

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of the Study

Literature is kind of art. It exists as a part of human life from the past till today. People love to read literature because it gives them some entertainment; so it must have a structure and aesthetic purpose. Literature consists some events that happen in the real life that is written in specific way. It gives pleasure to readers because they can feel living in it as in real life. Literature becomes interesting because it is full of imagination and uses beautiful language or word.

In other word, in *Literary Theory An Introduction*, literature as an art employs techniques and offers problems that can be understood through analysis. People usually enjoy reading a literary work very much. However, in many societies, literature has served highly practical functions. This reservation is one of the suggestions that literature is highly valued kind of writing (Eagleton, 1983:10). It means that novel or the other literary works live because not only the thought and feeling are expressed but also the way in which the thought and feeling are expressed. Nowadays, it is called style. In this case, style in literature is the author's manner in using language. Each author certainly has his own style for giving influences to his readers.

In writing this research, the writer chooses one of the forms of literary works, that is, novel entitled *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Dumas as the object of the study. Novel is one of interesting and popular forms of literature. It entertains and enriches our experience of life. Novel may tell many things that

happen every day to ordinary people in ordinary places and it sets in the future. Kettle (1951:12) in *An Introduction to the English Novel* says that "A novel is living thing, all one 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". A novel is one of literary works that is the same as the living thing that can express and think of something as a part of the novel itself. Novel is a long story, written in prose that contains prose fiction and deals with truths, problem and conflict. It is written by an author as result of his imagination about human life.

The Count of Monte Cristo has a rich and complex plot, with multitude of characters. Most of the thematic concerns of the novel are centered around loyalty, revenge and subservience to God. To portray the conflict of man versus man in the central theme of revenge in *The Count of Monte Cristo*, Alexandre Dumas uses the element of plot and the parts of it including the rising action, climax, and falling action (Carcatterra, 2002). Although this novel has some moralistic values, it also displays what some consider being the true nature of man. Thus, vengeance and forgiveness, power and powerlessness are parts of themes in this novel. The power of revenge is found in every one of us, but we all have to know how to use it wisely.

Alexandre Dumas was one of the most famous French writers of the 19th century. He has written the classic adventure novels, entitled *The Three Musketeers*, *The Man in the Iron Mask* and *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Dumas got the idea of *The Count of Monte Cristo* from a true story, which he found in a memoir written by a man name Jacques Peuchet. The rest of the story is

dedicating to the count's pursuit of revenge against the enemies who imprison him. He destroys Danglars' fortune and makes him bankrupt; Monsieur Villefort is another archenemy of Dantes, being the chief magistrate who puts Dantes in jail for political and personal reasons. Villefort has an affair with Madame Danglars, which produces a baby whom he tries to get rid of by burying. In the end, Villefort's secret past is revealed and he is a shamed before the whole community. Fernand is a co-conspirator of Danglars, also responsible for Dantes' imprisonment. After Dantes is put in jail, Fernand marries Mercedes and they have a son name Albert. By the end of the story, Fernand's deeds in scandal drives him to suicide (www.sparknotes.com/lit/montecristo).

Finally, the writer is interesting in analyzing The Revenge of Edmond Dantes Reflecting His Suffering in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo* as the title in this writing. In addition, the reason of the writer to choose the title is to know about the causes of Edmond Dantes' suffering that changes his psychology. Further, he becomes avenger for his enemies. His revenge will give effects on the other characters' suffering.

1.2 The Statement of the Problem

When the writer begins to analyze the novel, the writer definitely searches some problems in order to complete the understanding. The strong tight between man's relationship to God and one another, man's sinful nature and greed, and man's ability to forgive and be forgiven are ways to prevent the hatred and revenge to other. There are two points as the problems in this writing, namely:

1. What are the causes of Edmond Dantes' revenge in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*?
2. What are the effects of Edmond Dantes' revenge on the other characters in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*?

1.3 The Objectives of the Problem

In order to achieve the perfection and to avoid more complex problems and focuses to focalize the discussion, it is important to have an object of the study. In this case, the aims of the study are as follows:

1. To clarify the causes of Edmond Dantes' revenge in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*.
2. To clarify the effects of Edmond Dantes' revenge on the other characters in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

1.4 The Limitation of the Problem

In this research the writer would like to focus her attention to analyze the causes of Edmond Dantes' revenge and the effects of Edmond Dantes' revenge on the other characters in order to avoid more complicate discussion and unimportant matter. Besides that, to make the readers understand them easily, the writer will also write about the meaning of each term in analysis *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

1.5 The Significance of the Study

Revenge is part of man's psychology. It appears because of an injury or offense. In *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, Hornby (1995:1006) says that, revenge is deliberate punishment or injury inflicted in return for what one has suffers. *The Count of Monte Cristo* shows the Edmond's revenge reflecting his suffering for fourteen years his imprisonment. His revenge gives many effects, especially bad effects toward the other characters. During his execution, he becomes greedy, having extra power and brilliant brain. In other word, he becomes the avenger differentiate with his former life. Thus, revenge is part of psychological conflict that makes the story to be alive.

This topic seems to be interesting to study. It is hoped that the result of this study contributes something valuable for the readers who want to understand deeply about this topic. In addition, hopefully this thesis can help other researchers who are interested in this topic.