

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

People like to learn things and need some entertainments in daily life. One of the entertainments is literature. Literature, in its broadest sense, includes all written materials. Further, the form of literary works are short stories, novels, poems, and plays. Novel is read by various people in the world, because it is not as difficult as reading poetry. In *An Introduction to the English Novel*, Kettle said, “A novel is living thing, all one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the parts (1951 : 12).”

Literature is a human being ‘s work which is expressed through language. To make a clearer understanding about literature, it is better for the writer to describe the meaning of literature which is stated by some experts.

Hudson in his book entitled *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* states :

“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. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language. (1965 : 10)”

It clarifies that literature is the expression of human’s daily life. Literature gives information about the experience of human life in many aspects. It deals with

facts, explanations, realities, histories, and etcetera. In other words, literature is such a media for people to express their imagination in literary works.

In this research the writer tries to analyze novel which is one of the most interesting and popular forms of literature. It can entertain and enrich our experience of life. The researcher is interested in analyzing one of popular novels, *David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens. *David Copperfield* was published in monthly parts by Bradbury and Evans on May 1849-November 1850 and illustrated by *Phiz* (Paul Davis, 1999: 105).

Charles Dickens portrays children sufferings. The main character David Copperfield suffers a loveless childhood. He works at Murdstone and Grinby's warehouse. Then, David Copperfield is sent to school at Salem House, where he begins his school. David Copperfield is discriminated by a cruel headmaster, Mr. Creakle.

David Copperfield is an interesting novel. David Copperfield experience sufferings during his childhood. He is an orphan boy who spends some happy days with his mother and under the care of his nurse Peggotty, but David Copperfield's happiness ends when his mother marries the cruel man Mr. Murdstone who brings his sister Jane Murdstone to live with them in the house. During this time David Copperfield is treated harshly by the Murdstones. David Copperfield dislikes his stepfather and his sister who always treat him bad. He is sent to boarding school where he gets a mistreatment by the headmaster. When he is settling down at school, his mother dies, and he is left completely at his

stepfather's mercy. They apprentice him to work in London, where he is miserable.

During the nineteenth century several changes happened in Britain at different fields, especially social. These changes occurred because of the emergence of the Industrial Revolution which has made Britain the first Industrial country in the world. The economic progress that occurs during that time results in many social problems such as poverty and bad living conditions. This situation attracted several Victorian writers who are interested in expressing the spirit of the age with all resources of imagination and feeling to write about these social problems. Charles Dickens is one of them who is considered the dominant literary figure of the age. He used his literary career to defend about the social sufferings of his life time, especially children who endured many hardships because of his own childhood experience.

The main character of *David Copperfield* is David Copperfield who is portrayed from childhood to adulthood. Thus, the researcher decides to conduct a study entitled "Social-Psychological Sufferings Experienced by the Main Character in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*".

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The problems of the study are formulated to answer the following questions :

1. What are social-psychological sufferings experienced by the main character, David Copperfield in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield* ?

2. What are the effects of David Copperfield's social-psychological sufferings toward himself?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, the objectives of the study are as follows :

1. To find out social-psychological sufferings experienced by the main character, David Copperfield in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*.
2. To find the effects of David Copperfield's social-psychological sufferings toward himself.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

The research is on the novel entitled *David Copperfield* written by Charles Dickens. It was published by the Queensway Press. This research focuses only on the main character of the novel, namely David Copperfield. However, the writer limits the research on sufferings in the novel related to David Copperfield's social-psychological sufferings and the effects of his social-psychological sufferings.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer tends to enrich the knowledge about social-psychological sufferings from the research. The writer hopes that the result of this study may

contribute more beneficial and valuable information for the readers. They are expected to have a good understanding on the topic discussed.

For other researchers the writer hopes this research can be useful as guidance to admire such literary work and to encourage them to study more deeply concerning this work.