

**SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OCCUPATIONS OF BRITISH  
SOCIETY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AS SEEN IN “GREAT  
EXPECTATIONS” BY CHARLES DICKENS:  
SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**THESIS**



**By:  
Yustini Stevany Nainggolan  
151210123**

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES  
PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY  
2019**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of  
Sarjana Sastra**



**By:  
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I, Yustini Stevany Nainggolan, NPM No. 151210123

Hereby declare that the term paper entitled:

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AND OCCUPATIONS OF BRITISH SOCIETY IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AS SEEN IN “GREAT EXPECTATIONS” BY CHARLES DICKENS: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

Is the real work of myself and I realize that thesis has never been published in other media before, partially or entirely, in the name of mine or others.

Batam, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2019

Yustini Stevany Nainggolan  
151210123

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**The thesis has been approved to be examined on the date as indicated below**

**Batam, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2019**

**Robby Satria, S.S., M.Hum.  
NIDN: 1001098503**

## **ABSTRAK**

*Penelitian ini membahas tentang kegiatan sosial dan pekerjaan masyarakat Inggris pada abad ke-19 seperti yang terlihat dalam "Harapan Besar" oleh Charles Dickens. Dalam menemukan hasilnya, peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Peneliti juga menggunakan metode penelitian dokumentasi sebagai metode pengumpulan data. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan analisis deskriptif dan metode informal dalam mempresentasikan hasil penelitian. Penelitian ini memiliki dua tujuan: yang pertama adalah untuk mengetahui bagaimana kegiatan sosial masyarakat Inggris di abad ke-19 dan yang kedua adalah untuk mengetahui pekerjaan masyarakat Inggris di abad ke-19 seperti yang terlihat dalam "Great Expectations". Untuk mencapai tujuan penelitian ini, penulis menerapkan teori Alan Swingewood dalam karyanya yang berjudul 'The Sociology of Literature'. Ada tiga perspektif dalam sosiologi sastra yang diajukan oleh Swingewood, tetapi peneliti menerapkan perspektif pertama. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Dari proses analisis data dapat ditemukan bahwa ada beberapa kegiatan sosial masyarakat Inggris mereka: pesta, kunjungan, minum teh dan juga ada beberapa pekerjaan mereka adalah: pendeta, pandai besi, dan Pengacara.*

**Kata Kunci:** *Kegiatan Sosial, pekerjaan, Pendekatan Sosiologis*

## **ABSTRACT**

This research discussed about the social activities and occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens. In finding the result, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. The researcher also uses documentation research method as the method of collecting data. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses descriptive analysis and informal method in presenting the result of the research. This research has two purposes: the first is to find out how the social activities of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century and the second is to find out occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations”. In order to achieve the goal of this research, the writer applied theory of Alan Swingewood in his work entitled 'The Sociology of Literature'. There are three perspectives in sociology of literature proposed by Swingewood, but the researcher applies the first perspective. This research is a qualitative research. From the process of data analysis results can be found that there are some of social activities of British society they are: party, visit, high tea and also there are some occupations they are: priest, blacksmith, and Lawyer.

**Keywords:** Social activities, Occupations, Sociological Approach

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

### **MOTTO**

**If you cannot do great things, do small things in a great  
way.**

### **DEDICATION**

**To my beloved mom and dad,  
Who always there for me  
And to my lovely brother  
Who always cheer me up.**



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151210123

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# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Literature is created from imagination or fantasy of a writer and also some of literature was born from social phenomena that are around and near to the author. Literature is a tool used by the author to express his point of view towards life. According to Warren & Wellek (1948), literature is a social institution, using language as a medium for the creation of social thought, which the author imitates life and social reality as objects that appear in society. It can be said that literature is a word of imagination created by authors who come from themselves and the environment around the author. Furthermore, literature can also be said as an illustration product from all aspects of social life.

Literary works are divided into five aspect, they are: novel, poem, prose, poetry, and drama. In this study, the writer chooses novel as the object of this study. Novel is one of the most popular forms of literary work in the world. Novel is the one type of literary work that can be inspire and also be loved by many people. Novel is imagination created about aspect of human. According to Warren & Wellek (1948), novel is mirror of the social life. It means that the novel is mostly defined as reflection of life or everything we find in real life. So from the above explanation it can be concluded that literary work, especially novels, will help us to understand about life, the environment, and culture.

The researcher chooses the novel as an object of analysis in this research. The chosen novel is a novel of “Great Expectations” that was written by Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens is a great writer and one of the famous writers from England in the 19th century. He was born in Portsmouth, England on February 07, 1812. In 1827, Charles Dickens had to quit school and work to provide income to the family and it is the first stage become the starting point of his journey in writing. After the long year, Charles Dickens wrote some novels such as “Oliver Twist”, “A Christmas Carol”, “Nicholas Nickleby”, “David Copperfield”, “A Tale of Two Cities” and the last is “Great Expectation”.

“Great Expectations” is one of the old novel. This novel was first published from 1860-1861. It means this story takes place in the 19th century in England. The British society called nineteenth century as the hard time for them because at the time England is in the Industrial Revolution. It also the time for social change which it has a relation to social and political issues. “Great Expectations” is a good novel because it tells about a man from a poor family after he was growing up he was thinking to change his life for the better. When his uncle offered a pip to wander into a town to be royalty and then he took that chance. On arrival in the city he received the money, the house and its power over time he can't maintain what has get it, he was beside himself and dissipate, he drink too much until one day the people who provide the money and the house was upset and angry because pip not used properly and all the facilities it finally stopped and immediately pip has a lot of debt as a result of behavior to dissipate them. Pip cannot pay all of it and his day

the people who provide the money and adopted father was the one who paid all the debts when once pip been forgotten with the adoptive.

There are various approaches that can be used in the literature, including, archetypal, historical, psychological Sociological and so on. In discussing this novel, the researcher uses sociological approach to analyze “Great Expectations” novel because sociological is used to describe the literary works related to social aspects. Sociology is used to analyze text and to know the structure that will be used in understanding social phenomena. One of the experts of sociological approach is Alan Swingewood. According to Swingewood (1972), “Sociology is essential the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, how it persists.” From explanation above, the author concludes that sociology is the study of social human beings and the process is objective and scientific society. Sociology seeks to find out how people develop, and how they live there and also with sociology, readers will get an idea of how people adapt to their environment.

The novel “Great Expectations” had previously been studied by Aliwu (2016) entitled “The influence of Social Stratification toward Pip in novel “Great Expectation” by Charles Dickens”, a student in Sam Ratulangi University of Manado. This study analyze about meaning of the social stratification and the influence of social stratification on Pip that gives some impacts to his life which change his personality and attitude. Her finding shows that the main character Pip change his personality and attitude. Her finding shows that the main character Pip

became a different person because of the influence of social stratification. The research analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses the novel “Great Expectations”. For the first reason is because the writer of this novel is Charles Dicken which at that time he was a famous author at the Victorian Era. The second reason is because the stories in this novel contain many sociological elements such as social life, social activities, social condition of the British Society in the 19th century, so it makes this novel become more interesting to analyze. This study, the researcher uses sociological approach by Alan Swingewood in his famous book entitled “*The Sociology of Literature*”

In conclusion, the researcher would like to analyze about the social activities and occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

After reading the novel “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens, the researcher find some interesting problems to be analyzed such as:

1. The social condition of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.
2. The social activities of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.
3. Occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.



4. Poverty of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.

### **1.3 Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the problems above, the researcher limits this research into two categories, they are:

1. The social activities of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.
2. Occupations of British society in nineteenth century in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.

### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

As the researcher mentioned the problems above, the researcher will make the analysis more specific and only focusing on two problems to be analyzed as below:

1. What are the social activities of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens?
2. What are the occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens?

### **1.5 Objective of the Research**

Related to the formulation of the problem above, the objective of the research are:

1. To describe the social activities of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.
2. To describe the occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century as seen in “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens.

### **1.6 Significant of the Research**

There are two significant of this research, they are:

#### **1. Theoretically**

This research helps the reader understand about social activities of British society. And also, this research will provide information on the issues of social activities and occupations of British society in nineteenth century. The last is to develop knowledge, particularly the literary studies on Charles Dickens in “Great Expectations” novel.

#### **2. Practically**

The researcher hopes that this study can provide development study of literature and can be useful for increasing the reader’s knowledge about literature. The writer expects that through this study, the student of Putera Batam University can use this research as their references for their research later on and able to explore more information or knowledge particularly in studying Charles Dickens’ in “Great Expectations” novel.

## 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 activity appropriate on social occasions or anything that brings members of a community together to interact like dancing, games, and street parties. The social activity is conceived here in a broad sense as an activity of associated individuals, as an activity which creates social reality, reshapes it and reshapes its conditions too.

**Occupations** : Someone who works or the main job or activity is the main thing that people do because it needs to be done. Work can also be interpreted as the main business of the life of someone who will get money such as teachers, doctors, police, etc.

**Sociological Approach** : An approach which is the study of society or study human social life. Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, how it persists. Swingewood (1972)

**CHAPTER II**

**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES AND THEORETICAL  
FRAMEWORK**

In this chapter, the writer presents and reveal literature related with sociological approach in order to support this analysis. The first thing is the theory that is used as the main theory for this research and the seconds is three perspectives from sociology of literature proposed by Alan Swingewood are used as the main theory for analyzing the sociological aspect in the story. In addition to presenting theory, this chapter will also reveal previous studies and theoretical frameworks.

**2.1 Sociology of literature**

Literature is a reflection of society. Trough literature, the author reveals the problem of life. The literary works received influence from society and also be able to make an impact on society. The author is usually influenced by the surrounding conditions or society that enables them to reveal the issues within society's life. What happens around the author will inspire his work so, it can be concluded that what the author's idea actually comes from the reality which happened in a real society. It can be concluded, literature and society cannot be separated because they have a strong relationship with each other. As literature is a reflection of society, so the analysis can be combined with other science field like sociology.

Generally, sociology is defined as the scientific study of society, more specifically human society. The word of sociology originally derived from Greek, socio means society and logos means science. Sociology can be defined as the science about the life of human groups in relation to other human beings or in the other words, sociology is the science of the whole human relationship that occurs in society. Sociology of literature is a specialized field of study that has a focus of attention on the relationship between literary work and the social structure in which it was created.

## **2.2 Sociological Approach**

According to Swingewood (1972), Sociology of literature is one of literary approach which can be applied in the study of literature work. The fact about the relationship between literature and society that is widely acknowledged is that literature exists as a mirror to the real life in social context. Therefore, there are some experts who developed many theories in analyzing relationships. The first is Max Weber's theory. Max Weber was a sociologist from Germany. He developed the social stratification into three forms, they are: class, status and power. On the other hand, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren divided their study of sociological literature into three kinds, sociological author, literary work and reader. Diana Laurensen and Alan Swingewood developed the theory where sociology of literature sees the literary work as three different things in reflecting the society. George Luckacs was from Hungaria also developed the concept of literary work as a mirror. Therefore, these developments of sociology of literature have been given a lot of contributions in terms of analyzing literary work.

### **2.3 Sociology of Literature by Alan Swingewood**

According to Swingewood (1972), "Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists." Swingewood stated that there are 3 perspectives in sociology of literature, which are literary work as an era's reflection when it is produced, as the author's mirror life and as a historical moment. The three perspectives see literary work in different angles but related in one common thing, society.

There are three major principles of sociological perspectives according to Swingewood ( as cited in Wahyudi, 2013), they are:

1. Sociology of Literature views the literary works as social document which has the reflection of the situation when the work was written.
2. Sociology of Literature views the literary work as the mirror of author's social condition.
3. Sociology of Literature views the literary works as historical moment.

The first perspective sees the literary works as written social document which means all of the things that happened and reflected in the written work that are related to society are covered within this perspective. On the other hand, the second perspective sees through the author's social condition that influenced the story of their written work. Meanwhile, the third perspective took all of the historical moments which reflected in the written work to be analyzed. These three perspectives can be used in analyzing literary works that are mostly written with social context. In this research, The researcher applies the first perspective that

views the literary work as social document which have the reflection the work was written.

### **2.3.1 Literature as Social Document**

According to Swingewood ( as cited in Wahyudi, 2013), literature is social documents that can be used to see a phenomenon in society at that time. Based on the definition above, Swingewood made the first perspective, literature as social document which has the reflection of the situation when the work was written. Swingewood placed literary works as a reflection of various aspects of social structure, family relations, class conflicts, other trends that might emerge. From this explanation, it can be concluded that literature is a social document. It reflects the various aspects of society. Literature is considered as a social document because what is written in literature is a reflection of society itself or what is written, that's what happened at that time. What we see in literature is an accurate image of what we see in real life.

From the three perspectives above, the researcher applies the first perspective that views the literary work as social document which have the reflection the work was written. The reason why the writer doesn't apply the second and third perspectives because in this study will analyze about social conditions and occupations while the second perspective analyze about literature as the mirror of author and the third perspective, this perspective is influenced by the historical event. From the above explanation, can be concluded that both perspectives cannot be applied in this research but the first perspective can be applied because in the first perspective can analyze such as status, marriage, occupation, social conditions,

etc. The author chose this theory because of the interrelationship of the problem analyzed in this study are about social activities and occupations in British society in nineteenth century, so this research match to the theory of Alan Swingewood from the first perspective.

#### **2.4 Previous Research**

The researcher uses some people works which has the related topic with the topic that going to be discussed as comparison and references. The previous research has been done by some of researchers. The first research is written by Wijayanto (2009) entitled *The Representation of Charles Dickens' Life as Reflected in Pip "Great Expectations."* The purposes of his study are to find out how Pip as the main character in the novel and how the character of Pip represent Charles Dicken life. The writer uses biographical approach as the approach of the study. This biographical approach able to help the writer making analysis which has a relation with the author's biography. The point of this research is the writer finds some similarities between Pip's and Charles Dickens' life which ensures the writer that dickens' life has a big chunk in influencing his works. Both are lonely child and they are also have a big debt. Actually, most of experience are sad experiences and this kind of experiences really influences Dickens in writing the novel "Great Expectations."

The second previous research is written by Wulandari (2009) entitled *Struggle for Life in "Great Expectations" novel by Charles Dickens; Psychoanalytic Approach.* The aim of the research are to analyze the structural



element and to analyze the character of Pip based on psychological perspective. In this research, the writer uses psychoanalytic approach and use the theory of Sigmund Freud. The writer analyzes the whole of the novel and all facts dealing with Pip's personality. The result of this research shows that the first is in structural analysis, the structural elements of Great Expectations novel is connecting to each other. The second is the psychoanalytic analysis shows that problem of the major character are dominated by superego.

The third research is a journal by Muhadi ( 2014) entitled *Social Criticism of Bob Dylan's Song Lyrics: A Sociological Study of Literature*. The research aims to show visible image of Bob Dylan's song lyrics which are analyzed by using a sociology of literature by Alan Swingewood. The method that the writer uses to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. The result of this research is the writer found that in his lyrics, Bob Dylan reflects the social society of the America since the sixties in which the American society experienced a big change socially and culturally.

The forth research is a journal by Liouo (2016) entitled *The Analysis of Pip's Characteristics in Great Expectations* from Sichuan University of Arts and Science. This journal analyze about the reasons for the formation of Pip's character and also the reasons for development of Pip's character. The result of this research is the reasons Pip's characteristic was really changing after he met Miss Estella and also The changes of social environment are great changes happening inside of Pip.

The fifth research is written by Adawiyah (2015) entitled *Racism Against African American Slave in Solomon Northup's Twelve Years A Slave*. The purpose of this research to find forms of racism against African American slave as reflected as reflected in Solomon Northup's *Twelve Years A Slave*. The writer uses sociological approach by Alan Swingewood which contains the first and second perspectives that fit the novel while also using Giddens' theory for its racism form. The result of this research is the forms of racism against African American slave namely discrimination, prejudice, segregation, and violence.

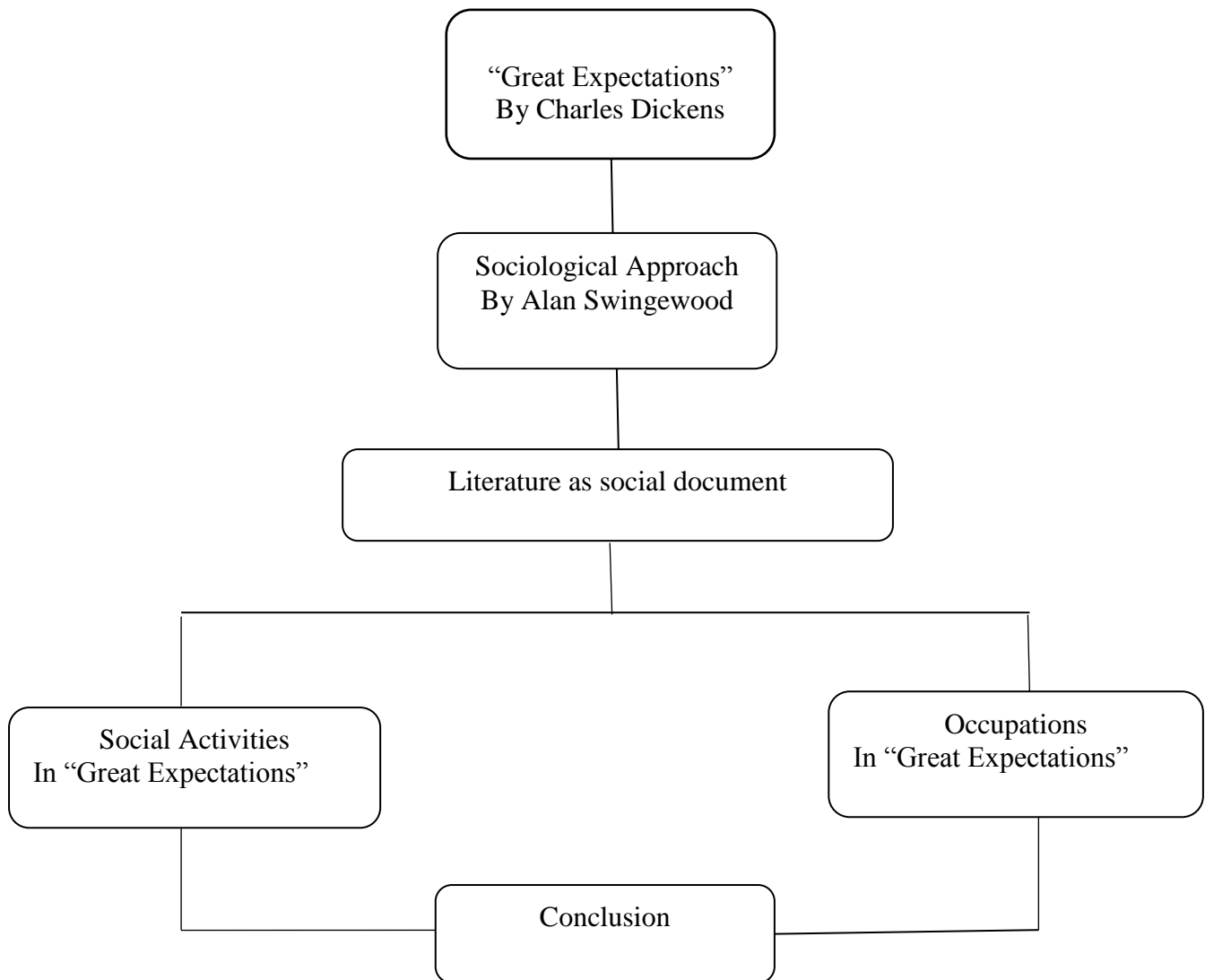
Based on the explanation above, the research find some researches that analyze "Great Expectation" but using a different approach. In the first previous research, the researcher found the similarities and differences. The similarities are the researcher uses the novel "Great Expectations" as the object of the research and also using the same method of collecting data and the differences is she using biographical approach while the researcher using sociological approach. In the second previous research, the similarities are the researcher uses the novel "Great Expectations" as the object of the research and the differences is she using psychoanalytic approach while the researcher using sociological approach. The third research meanwhile got the data to analyzed from Bob Dylan's song lyrics which is a total different take to the current research, but both using the same sociological theory by Alan Swingewood. The last research has similarities by using sociological approach and a different source of data which is "Twelve Years A Slave" by Solomon Northup while the researcher using "Great Expectations". From the description on the similarities and differences above, can be concluded

that this research is different and new regarding to the use of different theory and the source of the data.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

Theoretical framework in this research begins with the novel “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens which is published on 1860-1861. In this novel, the researcher analyses the social activities and occupations of British society in 19<sup>th</sup> century by using Sociological Approach proposed by Alan Swingewood. There are three types of social activities that found in the story of “Great Expectations” they are: party, visit and high tea.

Figure 2.1



## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METODOLOGY**

In a study, it is important for a writer to specify his or her method of research. Therefore, this chapter describes about the methodology of the research which is applied by the writer. It contains research design, method in the collecting the data, method of analyzing the data, and the way of presenting the result analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Research design is used to collect and analysis the data in order to answer the formulation of the problem in this research. According to Creswell (2009)“research design are plans and the procedures for research that span the decisions from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection and analysis.” In other words, research design is methods and procedures used in collecting and analyzing measures of the variables specified in the research problem research.

This research was design as qualitative research because the main data is described in word or sentences not numerals. Creswell (2009) stated that, “qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or group ascribe to a social or human problem. Descriptive qualitative research was applied in this research because the data was not describe by number but used the words and sentences. The data in this research

took from “Great Expectations” novel and describe in words form as descriptive.

### **3.2 Object of the Research**

According to Creswell (2009), object of the research is a statement of intent for the study that declares specific goals that the investigator plans to achieve in a study. It means object of the research is the the point that analysed by the researcher. In this research, object of the research is social activities and occupations of British society in the novel “Great Expectations”. This novel was published in December 1860-August 1861 which consisted of 544 pages. “Great Expectations” was written by Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812 in Portsmouth, England ”Great Expectations” is a popular novel among readers until now and the novel received near universal acclaim.

### **3.3 Method of Collecting Data**

Method of data collection is the techniques are used by researcher to collect data. Document study is the method of collecting data through the activity of collecting the writing works, pictures, and soon (Sugiyono, 2009). In this study, the researcher used the method of documentation. However, in this study the writer obtained data documentation from the novel “Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens to do research.

There were some steps that the researcher did in collecting dat

1. The researcher reads the whole story of the novel “Great Expectations” for several times

2. Marking the lines to the text that shows the data about social activities and occupations.
3. After reading the novel, the researcher then collected all of the data from the novel "Great Expectations" about social activities and occupations.
4. The last step is making conclusion toward data analyzed.

### **3.4 Method of Analyzing Data**

Because this research is a qualitative descriptive, the researcher uses intrinsic and extrinsic ways to analyze "Great Expectations" novel. According to (Abrams, 1999), a work of literature as something which stands free from what is often called "extrinsic" relations to the poet, or to the audience, or to the environing world. The first step is the researcher analyze intrinsic elements, they are plot, characters, point of view, setting and theme. The extrinsic that is the researcher wants to analyze is social activities and occupations of British society by using Alan Swingewood theory.

There are several stages in analyzing data as follows:

1. The data that have been collected is sorted before being analyzed.
2. Reviewing the data by connecting related with sociology of literature theory by Alan Swingewood.
3. After that, the data are analyzed associated with the formulation of the problems.
4. The researcher draws the conclusions of the outcome of the analysis.

### **3.5 Method of Presenting Research Result**

This research presented the result of the research by using informal method. Informal presentation method are analysis of research data presented by using words or sentences. Qualitative research is framed by using words (Creswell, 2009). This method presents by using the words or sentences. The data is reported qualitatively, which means that the research is conveyed by using the form of words or paragraph to deliver the research. This research, the researcher applied descriptive qualitative or informal method as a presenting of the results of the research because the result was not describe by number but used the words and sentences.