

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND OF STUDY

I have chosen to analyze a novel by Madeleine L'Engle because she has a great way to make a story by combining science fiction and symbolism in adventure stories. Madeleine has the ability to make a story that represents the feeling or situation that actually happens in a man's life. Madeleine L'Engle has succeeded in her books by winning numerous awards and compilation such as the Newberry Medal, America's most prestigious award for children literature and Doctor of Sacred Theology from Berkeley Divinity School.

I have decided to choose Madeleine L'Engle masterpiece novel, A Wrinkle in Time because it is the first novel of the tetralogy that made L'Engle's name known worldwide. A Wrinkle in Time is L'Engle's masterpiece because the novel is filled with allegorical elements and fantasy that surely will fascinate anyone who reads it and the allegorical elements can make people have different interpretations of this novel.

However, what is found in every literary work regardless of the genre is written language. It is a means used by the writer to convey his ideas. In other words, every literary work possesses a certain quality of style, which is defined by Kenney as 'the author's way of using language; everything the author does with words.' (Kenney, 1966:60) It is interesting to examine the language because through it we can get a clearer picture of the writer's artistic skill. According to Leech and Short, language '...can be a means to a fuller understanding and appreciation of the writer's artistic achievement.' (Leech and Short, 1994:1). Although this novel is classified as children stories Madeleine herself did not think it as a children story, the novel has various elements like science fiction, allegory and also theology that fits the category for young adult literature.

I have chosen to analyze the theme of the novel because theme is the central element that unifies all the element in the novel and theme can be various according to the people who read it but the theme that I can conclude is rather interesting because I draw the theme by analyzing the symbols in the story.

'Symbolism is a representation, visual or conceptual, of that which is unseen and invisible'. (H. Kooy, Vernon, 1962:472) I use symbolism because the stories are filled with allegorical elements and I am interested in finding a deeper meaning of the stories rather than something that is already clearly seen and visible or in other words 'a thing that suggests more than its literal meaning' (Kennedy, X.J, 1995:243).

I link many of the symbols with religious facts because 'symbols are part of the language of faith, the means by which faith expresses itself when it interprets the holy,

The eternal, the beyond, as such, symbolism is a part of biblical religion from the beginning'. (H. Kooy, Vernon, 1962:472)

### **THE STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM**

Based on the above background of the study, I formulate the problem as follows:

1. What is the theme in Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time ?
2. How do the symbols help to reveal the theme?

### **PURPOSE OF THE STUDY**

Having stated the problems, I want to show the purpose of the study, namely:

1. To show the theme in Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time.
2. To show how the symbols help to reveal the theme.

### **METHOD OF RESEARCH**

In writing my thesis, I apply formalism that is analysis of theme by using symbolism. I have conducted library and internet research. Firstly I read the novel of Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time, and then I research some references in the library which are relevant to the topic being discussed. I also find some information in the internet which is relevant to my discussion. Finally I use the selected data and theories to make the analysis and conclusion.

## **THE ORGANIZATION OF THE THESIS**

I divide my thesis into three chapters, which are preceded by the Preface and the Abstract. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains the Background of Study, Statement of the Problem, Purpose of the Study, Method of Research and Organization of the Thesis. Chapter Two contains the Analysis of the Theme of Madeleine L'Engle's A Wrinkle in Time by using symbolism. The last chapter, Chapter Three, contains the Conclusion of the study. This thesis ends with the Bibliography, which lists the references I have used in my thesis, and the Appendices, which contain the Synopsis of the novel and Biography of the author.

