

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Literary work is important for mankind because through literary work people can express their feelings, emotions, thoughts, passions, and the morality of life. Literary work can also explain the imagination, condition, and the reflection of the author's idea. It is the reflection of the author's experience in the daily life and how far the imagination had been ascended. According to Jones, literature is simply another way that we can experience the world around us through our imagination, feelings, and thought (1968: 1). It describes that literature is one of many ways for people to express anything that happens in their daily life. Usually the readers try to understand literary work because it can give them a new experience of life, obtain a deep understanding of the authors' purposes toward their works, and discover a knowledge that the readers never know before.

Another definition of literature as stated by Hudson is as follows:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us (1965: 10).

It is clear that literary work is based on human experience of life which is interesting to understand by mankind.

Literary work shows the ability, skills, and creativity of human life. Rees states that literature is writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings and attitudes towards life (1973: 20). The quotation describes that literature is a way for mankind to express their arguments and also can be used as equipment for living. Meanwhile, Klarer says that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word (1999: 1). So, it can be said that literature is a way for human beings to show their sense of life in a written form.

Likewise, Wellek states that literature is thus frankly didactic and even idealizing in the sense that it shows us life not as it is but as it ought to be according to Marxist doctrine (1963: 347). Consequently, in Marxist interpretations, through literature people can establish their own lives according to what they have in minds.

Furthermore, literature is divided into three groups, namely prose, drama, and poetry. The research focuses on one of the forms of literature, namely drama. Like the other forms of literature, drama tells about activities and condition of human life. It describes some activities that people do in their daily lives. Moreover, drama is presented by human beings to express the imagination and also emotion effectively.

According to Reaske, drama is work of literature composition which delineates life and human's activity by means of presenting various action and

dialogue between group or characters (1966: 14). It can be said that through drama people can express their feelings, emotions completely. Moreover, drama is performed by some actors and actresses through some actions, and dialogues on the stage. Drama is loved by a lot of people because it can make the reader feel and see more effectively the main point of the story.

Drama entitled *The Cherry Orchard* is written by Anton Chekhov. He is a great playwright along with the three great plays of his mature dramatic method, that is, *Uncle Vanya*, *Three Sisters*, and *The Cherry Orchard*, no less important. He started writing *The Cherry Orchard* into paper in spring of 1903. *The Cherry Orchard* was premiered at Moscow Art Theatre and it was on Chekhov's forty-fourth birthday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1904. Anton Chekhov has given the classic drama collections not only a unique vision, but also, in his oblique, one of its most compelling modern voices. This drama can drift the imagination and obtain a deep understanding of the play for the reader.

The story of *The Cherry Orchard* is divided into four different acts. Act I tells Ranevskaya's return from Paris to her homeland at Russia. Moreover, Act II and Act III are effectively static. The last one is Act IV; it describes the process of taking the Ranevskaya's estate by Lopakhin. Moreover, the main event in this story is the enforced sale of Ranevskaya's estate. Lopakhin's ancestors, father and grandfather served Ranevskaya's family as slaves a long time ago. He is a successful merchant in this story that successfully buys the land at the auction. It gives a huge impact to Ranevskaya and her family, because they have to move away from their own estate that they have lived from time to time since their

ancestor. Furthermore, at the end of the story Ranevskaya and her family are hard to admit that they have to leave from their own estate and leave the town. Some of them are in despair while some of the characters try to move on and gain a new better life. Meanwhile, Lopakhin as the new landowner feels so happy and contented that he is the king of the land now. He can do whatever he wants with his money.

This research describes Lopakhin's capitalist points of view dealing with social class and class struggle and also the effects of capitalism toward himself and other characters.

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

There are two problems that will be discussed in this research:

1. What are Lopakhin's capitalist points of view dealing with social class and class struggle in Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*?
2. What are the effects of capitalism toward Lopakhin himself and other characters?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

In order to answer the problems, two objectives of the study are created.

They are as follows :

1. To find out Lopakhin's capitalist points of view dealing with social class and class struggle in Anton Chekhov's *The Cherry Orchard*
2. To identify the effects of capitalism toward Lopakhin himself and other characters.

#### **1.4 Limitation of the Problem**

The problems of the study are limited in order to avoid misunderstanding between the readers and the main topic of this research. In this case, they are limited into two parts. The first part focuses on Lopakhin's points of view dealing with social class and class struggle about capitalism. The second one is the effects of capitalism toward Lopakhin and other characters, that is, Ranevskaya and Gaev, Ranevskaya's brother.

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

Hopefully this research can be useful source for the readers to learn and understand well the condition of people in capitalism. Particularly, the readers learn more how people live their life in the old days together with capitalism which influences their daily life as it is described in *The Cherry Orchard*. Specifically, this research gives the reader more knowledge and plenty of important things about drama or play. Finally, this research is aimed to give imagery and information for other researchers to develop their research.