

## **CHAPTER I**

### **Introduction**

#### **I.1. Background of the Study**

Latin American literature, according to Encyclopedia of Americana, has developed since the Latin American independence is achieved in early 1800. Since the beginning of Latin American literature, most of Latin American writers have been writing about the situation or their personal condition around them (vol.17, p.23). "The commitment of a writer to write is includes the reality of all society, not just with a small part of it"(Simons, 1982). It means that all Latin American writers always write about all parts of life such as culture, tradition, magic, and the way Latin American people live. Most of Latin American people

believe in myth, magic and the spirit of their ancestors. This belief becomes part of their life, because it has been told until their children and grand children. That is why Latin American writers' works are mostly talking about the myth, the magic and the spirit of Latin America. Not only about their cultural tradition, the politics in Latin American also influences them in creating their works. Thus, Latin American literature and their unique characteristics have made the thesis writer interested to choose Latin American novel to analyze, and among Latin American writers, the thesis writer chooses Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Gabriel Jose Garcia Marquez was born on March 6, 1928 in Aracataca, a small town in Northern Colombia. When Marquez was an infant, his parents, who had 16 children, moved to another town where his father worked as a telegrapher. Marquez was left in the care of his grandparents in a house filled with countless aunts and the rumor of hoisting ghost. His childhood under the care of his grandparents had been one of his greatest inspirations to write his novels. His grandfather was a former colonel who had told him endless stories of civil war of his youth and also took Marquez to the circus and the cinema. He was Marquez's umbilical cord with history and reality. Furthermore, his grandmother used to tell him fables legends and organizes her life according to the message she received in her dreams. Like most of Latin Americans, his grandmother usually believes that dreams can be a sign for something. For Marquez, she is also the source of the magical, superstition and supernatural view of reality (<http://www.nytimes.com/books/97/06/15/reviews/ Marquez-talk.html>).

Before Marquez decided to become a writer, he had studied law in National University of Bogota. When the political situation was unstable, the

National University of Bogota was closed and Marquez was forced to go to University in Cartagena and took up a journalism to support himself. In 1950, he abandoned his legal study and began writing columns and stories for El Herald, a liberal newspaper. During his journalistic career, he began to associate with literary circle called *El Grupo de Barranquilla* and under their influence, he began to read the work of Hemingway, Joice Woolf and most importantly, Faulkner. Inspired by Faulkner's works, then he became a writer. "Faulkner taught him that a writer should write about what close to him, and for years Garcia Marquez was struggling with his muse and what he really wanted to say" (<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/solitude/cover.html>). Beside his interest on Faulkner, Marquez also embarked on a study of classic, finding tremendous inspiration in the Oedipus Rex cycle by Sophocles. This Greek mythology is used in the beginning on the story of One Hundred Years of Solitude. Both of Faulkner and Sophocles inspired Marquez a lot through out the late of forties and early fifties. His reading of Kafka's The Metamorphosis also led Marquez to the realization that serious literature could be based on idea as fantastic of his own (<http://www.mockingbird.creighton.edu/nw/marquez/html>).

A small Bogota Press published Marquez first short story, Leaf storm and Other Stories, in 1955. In the following year, he continued writing several short stories like El Colonel No Tiene Quine Le Escriba (1961), translated into No One Write to the Colonel (1968). And Los Funeral de Mama Grande (1962), translated into Big Mama's Funeral (1968). In 1961, Marquez won the Esso Literary Prize in Colombia for In Evil Hour. In 1967, One Hundred Years of Solitude was published. The book was immediately acclaimed as one of the greatest novels of

the 20<sup>th</sup> century and within a week all 8000 copies were sold. It has been translated into over two dozens languages and it has won the international prizes for the book itself and also for the author. First award is the Chianchiano Prize in Italy, the second award is the Romula Gallegos Prize and Neustadt Prize in 1972, and the greatest prize is Nobel Prize in Literature for Marquez in 1982 for his novel One Hundred Years of Solitude. Marquez has achieved literary success. He was also awarded for the French Legion of Honor, the highest decoration French gives to a foreign writer in 1981.

One Hundred Years of Solitude is an extraordinarily rich and many-layered novel which lends itself to multiple interpretation . . . also a mirrors and comments upon events in the social and political history of Colombia and Latin America from the time of the Spanish Conquest to the present ( Magill, 1987, p.960-1). This novel is also regarded as one of the major novels of the twentieth century and the Swedish Academy for the Nobel Prize is often publicly commended for having had the insight to perceive the enduring importance of Garcia Marquez's vision of Latin America's reality (p.962).

Beside the international reputation for the author and the novel, the thesis writer is also interested in the way Marquez uses solitude as the theme in his works. Most of his works deal with solitude and most of the characters are portrayed as solitary figures. For example in his first five short stories, The Third Resignation; Eve Inside Her Cat; Tubal-Cain Forges a Star; The Other Rib of the Death and Dialogue in a Mirror , and in his novel like The Autumn of the Patriarch. All of these portray solitude, especially One Hundred Years of Solitude. Marquez uses solitude as a major theme, and his idea about solitude is best illustrated in the

novel. The word “solitude” itself, according to Webster Dictionary, is the meaning of being alone; remoteness from society; absence of human inhabitants; a lonely and deserted place (Vol.II, p.927). In Spanish, people call it “soledad”. It suggests loneliness, the sense of being apart from others. In general, Garcia Marquez’s concept of solitude basically has the same meaning with the general concept of solitude itself. Both of them have the meaning of living alone without other people interfere. However, the thesis writer finds that there is something more behind the word “solitude”, which Marquez tries to define in all of his works. Most of Marquez’s works explain about solitude or describe solitary characters. In his speech about “The Solitude of Latin America” while he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his novel One Hundred Years of Solitude on December 8, 1982 in Stockholm, Marquez explained his idea of solitude and its relation to the life of Latin American people. In this terse and moving statement, the author spoke of Latin American ongoing quest for its identity and defined “the nub of Latin American solitude” is the attempt to make Latin America credible to foreigner (Valdes and Valdes, 1990, p.44). From his speech, Marquez wanted to say that Latin American people right now has already lived in solitude. It means that they have withdrawn themselves from global community because they have their own local problems, culture or tradition, which have to be settled and these problems have nothing to do with the outsiders. It is also strengthened with Marquez’s explanation while he was interviewed by Marlise Simons three days before he received the Nobel Prize in Literature:

“Superpower and other outsider have fight over us for centuries that have nothing to do with our problems. In reality we are alone”(Simons, 1982, p.1).

This quotation emphasizes that others country have no reason to interfere Latin America in resolving their problems. It is useless for them to fight over Latin America for centuries over issues that have no relation with Latin America’s problems. “Because they tried to change this state of things, nearly two hundred thousand men and women have died through continent and over one thousand have lost their life”(Allen, 1993, p.18). It is clear that this fact is not only a literary expression which Marquez tries to say about Latin America, but it is also to open their mind to understand more about Latin America. For Marquez, living in solitude is the way out for Latin American people to find their identity and also to gain respect from foreigners. What Latin Americans need from others is their understanding and imagination how Latin Americans live with their own crucial problems. Thus, the thesis writer concludes that living in solitude is a positive way for them to survive and to make their life credible to foreigners. Marquez also says that is very natural for other countries to be alarmed by the violence and oppression they see in Latin America, but he would remind them that it also took thousands of years for Europe to become civilized (Magill, 1987, p.956). What Latin Americans do right now, it also has already done by Europe thousand years ago that is to find its national identity. He says that the progress in Latin America has no connection with other outsider.

“Latin America neither wants, nor has any reason, to be a pawn without a will of its own; nor is it merely wishful thinking that its

quest for independence and originality should become a Western aspiration. However, the navigational advances that have narrowed such distance between our Americas and Europe seem, conversely, to have accentuated our cultural remoteness. Why is the originality so readily granted us in literature so mistrustfully denied us in our difficult attempt at social change? Why think that social justice sought by progressive Europeans for their own countries cannot also be a goal for Latin America, with different methods for dissimilar conditions?"(Allen,1993 , p.19).

This quotation emphasizes that the progress in Latin America, which is considered good for Europe and other countries, cannot always be suitable with Latin American's condition because Latin America has its own interpretation to its progress and to solve its problems. If Latin Americans interpret their reality through schemas or pattern not in their own local interpretation, it will make them more unknown, less and less free, and more solitary. Marquez himself strongly believes that Latin America countries must have their own freedom to find their own solution to their problems (Magill,1987,p.959). He is also optimistically sure that it is possible for Latin America "to find another destiny than to live at the mercy of the two great masters of the world that are America and Europe", and Latin America countries can and will find their own independent identities (p.957).

Marquez's speech about "Solitude of Latin America" as the Nobel lecture has immediately becomes a document of important and it has been reprinted in many different periodicals and circulated extensively. It is also a moving appeal for

understanding and support of Latin America's struggle against injustice for self-determination and self-improvement (p.956). This speech also ends the novel One Hundred Years of Solitude. Through the speech, Marquez wants the reader to imagine the world of Latin America, or more specifics, Colombia. Because One Hundred Years of Solitude also "a mirrors and comments upon events in the social and political history of Colombia and Latin America from the time of Spanish conquest to the present"(p.961). That is how the reality of Garcia Marquez's world, the microcosm within the macrocosm of reality of Colombia and Latin America is transformed through his vision and creative art into new reality and myth of One Hundred Years of Solitude. So this novel can be both historical and mythical because through these two dimensions, we can apprehend the Latin American reality. Historical writing is recording the past and it implies self-understanding through the remembering the past. Myth, by contrast, allows self-understandings through the telling of the tales that seek to explain who they are (Valdes and Valdes, 1990, p.95). Marquez combines both history of Latin America, or specifically Colombia, with the myth from "classical, the Judeo Christian, and the Indian tradition and sometimes creates his own"(p.18)

"The transgression of a taboo (jumping over the wall in the case of Romulus and Remus, eating from tree in the case of Adam and Eve, incest in One Hundred Years of Solitude) and the consequent violence (the killing of Remus and the initial killing in the war of troy, the killing of Abel and Cain, the killing of Prudencio Aquillar by Jose Arcadio Buendia) reveal pattern that tie a narrative into common mythic tradition of the foundation of

a new society... reference to the Oedipus myth brings into awareness the mythical search for identity and self-definition in the novel”(p.18-19).

From this quotation, it is clear that Marquez has used Greek mythology and the Judeo Christian belief to begin the story of One Hundred Years of Solitude as seen from the genesis of Macondo, the setting of the novel. As it mentioned above that the transgression of the taboo which Marquez adapts from Greek Mythology and the Judeo Christian belief is described by incestuous marriage which is consummated by Jose Arcadio Buendia and his cousin, Ursula. Marquez uses the myth of a pig’s tail as a result of consummating incestuous marriage. “A person who have never heard any warning about incest and a pig’s tail will born a baby with a pig’s tail”(Janes, 1991, p.51). In One Hundred Years of Solitude, incest plays an important rule in the form of magic realism, from the beginning of Jose’s incestuous marriage until the last generation of the Buendias who is born with pig’s tails. Incest is considered as an important print in the plot that holds the novel together, and the result of incest, that is children with pig’s tail, is a mythical sign. Incest and a pig’s tail basically have the same implication. The pig’s tail is related to biological effect while incest is related to social effect. In One Hundred Years of Solitude, Marquez also uses the issues of incestuous marriage as both mythical description and one way to find the cultural identity related to the context of the life of Latin America. Thus, in this novel, “incest becomes a social equivalent of solitude”(p.51). At the end of the novel, incest becomes “ a curse that condemn the entire line of the Buendias to eternal solitude”(p.47).

Every character in this novel is portrayed as experiencing solitude. The solitary figures in this novel are those who deliberately cut themselves off from others. That is why the thesis writer chooses One Hundred Years of Solitude as her sources for her thesis and the theme solitude as her topic in her analysis. That is why in his speech about "Solitude of Latin America" on December 8, 1982 in Stockholm, Marquez explained about his idea of solitude so the reader would understand what Marquez means about solitude. "If "hundred years" makes us ask about history and the problems of Latin America, "solitude", makes us ask about the human condition and the characters in One Hundred Years of Solitude who suffers their solitude" (Janes, 1991, p.42)

Beside her interests in the theme of solitude, the thesis writer is also interested in the way Marquez uses "magic realism" as his writing style. Marquez often makes use of the technique of magic realism, "embellishing his work with surreal events and fantastic imagery to obscure the distinction between illusion and reality which he implies, define human existence" (Draper, 1992, p.1355). The style of magic realism is used to blend the reality and fantasy so that the distinction between the two erases. This unique style has become Marquez's main characteristic in writing because it shows the blend of the myth and the reality which is believed by Latin America people as seen in Marquez's greatest novel One Hundred Years of Solitude.

The novel shows a chronological history of Macondo from its harmonious beginning under its founder, Jose Arcadio Buendia, to its increasingly chaotic decline through out Buendia's six generations of descendants (p.1356). Macondo is found initially almost by accident after Jose Arcadio Buendia, his family, and

his group undergo an absurd journey. Before they settle down in Macondo, they live in peaceful of Indian settlement in the foothill. Feeling not accepted in his community, Jose Arcadio Buendia expels himself from the village into another world which is untouched by human. Jose takes his family and his group to find a new place to stay. The thesis writer is interested to find the reasons and effect of living in solitude in Jose Arcadio Buendia's life, the founder and the patriarch, who has withdrawn himself from his society and later from his own group and family. The thesis writer chooses Jose Arcadio Buendia as her main character in her analysis because Jose Arcadio Buendia is the character who experiences the first and greatest solitude

## **I.2 Statement of the Problems**

The thesis writer is curious to know the reasons of Jose Arcadio Buendia's living in solitude and the cause of his broken solitude and the effect of his broken solitude.

## **I.3 Purpose of the Study**

Through this analysis, the thesis writer wants to prove that Jose Arcadio Buendia's reasons for living in solitude is his decision to commit incestuous marriage. Because of outer influence, Jose start to fascinate with scientific experiments. Jose Arcadio Buendia puts himself in the scientific experiments that make him cut himself off from the people in Macondo, his family and abandon his daily activity. The solitude, which is supposed to be positive, is going to be broken. The thesis writer also finds that the effect of Jose's solitary life is the

degrading change of his character traits that lead to his frustration toward his scientific failures.

#### **I.4.Importance of the Study**

Based on Marquez's concept of solitude, Latin America people have to live in solitude to achieve their identity and to gain respect from others. Thus, they have to defend their own interpretation without accepting outer influence, because not all of the good things from outside Latin America is suitable for their own condition. If they have to interpret their reality not in their own interpretation, it will make them more solitary and more unknown since they will let other people to interpret their problems regardless Latin America's cultural identity.

Conducting the concept of Marquez's solitude as seen in the analysis of Jose Arcadio Buendia's first reason to cut himself off from his society, the thesis writer hopes that the reader can learn Jose Arcadio Buendia's solitary life to achieve his self-identity. Then, the thesis writer also hopes that the reader will learn that the failure of Jose's solitary life is because he accepts too much influences from the outsider which are not suitable with his condition, it leads him to his eternal loneliness. Finally, the thesis writer hopes the reader to learn that Marquez's solitude can be a positive way to survive, to defend one's culture, and also to gain respect from others because not all of outer influences are suitable for one's condition.

The thesis writer also wants the reader to know more about Marquez's One Hundred Years of Solitude as the best novel that has been acclaimed as one of the greatest novel of the twentieth century, and it has won many international

prizes. This novel has also established its author as one of the famous writers with the international reputation. Finally, the thesis writer also wants to encourage the reader to do further research on One Hundred Years of Solitude for it is a good and multi-layered novel to analyze; thus, there are still a lot of elements which are interesting to learn.

### **I.5 Scope and Limitation**

The thesis writer focuses this discussion to find the reasons that make Jose Arcadio Buendia cut himself off from his society and how those reasons lead him to live in solitude. The focus of the study is on Jose Arcadio Buendia's life and the developing of his character traits. Jose Arcadio Buendia, as the founder of Macondo, is the person who experiences the first and the greatest solitude. This is the reason why the thesis writer chooses Jose Arcadio Buendia as her main object of this analysis. Besides Jose Arcadio Buendia, there are three other characters that also play an important role in Jose Arcadio Buendia's solitary life. They are Jose Arcadio Buendia's wife, Ursula Iguaran, Prudencio Aquillar who has been killed by Jose Arcadio Buendia, and Jose's gypsy friend, Melquiades.

### **I.6 Methodology**

In this analysis, the thesis writer uses the novel One Hundred Years of Solitude as her main source of her study on solitude. Supporting the idea of solitude as her topic, the thesis writer uses the concept of Marquez's solitude from his Nobel lecture. The thesis writer also does the library and internet research to get the data that is criticism on Marquez and One Hundred Years of Solitude that

are mainly related to the topic. Besides using the library research, she also uses two literary devices that are characterization and conflict. Characterization is used to describe Jose Arcadio Buendia's character traits and the changing of his character traits due to his obsession in scientific experiment. Conflict is used to find the obstacle that Jose has to face to defend his thought that makes him cut himself off from his society.

### **I.7 Organization of the Study**

The thesis writer is going to divide the thesis into fourth chapters. The first Chapter contains background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, importance of the study, scope and limitation, methodology and organizations of the study. The second chapter is literary devices, which are characterization and conflict. The third chapter is the analysis of Jose Arcadio Buendia's reason for living in solitude and the cause and effect of Jose Arcadio Buendia's broken solitude. And the fourth chapter is conclusion of the analysis.