

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is creative art or writing of recognized artistic value in social life, so studying literature needs a high concentration to understand it. Each people would like to read literary works because literature makes them enjoy, happy, spirited, satisfied; and it also arouses them desire, emotion, ambition, and motivation. The subject materials of literature are obtained from the experience of human life. It is started by William Henry Hudson in *An Introduction of the Study of the Literature* :

“Literature is vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experience of it, what they have thought and felt about this object of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally and expression of life through the medium of language” (1965: 10).

So it can be said that literature is produced language by human being as a medium to express the idea and feeling. Literature can be an inspiration for author to express his work which is based on love, hate, destiny, friendship, beauty and natural or even love betrayed in human daily life.

There are three literary genres, namely: prose or fiction (novel and short stories), poetry, and drama (Griffith, 1990: 41). In literary genres, the writer is very interesting in prose, especially novel. Novel gives some pleasure for us through its story and the most favorite form of both author and reader. According to Edward H. Jones in his book *An Outline of Literature* states, “Novel is a long

story written in prose, but because it is long it differs from a short story in other ways too” (1968: 80). It means that novel is long story narrative prose, in which the author can express to give a sense of the actual to the reader. So, the reader gets a knowledge because it is a picture of real life. Reading and novel presents special problems to the reader because the novel has traditionally attempted to offer an experience of life or create a world that resembles the multiplicity and complexity of the real world. The novel has been read to report a new environments and condition of life.

This thesis discusses novel entitled *Vanity Fair* written by William Makepeace Thackeray. Thackeray’s book was published serially in London in 1847 and 1848. As we know Thackeray is one of the great nineteenth century novelist who lived in Victorian Period. Thackeray was born in Calcutta, India, on July 18, 1811, the only child of English parents. He was not a romantic. So, he formed his style in conscious reaction against Charles Dicken’s programmatic indictment of social evils and against commentaries of sentimental falsification of life and moral values of the popular historical romances. Most of his novels described the English nobility instead of the English poor in eighteenth century. He did not produce his characters for the purpose of expressing violet feelings because he followed in the footsteps of Fielding and Goldsmith. His best – known novellas are: *The Memoirs of Banny Lyndon, Esq.* (1844), *Vanity Fair* (1847 – 1848), *Book of Snobs* (1848), *Pendennis* (1848 – 1850), *The History of Henry Esmond, Esq.* (1852), *The Newcomes* (1853 – 1855), *The Virginians* (1857 – 1859), *Love the Windower* (1860), and *The Adventures of Philip* (1861 – 1862).

Thackeray achieved widespread popularity with his humorous *Book of Snobs* and rose to major rank among English novelist with *Vanity Fair* and *The Newcomes*. He is important not only as a great novelist but also a brilliant satirist. Throughout the 1830s and 1840s, his miscellaneous writings appeared in several magazines. His writings were filled with wit, humor, satire and pathos in English society. Thackeray drew on his own experiences for his writings. Thackeray died December 24, 1863.

Vanity Fair (1847 – 1848) is a classic of English Literature and one of the great works of satire in all history. *Vanity Fair* described a story about the adventure of two girls of different sorts: Rebecca (Becky) Sharp, a clever, brave, and poor girl without a conscience; and Amelia Sedley, the gentle daughter of a rich Londoner. The story explores a satirical panorama of upper – middle – lower – class London life and manners to get the world of social climbing and money than others at beginning of the nineteenth century. In other hand, it also tells about vanity, wicked, foolish place, and full of all sorts of humbugs, falseness and pretensions. The main problem is how someone to raise the social status, and to search wealth in London life.

The writer is interested in analyzing the novel of William Makepeace Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* because most of his novel discusses the mental development of a lady (the main character) that comes from low class. Becky Sharp grows up and has bad temper, so she becomes an ambition girl without a conscience. She uses trickery and sacrifices everything to get much money and title of nobility or life of English upper – class. Therefore, the writer chooses the

title of this thesis “An Analysis of Becky Sharp’s Ambition to be An Aristocrat in William Makepeace Thackeray”.

1.2 The Statements of the Problem

In the statement of the problem, the writer takes some problem in order to get clear discussion of this thesis, as follows:

1. What are the causes of Becky Sharp’s ambition to be an aristocrat?
2. How does Becky Sharp achieve her ambition?
3. What are the effects of Becky Sharp’s ambition on her life?

1.3 The Objectives of the Study

Due to the problem above, the purpose of the analysis is as follows:

1. To explain the causes of Becky Sharp’s ambition to be an aristocrat.
2. To show how Becky Sharp achieves her ambition.
3. To find out the effects of Becky Sharp’s ambition on her life.

1.4 The Limitation of the Problem

Vanity Fair illustrates unrivaled panoramas of English upper – middle – lower – class life, crowded with memorable characters displaying realistic mixtures of virtue, vanity, and vice at the early 19th century. In *Vanity Fair*, Becky Sharp presents so many problems; therefore, the writer only gives the limitation of the problem about the ambition. The writer limits the discussion in the causes, the ways, and the effects of Becky Sharp to achieve her ambition to be an aristocrat.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

By discussing this topic of analysis, the writer gives description of human behavior to achieve ambition, especially in life of poor men relationship in aristocrat. The writer also finds and learns more their problem about the causes and the ways that make human to be an aristocrat, and the effects of ambition in their life.

From that, the writer hopes that by reading this research, the other researchers can understand the content of the novel thoroughly. The writer also hopes that the research will enrich knowledge the readers to face modern life. And the readers or the other researchers can take and choose the best ways to achieve their ambition without bad effect in their future life.