

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is a works that is reflected from the social life, either based on the author's life experience or based on the social phenomenon that surrounds the author. According to Wellek & Warren (1954) literature is the implementation of social life and the reality of life that is used as an object obtained from society which is poured into works using language as a medium that are appointed by the author into a written work. It can be said that literature is an essay created by the author which comes from the life story of themselves and the author's environment. In addition, literary works can also be said to be illustrative products of all aspects of social life.

A writer who describes his life in making a work a reflection of the real life of the author usually lifts the story or events that occur in the story based on the story or life experience of the writer, aside from the life story of the writer, the writer can also raise the life stories of people who are around the author. To make the story look alive, the writer implements events in the story into the character, where the character will move the conflict in the story. Every character has a different role in the story, the difference of the character in the story will create different activities as a reflection of social life. Thus, the picture that reflected the life and social activities of the author as outlined in the characters is the meaning of a literary work.

In addition to the elements of the author and the characters in the story, literary works can also be an art and entertainment for the reader. A good work for every reader is the works that can make every reader hypnotized with stories made by the authors. Readers feel like entered into the story with each incident or event that is in the story. The reader does not to stop reading the story because they felt lulled with the stories presented by the author. Thus the work of literature is not considered only as an art and mere entertainment, but works of literature are able to provide the emotional needs for each fun, sadness, and tears and also gives positive values about morals, goodness, ugliness, and religion for every reader and can be implemented into everyday life. Positive values contained in the story is a reflection of everyday life.

A novel by Charles Dickens entitled *Oliver Twist* is a novel that discusses social life in 19th century London. *Oliver's Twist* is one of the most famous of the novels written by Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth on February 7, 1812. Charles Dickens was born to a poor family who was the second of 8 children. In 1827, the Dickens family lived in a city whose surroundings were poor, so that the life of the Charles Dickens family became increasingly difficult. When Charles Dickens was 12 years old, he had so much debt that he had to go to prison. After being released from prison Dickens had to drop out of school and decided to work as an employee to help earn for the family. However, unexpectedly, apart from being a novelist, Dickens also has a profession as a British journalist, editor, illustrator, and social commentator. Charles Dickens novels are classic novels that discuss social life in the Victorian era such as

Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, Nicholas Nickleby, David Copperfield, A Tale of Two Cities and Great Expectations. During his lifetime, his works enjoyed unprecedented popularity. He is now considered a literary genius as he created some of the world's most famous fictional characters and is considered the greatest novelist of the Victorian era. Great Expectations, published in serial form between December 1860 and August 1861 and as a novel in October 1861, is widely regarded as Dickens' greatest literary achievement. A novel by Charles Dickens entitled Oliver Twist, where the main character in this novel is Oliver Twist is one of the novels whose contents reflect social phenomena. This novel tells Oliver Twist received the name given by the director of the shelter. Oliver Twist is a story about poor people in London who got unfair treatment from the society. In his novel, Dickens wrote about the terrible conditions experienced by the people of London during the Victorian era. Especially among the children born in the Victorian era, many poor children were less fortunate and suffered until they were sent to shelters. One day Mr. Bumble met with Mr. Sowerberry a coffin maker. Mr. Bumble offered Mr. Sowerberry to employ Oliver Twist at his house, and the offer was accepted by Mr. Sowerberry. However, Oliver Twist got a bad treatment at Mr. Sowerberry's house from Mr. Sowerberry's wife and son, until one day Oliver Twist decided to run away from Mr. Sowerberry's house, and went to London. Oliver's trip to London introduced him to a boy named Jack, complete Jack Dawkins. Jack is a pickpocket who works all day for Fagin. Jack brings Oliver together to stay at Fagin's place. Fagin is an old, little thug boss. He had a very black, scary face.

In analyzing literary works there are many approaches that can be used by researchers such as archetypal, historical, psychological, and sociological and others. However, in analyzing the Oliver Twist novel, the researcher uses a sociological approach, because it is based on the social phenomena found from the Oliver Twist novel, so the sociological approach which is used to analyze literary works related to social aspects is very suitable for analyzing the Oliver Twist novel. There are several experts who put forward theories about sociology, but in this research, researchers used a sociological approach theory by Alan Swingewood. According to Swingewood (1972), Sociology is a science that studies the scientific and objective study of humans in society and their effects on humans, the study of social norms and social processes, which in sociology also includes how humans interact with each other, how humans work, how humans can survive. From the above description, it can be concluded that their process of how humans interact with each other between individuals, how they survive, and the traditions they adhere to.

“Mr. Sowerberry is a tall, thin, and tall man, he is tired in black, with cursed cotton, **he was a coffin maker**” (Dickens, p.7)

The bold sentence above proves that in this novel there is occupation such as coffin maker that related with Swingewood’s theory, where occupation is the part of first perspectives is social document. The researcher can see from the sentence “he was a coffin maker” There are several experts who put forward theories about sociology, but in this study, researchers used a sociological approach theory by Alan Swingewood. According to Swingewood (1972), Sociology is a science that studies the scientific and objective study of humans in society and their effects on humans, the study of social norms and social processes, which in sociology also includes how humans interact with each other,

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“Husbands look calm despite losing their wives. **Wives usually wear black during the funeral of their husbands, but they dress up and try to stay beautiful**”.(Dickens,p.29).

The quotation above proves that found social activities that can be seen from the bold sentence. The bold sentence describes that, where at funerals, wives usually wear black. The activity of wearing black clothes during the funeral is a social activity of the people in the city of London at that time, this is related to the theory of Swingewood which is the first perspective where there are social activities in the social document.

Novel *Oliver twist* has been used as an object of research with different studies, there are some of research that had been given much contributed in developing this research. The first journal was written by Persulesy (2018) entitled “Social values in Charles Dickens’s novel *Oliver Twist* from Advances in Language and Literary Studies”. Gaining an understanding of aspect of social values in the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens is the aim of this research, where this research is a qualitative type of research that uses content analysis methods. The researcher collected data from various document studies and observations about social norms in the novel. There are various social norms that found and discussed in *Oliver Twist* novel. The understanding of social values above is the result of this research.

The second journal was written by Wulandari (2019) entitled “Social Injustice Issues as Reflected in Charles Dickens’ *Oliver Twist*: Sociological

Approach". The purpose of this research is to find out social problems which constitute social injustice such as social inequality, discrimination and prejudice in the works of Charles Dickens. This research uses qualitative methods and approaches of literary sociology to analyze Dickens's work by exploring and analyze novel *Oliver Twist* as supporting data. The theories succeed in answering the problem in research, especially about social injustice. The final conclusion of this research is the fact that social injustice occurred during the Victorian era and that was illustrated by Dickens in his novel. Inequality of social inequality is depicted in character work, how they dress, material wealth, obesity, authority and the environment.

From the previous research above, the researcher found the differences with this research. Where, in the first journal analyze about social values in novel *Oliver Twist*, and second journal analyzed the social problem different with journal, where this journal analyzed the social activities and occupations in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens. Besides that, the researcher also found the similarity between this researches with the previous research above, which used the same novel is novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, and also used the same theory, theory of sociology by Alan Swingewood.

Thus, from the explanation above, there are several reasons why the researcher interested in making research on the *Oliver Twist* novel. The first reason is because the novel *Oliver Twist* was written by a famous novelist in the Victorian Era who was born in 1812 who has many works, namely Charles Dickens. he second reason is that the social life, social activities and social

conditions of the British Society in the 19th century are found in the novel *Oliver Twist*, and the last reason is that no research has used this research yet, which makes researchers increasingly interested in analyzing the novel *Oliver Twist*. In analyzed social activity and occupation as depicted in the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, this researcher uses the sociological approach of Alan Swingewood in his famous book entitled *The Sociology of Literature* as the main theory in this research.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the research above, the researcher identified several problems. This issue is related with sociological problem in human life, the identified of problem can be seen from the explanation below:

1. The social condition reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.
2. The social activities reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.
3. Occupations reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.
4. Poverty reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the issues found in the identification of problems above, this research is limited and studied into two categories, they are:

1. The social activities reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.
2. Occupations reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the researcher makes the problem formulation into two questions so that the analysis is more specific, the researcher makes the problem formulation as follows:

1. How are the social activities of British society in 19th century reflected in the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens?
2. How are the occupations of British society in 19th century reflected in the novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens?

1.5 Objective of the Research

In the objective of the research, researcher making answers based on the formulation of the problem made by the researcher above, the objectives of this study are:

1. To describe the social activities reflected in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.
2. To describe the occupations reflected in *Oliver Twist* novel by Charles Dickens.

1.6 Significance of the Research

There are two significants of this research, they are:

1. Theoretical significance

In terms of theory, the researcher hopes that the results of this study will support other research that uses sociological theory in analyzing social activities

and British occupation in the 19th century. Besides that, it is expected that this research can be used as emphasis to determine an approach to analyze the literary works from the sociology perspective. The last is to develop knowledge, particularly the literary studies in novel *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens.

2. Practical significance

In practice, the researcher hopes that this research can be utilized and useful for readers, especially for English Literature students who want to conduct research using a sociological approach. Hopefully this research is worthy enough to be a reference for those who research social activities and occupation in 19th century England. In addition, not only for students of English literature, the researcher also hopes that lecturers in the Department of English Literature can use this research as a learning material about social activities and occupation in England in the 19th century for students. In addition, this research is also expected to be a reference for further researchers who want to conduct research on this object.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

In order to have clear understanding of the terms used in this study, the researcher provides some definitions of the terms used in this study:

Social activities : is an activity carried out by a particular community or society, such as traditional ceremonies, religion, mutual cooperation and others with a specific purpose

Occupations : an activity carried out with a different profession which aims to be a source of livelihood to survive, such as farming, fishing, raising livestock, trading, etc.

Sociological Approach : An approach that studies society or studies human social life. Sociology is important in the scientific and objective study of people in society, the study of social institutions and social processes; it seeks to answer questions about how society might be, how it works, how it survives, Swingewood (1972).