

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Abuse has the same meaning as to misuse, to put the wrong or bad use, to do wrong to, injure, dishonor, violate, deceive, maltreating, defilement, impose on take undue advantage of abuse also define as improper treatment or employment, improper use or application misuse a corrupt practice custom (Thatcher: 1980). According to Walter, abuse is omission that may cause actual physical or emotional harm or injury for patient or act which willfully a patient of his right. There are two kinds of abuse; they are emotional abuse and physical abuse. Emotional abuse consists of verbal abuse (vocal or written behavior that causes excessive or chronic shame, guilt, fear or confusion in the receiver) and physical abuse (intentional or thoughtless behavior that causes significant physical harm or pain to a dependent or helpless receiver (www.sfhelp.org/01/abuse.htm.35k).

From the definition above, the researcher concludes that abuse is acts both emotionally and physically done by someone to cause other people ill, injury, and suffer. The weak people are abused by the power in all aspects such as economic aspect, social aspect, and physical aspect. The dependence of the people who are weak causes that. Therefore, the people in power have opportunity to force the people who are weak. It means that to do abuse, people must have power. Power is ability to control and provide something that the

person depend on, and cannot provide easily for themselves (www.sfhelp.org/01/abuse.htm.35k).

The word “power” stems from the Spanish word “poder” and the French word is “pouvoir” both words mean “to be able” and this meaning reflects on the meaning of English word “power” which means more potential or capacity. Sociologist defined power as the ability to impose ones desire on the others, although the other resists in some way ([en.wikipedia.org/wiki/power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/power_(sociology)) (sociology)-43k).

Power is the capacity to influence others who are in a state of dependence. It means that power is the capacity to influence the behavior of others, the target is people who depend on them, and power can flow in any direction or organization. (www.csupomono.edu/~msharifzadeh/mhr318/power.htm.81k). According to Max Weber (in Allyn; 2002) power is opportunity existing within a social (relationship) which permits one to carry out one’s own will even against resistance and regardless of the basis on which this opportunity rests.

According to Lord Acton (in Lopa; 2001). Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely. In this condition, the people in power will over others in order to be exist and more powerful. Therefore the weak people are always abused by the power.

From explanation above, the researcher can conclude that power is an ability, opportunity, and capacity to influence someone where other people depend on him or her. It means that the people in power have ability,

opportunity, and influence to force others especially the people depended on them for their business. In this condition, powerful people will have absolute authority.

In fact, many people in power abuse the people in a weak. That can be caused by the influence they have to the other people. The weak is always dependent on the power economically and physically. People in power have authority to do, as they want. Power will exploit the weak for their business. It's related to the oppression of the power to the weak.

Oppression and literary work have the same subject and that is human. Literary work is a picture of human life. It concerns with the social condition caused by the act of people. There are two classes the society. They are power and weak. The people in power tend to abuse the people who are weak because the weak are always dependent to the power. Power abuse is related to the Marxist. Power Abuse is acts both emotionally and physically done by people who have opportunity, ability to make independent people ill, injury, and suffer. Marxist studies about the oppression and Marxist can be used to analyze literary work. It can be said that Marxist and literary works are always closely related. Marxist helps to clarify some literary problems and literature presents insight to society.

Power abuse can be used as subject in literary work because power abuse is related to the oppression of power to the weak. In literary works, especially novel, usually the author only raises the problem about conflict of the

major character. One of the authors using this theme in their novel is Charles Dickens.

Charles Dickens is one of the famous authors in the world. He has produced many literary works. Charles Dickens was born on February 7, 1812 in Portsea, England. Dickens spent his early childhood in London and in Chatham when he was 12 years old. His father was imprisoned for debt, and Charles was compelled to work in a blacking warehouse. At 17 years old, he was a court stenographer, and later he was an expert parliamentary reporter for the *Morning Chronicle*. In 1836 he married Catherine Hogarth, who died young, and life long friendship with another sister, Georgina Hogarth. He was died in June 9, 1870 at the age of sixty-eight. Dickens used his novels to examine problems he saw in the society in Victorian period.

Charles Dickens's novels are easy and pleasant to read. His novels among others are *Oliver Twist* (1837), *Nicholas Nickleby* (1838, 17), *Christmas Carol* (1843), *David Copperfield* (1849), *Hard Times* (1854), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859), and *Great Expectation* (1860).

One of Charles Dickens's works that is related to power abuse is *David Copperfield*. *David Copperfield* is published in the first time in 1850 and this is a Wordsworth edition. This novel gets response from the readers and was read by all levels. Beside that, this novel has unique story. It can be seen from the plot, theme, and conflict, which occur in this novel. This novel has 745 pages, and it has 64 chapters.

David Copperfield tells about the growing-up of a boy who is orphaned at an early age, and then forced to work under appalling conditions in a London warehouse. This is a marked contrast to his idyllic early childhood. Before his mother's re-marriages and death, David's life improves greatly when he runs away from his job to seek out his aunt. Betsey Trotwood, she sends him to school and arranges for him to board with kindly lawyer, Mr. Wakefield, whose daughter, Agnes proves to be a good friend to David. When his education is completed, David is articled in law and meets Dora, whom he loves passionately and marries. Dora died when she gave birth to her baby. After Dora dies, David turned to Agnes to comfort and then married to her.

In this work, Charles Dickens tells about the abuse, the weak, and helpless. The weak and helpless are continually exploited by the powerful. In the industrial society setting, Dickens focuses on women, orphans and mentally handicapped to emphasize the abuse by those powers. Dickens draws on his own experience as a child to describe the inhumanity of child labor and debtors' prison. David starves and suffers in a wine, bottling factory as a child. It's his guardian; Mr. Murdstone can exploit David as factory labor because the boy is too small and dependent on him to disobey. Like wise, the boys at Salem house have no resource of their natural parents suffer at the hands of their own supposed protectors.

Through the descriptions above, the researcher employs Marxist theory, particularly Marx' s perspective to reveal the main character's problem because the theory is connected with the problems being discussed. By this theory, the

writer can get the maximal result. So the researcher constructed the title:
POWER ABUSE IN CHARLES DICKENS'S *DAVID COPPERFIELD*:
MARXIST APPROACH.

B. Literary Review

The researcher did not find the other writer researched this novel. This novel has not been studied before, so this research is the first research in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or Sebelas Maret University. This research is also the first research in Solo region conducting a study on 'Power abuse in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*: Marxist approach".

The researcher takes Marxist approach to reveal the power abuse of *David Copperfield* as a central character in the novel *David Copperfield*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is 'How the power abuse is portrayed in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*?'

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is how the power abuse in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield* is viewed by Marxist perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel in term of its structural elements
2. To analyze the novel based on the Marxist perspective

F. Benefit of the Study

By presenting this research paper, the writer hopes that there will be some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is aimed to give additional information to literature research especially those dealing with Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study can develop the writer's skill and ability in applying the Marxist approach in Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

In this research, the researcher uses the qualitative research in the form of literary work. Qualitative research does not need a statistic to explore the facts, so it does not include any conclusion and enumeration.

2. Type of the data and the data source

a. Type of the Data

The type of data in this research is text, which consists of words, phrases, and sentences.

b. The Data Sources

In doing the study, the researcher uses two sources of data. The primary data source is Charles Dickens's *David Copperfield*. The secondary data are taken from other source, which are related to the primarily data such as author's biography. Some books of psychology, some books about social problem, and website is related to this research.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting is library research. There are some techniques of data collection as follows:

- a. Reading and learning the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification
- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzing data

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher employs descriptive analysis in which the researcher identifies power abuse of major character in Charles Dickens's novel using Marxist perspective.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research is divided into five chapters. Chapter I deal with the background of the study, literary review, and problem statement, Limitation of

the study, benefit of the study, research of the methodology, and research paper organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory consist of notion of Marxist, Major principle of Marxist perspective, and the theory of structural element and theoretical application. Chapter III deals with social background of the England society in the Victorian period consist of social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, Science technological progression, educational progression, philosophy, and religion. Chapter IV deals with structural element consists of characters and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, style, and discussion. Chapter V deals with Marxist analysis consists of dialectical materialism, historical materialism, alienation, class struggle, revolution, and discussion. Chapter VI deals with the conclusion and suggestion.