CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Nowadays hoax is widely spread in the society. According to Merriam Webster Dictionary hoax is to trick into believing or accepting as genuine something false and often impossible. The purpose of the hoax is usually for making some sensations, the more people are affected by a hoax that are spread, the more satisfied the person. The motive for spreading hoax can usually be influenced by political motives, slandering someone, natural, ethnic, religious, magical events and others. someone will try to spread the hoax immediately and be read to many people. Therefore, for the readers that believe the news is true, they usually use complex and scientific terms. So that the news spreads quickly, sometimes they will give some threats or promise of some benefits to those who have spread the news.

Hoax also has a very bad impact on others, among which can harm a party or a provocative title and inaccurate news content can reap a variety of negative opinions, this negative opinion can harm the parties concerned besides the adverse effects that can occur due to hoax news that is to give a bad reputation for someone or something. it can be a source of slander and even spread wrong information. The factors that influence the existence of hoaxes as the social media revolution, media literacy, post-truth, and
horizontal conflict. The fastest and easiest media to spread hoaxes is gadgets and the internet. In academic hoaxes can also be misused through media information and communication, hoax can also be very easy to spread and to access.

One of the literary work that addresses is Mitch Albom's *The First Phone Call From Heaven* as the hoax phenomenon in this novel begins with the story of Pastor Warren, he was very surprised to have received a call from a member of his congregation who claimed to have received a call from his sister who had died a few years ago. Katherin Yellin admitted that it was really his sister's voice and the witness had been shocking. He also conducted live interviews on national television. A woman aged forty-six, a property agent and having two children received a call from her deceased sister. As if described either he or his brother a good person. Not long after some other residents received a call from their deceased family. But the witnesses meant bad for residents who did not receive calls from their deceased family and anxiety arises. Sully Harding, a skilled former squadron pilot, had just breathed in free air. The man with one child must undergo a prison sentence due to his omission in crashing the plane and causing the death of another person. Now the man is busy looking for work in a city as small as Coldwater and not to mention the sadness of losing Gisele, his beloved wife. With his young age, he finally got an offer from a friend to become a property agent. Suddenly Coldwater city became excited because of the telephone calls and even became national news. Some responded that it was a miracle from God
and instead thickened their faith and became a tourist area. The city was suddenly crowded with many visitors making the economy move. A number of souvenir shops and stalls sprang up. National television directly followed the development of the excited telephone. Not a few people who protested slogans: "Live now, not later." Sully's first job was to collect the funeral home that had been owned by Horace Belfin. The man who only bought it for a few months in cash and he is not a native of Coldwater. The haggard man welcomed him kindly and looked nothing suspicious. The Jack Seller police got a call from his son. Sully too, so he again heard the voice of his beloved wife. That incident has troubled them. But his voice was very similar and both of them began to believe. Sully accidentally found Horace Belvin who was answering the telephone, which was suspected a miracle telephone from heaven. This shocking fact revealed that the telephone had been fake. All of these were Horace Belvin's actions with the original name Elliot Gray. He is the father of Elliot Gray Jr. the tower guard who drove Sully to prison. The old man confessed that he did it for the redemption of his sins because he was the one who made Elliot his son killed. The debate with his son who was at work made his son get killed and the plane was wretched. By hacking all the phones that died and modifying their voices, he managed to make the sound of people die as they were real. The man has received a doctor's verdict that brain cancer in his head will never be helped.

A desire to comfort all those who are left to die by their families and give them hope. Plans that have long been designed include the purchase of
funeral homes. Coldwater returned as a quiet city. The souvenir shop was empty, the shop was quiet, and the residents returned to normal life.

"Imagine what if the end was not the end"

The telephone rang and the callers claimed that they were calling from heaven. This miracle? Or a cruel hoax? When this news spread many people came to Coldwater to prove. At the same time Sully Harding who had lost their good name, just released from prison and found the city where he lived was experiencing a "miracle fever" even his young child carried a toy cellphone because he hoped on his mother's phone from heaven. When these calls became more frequent, and evidence of life in the underworld began to unfold, the city and the world began to change. Only Sully doesn't believe. For him, there is nothing more after this sad world. And he was determined to prove it, for his son and himself.

In The First Phone Call from Heaven, Mitch Albom speaks fluently about stories of love, history, and belief, a thrilling mystery, and contemplation of the power of relations between humans.

This novel has been published in various countries and has been read by many people. So that there is a various perspective of the readers, they share their reading experiences through writing on the internet. Some like it and some don't really like this novel. As the response written in this study can be seen on goodreads.com. the first positive response was written by Rosa Schmidt, he found the story of Alexander Graham Bell in the novel and the
sentence he liked most was "what is wrong with hope?" if it has been faithful then there is no need for proof. Then from Bradly Frederic, this book is fun because it tells about people who show a sense of belonging and believe in heaven. And according to Alissa, she was interested in Sully Harding's background and mystery stories about the faith and history of the telephone. and the negative response according to Sharfina Kiasati was bored at the beginning of the story until the end of the sad story, according to him it was not a good book from Mitch Albom. And according to Kortesa, he was interested in general ideas but according to him did not develop and he did not continue his interest to read until the end. And the latest from Kristin Higgin he feels the lack of emotional connection he feels when reading this novel.

This novel was written by Mitch Albom, a writer for the Detroit Free Press, and has been chosen as an American sports columnist. He worked as a writer and worked as a freelance journalist in New York, he was active in the field of journalism. In addition, he also created his work through books that won best sellers.

Mitch Albom's most successful work is his book entitled *Tuesday with Morrie*, and there are still others such as *For One More Day, Five People You Meet In Heaven*, he also filming his book with Oprah Winfrey. Mitch Albom managed to become a best seller writer all six times in the New York Times and became the number one and *The First Phone Call from Heaven* is in the top 100 books best seller.
Genres from this book are religion and inspirational. *The First Phone Call from Heaven* may indeed not be a masterpiece, but by reading this novel we go on the journey will make you know and think how you believe him.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested in analyzing the Against Hoax in Mitch Albom *The First Phone Call From Haven* novel. This study will be analyzed by using the Sociological approach. So, the title of this research is **FIGHTING AGAINST HOAX IN MITCH ALBOM'S THE FIRST PHONE CALL FROM HEAVEN (2013): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

B. **Problem statement**

As what is written on the title and the background of the study the main problem found by the researcher are:

1. What are indicators of hoax in *The First Phone Call from Heaven* novel?
2. How is hoax described in the novel?
3. Why did the author address the hoax?

C. **The objective of the study**

this study have some objectives which included:

1. To identify the indicators of hoax in Mitch Albom’s *The First Phone Call From Heaven* (2013) novel.
2. To describe how hoax is depicted in the novel.
3. To reveal the reason how the author address hoax in the novel.
D. Limitation of the study

The writer focuses on this research by analyzing the **Fighting Against Hoax** in *The First Phone Call From Heaven* novel (2013) by using a sociological approach.

E. The benefit of the study

The result of the research is expected to give some benefits as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefits:

   This beneficial research will be a new innovation and also can be a new reference in academics. If one-day another researcher want to carry out *The First Phone Call From Heaven* novel as the object of research and know further about Mitch Albom novel, this will help them as the reference.

2. Practical Benefits

   By using the Sociological Approach, the writer studying *The First Phone Call From Heaven* wrote by Mitch Albom and found a new Perspective and understanding about the novel.