

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Literature is a written work that considered as an art, because as a work of art, literature does not only have aesthetic values, but also educational value. According to Arthur Krystal in these things we call Literature (2016) literary means not only what is written but what is voiced, what is expressed, what is invented, in whatever form. Based on that statement literature is the things that used by human to shows about their imagination, experience and all the things that they have been done in their life. They show that in form of voice and also written word. There are several experience or though by human than becoming the tradition and culture that still believed. Because of those reason literature becomes a media to transferring the culture and tradition in the form of words and narration. It can be also in the form of allegory, metaphor or symbol that brings by the characters. To make the reader get the point and education of the literary work in an attractive way because through the symbol tradition also can be accepted by the reader implicitly.

One of literatures that used as a media to transferring the culture and tradition is in the form of words and narration in this word, one of them is novel. When a reader reads a novel, they not only simply enjoys it, but they as the readers also needs to think deeply about what they read. According to Nurgiyantoro in his book entitled *Teori Pengkajian Fiksi* (2002) the word novel came from Italian language *Novella* that means a story, novel is very popular literary work around the world. When a

reader reads a novel, she or he not only simply enjoys it, but she or he also needs to think deeply about what they read. Novel as literary work has beauty that can make people read and enjoy the story. Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (1981:46) explained that a novel is a normally prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the quality or value of human experience and conduct. But, literature is not only about human experiences but also about human belief like story about myth and folklore that believe by the society.

Myth and folklore that believe by the society is existed in every country in this world, every country has their own story in their society that derived from their ancestor and there several story come from supernatural or magical. Many people called it as myth.

“A myth is a traditional story, which may describe the origins of the world and/or of a people. A myth is an attempt to explain mysteries, supernatural events and cultural traditions. Sometimes sacred in nature, a myth can involve gods or other creatures and a myth represent reality in dramatic ways” (Lombardi, 2012)

Statement above tells us about the sacred phenomenon or history in certain place and also time. Mark Schorer (1946:29) asserts Myth is fundamental, the dramatic representation of our deepest instinctual life, of a primary awareness of man in the universe, capable of many configurations, upon which all particular opinions and attitudes. A myth reveals the essential of culture and also belief from the ancestor and become the heredity which is portraying in the tradition or even creatures that told from generation to generation. One of myths that told from generation to generation which still exist is Celtic history and mythology.

According to Barry in the *Ancients Celts* (1997:202-204) Celtic mythology is the mythology of Celtic Polytheism, the religion or belief of the Iron Age Celts before the Christianity comes. The Celts worship variety of gods that appear in their tales. Each tribe has its own God who protects and provides the welfare of that tribe. After the coming of Christianity in the fifth century onwards, the monks record the myths of Celts. According to Eddy and Hamilton in their article *Celtic myth*, "Some of the myths have been Christianized, especially the ones that are recorded in medieval period". It means Celtic mythology influences a belief of Christian, some aspects like symbol by Celtic mythology is reflected in Christian belief. For example early Christian monks in Ireland wrote down the mythological cycles of the stories which were recited in the courts of king as a form of history. In Celtic mythology there are a lot of creatures and in Celtic mythology is not only tells about god and goddesses but also about king, queen and also mythical creature such as a fairy. One of queen in Celtic mythology is Maeve, she is called as intoxicating and beautiful queen. She takes a control with her power and she also killed her sister when her sister is pregnant.

According to Mackillop (2009) in his book *Myths and Legend of the Celt* states Celt is one of the ancestors of Britain, Celts gradually infiltrated Britain over the course of the centuries between 500 and 100 B.C. During the Roman inhabiting Britain, the Romans and the Celts are often married; therefore, the two cultures are merged. After Romans withdrew from Britain in 410 CE, the Celtic-speaking tribes predominated in Scotland, Wales, and Cornwall. Celtic influence is seen primarily in geographic place names, like Avon, Dover, Kent, York, and Thames.

The researcher wants to analyze about Celtic mythology in *Iron King* novel by Julie Kagawa. *Iron King* is a novel written by Julie Kagawa in 2015 and published by Harlequin Teen. The writer chooses this novel to be discussed because it provides the explanation, information and gives the description about Celtic mythology that described in Julie Kagawa *Iron King* novel. This novel tells about a girl sixteen years old named Meghan Chase and she is not believe with fairy. The story tells the adventure of Meghan to save her brother that was kidnapped by fairy. For the first time, Meghan does not believe about fairy and world of fairy that is called as Never in this novel but after she know enter the world of fairy to save her brother she believed it and Nevernever is very different with her expectation about fairy world, because the fairy world that she see is not beauty and only full of war between summer kingdom and winter kingdom. In this world, fairy also she knows if her friend Robbie is fairy, in Nevernever also Meghan know if she is daughter of Oberon king of summer kingdom and very famous kingdom in world fairy. Furthermore, Meghan knows if all fairies in Nevernever in dangerous situation and only her that can save them. In Nevernever Julie Kagawa explain several characters from Celtic mythology.

Regarding to the issue the writer chooses this novel because the novel provides insights of how the Celtic mythology is described and applied in the story seeing by the character inside of the novel. Kagawa puts a touch of some creature of Celts mythology inside of the novel, to make the readers feel the atmosphere of the story. The characters inside of the novel included into the creatures, god and goddesses of Celtic mythology. Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed

with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying the dialogue and from what they do or the action (Abrams, 1999:33). The novel provides insights of how the Celtic creatures, god and goddesses are described and applied in the story. This topic is very interesting to be discussed in this paper because there are several characters in this novel that show about Celtic mythology related to the Julie Kagawa's Novel *Iron King*. This research focuses on the creature of Celtic mythology, since the creature of Celtic mythology inside of this take a part as characters to deliver the message from the author to the reader, moreover this research also explaining the description of Celtic mythology, and this becomes the reason why the writer wants to discuss about the creatures, god and goddesses of Celtic that reflected in Kagawa's *Iron King* novel.

1.2 Research Question

Referring to the background of the study the researcher formulates the problem as followed: How is Celtic mythology described in Julie Kagawa' *Iron King* ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Concerning to the statement of the problem above, the objective of this research is to reveal Celtic mythology related to the Julie Kagawa's Novel *Iron King*.

1.4 Uses of the Study

There are two uses of the study, theoretical uses and practical uses.

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

In field of research, the writer has several goals. First, the study was structured to give more knowledge to the readers and students who wants to do more research that related to the same topic, and the second is purpose to contribute to the study of literature, especially in the field the meaning of the book that difficult to grasp and understand inside the novel or the story.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, this research is expected to give knowledge and more information to the readers and becomes one of the references for the one who is interested to find out Celtic mythology that exist in *Iron King Novel* by *Julie Kagawa*.

1.5 Scope of Study

In this research the writer limits the idea on describing Celtic mythology. The writer focuses on analyze about Celtic mythology that appeared in *Iron King Novel* characters by Julie Kagawa. This research focuses on the creature of Celtic mythology, since the creature of Celtic mythology inside of this take a part as characters in this novel. Those characters Queen Maeve, Robin Goodfellow, Horse, Redcap and Caith Sith and Water Horse which are becoming the characters in *Iron King* novel by Julie Kagawa. The writer also wants to reveal about the characteristics of those characters related to Celtic mythology.