

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Reading literary works is pleasure. It brings the readers from the real world into an imaginative one. Besides that, literature is interesting because it often presents the problems of the real life. By reading literary works the readers get some messages that make them wiser in facing up the problems of life. In line with this statement, Hudson (1965:10) in *An Introduction to The Study of Literature* states as follows:

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

This statements describes that literature is description of life and written by the author through the medium of language. Then, literature is the result of the author's mind based on the happening he/she has seen and felt in his/her surrounding.

Literature is divided into three kinds; poetry, fiction and drama. Griffith (1990:44) in *Writing Essays About Literature* states "as a descriptive term, fiction is misleading, for although fiction does often include made-up or imaginary elements, it has the potential for being "true"; true to the nature of reality, true to the human experience." It means that fiction as a descriptive term usually describes the true happening of real life. The story of the fiction sometimes also happens in the real life

and human being experience it. Furthermore, fiction can be divided into two kinds: short story and novel. In this case the writer of this thesis is interested in novel. Novel is more interesting than short story since novel has more complex problems.

In a novel a novelist may offer some issues such as social, politic, or religion. In line with the social issue, the writer of this thesis is interested in analyzing Jane Austen's great novel *Pride and Prejudice* and choose women and marriage as the topic of discussion. This novel is the most enduringly popular novel written by Jane Austen. This novel has been adopted to some films version. It talks about trivial matters of love, marriage, and family life between country squires and fair ladies in Britain in the early nineteenth century. It is about how the young ladies choose their husbands.

Women and marriage become the main subject of this novel. It is shown in the opening of this novel "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife" (PP:51). This irony shows clearly the connection between money and marriage. It lies in the interest of women to marry a man with a fortune, or at least some good deal of money. The husband is meant to support his wife.

According to Hornby (1995:1373) in *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* "woman is an adult female human being; female human being in general." Further, Hornby (1995:723) also describes marriage as "a legal relationship between a husband and a wife." Women and marriage in this thesis mean women views on marriage, women's marriage possibilities, and also women's marital lives. Some

factors such as; social status, connection, family, age, and wealthy may restrict the women's marriage possibilities. Then, the women have various lives after they got married, some of them may get happy or successful lives and some other may do not. The happiness is determined by their purposes in getting married.

Women and marriage is chosen since this topic is very challenging. The writer wants to know how the women's condition in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and also how they see about marriage. In Jane Austen's era, women were considered as inferior and marriage was based a great deal upon money and reputation, not so much on love and trust. Most of women want to get married for the sake of wealth or financial security, and only some of them who want to get married for the sake of love.

Most of women have limited marriage possibilities because of their low status including the family's connection and wealth. Women with low income, class and connection have no much the things to be offered in marriage market. In *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth and Jane Bennet, with their inferior status and connection, try to take a risk by refusing to get married for financial security and choose to get married for love. In the end of the story it will be shown clearly how Elizabeth and Jane's lives after their marriages compare to Charlotte life who wants to get married for the sake of wealth and financial security.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

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

1. How are the women's views on marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?
2. What are the factors restricting the women's marriage possibilities in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?
3. How are the women's marital lives in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the proposed problems, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To explain the women's views on marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.
2. To explain the factors restricting the women's marriage possibilities in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.
3. To describe the women's marital lives in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

1.4 Limitation of the Problem

The analysis of this novel is limited on the women's views on marriage, the factors restricting the women's marriage possibilities, and their marital lives. The writer wants to compare the ending of marriage for true love, sensual desire and marriage for financial purpose.

The women in this thesis are the women characters who have opinions or views on marriage. They are Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Bennet, Charlotte Lucas, and Lydia Bennet.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This analysis hopefully can give some significances for the writer, the readers, and also the other researchers. For the writer this research is very interesting and useful. It gives a brief description about the women's condition and their views on marriage in the late of eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. It gives deeper insight about the difficulties of the English women at that time. From this study, the writer hopes that the readers can understand how marriage play huge roles in the women's lives and how difficult to get a successful marriage. It is also expected that the readers will think twice before they decide to get married for the sake of financial security, physical attraction or the other reason instead of love.

Finally, this analysis is also significant because it can be the reference for the other researchers in doing further research about women and marriage in a novel, because the study of women and marriage is very interesting and there will so many other researchers are interested in analyzing this topic.