

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

People need something to entertain them in spare time. One of the entertainments is literature. It is written expression of their experience of life that offers imagination. Considering to the relevance of literature and life, R.J Rees explains the terms literature in *An Introduction for Foreign Reader*, "Literature is writing which expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes towards life's (1973 :2). It means that literature is a tool to describe the expression and gives a pleasure in thought, feelings and attitudes towards their life. It is an expression through many ways depend on how they serve them. An author expresses and describes the literary work through her or his own way. So, the people are not only interested to read it, but also to obtain the significant things stated in the story.

Similarly, William Henry Hudson in *An Introduction to the study of Literature* expresses that:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have thought and felt about the aspect of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of live through the medium of language (1960:10)

From the statement above, people can see that literary works are obtained from the experience of life. In this view, a work of literature expresses the feelings of the person who wrote it, therefore, to study it we must study the author's life.

Author expresses their feelings and experiences into various form of literary works by using language as a basic medium through written works.

Literary works are divided into three categories, namely poetry, drama, and novel. At this time, the writer wants to study literature, especially the novel as the subject material for this thesis. Novel is the most popular form of literature that interest to be analyzed. By reading novel the reader will get pleasure and knowledge that exist in the story. Besides, novel also gives the reader deeper understanding of life. In *Introduction to fiction, poetry and drama*, X.J Kennedy 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"(1986:23). It means that a novel is the medium to express the author's idea inspired by real life. Moreover, a novel gives the reader knowledge about the age and the society in which the novelist lives.

In addition, novels contains not only a prose fiction which is deals with imagination of the author about human life, but also attempts to convey some messages imaginatively for the people when read it. It is stated by Ian Milligan in *The English Novel*. He says that: "a novel tells us that it is a work of fiction, of not less than fifty thousand words, written in prose: but it is also an attempt to convey imaginatively some circumstances significant enough to have an interest for the people who might read it"(1984:7).

In this thesis, the writer is interested in analyzing the novel entitled *Mansfield Park* as the main source. This novel is written by Jane Austen. She was the first woman writer in English fiction. She wrote this novel in 1812 and it was

published in 1814. *Mansfield Park* contains her most sustained examination of family life. The novel is written in the third person, like all Jane Austen's novels, but it is through main character's eyes. If the reader notice the story in this novel, the reader will find out some elements of the interesting events. Those are jealousy, sadness, distress, love, misfortune.

Fanny Price is one of the main characters. She is a girl of poor but educated parentage, who is adopted in childhood by her rich uncle, the Bertram's family, and taken to live at their country house, Mansfield Park. But, Fanny has many problems with her family, so those problems can influence on her own life. Fanny is an example of flat character. Her real family life is quite poor, while the Bertram's family is rich, so that the situation and condition influences his life. The supporting factors which influences Fanny's life are the family factors, that is Bertram's family. Bertram's family has important role in Fanny's life. They take Fanny in childhood when Fanny's family has a very small income. The other member always pressures her. It happened because Fanny came from poor family. It is the main reason why she starts her misery, because she should always remember that her status is lowest at Mansfield Park. For this reason, the writer wants to discuss chronologically about the influences of Bertram's family on Fanny's life.

The writer of this thesis is interesting in analyzing the Bertram's family influence on the main character's life in Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* because of two reasons. The first, the writer wants to know how are Bertram's family life. The second, what are the influences of Bertram's family on Fanny's life.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

This Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* is interesting to be studied. In studying the influences of the family on the main character's life, the writer finds some problems to be solved. The problems are as follows:

1. How are Bertram's family life?
2. What are the influences of Bertram's family life on Fanny's life?

1.3 The Limitation of the Problem

In order to get clear understanding and to avoid complicated discussion, it is necessary for us to limit the problem of this discussion. Actually, there are three types of literature, that is, prose, play and poetry. In analyzing this thesis, the writer would like to choose novel as the subject of discussion. There are many subjects that can be analyzed from the novel. In this thesis the writer limits the study on one subject that is the influenced of family towards the main character's life. To be more specific, the scope of the study will be the presence of one family, that is Bertram's family and its influences of the main character named Fanny Price.

1.4 The Objectives of the Study

Novel has some aspects to analyze. We can analyze character, theme, plot, style, setting and many others. In order to solve the problem, it is important to limit the object of the study. In this case, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To know how are Bertram's family life.
2. To analyze the influences Bertram's family life on the main character life's named Fanny.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

For the writer, there is some significance in writing this thesis. Firstly, the writer wants to show to the reader the deeper understanding about literary work especially novel. Secondly, the writer wishes to understand the value of the story and inside message of the story. Third, for the readers, the writer hopes that they can take the goodness and let away the badness of the human behaviour that exists in this novel.