

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

The development of human personality is influenced by some factors. The most influences factor is environment. Environment is everything that surrounds every individual during his or her life. Environment can be divided into two. The first is personal environment which refers to parents, brother, friend etc. Second is non-personal environment that refers to house, school, nature etc. The influence of environment to every individual can be divided into three: family influence, school influence and society or social environment. Human social environments encompass the immediate physical surroundings, social relationships, and cultural milieus within which defined groups of people function and interact. National Institute of Health (2000).

Environment has an important role in human's character. This study will be analyzes through sociological studies, start from conversations and behaviors of each character towards the main character in *SITKA* to the development of theories in order to understand how the environment works. Meanwhile, environment will cause the psychological effect in someone's life. Environment consists of nature, including air, water, trees and each of them has a role in human's life. Besides that, environment also includes family, friends, society, and all things that are in human's surrounding. Human's character depends on environment whether it is good or bad. Especially if he or she is still a child. Children are easy to be influences, especially by their environment where they live in. They do not know how to choose or avoid the bad environment. The social environment is often influenced by both the natural and built environments. In every each environment has different stimulus and how the human can be adapted with his/her environment to survive, especially the circumstances of life of people or society in their life conditions. Social environment is all other pieces of our community which are not built or natural.

There are some previous study about the influence of environment. According to Fitrah Kurniawati Umasangadji (2009) with "*The influence of environment toward Lorraine and John's character development in Paul Zindel's the pigmen.*" It contains about kind of environment of the character and the role of environment

toward character development. Another research in this study according to Venita Marsel Pelupessy (2003) with title “*The influence of environment on Henry Hill’s character in Nicholas Pileggi’s Wiseguy.*” She explains about the bad influence of environment that happen to Henry Hill’s life. Based above those previous studies conducted to issue of environment around the main character. However, the previous methods/results suffer from a limitation in using psychological approach. The statement indicates that the next research for more investigation is a good effect for the main character through other studies. The remaining issue is to find a better way to explain this study through sociological approach. Sociological approach will be applied on this research because sociology is the study of society. Human social interaction, the rules and processes that bind and separate people, not only as individuals, but as members of associations, groups, and institutions. Sociology uses both quantitative and qualitative methods to study both face-to-face human social interactions and large scale social trends. First method applied is quantitative research, which is a measurement based on some quantity or number rather than on some quality. Second method is qualitative research. It uses descriptions or distinctions based on some quality rather than on some quantity. In this research, however, qualitative research will be applied.

*Sitka* is a story about Jean LaBarge’s life as the main character in the novel. In this novel Louis L’Amour tells the reader about Jean’s condition since his childhood until he becomes a good role for people around him. When he was a child Jean lived in the middle of swamp as an orphan, but luckily he had a friend –Rob J. Walker– that support him. They grew up, supported and helped each other. Jean found himself swept up in an epic battle in the wildsof Alaska, where a tyrannical Russian seized control of the fur trade and the land. Jean never backed down from a fight, even one as bold and dangerous as a battle that will shape the future of America.

On this research the writer is interested to show about how environment gives effect to the character/s in a novel. Here the writer analyzes one of Louis L’Amour’s novel entitled *Sitka*, because it exposes about the environment starting from the childhood moment of the character until he become a great role in his life. In *Sitka* the writer found a character of Jean Labarge: smart, strong and independent. Even grew up as an orphan he gave out all his ability to survive in his environment. Without anyone noticed that he helps the country. Besides that, this novel is chosen based on those reasons above. Therefore, the writer tries to do the research of the sociological reason which is shown the influence of environment toward the main character in *Sitka* because this character created by their environment.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Based on the background on his environment above the writer will analyze the influence of environment that happens to Jean LaBarge. The writer will formulate the statement of the problems as follows: How does the environment influence Jean LaBarge's characteristics in *Sitka*?

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

Based on the statement of the problems above, the objectives of the study of this thesis is to describe the influence of the environments toward Jean LaBarge's characteristics in *Sitka*.

## **1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

In the *Sitka* Novel there are many interesting conflicts that can be discussed. But in this research writer would only do the research on the main character, Jean Labarge's characters and his around environment.

## **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The writer expects that the results of this study can give contribution to the study of literature especially understanding in terms of literary works through novel and find out how environment built the main character in *Sitka*. The writer also expects that the thesis will be useful for student who wants to study about how environment affected a character.

## **1.6 Organization of the study**

The study is organized into five chapter. The first chapter is the introduction consisting of background study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study and organization of the study. The

second chapter is the review of related literature consisting previous study, the third chapter is research method. The fourth chapter is the analysis of the study. The last chapter is conclusion of the study, followed by the appendices consisting of Louis L'Amour's biographical and synopsis of the novel.