

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are many ways for human beings to express their emotions and ideas to the others. One of ways they can use to express their idea is through literary works. Literature is a unique medium to states idea, tells experience, and criticizes a phenomenon in society. As stated by Pratomo (2013:13) the aim of literary text is to tell the story mirroring the author's world and perspective, to give lesson or moral teaching, to amuse the reader, and to tell condition and phenomenon in society interestingly. Literary works are created by human to tell the condition about their life experience and the environment or society around them. Literature was born from the imagination of a writer, as well as reflection of social phenomena that are nearby (Jabrohim, 2003:59). Therefore, the presence of a literary work is a part of community life.

According to Shulman (2000:11) literature can be divided into two major categories: fiction and nonfiction. Fiction means literary work based on the imagination. Fiction includes novels, short stories, poetry and drama. Nonfiction conventionally means literary works based on facts that can be verified. Nonfiction includes personal essays, travel writing, history, biography, and autobiography. Fiction can be further subdivided into poetry and prose. Prose is written without rhyme or meter. It includes narrative writing of any kind, such as novels, short stories, plays, and satires. In this research, the writer takes a short story as the object of the research. According to Keegan in Kenney (1966:50) a short story is something which is read in one sitting and brought a singular

illumination to the reader, sudden and golden like sunlight cracking through heavy cloud. Other definition, the short story refers to a work of fiction that is usually written in prose, and narrative format.

The writer takes a short story entitled *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* written by American author Ernest Miller Hemingway. He is a world writer who has a unique writing style. His words are simple, complex, full of content, and fascinating. Hemingway's story is known for its horror and is packed in classical style. All of these stories are certainly inspired by his experience of World War I and II. Ernest Hemingway is known as "Lost Generation" (Moreira, 1997:3), the term is used to describe the generation of writers active immediately after World War I. The writing of the Lost Generation tends to have common themes. These themes are mostly pertained to the writers' experiences in World War I and the years following it.

The Snows of Kilimanjaro tells about a young man named Harry, he is a writer, and his wife, Helen, was stranded while on a safari in Africa. Harry suffered from gangrene because he ignored the thorn bump into his knee a few days earlier. Harry spends his time drinking and insulting Helen. Harry considers his life, realizing that he wasted his talent through procrastination and luxury from a marriage to a wealthy woman that he doesn't love. In a series of flashbacks, Harry recalls the mountains of Bulgaria and Constantinople, as well as sick feeling of being alone in Paris.

There are some issues appears in the story especially about American society in 1930s after the First World War. According to Brody (1980), the period of the

1930s, American society described with the modernity, materialism, and the loss of moral values. After the First World War the standard of living is improved, everything is different especially their lifestyle. When the world war happens, they tend to struggle to live with the misery and sorrow. Therefore, after the world war ends, they feel the big changes. They always try to reach their happiness and avoid pain. The way they live can be said as hedonism. Hedonism refers to seek of pleasure as a way of life, especially to the pleasures of the sense. Hedonism is the view of “pleasure is the good”. It is containing more pleasure and less pain (Michael, 2012). In this case, each person must have a different pleasure as well as the pain that they feel definitely different for each individual. As well as Hedonist life which appears in the story shows how American society’s way to look for a happy life.

However, like the previous explanation this study will discuss the lifestyle of American society presented by the characters. Lifestyle is a human way of life identified by how people spend their time, what their interest and also their opinion. Lifestyle refers to the patterns of consumption associated with different social groups and classes. Edgar & Sedgwick (1999:216) stated that lifestyles may be understood as a focus of group or individual identity, in so far as the individual expresses him or herself through the meaningful choice of items or patterns of behavior. Every individual or group has their own lifestyle, for example upper class’s lifestyle is clearly different with others. It can be observed from the way of upper class spend their time, it is different with the lower class. The upper class may spend their time by going to party or doing business, whereas the lower class may spend their time by working hard for life.

The explanation above shows that this short story is really interesting to be analyzed because it was written when the author became one of volunteer during the World War I. This story portrayed the condition of American society in 1930s when they were struggling after the war. However, this research focuses on how Hedonism appears in American society in 1930 by analyzing through the characters' lifestyle. This research discusses how the characters' try to do anything to reach their happiness and assume that happiness and material things are the goals of life.

1.2. Research Question

The writer formulates the research question as:

How is Hedonism of American society portrayed in *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* through character lifestyle?

1.3. Research Objective

In relation of the research question, the objective of the study is to reveals and explains Hedonism of American society in 1936 through the characters' lifestyle in *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*.

1.4. Uses of the Study

Following the objective of the study above, the writer divides the uses of the study in two parts; those are theoretical and practical as follow:

1.4.1. Theoretical Uses

Theoretically, this research gives information and gain knowledge about Hedonism through literary work, or it can be used by the others researcher as supporting sources for research. Moreover, the research also defines additional

type of Hedonism. Finally, whole significances hopefully can be additional reference, especially for people who are studying literature.

1.4.2. Practical Uses

Practically, this research is expected to give certain overview of knowledge and ability to the reader and stimulate the reader to understand Hedonism as reflected in *The Snows of Kilimanjaro* short story. Hopefully, by knowing more about Hedonism, the reader will pay attention more about their lifestyle so that they avoid the hedonism lifestyle and looking for better life.

1.5. Scope of the Study

It is important to limit the analysis and the object of the analysis in order to get a clear and scientific result. The writer wants to illuminate the hedonist life. It is drawn in the society lifestyle which identically with hedonistic. This research focuses on analyzing two major characters namely Harry and Helen in *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*. Even, the short story explains about the other characters but this short story focuses on those two characters.