

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is an expression of human life. The expression may be about idea or opinion. With literature, someone wants to convey his idea to another in written works, such as novel, prose, drama, poetry or any others. In many cases, they are interesting to read. By reading literature, we know about the writer's experience, thought, and imagination. The term literature itself means another way we can experience the world around us through our thought, feeling, and attitude toward life.

Literature grows along with the improvement of human life and idea, which adds the sources of imagination. Someone who have many experiences and imagination of life wants to convey them on some literary works. William Henry Hudson in his book *An Introduction to Study of Literature* says as follows:

Literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, that they have experienced of it what they thought and enduring interest for all of us. It is fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language, (1965: 10).

When saying the term *literature* one, of course will be talking about written material that deals with thoughts and feelings. The human life, for instance, offers many kinds of problems that can be described, such as the felling of joy, sorrow, pity, fear and anger.

Further, literature is something worth saying or expressing the importance of human issue. It contains the whole ways of life such as human values, moral, love, and passion that have relationship with the problems on humanity and society. Literature itself is classified into poetry, play, and prose. These forms deal with the truth of human life and human nature. Poetry is the most intensely emotive form of literature. It employs the techniques of verse, sound structure as a means of expression. Drama or

play is a work of literature and the representation of life and character through actions and dialogues. More over, drama is the form of literature designed to be performed by actors on the stage. Then, prose generally focuses on one or few major characters that undergo some kinds of change as they meet other character or deal with problems in life. Prose consists of novels, short stories, and romances. It is the most interesting form of literary works because it can be enjoyed and read by all of people, without going to some place like cinema or stage.

In this thesis the writer tries to analyze a novel. Novel is one of the most interesting and popular form of literature. It entertains and enriches our experience of life. Arnold Kettle in *An Introduction to the English Novel* says that:

A novel is living thing, all one and continuous, like any other organism, and in proportion as it lives will it be found, I think, that in each of the parts there is something of the parts. (1951: 12).

A lot of people in the world read novel, because reading novel is not as difficult as reading poetry, and it is neither as easy as reading short stories. A novel is decidedly not meant to be read at single sitting. A novel, because of its length, is suited to deal with the development of the character from childhood to maturity. By reading a novel, the reader will know the age and the society in which the novelist lives, for a novel is the expression of feeling, ideas and the outlook of it in certain society and period of time. As a form of literature, a novel also has its contribution to influence men and even society.

In this thesis, the writer discusses a novel of Charles Dickens entitled *David Copperfield*. It was firstly published in 1958. Charles Dickens is known as one of the greatest English novelist. He was a great observer who was attracted by life and condition in mid nineteenth century of London. *David Copperfield* is one of the most popular of Charles Dickens's novel. It is also one of his best-loved novels. This novel based on Dickens's own life, which has sad beginning.

The writer gets an idea to analyze this novel from literature class. During this period she asked to read some literary works such as novels and plays and then to find and write about some critics on the characteristics of character, but she is more interested to write social criticisms. By reading such a novel, the other writers can enrich their knowledge and their way of writing a literary criticism, especially in writing social criticisms in the society based on social problems, as *David Copperfield* as a novel was fully engaged with society. By deeper and detailed on this novel, she becomes more aware of life, knows the difficult things to live in this world. Someone must have great struggle, and be patient when facing the sufferings and trials so that they also can resolve their problems.

The reasons why the writer chooses this novel is because she is interested by this novel. For the public reading in general, *David Copperfield* has remained of Dickens's best-loved novels. By this writing, she wants to know more about the meaning of social criticism and also the cases of social criticism on the novel *David Copperfield*. Dickens' novel *David Copperfield* draws Charles Dickens' experience and imagination which carried out a profound exploration of modern society's most haunting problem. In this case, Dickens tells about living own account in teenagers. Here, the boyhood of David had to work in the counting house after his mother's death. David's stepfather. Mr Murdstone did not want to cost his school and he sent David to the Murdstone and Grinby's counting house. The example of social problem above through the exist problem. It could happen in every society or everywhere, every one and also every time. So, the author writes novel included some social criticism through the social problems that existed in the society. So, in this thesis, the writer has formulated the title "An Analysis of Social Criticism on Charles Dickens's *David Copperfields*". It is about social criticism on the novel *David Copperfield* which has several social criticism. Dickens' novel could be the most suitable novel that the writer analyzes based on social criticism.

1.2 Statement of Problem

When the writer begins to analyze this novel, she definitely searches some problems in order to complete the understanding. The social life for instance, becomes the problems causes the prejudice. It also cause criticism toward the value of human life in the society.

Whatever happens in the social life, has a social value and causes social criticisms. As the results, the writer feels so important to analyze the social criticisms, which happen in the social life as it is described in the novel. There are two points as the statement of problem, they are:

1. What is the social of social criticism which can be found in the novel of Charles Dickens' *David Copperfield*?
2. What is the social problem of the novel *David Copperfield* based on Charles Dickens' experience?

1.3 Limitation of Study

In this thesis, the writer would like to focus her attention to describe the social criticism and also mention some cases of social criticisms that are found in *David Copperfield* through deduction method. Besides that, to make the reader understand them easily and clearly, she will also write about the meaning of social criticisms in analysis on *David Copperfield*. These points support one another and each points will help the reader to have understanding.

1.4 Objectives of Study

As a form of literature, novel has some aspects to learn. We can learn analyze the title, the characters, the theme, the plot, the settings, the style and many others.

In order to achieve the perfection and to avoid more complicated problems and focuses to focalize the discussion, it is important to limit the object of the study. In writing this thesis, the writer just analyzes and focuses

in describing the social criticism of this novel. In this case, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the social criticism that exist in *David Copperfield*.
2. To explain the social problem of the novel *David Copperfield* which based on Charles Dickens' experience.

1.5 Significance of Study

Each thesis or research has its own significance. The study in this thesis is to present a social criticisms as the result of the analysis in *David Copperfield*, as they have close relation with social problems of the people in the English society. By reading this novel, the writer expects that the readers will easily learn about class stratifications which can be found in literary work such as a novel. Most of people are interested on novel, even though some of them do not like reading novels. The improvement of the country make people have interested on internet too, but the struggle of life, as wel as the aspects of life are not found somewhere in internet. Thus, this thesis is expected to make people have interested in reading novels, besides explaining essential aspects of the novel.