CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Research

According to Abrams & Harpham (2012:199),American literary critic who is known for works on romanticism, in their book entitled *A Glossary of Literary Terms*, that literature designates in many writings (including philosophy, history, and even scientific works addressed to a general audience) that are especially distinguished in form, expression,and emotional power. Those works that deal with a normal issue are particularly purpose in mind. Based on the explanation, it also can be said that an author can communicate with the readers of a literary work if they can understand what the author wants to send. Thus, the explanation, the writer concludes that an author is able to expresses his or her feeling, thought, ideas, or arguments about the social issues by writing those issues in a form of literary work.

In every story of literary work, there must be a lesson that can be takes. A lesson that also known as moral value. Further,Wibawa (2013: 173) a professor of Javanese philosophy from Yogyakarta State University, in his book entitled *Moral Philosophy in SeratCenthini: Its Contribution for Character Education in Indonesia,* stated that moral values can be used as a reference norm for a person or a group of people to determine whether the attitudes and action are good or not. Hence, it can be said that moral value is something that associated with attitudes and action whether they are good or bad. The education of moral values is very

important and influent in human life. Moral values are considered very important because one of the sources of human happiness is having good morality. Besides, Yusuf (1996: 112), stated that "moral education can be learned through other media such as books (novels or comics), newspapers, magazines, radio, television, drama, movies and so on, that can be used to educate the public morals".

However in this research, the writer is interested in discussing a moral value in a novel. Novel as a genre of fiction can be defined as an "invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting" (Eagleton, (2005: 11). A novel can be analyzed in several points of view. It can be analyzed from the moral, social and religious point of view. Further, the novel that is going to be analyzed by the writer is entitled*Confessions of a Shopaholic* by Sophie Kinsella.

In this story, it tells about a woman, Rebecca Bloomwoodwho is ashopaholic. According to Sharma et al (2009: 110), shopaholicor also known as an act of compulsive buying is "frequentpreoccupation with buying or impulse to buy thatis experienced as irresistible, intrusive, and/orsenseless or frequent buying of items that are notneeded, or shopping for longer periods of time thanintended". This kind of situation (shopaholic) makes her cornered with debt problems, a huge debt problem. She works as journalist and she intends to work in the most famous fashion magazine, "Alette". However, when she tries to send an essay to Alette in order to consider her as one of the new employee, she sends the essay to the wrong magazine company instead. In short, she is hired and amazingly, she can bring her career into higher place as writer. Unfortunately, it does not change her

habit that is shopaholic, but everything is changed when her boss, Brandon knew all about Rebecca's secret and decided to make a distance. In the end, Rebecca decided to change herself to be a better person. She sells all of her branded things and stop shopping unnecessary items. Eventual, she is able to become a person who inspires others that has the similar problem like she was, shopaholic to stop buy items that is unnecessary and over limit.

Thisnovel is chosen by the writer to be the object of analysis since this novel is written by the New York Times Bestselling author, Sophie Kinsella. The author also known as the one of the famous writers in UK that produces many novels one of them is Shopaholic series.

Furthermore, the writer is interested in analyzing moral values since by explaining the moral values in this literary works, it can make the readers are aware regarding to shopaholic behavior. Also, by analyzing the moral values, the readers also be able to know what is right and wrong, what should they do and what should not in order to shapes the character in an individual.

1.2 Research Question

Referring the background that has been explained formally, the writer formulated the problem as follows:

How are the moral values reflected in *Confessions of a Shopaholic* novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of this study is to describe the moral values as reflected in *Confessions of a Shopaholic* novel.

1.4 The Uses of Study

In accomplishing this paper, the writer expects that the depiction of moral values of The Confessions of A shopaholic novel which has been analyzed this paper can be useful. Here, the writer points out uses of the study into two parts, they are:

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

Itisexpectedthatthisstudy cangiveclearexplanationofmoral valuesasseen in *Confessions of a Shopaholic*novel as the object of the analysis.Thewriteralso hopesthis thesiscanhelpthereadertounderstand how to apply the theory of Greimas in the novel *Confessions of a Shopaholic*.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

The writer intends to give benefit to the reader who read this research, especially students of English Literature. Also to help and gives information about moral values to the readers. The writer hopes that this research can give benefit to the reader who analyzed the same object but different approach or different object but

the same approach to analyze literary work. Furthermore,thisstudyisvery usefulfor thereaders that canlearnthesenseofwoman lifethrough this study.

1.5 Scope of Research

There are many elements of literary work that can be analyzed in Sophie Kinsella's *Confessions of a Shopaholic*. In order to avoid that the study discussed is too broad and farfetched out, this study only focuses on the main character and supporting characters moral values as seen in the novel *Confessions of a Shopaholic* by using actantial model by Greimas (1983).