CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

Uncle Tom's Cabin of Stowe is the title of the fiction that the writer has already chosen for her paper. The title of this paper is "The Analysis of Some Characters in Harriet B. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin". The writer chooses this title because she likes this story and is very interested in analyzing its problem. This story is about the slavery in the Northern and Southern America. This idea is encouraged by the curiosity to know more about the slavery and the suffering of the slaves.

The topic of this story is based on reality; it is about slavery. Tom, the main character, as a slave during that time tries to liberate himself from a white man that sells him from one person to another person. His good Master sells Tom because of his debt, but Tom is a man of strong conviction. Finally this leads him to his "freedom" (It means: Although he doesn't get a freedom certificate, but his inner-self has been released from slavery because finally he dies in peace). Because of that problem, it makes this story interesting. It is more interesting because the author of this story knows about this problem very well. Harriet Beecher Stowe, as the author, was inspired to write it by the stories of cruelty she has heard and read in the Northern State. The writer thinks it's a unique problem. From this, the writer of the paper will discuss about the personality traits of the actor and the actress of this story.

Apart from that, Evangeline St. Clare, one of the minor characters, the daughter of St. Clare and Marie, has been obsessed by the treatment of her parents, as also the other parents do, toward their subordinates. She strongly disagrees with slavery. She has been absorbed in thinking of this, that makes her fall sick and at last she dies. Eva gets her "freedom" from suffering. Despite of her status as white superior, yet she hates slavery. In her dying, Tom, who is so religious, leads her to get her "release"- her "freedom".

In the writer's opinion, this topic is very important because it is about the problem of Human Rights. Slavery is very unfair and immoral. No matter what, slavery is inhuman. It happened in real life where white man has absolute power and they severely treat Negroes as slaves. But the writer still wants to know why this problem occurred. Through their characters, the writer hopes the story will explain clearly.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The problems that she will discuss in this paper are:

1. The nature of Uncle Tom as the main character.
2. The personality traits of Eva as the minor character.
3. The moral strength of other minor characters.

1.3. Scope and Limitation

This writing only discusses the personality traits of the actors and actresses from this story, but it will more focus on Eva and Tom. Eva's discussion is about her personality traits and her hatred over slavery; on the other

hand, the analysis of Tom is about his nature and his mental endurance. She only gives the summary of other minor characters that also make this story becomes more interesting. This explanation will be the scope of this paper.

The writer will give the discussion and explanation in this paper, focusing on the slavery happening in the Northern and Southern State such as Kentucky, New Orleans and Lousiana during American Civil War (1861-1865) that is presented by the author of the novel.

1.4. Goal and Function

The important purpose of this writing is to understand more about the Uncle Tom's Cabin through these characters.

The writer hopes this paper will be very useful for the readers in order that they are aware how cruel and oppressive the slavery that took place at that time was. She also expects that the readers would be capable of imagining how the slaves suffered due to their masters' violant treatment.

1.5. Research Methodology

For the guidance of this paper writing, she will try to find, read and understand the books (library research) about character and slavery in Northern and Southern America during American Civil War (1861-1865).