CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Bennet and Royle state that literature is uncanny which has meaning a basic psychological disorder of what we think and feel, it is concentration to sense of strangeness or mystery about unfamiliar feeling comes to the heart of familiar and on the contrary (34). The uncanny is also described as thoughts and feelings which have possibility to think and feel unfamiliar of familiar thing or the unfamiliar becomes strangely familiar (38). Literature is also kind of writing which has close relation with the uncanny aspect of experience, thought and feeling that can determine between the ‘real’ and the ‘fiction’, even the ‘real’ and the ‘literary’ seem blend or combine into one (35). It can be reflection of the nature, life, and the experience of ‘living illogicality’ (266).

Tim Gillespie states that literature is a work of writing which deals with ideas of timeless and universal interest except artistry and power, it can be poems, stories, novels, plays, essays, memories, and so on (1). Most good literature works offers more than one meaning (17). The meaning is not only based on the writer, but also the individual readers which build their own interpretation based on their personal experiences, in other words, literature is reflection of personal experience which it’s meaning is based on the readers (11). Literature is also kind of art that the writers’ imaginative spirit put their own experiences from events in their lives and by their creativity (20). In a literary work, the events or the characters
represents the writer’s life include her or his memory, imagination, experience, and desire (24-25). Hegel in this book also states that literary work reflects the thought and feeling of a particular place and time (37).

Olaofe Isaac Ade and Oyeniyi Okunoye state that literature is imaginative form which expresses thoughts and feelings that deals with life experiences and uses powerful words that promotes recreation and expose the hidden facts. In other words, literature represents thoughts, feelings, and human experiences (2-3).

William Henry Hudson states that literature is kind of description of what the writer has seen or imagined which directly expresses the writer's thoughts and feelings that deals with the great drama of human life and action into form of art. The writer’s thoughts and feelings, observations, and imaginings are merged together in literature. If literature is the expression of life, the personal character is the special appeal of its interest, in other words, literature represents the personality of the writer (11-14).

Rene Wellek states that literature contains the thought and feeling and its language is full of ambiguities (12). It is descriptive art that we can recognize the fictionalization and the imagination (16). A literary work is complex form of character with multiple meanings and relationships that has aspect of personal expression, realization and exploitation, and fiction (17). It utters the writer’s self as reflection of the writer itself, and it shows what the writer wants to be something like their daydreaming and by releasing the writer’s experience through her or his work (21).
All in all, literature is a writer’s imagination which becomes the reflection of his or her experience, thought and feeling. One of the literary works which is reflection of the writer’s experience, thought and feeling is Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*.

*The Little Prince* tells about a Little Prince who came from another planet. He left his own planet because of a rose. However, his act and his appearance was looked like a male human. He had body like a little boy with a yellow hair and dressed like a prince. He had a rose which he loved a lot, but that rose was vain. His rose was also acted like a female human. She is the only one that Little Prince cared a lot, he watered her every morning, protected her from danger or bad weather, put her in the glass globe in order to keep her away from the cool wind, and also killed the caterpillars which ate his rose’s leaves, even the rose grumbled and complained anything. Even though the Little Prince leave his own planet because of her, he still thought about her and continuously worried her even he was not on his planet. Moreover, he met a lot of beautiful roses on the earth. Those roses looked like his only one rose, but the Little Prince’s rose was only her, no one could replace her in his heart. His only one rose was more important than all the hundreds of other roses. At the end of the story, the Little Prince felt homesick and for the sake of it, he allowed a snake to bite him to go home.

The interesting part comes from the symbols in Little Prince’s relationship to his only rose. Actually the Little Prince is not a real human, but he is a symbol of a man, and the rose is symbols of his woman. Their relationship is as same as human relationship. He cares her such a real man takes care of his woman. He is
also loyal to her even he finds roses on the planet earth, he cannot love those roses. It is not about an alien which loves a rose, leaves his own planet because of a flower and comes back again to that single flower with hard effort that seems like a self-killing, but the symbols. From the story above, the researcher takes the symbols in Little Prince’s relationship to his only rose as the object to analyze.

Antoine de Saint Exupéry becomes French literary icon and being well-known because of his work, *The Little Prince*. He also write other stories that reflected moment in his life, *In Wind, Sand and Stars*, story of one his memorable flight, *The Memoir of the Rose* told about his story with his affair, and many others (Buck 52). A 1995 IMAX 3D film is entitled *Wings of Courage* is made based on Saint Exupéry’s tale (53).

Antoine de Saint Exupéry also became a laureate of several of France’s highest literary awards and won the U.S National Book Award and after his death, French government applied extension of copyright for most Saint Exupéry’s creative works. There are many honors and legacy was given to memory of Antoine de Saint Exupéry. There are many museums and exhibits dedicated to Saint Exupéry and The Little Prince, not only located in France, but also in South Korea, Japan, Morocco, Brazil, USA and Canada, and many institutions. There are many organizations are named or built in the honor of Saint-Exupery, that is the humanitarian organization ‘Terre des Hommes’, the Antoine de Saint-Exupery Youth Foundation (FASEJ), an organization that runs in education, art, culture, health and sport for youth worldwide which follows Saint-Exupery’s philosophies and memory, and numerous schools across France and Europe. Besides, the name
of Antoine de Saint Exupéry also become the name of street and some places such as ‘Café Saint-Ex, a well-known bar and nightclub in Washington DC, one of the French Air Force teams adopted the image of the Little Prince and the Uruguayan airplane BQB Lines Aéreas named one of its aircraft as ATR-72 in honor of Saint-Exupéry. Not only that, the name of Antoine de Saint Exupéry becomes the name of production company in the sector of theatre and film, that is a theatrical production of Saint Exupéry’s life was made in the world premiere of Saint-Ex in August 2011, a 2004 German short dramatic film, ‘Der letzte Flug’ (The Last Flight) was directed and written by Roger Moench which retelling the final paragraph of The Little Prince. And in the music, Saint-Exupery became the inspiration of Widespread Panic’s eleventh studio album, Dirty Side Down, and the Norwegian progressive rock band Gazpacho’s concept album Tick Tock is based on Saint-Exupery’s desert crash.

*The Little Prince* is the most popular books in the world and it has been translated into more than 250 languages. It has been sold more than 140 million copies and included as one of the best-selling novel of all time (examiner).

1.2. Statement of Problem

In connection to the background of study, the research is formulated as follows:

1. How are Little Prince and the only one rose characterized in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*?
2. What do the Little Prince and his only one rose symbolize in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*?

1.3. **Objective of Study**

1. To describe the characterization of Little Prince and the only one rose in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*.

2. To describe the symbolism of Little Prince and his only one rose.

1.4. **Scope and Limitation**

The researcher uses scope and limitation on this study. The scope of this study discusses about one of characters on *The Little Prince* written by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, the Little Prince who has a rose which he loyal only to her even he has met many roses. Whereas, the researcher limits her study on the part of story which shows the relationship between the Little Prince and his only one rose. Besides, the researcher will discuss about the symbolism in the novel.

1.5. **Significant of Study**

The researcher expects that this study will enrich the readers’ knowledge, especially on the symbolism which is shown by Little Prince and his only one rose in Antoine de Saint-Exupéry’s *The Little Prince*. Besides, hopefully this study may raise their understanding about symbols and semiotic which is discussed on this study.
1.6. Method of Study

This sub chapter discusses about the way of the researcher describes and analyses the problem. The researcher applies descriptive qualitative method to describe and uncover the data which is related to the statement of problems. Qualitative method is kind of methods that tries to extend and develop our understanding about in what way things experience themselves in this social world, when a research tries to explore in what way people experience something, or the way people view something, discover new thing which related to unsolved problems or in other word to understand the unidentified issues, evaluating whether the new examination is able to complete, observe the real life context, or such a complex issue which needs flexibleness (Hancock, Ockleford & Windridge 4). Thus, the main data is Antoine de Saint Exupéry’s *The Little Prince* and the secondary data from e-books, e-journals, magazines, articles and other online resources. Besides, the process of analysis is presented as follows:

1. Reading and understanding the whole of short story entitled *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint Exupéry.
2. Reading and understanding some books about psychoanalysis theory and loyalty theory to support the analysis.
3. Selecting and collecting the data from narration and conversation related to statement of problems.
4. Analysing the data collected by firstly categorizing them in two points, dealing with the problem statements and each point is analysed using the theory which refers to the object of study.
5. Making the conclusion based on the result of analysis.

1.7. Definition of Key Term

To avoid any different perceptions between the study and the readers in understanding. It is essential to give some definition of key terms used in this study.