

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every human needs something to entertain himself or herself. Literature usually reflects anything that happens in this life. It tells a lot about human beings with their complex problems which cannot be separated from their life. Literature is a written form which expresses thought, feeling, and attitude. The writer likes to tell people about things that happen to other people through some ways by reading literary works.

Sometimes, people get confused when they hear the word literature and they try to find it. Literature expresses imagination in which the people may get knowledge and entertainment. Furthermore, Hudson (1965: 10) in *Introduction to Study of Literature* says in the following:

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 means that literature is the expression of life. People can express their experience and knowledge into the various forms of literary works, because literature is a written work. Nowadays, a lot of people spend their spare time by reading literary work. Literature can be divided into three groups, namely

drama, prose, and poetry. In this thesis the writer uses a novel as the material of analysis. Novel is one of the most interesting and popular form of literature. It is a kind of prose; it entertains and enriches our experience of life. Kettle (1951: 12) in *An introduction to the English Novel* says, “A novel is living thing, all once and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think in each of the parts there is something of the parts”.

In this thesis the writer discusses Charles Dickens’ novel entitled *David Copperfield*. It was firstly published in 1958, and Charles Dickens is known as one of the greatest English novelists. He is a great observer attracted by life and condition in mid nineteenth century of London. Also he is a critical writer because he has written the novels based on the social environment. *David Copperfield* is one of the most popular of Charles Dickens’s novel. It is also one of the best about love novels. This novel is based on Dickens own life.

David is the main character and he has good moral. In his boyhood, David has to work in the counting house after his mother’s death. David’s stepfather namely, Mr. Murdstosne does not want to finance his school and he sends David to the Murdstone and Grinby’s counting house. David does not surrender in his condition until David flees and throws himself on the mercy of his aunt, Betsy Trotwood because he wants to continue his study, to be a successful man who can help his mother.

David thinks that his aunt will help him. His struggle for life implies his moral values, and the writer wants to know and learn about them. Moral value is the quality that grows among the people in working together with the other people.

1.2 The Reason for Choosing the Topic

Since centuries ago, literature has had important role toward human life. They need literature as entertainment in their spare time. The writer has reason to choose this story, through this story the writer would like to know more about how far the moral values of David and how his environment changes him to be a successful person. For this reason, the writer hopes that the reader will know the values and message from this story.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

The problems of the research are to answer the following questions:

1. What are David Copperfield's moral values in Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*?
2. What are the influences of environment upon David Copperfield's moral values?

1.4 The Objectives of Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain David Coppefield's moral values in *David Copperfield*.

2. To elaborate the influences of environment upon David Copperfield's moral values.

1.5 Limitation of the Problem

The research is on the novel entitled "*David Copperfield*" written by Charles Dickens published by Longmans' Abridged Book in London in the year at 1961. This research focuses only on the main character of the novel, namely David Copperfield. The main character David Copperfield has been characterized with many features. However, his research limits itself on anything in the novel related to David Copperfield's moral values and the influences of the environment on the moral value.

1.6 The Significance of the Study

The Novel is significant for the writer, the readers, and the other researchers. For the writer, the writer understands more in understanding the moral values from the research. The writer hopes that the result of this study may contribute more beneficial and valuable information for both the researchers and the readers. By reading this work, the readers are expected to have a good understanding on the topic discussed, namely David Copperfield's moral values. For the other researchers, the writer hopes this research gives an interesting impact to reveal the other researcher on the similar topics of Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*. Furthermore, it will be useful to develop the

further research in the same subject matter also this study can be useful for the students of letters as guidance to admire such literary work and encourage them to study more deeply concerning with this work.