CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Literary works picture human's ability and creativity in expressing desire, passion, thought, feeling and moral value in life. As stated by Hudson in *An Introduction to Study Literature*,

> "Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they 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 and expression of life through the medium of language." (1964:10)

It is clear that literature comes from human's imagination in picturing their senses and the truth of something taken place surrounding their society.

It is a pleasure that people get entertainment through reading literary works or attending the theater shown drama or poetry. For quite long time, reading, especially the literary works may bring such kind of pleasure in their leisure times. This condition happens in Great Britain in the mid 19th Century when every people, either higher or lower class begin to be educated and spend their pleasure from reading or writing literary works. Hence, they may feel sorrow, passion, happiness, hatred or emotion created by the author, playwright or poet.

Literature usually expresses something in written form and contains of the sense and emotion of human being. Therefore, literature may play human's thought and emotion. Klarer in *An Introduction to Literary Studies* asserts that

"Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word" (1999: 1). It can be said that literature is the products of human's creativity and ability. Hence, Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* say that "Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation." (1949: 82). So, it is clear that literature has close relation with the society as the mirror of something that may happen in real life through archaic language usage.

Furthermore, literary work can be divided as prose, poetry and play. Cuddon in *A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* says that "Literature is a vague term which usually denotes works which belong to the major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story, ode." (1991:183). Prose has two major divisions, novel and short story. Novel is a literary work that is chosen by many people because it is more interesting and it is able to play one's imagination. In the contrary, short story is a kind of novel that is shorter in form and the number of incidents. Novel tells the whole of story in which many characters bound one another, while short story only focuses on limited characters. Literature also has special function as a reflection of society and period as supported by Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature* "The novel is the picture of real life and manner, and of the time in which it is written." (1949:205). Therefore, novel is the interesting literary work to learn and read.

The writer chooses novel as the source of data taken from English literary work from late Romantic and early Victorian period because it is easy to understand. Later, the novel contains of interesting material that is nice to discuss. In this research, the writer wants to analyze the only masterpiece of Emily Bronte, who has a pseudonym, Ellis Bell. She publishes the first and last novel entitled *Wuthering Heights*, using pseudonym Ellis Bell in 1847. The story was taken place in the year of 1801 within Mr. Lockwood's arrival in the Wuthering Heights, the mansion,

> "1801. –
> I have just returned from a visit to my landlord – the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with. This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect misanthropist's heaven: and Mr. Heatcliff and I are such a suitable pair to divide the desolation between us. A capital fellow! He little imagined how my heart warned towards him when I beheld his black eyes withdraw so suspiciously under their brows, as I rode up, and when his fingers sheltered themselves, with a jealous resolution, still farther in his waistcoat, as I announced my name." (1850: 19)

Furthermore, the writer is interested in analyzing the life of bourgeois people as shown by Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* with its picture of the condition in the early Victorian period and the effect of Industrial Revolution. Emily Bronte only creates one novel during her whole life. However, this novel accepts a lot of criticism of its originality and has special and unique style by its magnificent author.

The writer wants to understand more about the life of middle class with the condition happened in that era. Every people have their own reasons on becoming middle class. The Industrial revolution period forces people to be hard

worker to survive. The condition is represented by the conflicts among the members of upper and middle class (gentry). The upper class must not work to conduct their lives while the bourgeois must work harder to conduct better life and status. The gentry grow from the middle class people into a class of extremely rich people. The changing of status may happen through matrimony, working hard or inheriting great fortune. Some women become middle class in getting better life. The explanations above attract the writer's passion in understanding middle class.

Emily expresses her personal experience while she lived in Yorkshire to enrich the novel *(www.wikipedia.org/brontë/biography* accessed *June 4, 2009)*. The title of novel, for instance, comes from the Yorkshire manor on the moors on which the story centre (as an adjective, *Wuthering* is a Yorkshire word referring to turbulent weather), "Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr. Heathcliff's dwelling. 'Wuthering' being a significant provincial adjective, descriptive of the atmospheric tumult to which its station is exposed in stormy weather" (1850: 20)

Furthermore, Emily Bronte shows that the conditions in the society force people to be creative or even greedy in defending their lives and rights. One of the examples is Catherine Earnshaw who buries her love towards a poor fellow, Heatcliff and accepts a wealthy master, Edgar Linton,

> "I've no more business to marry Edgar Linton than I have to be in heaven: and if the wicked man in there had not brought Heatcliff so low, I shouldn't have thought of it. It would degrade me to marry Heatcliff now; so he shall never know how I love him…" (1850: 80)

Catherine's matrimony shows that marriage in that era is mainly based on the financial guarantee. Through matrimony, someone also can reach higher social status.

Catherine Earnshaw, Frances Earnshaw and Heatcliff are the portraits of the lower class people who do all of efforts to have better life and status through becoming the middle class (gentry).

From the explanation above, the writer is interested in analyzing the bourgeois people in *Wuthering Heights*. Moreover, the writer also wants to reveal the efforts of becoming bourgeois. Additionally, after examining the reasons and efforts, it is necessary to find further information about the conditions in their marital lives. In conclusion, the writer needs to formulate all of the discussion in Middle Class in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

There are several problems that are needed to analyze further in this section. The questions that will be explained are as the following:

1. What are the reasons of joining middle class?
2. What are the efforts of joining middle class?
3. How do the middle class conduct their marital lives?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The purpose of this research is to answer the problems which have been formulated before. They are as follows:

1. To explain the reasons of joining middle class.

2. To point out the efforts of joining middle class.

3. To figure out the conditions of middle class marital lives.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

It is necessary to limit the problems that are discussed in this research in order to find clear information about the middle class people. It has been known that the novel contains of some elements such as character, theme, background, setting etc. First of all, the writer focuses on the theme in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* that is related to middle class as the effect of Industrial Revolution in Victorian Period in Great Britain. Hence, the writer also focuses on the lives of the middle class. They are Catherine Earnshaw, Francis Earnshaw and Heatcliff. Moreover, the writer analyzes the characters' reasons in joining middle class, the efforts of joining middle class and also the condition of middle class marital lives.

1.5 Significance of the study

The result of research is very important for the writer to understand more about bourgeois and its specific reasons possessed by middle class, the efforts of joining middle class and also the condition of middle class marital lives, through several characters, namely, Catherine Earnshaw, Frances Earnshaw and Heatcliff in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*.

The writer hopes that this research improves the readers' knowledge of cause and efforts of joining middle class. Besides, it is hoped that the result of this research may be used to enrich the discussion about *Wuthering Heights* for every people who want to write or add the discussion about it.