CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The topic of this thesis is a literary on a novel entitled *Cinderella Man* to reveal the American Value represent in the main character. Reason why the writer interested on the topic is because the novel as the main source tells about a true story and the way main character struggle to defend values in his life.

Analysis in this thesis based on Structuralism criticism analysis, which can be defined as a way of thinking that every human's activities are constructed. Structuralism put a strong attention to the importance of the systems of convention. In other word, it can be said that system is more important than individual utterance (Rice, Waugh, 1996: 22-23).

After a series of study, the writer sees that one of the simplest ways to find out or to discover a meaning of a literary work is that by seeing the structure and elements within the story. Consider the statement above, the writer use the Structuralism theory to analyze the novel "Cinderella Man".

The subject of this paper is a novel written by Marc Cerasini entitled "Cinderella Man". The writer chooses this novel because it is a true story happened in American Great Depression Era (1929-1941), which promote human abilities to struggle toward a hard life, which can affect other people's life even though in the hardest situation. Besides that, the writer also wants to analyze the idea of Traditional American Values represent in "Cinderella Man" from the point of view of James J. Braddock. The analysis toward the novel is very important because the result will reveal how the main character who considered as a fighter (not only a fighter in the ring, but also fighter in family and society) show us how can an individual freedom, love, friendship, and hard work can bring people to the top of human abilities to survived in the middle of a crash.

1.2 Problem Formulation

In this research paper, the writer tries to analyze how "Cinderella Man" by Marc Cerasini could reveal the idea of Traditional American Values (Life, Liberty, and Pursuit of Happiness) especially during the Great Depression Era (1929 – 1941) using structuralism theory by Tzvetan Todorov.

1.3 Scope and Limitation of the Topic

The study will be focused on the novel "Cinderella Man" by Marc Cerasini and limit its discussion on the character of James J. Braddock, the main character of the novel.

1.4 Goals and Functions

In coherence with the statement of problem above, the goal of this study is to reveal the idea of Traditional American Values (Life, Liberty, Pursuit of Happiness) in "Cinderella Man" by Marc Cerasini, especially during the Great Depression Era (1929 – 1941).

Besides the main goal above, this study is written to promote the idea that literary work can be considered as a very powerful means of affecting human's life and also can be the inspiration for many people. Nevertheless, this study also functions to reveal that a story is built up by its elements, especially the element of character in the story.

1.5 Research Methods

In order to achieve the goal of this study, the writer uses library research consisting five steps. First, the writer selects the literature to obtain data from the references to explain details about novel and its elements. Second the writer conducts a thorough textual analysis of the novels. Third, the writer draws conclusions based on the textual analysis of the novel. Fourth, the writer conducts a correlation analysis upon the novel. Last, the writer concludes the whole textual and Structuralism analysis to show how Marc Cerasini, through his novel “Cinderella Man”, delivered the idea of Traditional American Values through the main character.