CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

From the three literary genres, I decided to choose novel because it is easier to analyse and to read. Novel consists of events that occur in the world; that is why, it is more lifelike than drama or poetry. According to Harry Shaw in his *Dictionary of Literary Terms* 'Novel is a lengthy fictitious prose narrative portraying character and presenting an organized series of events and settings. Every novel is an account of life; every novel involves conflict, characters, action, setting, plot and themes' (Shaw, 1927: 257).

I chose Chitra Divakaruni because she is an Indian-American writer who writes about the opposition of ideas between the two cultures, Indian culture and American culture. She is an international bestselling author of fourteen books of poetry and fiction. All her novels are concerned with the world of the Indian

immigrants living in America. Furthermore, the settings of all her novels are in the Bay Area of California, and her focus is on the lives of Indian women struggling with cultural shackles (http://www.bookreporter.com/reviews/0385506821.asp//). I am also of the opinion that as a woman author, Divakaruni shows about women's struggle as immigrants and this makes me interested in reading her novels.

The reasons I chose *Queen of Dreams* for my thesis is because the story mentioned is about conflicts of the Indian immigrants in America. The social conflicts occur between mother and daughter; father and daughter; and daughter and the society. Moreover, the inner conflict occurs between mother and herself. The daughter finds a barrier in her relationship with her mother. It is basically due to the fact that she adopts American cultures, while her mother still keeps her hereditary culture as a dream teller. Because of her mother's job, her mother becomes secretive. I found that there is a praise for *Queen of Dreams*. 'This story of an emotionally distant between mother and a daughter trying to find themselves transcend cultural boundaries. *Queen of Dreams* combines the elements that Chitra Divakaruni is known for, the Indian American experience. She effectively takes the reader into an immigrant culture but she also shows the common ground that lies in a world that some would find foreign' (Denver Post) (http://www.chitradivakaruni.com/books/queen_of_dreams//).

In analysing the novel, I focus on the major characters. 'In the portrayal of a character's behaviour, the writer presents the action and speech of the character, allowing the readers to draw his or her own conclusion from what the character says or does.' (http://www.myschoolonline.com/page/0,1871,52991-134712-

5614417,00.html//). The major characters in *Queen of Dreams* have a close relationship with each other and they have important roles which cause conflicts to occur.

I chose conflicts in Chitra Divakaruni's *Queens of Dreams* because I can find that there are a lot of conflicts to be analysed. From the conflicts, I might know about Indian immigrants' feeling. Social and inner conflicts are the most prominent aspects in the novel which show the condition of the Indian immigrants who live in America. The definition of conflict, according to Harry Shaw in his *Dictionary of Literary Terms*, is: 'The opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction.' (Shaw, 1972: 91) There are three types of conflicts. They are physical, social, and internal conflicts. Physical conflict is a struggle between man and the physical world. Furthermore, Shaw divides the social conflict into two types: the first one is a struggle between man and man, and the second one is a protagonist against society. The last type is internal or psychological conflict, which is a struggle between desires within a person. (Shaw, 1972: 92) I will focus my analysis on the social and inner conflicts because they are the most prominent aspects in the novel which show the condition of the Indian immigrants who live in America.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Based on the reasons above, I formulate the statement of the problem as follows:

1. What kind of conflicts happen to the major characters in Divakaruni's *Queen of Dreams*?

2. What is the cause of the conflicts?

3. How are the conflicts resolved?

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

1. To show what kind of conflicts that happen to the major characters in Divakaruni's *Queen of Dreams.*

2. To analyse the causes of the conflicts.

3. To present how the conflicts are resolved.

METHOD OF RESEARCH

I apply the library research, in which I read the primary text, Chitra Divakaruni's *Queen of Dreams*. In addition, I get some data from the internet. I use the intrinsic approach in analysing the novel. The intrinsic approach is used to analyse the major characters in facing inner and social conflicts.

ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS

This thesis begins with the Preface. The Abstract contains the core of the thesis in Indonesian. It is followed by the Introduction in Chapter One, where I mention the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the method of research and the organization of the thesis. The analysis of social and inner conflicts of the major characters in Chitra Divakaruni's *Queen of Dreams* is presented in Chapter Two. I draw the conclusion of the analysis in Chapter Three. The Bibliography contains a list of references in writing my thesis. The Synopsis of the novel and the Biography of the author are presented in the Appendix.