# CHAPTER 1

# INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Background

The Pearl by John Steinbeck is very interesting to be analyzed. The story of this novel is possible to happen in a real life. The story presents the main character, Kino, who is a poor Mexican-Indian. He lives with his wife, Juana and their little baby, Coyotito. Kino earns money to support their life by fishing pearls. They live in a small wooden house on the coast. Once upon a time when Coyotito gets a serious accident and needs money for the doctor to cure, Kino decides to seek more pearl down the beach. Luckily, he finds an extraordinary pearl he has ever seen. Since that time, his life has changed. At first he thinks that the pearl will give him a lot of money so that he can bring his son to the doctor. However, the pearl brings him a terrible life and a bad luck instead of happiness.

The writer believes that probably in every family, we do have that similar problems as it is in the presented story. Therefore, the writer of this paper wants to get the theme through the main character, Kino, to get ideas and messages that are beneficial for us to apply it in a real life. Each character in this story has different identity which is made up by their thoughts, behavior, appearance, actions, and conversations. Things they say, things they do and things they think are the way the writer tries to get the central idea and messages from this story.

As the theme of a story is the basic element of the literary work and a controlling idea, where it generally happens in human life, the writer considers that theme must also state its own central purpose.

## 1.2. Statement of Problem

In analyzing the theme through the characteristics of the main character, the writer tries to find out the answers of the following questions :

1. What is the theme of the story?
2. How is the main character able to reveal the theme of the story?
3. What kind of moral lesson can be learned from the story?

## 1.3. Scope and Limitation

In this paper, the writer would like to explore the nature of the main character through his behaviour, thought, feelings and the relationship with his neighbours. She would also like to analyze motivation fostering his atittude, his seclusion and the theme that expresses from the main character because the theme may have an equivalent and relationship with a real life so that the readers, especially students, can understand more about literary work.

## 1.4. Goals and Function

The Pearl has simple problems that we probably meet, face and even experience the similar one in our life. By exploring what is not seen in the novel and analyzing the theme of this story, the writer has goals for this analysis, that is to determine the theme through the character analysis, and also the readers are expected to understand the essential messages of the author from which they can get valuable moral lesson.

The writer really hopes that this paper will not only give the pleasure to the readers but also present good messages and influence so that they can apply and be motivated to do better in their lives.

## 1.5. Research Methodology

To help the writer achieve good goals of this study, she would like to use these following steps :

1. To choose a novel.
2. To do some library research to select some books which are related to the subject as references and guidebooks.
3. To analyze the elements that is needed to reveal the theme.
4. To evaluate the result of the analysis
5. To present the result of the analysis.