

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

According to Wellek and Warren (1963: 20-27), literature is not only written but also performed. Literature is the general work of writing that deals with human activity or human experience. The existence of literary work can not be separated from the world of reality because it stands side by side with the real world.

A literary work is a relation between expression and idea (Sumardjo and Saini, 1991: 13). It means that a literary work has a strong relation with human being and his feeling. This relation expresses the life aspects. We can also say that literary works reflect the reality and human's life complexity. According to Sami (1988: 8) "literary works have two important aspects; they are substance and form. The substance is human or the author's life experience and the form is everything about the way the author tells the story, including the language he uses". Literary works are not only about the human's expression but also about how the author expresses his feeling.

There are three genres in literary work. Those are fiction, play, and poetry. Fiction is usually called prose. The kinds of fiction are novel, short story, and novella. Novel can be divided into two, classical and popular.

Classical novel uses more complicated language, but popular novel is simple and the language is using our daily language.

Daphne Du Maurier's *My Cousin Rachel* is about the social phenomenon in society, the main character has many conflicts with the people surrounding him. The problems often come in a wrong time and make someone changes his mind about something, for example the condition of their economy and their psychological condition. Every person has a different ways to reflect what they feel, what they think, and what they want.

The story begins when Ambrose Ashley lives with Philip in the beautiful house. They have a beautiful life together but one day Ambrose must go abroad and then he gets married with a beautiful girl and then he dies. The problem comes when Ambrose dies because he is killed by mysterious killer.

Every novel in the world has the same elements namely, theme, plot, setting, character, point of view, style, language, mood and tone. These elements play a very important role to create the unity of the story in order to reveal the complexity of the content. But, in this thesis the writer only discusses about the main character, plot and theme.

In this thesis the writer chooses the novel of *My Cousin Rachel* by Daphne Du Maurier because it is interesting novels that can make the reader make their own opinion about the end of the story

