

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary work becomes means for people in the world to express what they think, what they imagine, and sometimes to convey themselves in their society. Literary work represent daily life through the characters in the story so that the readers can find many things in literary work such as love, life experience, suffering and death. By reading literary work, people can feel to live in it as in real life so that they get the messages which make them wiser to face all of the problems in reality. Rees states that literature is writing which expresses and communicates thought, feeling and attitudes toward life (1973: 20). The quotation means that literature is a part of human life which also expresses many things in life about what the authors think, what they feel and sometimes about their secret experiences.

Jones states that literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (1968:1). It means that from literary work, people get experiences about someone's imagination. Literature not only entertains the readers with their imagination through the literary work but also teaches a good experience and brings the readers to imagine what happens next.

Literary works are fiction which is made up, and imagined. Kennedy states that

‘Fiction (from the Latin *fictio*, “ a shaping, a counterfeiting”) is a name for stories not entirely factual, but at least partially shaped, made up,

imagined. It is true that in some fiction, such as a historical novel, a writer draws upon factual information in presenting scenes, event, and characters. But the factual information in a historical novel, unlike in a history book, is of secondary importance. (1966:3)

It means that novels, short stories, fables, fairy tales, plays, and poems which are created by authors' imagination are not dealing with factual events. Meanwhile, biographies, histories, historical novels are dealing with factual events, and characters.

Novel is used to entertain and to share someone's imagination, ideas, and experiences in whole life. In another line, Rees states that novel is fictitious prose narrative of considerable length in which characters and actions representative of real life are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity (1973:106).

There are some interesting themes offered by novelists in their novel, for instance romance, feminism, marxism, etcetera. Romance is one of the most favourite themes for readers since it makes them feel the characters emotionally. Jane Austen is one of the novelists who uses romance theme and female character as a hero in her novels for instance *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Persuasion*, etcetera.

Jane Austen is one of female novelists in the eighteenth century in Great Britain. Her works are still much admired by people today. Kooistra and Schutt states "she was the first woman writer to make a great name in English fiction, indeed in English literature". (1950:250). In short, Jane Austen is a female novelist who gives strong influences through her works. Some of her remarkable works are *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abby*, and *Persuasion*. Usually the main female characters in Jane

Austen's novels experience similar problem in love and marriage, and each character has point of view which is interesting to analyze. Thus, the researcher has decided to analyze the portrait of marriage in Victorian era in *Persuasion*.

Persuasion talks about how a young lady chooses her husband. In Victorian era, most of women were getting married for prosperity or financial purpose, and only some of them who were getting married for sincere love. At that time, the mindset of women was love and marriage deal with money, social class, titles, and accomplishments were measured and weighed in the consideration of a marriage. Elizabeth Elliot in *Persuasion* has a mindset that marriage is the way to get social status. Whereas, Anne Elliot tries to break the rules by refusing to get married for financial purpose and decides to get married for the sake of love.

Actually marriage in Jane Austen's novel is not a new topic but the researcher is challenged to find out the portrait of marriage in Victorian Era in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* and to figure of the effects of marriage toward Elizabeth Elliot and Anne Elliot. As a result, the research entitled "The Portrait of Marriage in Victorian Era in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*" is chosen.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The two problems of the study are formulated as follows :

1. How is marriage in Victorian Era portrayed in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* ?
2. What are the effects of marriage in Victorian Era toward Elizabeth Elliot and Anne Elliot ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The analysis of the problems as stated in this study is aimed to know detailed information about marriage in Victorian Era portrayed in *Persuasion*.

Therefore, they are as follows:

1. To find out the portrait of marriage in Victorian Era in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.
2. To figure out the effects of marriage in Victorian Era toward Elizabeth Elliot and Anne Elliot.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

The limitation only focuses on two female characters, Anne Elliot and Elizabeth Elliot, in order to help the readers focus and get clearer information about the topic, the portrait of marriage in Victorian era and the effects of marriage in Victorian era toward Elizabeth Elliot and Anne Elliot.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The research is expected to give contribution for the readers so they get a lot of information about marriage in Victorian Era. Hopefully, after reading the research, the readers understand about marriage in Victorian Era in Great Britain through Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. This research also can give enlightenment for the readers about marriage through the characters' experiences, and they understand about literary works from different point of view.

Finally, the result of the research will give contribution to other researchers for doing further research with different topics in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.