of Data Collection

The method of collecting data in this research is note-taking *A Christmas Carol* novel. So the writer has some steps in analyzing the data as follows:

a. Reading *A Christmas Carol* novel to understand the novel deeply.
b. Reading some related books to find out the theory and information which is required.
c. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data sources.
d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the novel and Behaviorist Perspective.

H. Paper Organization

The research paper organization of this study is explained in order the reader can understand the content of the paper easier. They are as follows:

Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statements, limitation of the study, objectives of the
study, the benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization.

Chapter II is underlying theory; it consists of the notion of behaviorist perspective, notion of religious belief, structural elements of the novel, and theoretical application.

Chapter III is structural analysis; it covers the structural elements of *A Christmas Carol* novel; it consists of Narrative elements of the novel such as characteristics and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme; and discussion.

Chapter IV is Behaviorist Perspective, it consists of source of influence, positive and negative influence on Scrooge’s behavior, value learned, and discussion.

Chapter V is conclusion, pedagogical implication, and suggestion.