CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Naturally as human being, they need to interact with each other in real life. The interaction has occurred over time in every place. It will get a good or bad value. Living in the society is the one sample that easily to found. An interaction in society is not always happy ending but sometimes there are individual that feeling powerful. Thus, making one of the commodities become depressed, disadvantaged, and suffered it’s called oppression.

Oppression is a phenomenon on society related with exploitation in economic, social and psychological aspects between individual, group or social class (Gill, 1994). Oppression is a way of action either the act or rules that only focuses on making the unilateral advantage of social inequality in many aspect such as social, political, economic, cultural, religious, and so on. This behavior will be habit and involve an imbalance of social power or physical. According to Charlton (1998) the oppression shows that an individual or a group gets pressure from oppressor who takes the advantage of the arbitrary rules to make a profit.

Oppression exploits the weakness of people to make a profit. In society, we often look around that oppression were attacked by the powerlessness of someone or community. They usually use excellent tactics, providing a brilliant idea to make individual or group believe on them. In fact, it has cruel and barbaric purposes. The society will feel the ferocity of an oppressor. Oppression does not only get consideration by Lawyer or legal expert but an author can describe how it addressed oppression. As one author named Sandra Brown in her literary work
entitled Rainwater. She illustrates the severity of the oppression that occurs in 1934.

The novel which deal in the study is written by Sandra Brown entitled Rainwater. The author was born in Waco, Texas on March 12, 1948. Sandra got her degree from Texas Christian University. Besides as an author, she had working in PM magazine Dallas as a reporter. There are many novels created by her such as Rainwater (2009), Relentless Desire (1983), Tomorrow’s Promise (1983), and so on.

Rainwater is one novel written by Sandra Brown which describes the society fight against in oppression. In 1934, the Texas region experienced a long dry season and economic depression, Ella Barron opened the boarding house to continue her life. She life with her son namely Solly. He is suffering from autism. Reputedly, autism is very dangerous. One day, Dr. Kinchaid came to her house to find lodging for Mr. Rainwater. Ella feels different if she accepts him to stay at her inn. But he needed money to get on with her life.

The peoples in that place are under enormous pressure. Everyone is doing anything to stay alive. Traders must sell everything. They have to get money. Long drought season were made all of people become hungry and helpless. In this situation, any people who take benefit to enrich themselves. Breeders and farmers have to take decisions but they are ready to get heartbreaking fee. There are many kinds of evil occurred in this place such as racism, social riot, killing and others. Conrad Ellis is the cruel person. He oppressed farmer and poor man with his rules without mercy. Conrad and Ella’s nemesis since childhood steps into this arena of teeming hostility to exact his vengeance and demonstrate the extent of his blind hatred and unlimited cruelty. He and his gang of hoodlums come to embody the rule of law, and no one in Gilead, Texas is safe. Particularly, in this hotbed of uncertainty, Ella finds Mr. Rainwater a calming presence. She moved by the kindness he shows other boards, Solly and Ella herself.
Slowly, she is being to rely on his restraint, and the steely resolve of his convictions.

*Rainwater* is the novel that has positive and negative public responses. The first positive response has been taken from Karen. She states that the story of this novel is very surprisingly. You can enjoy in the nineteenth century during economic depression such as racial tensions, oppression, and struggling single mother of an autistic savant before much was known about that. The second response comes from Leah. He said that the novel is very different than another book of Sandra Brown because she does not focuses on the woman struggle but she tried to show past incident in 1934 such as oppression.

And then is negative responds in this novel. Everyone is not always give the good responds about someone literary work. The first negative respond is from Amy statement. She said that the story is very difficult to understand from the beginning until the end the story. It can make the reader to be confused. The second is Rosalee Storz. She believes that the novel is not interested to read. It just makes someone being drowsy and reluctant to solve it.

There are third reasons why the writer chosen *Rainwater* novel to be analyzed on the research. The first is character in *Rainwater* novel. There is an interesting character as like Mr. Rainwater. He is a strong man, fighting for his own life from a disease inside the body. In the rest of his life, he wanted his life being useful to others. He was disguised as a simple man who politeness and friendliness.

The second is the plot in the novel. It is not easy to predict because in these story always come up with new scenes that it cannot be guessed by readers therefore it will make the reader to be curious about any continuation of the content in the novel.

The third is issue in the novel. Sandra Brown as the author wants to share the story of people live in Texas in 1934 full of social economic
depression. Oppression seen from racial, there is a differential from the white and the black and the number of poor peoples in the area who struggle to survive their life for example undernourished. It can give the reader more critical and respect to think the problem solving.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to conduct a study entitled “PROTEST AGAINST OPPRESSION REFLECTED IN SANDRA BROWN’S RAINWATER NOVEL (2013): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”.

B. Problem Statement

Regarding the background of the study above, the problem statement in this research are follows:

a. What are the types of oppression in Rainwater novel?
b. How is oppression depicted in Rainwater novel?
c. Why did the author address oppression in Rainwater novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of the study in this research are follows:

a. To identify the types of oppression in Rainwater novel.
b. To describe how the oppression depicted in Rainwater novel.
c. To reveal the reason why the author address oppression in Rainwater novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

This research focused on Protest against Oppression in Sandra Brown’s Rainwater novel (2009) on a Sociological Approach

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefits of the study are follows:

a. Theoretical Benefit

    It will give a new role and more information for the people who read this novel chiefly literary study in Sandra Brown’s Rainwater novel.

b. Practical Benefit
The researcher is expected that this research gives significant benefits, especially for English Department students to understand how to be analyzed *Rainwater* novel by using sociological approach.

**F. Paper of Organization**

The research paper will be divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction that consist of Background of the Study, Problem Statement, Objectives of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Benefits of the Study and Research Paper Organization. Chapter two is Literature Review that consists of Underlying Theory and Previous Study. Chapter three is Research method, this part consists of Object of the Research, Types of Data and Data Sources, Method of Collecting Data, and Technique of Analyzing Data. Chapter four is Finding and Discussion. Chapter five is Conclusion and Suggestion.