

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is the expression of human being in language written form about life. It is a literary work which expresses thought, feeling, and attitude toward life. Jones (1963:7) in *An Outlines of Literature* says that literature is simple another way that we can experience the word around us through our imagination, feeling, and thought. In its broadest sense, literary form includes all written materials dealing with thought and feeling. To understand literature, readers must read it well. Literature is read by many people because it can entertain them and enrich their experience in life. If the readers know more about language, they will know more about literature too.

Further, Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to the Study of Literature* says in the following:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life and what they thought and felt about those aspects of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of which has the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language.

The quotation above means that literature gives pleasure and information. Literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination. Besides, reading a literary work also gives an important role because it can help human brain to understand what they have thought and felt through a written language.

Literary works are divided into three branches. They are Prose, Poetry, and Play. Prose is divided into novel and short story. Novel is the most interesting and popular forms of literature. A lot of people in the world have read novel, because reading novel is not as difficult as reading poetry, and it is neither as easy as reading short story. Kennedy (1996:23) in *Introduction to Fiction, Poetry, and Drama* states that a novel is a book length story in the prose, whose author to create the sense that, while we read, we experience actual life. It means that novel is expressing the author's idea through the real life. Novel gives the readers a deeper understanding about life and society. The writer chooses a novel to analyze because the writer feels easier to understand about the content of the novel.

There are many authors in this world such as William Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Mark Twain, Charles Dickens, and etc. In this research, the writer chooses the novel from Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens was the most popular English novelist of the Victorian era.

Most of Charles Dickens' works become a popular in the world such as *Oliver Twist*, *A Christmas Carol*, *A Tale of Two Cities*, *David Copperfield*, *Great Expectations*, *Bleak House*, *Little Dorrit*, *Hard Times* and etc. His works always points about social life, especially poor society. The writer chooses the novel entitled *Oliver Twist* as the object of the study. *Oliver Twist* is firstly published in 1837. In novel *Oliver twist*, Charles Dickens shows the condition in mid nineteenth century or Victorian period in England. *Oliver Twist* is one of his novels that drew attention to the unsatisfactory social conditions in England. He wrote *Oliver Twist* based on his experience when he was still a child. Charles

Dickens in his childhood experienced very bad conditions of poverty. His father was jailed for debt and he had to work in a workhouse to pay his father debt at the age of twelve. He pointed his writing at class discrimination and social inequalities of the Victorian period during the nineteenth century of England.

The study of exploitation of the children in *Oliver Twist* is chosen as the topic of this study because it represents the situation of many children living in 19th century England. In that period children had to work to help their parents' needs because families were very poor and they didn't have money, so children worked. They could not go to school and they lived in dirty slums full of pollution provoked by the Industrial revolution. Their conditions were very bad and they had an unhappy childhood. In the workhouse children are not protected, but they must work as labor and the officer of a workhouse is a bourgeoisie. *Oliver Twist* is portrait of child's struggle in her society. He must work to survive his life. Based on this reason, the writer of this thesis takes children exploitation in 19<sup>th</sup> C British society in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* as the title of this thesis.

## 1.2 The Statement of the Problem

In line with the topic of the study, namely the children exploitation in 19<sup>th</sup> C British society in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*, the writer finds two problems to discuss. They are as follows:

1. What kinds of exploitation that are undergone by Oliver Twist in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*?
2. What are the effects of exploitation on Oliver Twist's personality?

### 1.3 The Objective of the Study

In line with the problem as stated above, the writer determines two aims of this study. They are as follows:

1. To explain the kinds of exploitation that are undergone by Oliver Twist in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*.
2. To describe the effects of exploitation on Oliver Twist's personality.

### 1.4 The Scope of the Study

It is necessary to give the limitation of the problem in this research in order to avoid the expansion of the problem. The writer analyzes the novel entitled *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. The analysis of this is limited on children exploitation. The writer would like to show the kinds of exploitation that are undergone by the main character and the effects of exploitation in his personality.

### 1.5 The Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this research can give some advantages for the writer and the readers. This research is useful and interesting for the writer and readers. In this research, the writer wants to show the exploitation of the children during the 19<sup>th</sup> C in America, so that the readers can increase the knowledge on the children exploitation. It is also hoped that the result of this research can be used as additional information for those who want to study more about *Oliver Twist*. Besides, by explaining this topic, the readers will receive a good influence from the story. The writer helps the readers to think that literary works are not only

merely and entertainment but also as a tool of communication values and moral teaching.