CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Human is most honorable creature created by Allāh Subhānahu Wata’āla than the others. Allāh SWT says in Quran with Chapter Al Isra 70:

وَلَقدْ كَرَمْنَا بَنِي أَدْمَ وَحَمْلَنَاهُمْ فِي الْبَرِّ وَالْبَحْرِ وَرَزَقْنَاهُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ وَفَضَّلْنَاهُمْ عَلَى كَثِيرٍ مِّنْ خَلْقِنَا

“And We have certainly honored the children of Adam and carried them on the land and sea and provided for them of the good things and preferred them over much of what We have created, with (define) preference” Q.S Al Isra: 70.

Allāh Subhānahu Wata’āla provides us with common sense and desire. Human can create something that useful for himself or herself and other people by using his or her common sense. Aristotle as cited in Brann described common sense as the ability with which human processes sense-perception, memories and imagination (25). Therefore, human has a power of imagination. This power of imagination can be expressed with various ways, such as by creating literary work.

By expressing ideas, the literary works are created by human to be consumed by other human. The ideas of the people creating literary work with people imaginations can determine a literature to be able to survive the ages because the
literary works that have interesting ideas can get position in literary lovers as literature having high artistic values. It is not a strange thing if a literary work is interesting to be read today and also a subject of research for certain parties to try to understand the hidden meanings of the work. Therefore, Robert says that literature is an art which is essentially an imaginative act that is an act of writer’s imagination in selecting, endering and interpreting life experience (1).

There are values of life containing in literary works which the authors put in their works such as religious values, philosophy, and etc. Wellek states that frequently literature is though of as a form of philosophy, as “ideas” wrapped in form, and it is analyzed to yield “leading ideas” (107). It means that authors use their imagination of mind to create their works trying to show the certain philosophy in their life and show in their works, so the readers can know or also follow what the writer believe. Therefore, literature can be treated as a document in the history of ideas and philosophy (Wellek 108).

There are many kinds of literary works, such as novel, drama, poetry, and short story. According to Edgar and Henry, literature may be classified into four categories or genres: prose fiction, poetry, drama, nonfiction prose. Usually the first three are classified as imaginative literature: mythes, parables, romances, novel, short story (2-3).

The novel is one of literary works having many people or literary lovers wanting to read it. Novel consists of long storylines, many characters, and more complex events. So, it makes the work attractive and interesting to be enjoyed. Novel
is a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose (Abrams 190). Robert DiYanni states that through reading a wide variety of stories readers can enter many different imaginative worlds in the process enlarging and deepening reader’s perception of the world (3-4). Due to those reasons, this thesis wants to serve one of the great experiences in the world which exists in a novel.

In addition, the novel is regarded as reflective of a particular community life because most figure or events that occur in these works ever discovered in real lives, but there are some things that have been added through the imagination of authors to make the characters and events in the story more interesting than real lives. Most novels always provide things that are suspense in the storyline making readers of the novel to keep reading until the end of the story. Therefore, a good storyline produces conflict to build the excitement and suspense that are needed to keep the reader involved (Tomlinson 26).

There are some elements in the novel including plot, character, theme, characterization, setting, and conflict. Usually, the authors of the novel make different theme in their novel. One of the theme is about ambition. Ambition is the persistent and generalized striving for success, attainment, and accomplishment (Mueller 06). It means that in some cases people ambitions can be attained by higher levels of education and income, build more prestigious careers, and report higher overall levels of life satisfaction. Ambition itself is one kind of human attitude. It will grow up automatically when there is a desire in human. Ambition involves
persistence and generality in that we do not expect that ambition ceases to exist once a certain level of attainment is achieved, nor do we believe that ambition is compartmentalized toward success in only a single sphere (Mueller 06). It could be applied by a positive and negative way to achieve everything. So, to catch up human willings, they will do all things without thinking twice with their way. It primary happens on all of human in the world when they are growing up their ambition. For example there is someone who has a desire to be a good man. In fact, when someone wants to be a good man, her or she should do hard work way to catch his or her desire such as by honesty, integrity and so on. Based on that example above, there are many ways to build human’s ambition based on their willing (Heathwood 539).

*The Kite Runner* is one of the novels tells about ambition. This novel is written by an Afghan-American novelist, Khaled Hosseini and it was published in 2003. The story describes how the social barrier between Pashtuns and Hazaras in Afghanistan society makes a coward and inferior boy such Amir, the main character, experiencing a guilty. Guilt experienced by Amir lead him to experience ambition. A big guilt experienced by Amir happened when he let Hassan, Amir’s beloved Hazaras servant and friend, raped by Assef to save his last kite from kite fighting tournament he just won in order to get Baba’s respect and recognition. This kind of guilty later causes more conflicts, further ambition and change of Amir’s personality become a bad person toward Hassan. According to Freud, “To begin with, if we ask how a person comes to have a sense of guilt, we arrive at an answer which cannot be disputed: a person feels guilty (devout people would say sinful) when he does
something he knows to be ‘bad’”(72). We feel guilty when we feel responsible for an action that we regret. In the story, Amir’s ambition appears when Amir knew that Hassan was his half brother, so he accepted Rahim Khan’s request to take Sohrab, Hassan’s son, out from Kabul to redeem his guilt toward Hassan. Therefore, Amir’s life change his personality from a coward to be an optimistic, sly, even to be a caring person.

*The Kite Runner* become a best seller after being printed in paperback and was popularize in book clubs. It was a number one New York Times bestseller for over two years (2003-2005), with over seven million copies sell in the United States. The New York Times Book Reviews was generally positive, though parts of the plot draw significant controversy in Afghanistan. A number of adaptations was create following publication, including a 2007 film of the same name, several stage performances, and a graphic novel (Hosseini 2003).

Based on the background explanation above, this research intends to study the novel. This study believes that this theme is an interesting issue to talk about. It is already known that people in the world have one ambition which is wanted to be achieved in his or her life. They do various ways to get their own ambitions through positive or negative way. Therefore, ambition is the important matter in human’s life. By having the ambition, human’s life will be more direct and better. Although, it is not easy to achieve our that ambition. Humans have to face many obstacles and challenges. Sometimes, human have to immolate our material and prestige, in order to get that ambition.
The related study is done by Islachatul Ainiyyah, the student of The State Islamic University of Surabaya (2015), who wrote under the title “The Study of Pip’s Character in Reaching His Ambition in Charles Dickens’ Great Expectation”. There are several results of this study. First, this research shows that the character of Pip influences what Pip does in reaching his ambition. It is as a background of Pip’s attitude and Pip’s behavior. The second, to reach his ambition, Pip through conscious and unconscious process. And from that process the writer finds the behavior changes of Pip as the psychological effect.

The difference of this study with the researcher above is this research focuses the study on the ambitions of a man to redeem his guilt. The research focuses in male character who struggle to express his ambition to redeem his guilt in the novel.

1.2 Statement of Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of this research will formulated as follows:

1. How is Amir in the novel characterized?
2. How did Amir feel guilty toward Hassan?
3. How does Amir redeem his guilt in the novel?
1.3 Objective of Study

Related to statement of the problem, the objectives of this study are formulated as follows:

1. To describe Amir’s character portrayed in Khaled Husseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel.
2. To explain Amir’s guilt toward Hassan in Khaled Husseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel.
3. To expound Amir’s ambition to redeem his guilt in Khaled Husseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

To avoid a broad discussion in analyzing Khaled Hosseini’s *The Kite Runner* novel, the research gives limitation to character in the novel which writer focuses on analyzing the characterization of Amir as the main character in the story. Henceforth, the analysis of the characterization is in the beginning to provide the idea that will suggest how this study will be carried on further in ambition in the story. Then, the writer also discusses about Amir’s guilt in the novel. This research also concerns on psychoanalysis aspects to analyze Amir’s ambition to redeem his guilt toward Hassan.
1.5 Significance of The Study

There are several benefits that can be gained through *The Kite Runner* novel research, especially in literary world. Theoretically, this research can enrich the researchers in the field of literature on the study of the novel. In addition, this research can be used as an additional reference for researchers who want to conduct a study of literary works especially in analyzing ambition in other literary works. Practically, through analyzing *The Kite Runner* novel using theory related to human personality, this research hopes that the reader can understand more about the ambition of themselves in order to redeem their guilt. Other benefits of this research are going to make it easy for students to understand this novel being studied and this study can be considered as a contribution to the literary study especially for students in English Letter.

1.6. Method of the Study

This study is a library based study. Therefore, the writer uses some books as data resource related with topic researched. There are two kinds of data source; they are primary and secondary data. In this case, this study merely uses the of *The kite runner* by Khaled Hosseini as the primary data source. Beside that, this study uses other sources outside the novel that are closed with the subject and it can support the primary data, such as theory books, text book, other thesis, and internet source to
improve the knowledge. In presenting the analysis, this study mainly uses descriptive analytic. The research follows the following steps:

1. Reading the novel to get the complete and well understanding on the whole story.
2. Selecting and collecting the data in form of naration and conversation from novel related to the statement of problems.
3. Analyzing the data collected by firstly categorizing them into two points, dealing with two points of the statement of problems. Then, each point is analysed using related theories which refer to the objectives of the study.
4. Making conclusion based on the result of the data analysis.

1.8 Definition of Key Term

There are several key terms essential for use in this study. Key terms must be defined to provide a more easily understood explanations in this research. They are:

Ambition : The persistent and generalized striving for success, attainment, and accomplishment (Mueller 06).

Redeem : Achieved through being a Muslim nad doing no action that would forfeit one’s identification with Islam, or being sincere faith (iman) and doing virtuous actions (Islamic Encyclopedia).

Guilt : A cognitive or an emotional experience that occurs when a person believes or realizes accurately or not that he or she has
compromised his or her own standards of conduct or has violated a moral standard and bears significant responsibility for that violation (Encyclopedia of Psychology).