CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Short story is one of literature fictions which does not take much time to read. Klarer (1998:14) explains that short story can be read in one sitting without interruption, it is also shorter than novel or novelette. Short story includes in prose fiction form and it focuses on one central moment of action. It also has limited number of character, plot and setting. We do not need much time to read it because there are limited intrinsic elements, such as words, character, plot and setting that is used by short story and it makes the short story interesting to read.

As mentioned above, one of the intrinsic elements in the short story is character. Laurence (1984: 66) says we can know people in fiction more thoroughly than we know them in real life and by knowing people in fiction we can also understand people in real life better than we otherwise could. Also, characters in fiction represent the people in real life. It is the reason that makes the writer interests to analyze character.

Generally, human is a social creature. As an individual, human's life can be influenced by his social environment. It is the same as these main characters which are found by the writer in these short stories. The main characters have been taken from *Manhattan Dreaming* by Anita Heiss, and *You Can Change Your Life* by Toni Jordan. These short stories tell about the main character that is

influenced by the social environment. For that reason, the writer is interested in analyzing how the social environment influences the main characters and how the main characters respond to it. Also, the writer will analyze the effect of social environment to the main character.

The similar research has been done by Asuika Yulianisa who analyzes the main character's psyche using Psychoanalysis perspective. Asuika analyzes Veronika (the main character) who gets the influence from her mother and she changes the behavior caused by the influence. Asuika analyzes the Veronika's psyche using psychoanalysis perspective. It differs from this research, in this research the writer analyzes the influence of social environment to the main characters, the writer concerns on the stimulus which influence the main character and also the main character's response. Thus, this research is entitled **The Social Influence Towards The Main Character in Two Short Stories.**

1.2 Research Questions

The research problems are stated as follows:

1. What is the characterization of two main characters in two short stories?
2. How does social environment influence the main character?
3. What is the effect of social environment toward the main character?

1.3 Objectives

Based on the research questions, the aims of the study are as follows:

1. To find out the characterization of two main characters in two short stories.
2. To find out how the social environment influence the main character.
3. To find out the effect of social environment toward the main character.

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

From this research, the writer expects that this study will be useful for the other student who is learning the literary work especially social psychology study.

This research is expected to the readers to increase the reader's knowledge about social psychology study. Also, this research could be a reference for student who wants to make a study about social psychology.

1.5 The Framework of the Theories

In this research, the writer tries to analyze the character in the short story and finds out the effect of social influence toward the main character. To analyze the character, the writer will use intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literature. Intrinsic element focuses on the character. While, the extrinsic element focuses on the socio psychology of the main character. Both elements will be explained as follow:

Firstly, the writer tries to find out how the author presented the character. In other words, the analysis focuses on the characterization. In analyzing the characterization, the writer uses direct and indirect presentation. The explanation of direct and indirect presentation has been explained by Laurence.

> Authors may present their character either directly or indirectly. In **direct presentation** they tell us straight out, by exposition or analysis, what the characters are like, or have someone else in the story tell us what they are like. In **Indirect presentation** the authors show us the characters in action; we infer what they are like from what they think or say or do. (Laurence, 1984: 66)

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that direct presentation is used to examine what the main character is like from the narration of someone else in the story. While the indirect presentation is used to analyze the characterization from the character's thought, speech and act. Besides, characters will be analyzed whether they are flat and round character. Laurence (1984: 67) says that flat characters are characterized by one or two traits; they can be summed up in a sentence. Round characters are complex and many-sided; they might require an essay for full analysis. Flat and round character will be used as a sign of development of the main characters in two short stories; also it is important to divide, whether the main characters are flat or round to know if there is any attitude changing.

Secondly, since the writer will analyze the character in fiction as it is in real life, socio psychology will be used to examine the influence of social environment to the main characters in two short stories. Also, behaviorism theory will be used in this analysis. Based on behaviorism theory, an individual is influenced by stimulus from the social environment and the individual will give a

response as the effect of the stimulus. The explanation of stimulus and response will be explained as follow:

> The external agent came to be called a *stimulus.* The behavior controlled by it came to be called a *response.* Together they comprised what was called a *reflex*—on the theory that the disturbance caused by the stimulus passed to the central nervous system and was "reflected" back to the muscles.
> (Skinner, 1953: 4)

Based on the explanation about behaviorism above, the stimulus is the external agent which happens and disturbs to the central nervous system of human. The external agent can be assumed as the external influence which comes from society. The central nervous system gives an emotional reaction and this reaction is called responses. So, response is the reaction which is caused by stimulus. In this analysis about the main characters in the two short stories, the writer will find out the stimulus of social environment which influences the main characters, and also find out the main characters responses.