CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Novel as one of the fictions is very interesting because it can portray the world living phenomena adopted from the writer's living experiences, the way, the description and dialogue and many thus explores basic human in depth (Little, 1981:68). Novel as literary works is a human creation with all his creativity. Novel portrays various human life including social life, people experience, cultural, rivalries, colonialism, and etc. Novel has a relation to character and plot. Moreover, characters have an important role to make the novel looks interesting to be read or analyzed. In short, characters are those who have important roles in a story that help the readers to participate explicitly by sharing imaginatively the feelings or activities of the characters in the story.

Character is one of intrinsic elements of the novel; character in literature is an extended verbal representation of a human being, specially the inner self that determines thought, speech, and behavior. Through dialogue, action, and commentary, literature captures some of the interactions of character and circumstance. Literature makes these interactions interesting by portraying characters who are worth caring about, rooting for, and even loving, although there are also characters at whom you may laugh or whom you may dislike or even hate (Edgar, 1983:54).

In relation to character existence in the story, character development can be seen from plot. According to Perrine (1998: 41) plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. When recounted by itself, it bears about the same relationship to a story that maps the journey. Plot is the way in a novel that is used to know about the time of a story in a novel and it can be used to describe the characters of a figure including what the figure say, act, and think.

Regarding that, the writer attempts to analyze the action and development of main character in the novel Chinua Achebe *"Things Fall Apart"*. In the beginning of the story, the main character is described as a famous figure in his clan. His life is perfect, as he is respected because he has leadership personality, and he has a happy family. He is also a religious and an obedient person. However, the life has turned against him. Accidentally, he kills a boy, it caused him and his family evicted from his clan. He should leave Umuofia and he gets a hard life. His disappointment from his clan does not stop him to fight the white dominance in his clan. After getting back to Umuofia and for not having support from his clan, and he becomes a suspect of killing the white man, he even becomes frustrated. Finally, he decides to kill himself.

Okonkwo's decision to suicide has made the writer feel curious to analyze the reason behind his action. Thus, the main concern of this study is to figure out the development of Okonkwo's character in facing all the conflicts in his life. Thus, the writer performs this research entitled "The Analysis of Okonkwo's character in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart"*.

1.2 Research Question

Based on background and identification of problem of the study above, therefore the writer states the research problems are as follow:

1. What are the characterizations of Okonkwo's character?
2. How is the development of Okonkwo's character based on plot?
3. What is the resolution of the story?

1.3 Goals and Objectives

The aim of this research are:

1. Describing the characterization of Okonkwo
2. Finding out the development of character of Okonkwo
3. Finding out the resolution of the story

1.3 Signification to Knowledge

In this research, the writer tries to analyze the character in the novel "*Things Fall Apart*" and finds out the development of the main character.

The main significance of this research is to identify and find out the main character that appears in the story of the novel. There are two significances of this research; first, to find out more about characterization of character especially Okonkwo's character in the novel. Second, this research is expected to give more information about character. In addition, the writer expects that the study would be useful for other students who are learning the literary work, especially studying

the characterization of main character in the story of novels. The most important thing, this research can make the students of literary have more understanding about character in detail.

1.5 The Framework of the Theories

A character is any person, identity, or entity that is shown in the story of novel. The process of conveying information about characters in the fiction is called characterization. Characterization is the way of author to describe appearance, thought, and act of figure. Character could be identified or defined by reader or author. Characters are those who have important roles in a story, since it helps the readers participate explicitly, in experience of story by sharing imaginatively the feelings or activities of the characters in the story. According to Robert (1983:56), characterization is determined by: (1) what characters say and think, if the author expresses their thoughts, (2) what the character do, (3) what other say about them, (4) what the author say about them, speaking as storyteller or observer.

On the other aspect, the writer looks at the character itself from how he interacts with the place or with the other character and even from his development in facing every problem that he has. From the case, the writer can identify that the characters are flat or round, as it is expressed by Perrine (1985: 69), in proportion to the fullness of their development, the character is relatively flat or round character. The flat character is characterized by one or two traits; he can be summed up in a sentence. The round character is complex and many-sided; he

might require an essay for full analysis. Flat and round character will be used as a sign of development of the main characters in the novel. It helps the writer to know whether the main characters are flat or round, and whether the main character shows his change.

Plot becomes one of the important elements in discussing the character. Besides, the plot is a sequence of events or a chain of the events, thus it can explain the development of main character throughout the story. The analysis of the main character will follow four sequential levels of plot by Mario Klarer (1998:15) they are exposition, complication or conflict, climax and resolution.

Exposition is the opening part of the story that sets a scene, introduces the main character, situation, and events right before an action is prepared for a story to begin. Complication or conflict it relates to the rise of the crisis or conflict. Climax relates to point of event in the story. In climax there are turning points when the character makes a decision that may change his life, this decision leads to the resolution or how is the story ended.