

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### **Background of the study**

Every individual who lives in the world will always be familiar with conflicts. Conflict happens because there are two opposing forces; the two contradictory elements will cause many situations, from war, betrayal, until jealousy. Conflicts affect people's life; they mainly cause the suffering to those who experience it. Literature, which often acts as reflection of life, also raises conflicts as one of its important elements. As conflict is one of the most important elements in theory of literature, I am interested to analyze the conflict in one of the literary genre; a novel, written by Toni Morrison entitled Sula.

I am interested in Toni Morrison's work Sula. This novel deals with social and moral issues. Besides, this novel contains a lot of social and inner conflicts. "Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. Dramatic conflict is struggle which grows out of the interplay of opposing forces (ideas, interests, wills). In a plot, conflict may be termed the

material from which a plot is constructed”. (Shaw, 1972:289). So the plot of the story will be more interesting if there are conflicts inside the story. If there is no conflict, the plot of the story will be less interesting.

I decide to take this novel because it is easy to read and understand. I like the style of language because it is helpful for me to have a deeper understanding of the story.

There are three types of conflicts, which are social conflict, inner conflict, and physical conflict. Social conflict is the struggle between man and man. Inner conflict is the struggle between desires within a person. And physical conflict is a struggle between man and the physical world. (Shaw, 1972:91-92). Because this novel deals with social norms and betrayal, I choose to analyze only the social and inner conflict.

Toni Morrison is one of the great novelists who won a Pulitzer Prize in Literature in 1988, and she is the first African-American writer who receives the Noble Prize for literature in 1993. Her works are dominated by social issue themes, moral issues, racism and the suppression of African-American. One of her greatest novels entitled Beloved becomes a bestseller and is adapted to be a movie.

Morrison writes Sula in 1969. She portrays women as individuals with fierce passions, hatred and enormous capacities for love and forgiveness. By writing that novel, she also wants to show that black women feel the repression more than men; the women cannot have a happy family caused by their own husband. White communities refuse their existence.

## **Statement of the Problem**

After reading Toni Morrison's Sula, I would like to analyze :

1. What are the social and inner conflicts experienced by the two female major characters in Toni Morrison's Sula ?
2. What are the causes of each conflict experienced by the two female major characters in Toni Morrison's Sula?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

## **Purpose of the Study**

Based on the statements of the problems above, it will be my aim to answer the following points above :

1. To show the social and inner conflicts experienced by the two female major characters in Toni Morrison's Sula.
2. To show the causes of each conflict experienced by the two female major characters in Toni Morrison's Sula.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.

## **Method of Research**

The method applied in this thesis is library research. I begin by reading the primary text, Toni Morrison's Sula. In addition, I read some reference books and internet study guide to help me in analyzing the novel. Besides, I also get some valuable information about the book and the biography of the author from the internet. Finally, I draw the conclusion from my analysis.

## **Organization of the Thesis**

I will present my thesis in three chapters. It begins with Chapter One, which is preceded by the Acknowledgement and the Abstract. The first chapter is the Introduction, that contains 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 second chapter is the Discussion of Conflicts in Toni Morrison's Sula. Chapter three is the Conclusion. And I will end my thesis with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consists of the Biography of Toni Morrison and the Synopsis of Sula.