

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1Background of the Study**

The British Commonwealth has begun in Victorian era. During the Victorian age, Britain is the most powerful nation in the world. Victorian era had ruled the waves and expanded the areas through colonialism.

The British government did not only try to develop its trading stations. Its policy now was to control world traffic and world markets to Britain's advantage. Britain did not, however, wish to colonize everywhere. . . It was a result of defending these interests that Britain took over more and more land ( Mc Dowall, 1989: 131).

The reality of colonialism was commonly used as the background to make some narratives of adventure and romance. The linking of colonialism with the genre of the romantic adventure story is also evident that there are many children's fictions of the time. Besides the colonialism, there is too much injustice in economy and policy. The poor become poor and the middle rise in economy.

A new poorer law in 1834 was intended to improve the help given to the needy. But central government did not provide the necessary money and many people received even less help than before. Now, only those who actually lived in the workhouse were given any help at all (Mc Dowall, 1989: 132).

One of literary works which is popular in that era is novel. Novels are often used to express the novelists' feelings in which have hidden meanings. Clara Reeve asserts that novel is a picture of real life and manners, and of the time in which it was written (Kennedy, 1966: 233).

Through novels, almost of people would know what really happened in that era. The novelists themselves tend to criticize both of the administration and society but it is hidden. It is closely related to human beings although a few of novelists create a fancy story to express their criticism towards the administration and society.

Charles Dodgson is one of authors in Victorian era who contrives story for children. Charles Dodgson is one of authors whose writing becomes popular through *Alice in Wonderland* in 1865. The novel is published under the name Lewis Carol. Lewis Carol is taken from translating his first and middle names into Latin. Charles Lutwidge becomes Carolus Ludovicus. He then reverses their order and translates the name back into English as Lewis Carroll. Besides, Charles Dodgson's background is a mathematics lecturer but he is fond of entertaining children. So, he writes *Alice in Wonderland* for Henry George Liddell's daughter.

This research is an interesting discussion. Furthermore, it focuses on Alice's psychological chaoses in *Alice in Wonderland* linking with Victorian age. *Alice in Wonderland* tells about the long journey to the rabbit hole. Alice undergoes the psychological chaos in the story. It happens when Alice comes to the strange area and fails to understand the culture in Wonderland. Besides that, the novel also conveys about education in that era. When Alice and Mock Turtle meet, they discuss about lesson that they get at school. It claims how the condition of education system in the real world of Victorian Era was. On the other hand, woman role in that time is also illustrated through how the Duchess custodies the baby, although the baby is not the real baby but pig. The condition of the court in

Victorian age is criticized in *Alice in Wonderland*. The criticism actually is not for Knave who stole the tart but the concept of law itself same as the system of law in England. Therefore, Alice's psychological chaoses and the relation of the chaos toward Victorian Era in the novel would be analyzed further.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Although there are some problems that could be discussed in the novel entitled *Alice in Wonderland*, the researcher only analyzes two main problems in dealing with chaos in Victorian Era. They are as follows:

1. What are Alice's psychological chaoses found in Lewis Carol's *Alice in Wonderland*?
2. How are the chaoses portrayed in dealing with Victorian Era?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The purpose of this study is to reveal the answers of the questions as below:

- 1.To find out Alice's psychological chaoses in Lewis Carol's *Alice in Wonderland*.
- 2.To figure out the chaoses in relating to Victorian Era.

## **1.4 Scope of the Study**

The limitation of this study is only the novel of *Alice in Wonderland*. Although there are many sources could be analyzed based on the topic. Due to chaos in Victorian era portrayed in *Alice in Wonderland*, this research only focuses on political and social aspects. The character who contributes to the analysis is Alice herself.

### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The research is expected to be beneficial for the researcher herself to enrich the knowledge about novel of *Alice in Wonderland* and conduct the other topic of the study. It hopefully could encourage the other researchers to analyze the same literary work with the different topic. Moreover, the readers who are interested to learn more about literary work could take advantage of this study as one of references.