

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

A literary work is an expression of the author's thought. It means that he pours his feelings, imagination, expression, and willingness. Since the author is a member of society, it is true that there is a very close relationship between a literary work, the author, and social condition of the author. An author gets the inspiration of the work he makes based on the real social condition surrounding him. It can be said that a literary work is reflection of society. Therefore, Wellek and Warren (1956 : 94) state in *Theory of Literature* in the following:

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation, such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But furthermore literary represents "Life", and "life" is, in large measure a social reality, even though the natural work and the inner or objective world of the individual have also been objects of literary "imitation".

They note that a literary work represents life. It is not true that a literary work is an expression of society. If it is assumed that literature, at any given time, mirrors the current social situation "correctly", it is false, it is common place, trite, and vague if it means only that literature depicts some aspect of social reality. It is more ambiguous to say that literature expresses life. An author inevitably expresses his experience and total conception of life, but it can be manifestly untrue to say that he expresses the whole of life completely.

Henry James is one of American novelists who creates works based on his imagination and experience he has from his traveling. He was born in New York in 1843. He is an American novelist and critic, and a master of the Psychological novel, James was an innovator in technique and one of the most distinctive prose stylist in English. He is the second son of a liberal minded father. He is the son of Henry James, Sr, a Swedenborgian theologian, and the brother of William James, the Philosopher. In his early age, he was taken to England, France, Germany, and Switzerland, where he studied French and absorbed the artistic atmosphere of the old world. In 1855, he went abroad for education and extensive travels and back to America in 1860 to get law school in university of Harvard. In 1876 he settled permanently in London and became a British subject. in 1915. He spent most of his life to travel around the world.

Henry James has many works of art. But here, the researcher wants to analyze *Daisy Miller*. It is a novel by Henry James in 1878. This novel is one of James' romantic novels that turns out to be one of the most lastingly popular of James' work. This novel is not absolutely real or just imaginative literature or fantasy. It is interesting enough to analyze because the author present *Daisy Miller* with artistic words. He performs an innocent young American who visits Europe to get some cultures and she shows her pure American characters. Societies shock seeing her behavior where she breaks the rules that people must obey. Henry James takes a great interest in American's behavior and attitude in Europe and European's in America, cultural confrontation between America and Europe, confrontation between new values and old values. He writes a story of a man from

many countries with their own characters. European describe as having more high culture as well as being aware of the norms and values, while Americans prefer moralities and innocence. It seems that Henry wants to contrast American innocence and European experience.

When reading *Daisy Miller*, the researcher constantly gets caught between the conflicting value systems. This is a key trick for Henry James, and this is one of his talents. When the researcher reads about how one of his characters reacted to the actions of statements of someone else, the researcher is never sure whether the researcher is supposed to agree or not. That is the reason why researcher wants to analyze this novel.

## 1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on such a background, the problems of this research are as follows:

1. What are the cultural differences in *Daisy Miller*?
2. What are the society's points of view toward Daisy Miller in *Daisy Miller*?
3. How is the American culture represented by Daisy Miller in *Daisy Miller*?

## 1.3 Objective of the study

The objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To discover the cultural differences in *Daisy Miller*.
2. To describe the society's points of view toward Daisy Miller in *Daisy Miller*.
3. To analyze the American culture represented by Daisy Miller in *Daisy Miller*.

#### **1.4 Scope of the Problem**

Henry James' novel consists of many aspects that are interesting to analyze. Therefore, the scope of the study is focused on the analysis of American culture in *Daisy Miller*. The analysis is focused on the internal structure of the novel, then the result of that analysis is correlated with the social and historical condition in America in about 1900 s.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The result of this study can give some contributions to the reader, especially about American Culture and European Culture in the novel. Hopefully, using research on the findings of this study can be significant reference for the other researches similar topics.