

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Literature is sometimes as anything written. Everybody knows that literary work can be in written form and in oral form (Barnet, 1963: 1). According to Robert Frost in Barnet (1963: 1), literature is a performance in words because it includes oral literature. For example, a poetry that are recited and a musical drama that is covered by song. It has an element of entertaining display to afford pleasure for the audience (Barnet, 1963: 1). Particularly, the varieties of the literature are novel, poetry and drama.

Novel is one of kind of literary work that the authors produce based on their imagination or reality that is happening or has happened around them. There are many cases that can inspire the authors to produce a novel. One of those cases is the events that occur in society, as what Endraswara (2003: 78) said that literary work is a reflection of society.

Society is a people of fashion or distinction in place, district, country, etc (Hornby, 1987: 819). It is filled by different behavior, thought, custom, social class, etc. One case that is always on surface is social class. It is not surprising that there are different social classes in society. As happening in Indonesia, upper

class, middle class, and low class fill the homogenous of society. If different social class background cannot be controlled, they can arise discrepancy social. Many problems occur because of discrepancy social, such as the mill-owners treat their worker arbitrarily because of having authority, social jealousy, and being egoistic toward others. These problems may inspire the authors to produce literary work. One of authors who is attracted by the events of society is Elizabeth Gaskell.

Elizabeth Gaskell was born in 1810 as Elizabeth Stevenson to a former Unitarian Minister as his youngest daughter in London. After the loss of her mother at the age of one, she was brought up by her aunt, Hannah Lamb, who lived in Kutsford, a country town on the suburb of Manchester. Elizabeth shared her father's religious beliefs and attended the local Unitarian chapel and taught Sunday school. At the age of eighteen, Elizabeth's brother, John Stevenson was lost at sea. The news devastated her father and he went into deep depression that he would never awake from. Elizabeth returned to her father's household in London where she nursed him until his death in 1829 ( , 2006: 2).

A distant relative, William Turner, a Unitarian Minister in Newcastle, invited Elizabeth to live with his family. Elizabeth's was deeply influenced by Turner's religious beliefs and charitable works. On a visit to Turner's daughter, who lived in Manchester, Elizabeth met William Gaskell, a minister at their local Unitarian chapel. They quickly developed a close friendship and were married on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1832. Most of William Gaskell's parishioners were textile workers and Elizabeth was deeply shocked by the poverty she witnessed in Manchester.

Elizabeth, like her husband, became involved in various charity works in the city. She also started writing a novel that attempted to illustrate the problems faced by people living in industrial towns and cities ( , 2006: 2).

Elizabeth Gaskell had written many novels. *Mary Barton* (1848), which was written in the effort to forget her grief, marked her debut as a novelist. Gaskell would write 48 works including *Ruth* in 1853, *North and South* in 1855, *Silvia's Lovers* in 1863, *Wives and Daughter* in 1866, and approximately forty shorter fictions such as *Cranford* (1853) and *Cousin Philis* (1863). In her books Gaskell expressed a deep sympathy for the poor and suggested the need for large scale reform. Gaskell also wrote an acclaimed biography of Charlotte Bronte. This also created controversy and some allegedly libellous statements had to be removed before *The Life of Charlotte Bronte* could be published. Elizabeth Gaskell died in 1865. (Jonathan, 2006: 1).

*Mary Barton* is one of the greatest classic novels. It was published in 1848. This novel brought the miserable living conditions of working poor to the public's attention. The miserable living condition of working class is a result of industrial revolution. Gaskell portrayed poverty that been experienced by working class because there were many unemployment. Whereas the mill-owners did not pay much attention to the condition of their worker so that it developed the working class movement to struggle their life.

When *Mary Barton* was first published in 1848, it was criticized by Manchester mill-owners. Half the masters (mill-owners) were angry with Elizabeth Gaskell. Gaskell's novel shocked Victorian society, however it was

admired by other writers and she began to associate with Charles Dickens, William Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, and George Elliot. (Jonathan, 2006: 1).

Gaskell's reputation as a novelist comes to rest largely on her other, less contribution, writings. Only in recent decades has the range and depth of her talent begun to be explored in ways that allow two works to stand among the great novels of the nineteenth century (Jonathan, 2006: 1).

The writer is interested in analyzing this novel by using sociological approach because this novel is a portray of social condition of England during industrial revolution. Based on the explanation above the writer chooses **THE INFLUENCE OF ENGLISH SOCIETY ON ELIZABETH GASKELL'S MARY BARTON: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH** as a title.

## **B. Literature Review**

*Mary Barton* is one of novels written by Elizabeth Gaskell. As long as the researcher knows, there is no research has been conducted to study the novel among the students of Muhammadiyah University, Sebelas Maret University of Solo, and University of Jogjakarta.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem in this research is "What is the influence of English Society on Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*?".

#### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher will focus on the analysis of English society in the early nineteenth century as reflected in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*.

#### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novels, by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, and theme.
2. To analyze the novel based on the Sociological perspective, by identifying social background of the early nineteenth century English society.

#### **F. Benefits of the Study**

By researching Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*, two benefits can be gained:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The benefit of the study is expected to give contribution to the larger body in knowledge particularly studies in Elizabeth Gaskell's *Mary Barton*.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study helps the writer to get more understanding in literary field and gives reference to the other researchers in analyzing this novel using different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

Type of the study is qualitative study.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The type of the data is text that consists of words, phrases, and sentences.

The data sources in this study are literary data, which are divided into two categories: primary data sources and secondary data sources.

- a. The primary source is the novel *Mary Barton* by Elizabeth Gaskell published in 1994.
- b. The secondary source includes books and other resources that support the analysis, such as research paper, research approach books and internet websites.

### **3. Method of the Data Collection**

The data collection is done through documentation or library research. Some steps of collecting the data are:

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes or information in both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several part based on its classification
- e. Developing the data analysis and content analysis

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In this research the technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis. The analysis is started from the author and his work and then the structural analysis of the novel and finally the Sociological analysis of the literary work.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper consists of six chapters. The first chapter is the Introduction, which explains the Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Problem Limitation, Objectives of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Method and Research Paper Organization. The second chapter is dealing with Underlying Theory which consists of the Notion of Sociology on Literature, Major Principles, and Theoretical Application. The third chapter contains the Social Background of the English Society in the Nineteenth Century. The fourth chapter is Structural Analysis, which consists of the Analysis of the Structural Elements of the Novel and Discussion. The fifth chapter is Sociological Analysis of the novel and the last chapter is Conclusion and Suggestion.