CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

According to Wellek and Warren (1967:1), literature represents “life” and “life” itself in a large measure comes from a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been object of the literary imitation. It means that literature, as with any art form, should hold a mirror up to society and reflects what is happening there. Besides using his creative imagination or the ability of writing, the writer should connect his work to the real life or what he sees in the society. But sometimes, a literary work does not represent life directly but rather indirectly and it appears that there is a social life issue shown inside. Talking about literature, there are three genres within it; those are poetry, prose, and drama.

Prose itself can be divided into fiction and nonfiction. Fiction created base on the imagination of the writer. Fiction can be divided into short story, novel and novelette. In addition, nonfiction is a story that is constructed based on true or factual information such as biography, autobiography, diary, and essay. A drama is a work of literature or a composition that shows life and human activity by means of presenting various actions and dialogues between groups of character.

Novel is one of the most popular and most widely read form of literature in the world. A novel consists of a long story written in prose the form development comparatively recently, and the form in the story usually about the
conflict of main character with another character and culture or society. Novel is a lengthy fictional narrative prose dealing with character, incidents and setting that imitate those found in real life. Novel is a story of someone’s life and generally contains of forty five thousand words or more. Prose fiction from fifteen thousand to forty five thousand words are commonly called novelette (Kenney 1966).

Literary work fundamentally developed by two elements, such as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The function of intrinsic element is to build up the literary creation itself such as theme, plot, setting, character, conflict, point of view, and so on.

The conflicts with which fiction concern itself are of many kinds. A story may deal with a conflict within a single man, a conflict between men, a conflict between man and society, between man and nature, and so on. Conflict referred to person which dealt with life situation. It is only situation that offers a conflict (Kenney 1966:19).

The focus of this study is the main character’s conflict as portrayed in *The Fault in Our Stars*. *The Fault in Our Stars* is the sixth novel by author John Green, published in January 2012. The story is narrated by a sixteen-year-old cancer patient named Hazel Grace Lancaster, who is forced by her parents to attend a support group where she subsequently meets and falls in love with the seventeen-year-old Augustus Waters, an ex-basketball player and amputee. This novel presents us with strong characters, language, themes and new perspective on cancer and romance. It takes a spin on universal themes – Will I be loved? Will I be remembered? Will I leave a mark on this world? – by dramatically raising the
stakes for the characters who are asking. Green proves through his characters that lasting love requires the risk of losing it. The characters invite us to laugh and live life to the fullest for as long as we can.

1.2 Problems of the Study

Based on the background mentioned above, the focus of this study limited to the study of conflicts. The problems of this study are as follows:

1. What kinds of conflict of the main character found in the novel *The Fault in Our Stars*?
2. How does John Green described the main character through its conflict in relation to psychological aspect?

1.3 Aims of Study

Specifically the aim of the study are as follows:

1. To identify and analyse the kinds of conflicts in the main character of the novel.
2. To describe the presentation of the main character of the novel.

1.4 Scope of Discussion

In the study, to make the discussion more detailed and directly to the point, the discussion focused on:

1. The intrinsic and extrinsic conflict found in the main character of the novel.
2. The psychological aspects that contributed in Hazel Grace’s attitude as the main character.
1.5 Research Methods

In this study, the application of research method was very important. The research method was concerned with three aspects: data source, method and technique of collecting data, and method and technique of analysing data. However, the method applied in this study used the documentary method, with the collected data from some books and literature which were related to the topic, especially from *The Fault in Our Stars* novel which was then analysed. Some explanations that related to the data are shown below:

1.5.1 Data Source

The data of this study were taken from the novel entitled *The Fault in Our Stars*. *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green is a romance novel by narrating a sixteen-year-old cancer patient named Hazel Grace Lancaster, who is forced by her parents to attend a support group where she subsequently meets and falls in love with the seventeen-year-old Augustus Waters. The novel was first published in January 10th 2012, within 318 pages. I used a copyright book from An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

1.5.2 Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The data were collected based on documentary method through reading and taking note, the process of collecting data were started by reading the novel and the biography of the author, and were then followed by marking and taking
notes of parts of the novel which related to the study. After getting the source and taking the relevant data, the data were analyzed carefully.

### 1.5.3 Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

The collected data were analyzed by using a qualitative method based on the theoretical framework. The analysis were started with the overview of the biography of John Green and that was followed by the synopsis of *The Fault in Our Stars* novel. Afterwards, the conflict of the main character were analyzed used the theory of conflict from Kenney (1966). Description of the presentation of the main character were analyzed by the theory of Bernhardt (1953).