CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Sense and Sensibility is a 2008 British television serial adapted by the BBC from Jane Austen’s novel with the same title. It was written by Andrew Davies and directed by John Alexander and starring by Hattie Morahan, Charity Wakefield, David Morrissey, and Dan Stevens. The serial was aired on BBC One in three parts on 1, 6 and 13 January 2008. It aired the United States in two parts on PBS’s "Masterpiece" series on 30 March and 6 April 2008. In Germany and France it was aired on 6 March 2009 on ARTE. Sense and Sensibility is a major critical success. The setting of this film took place on several sites on location in Surrey, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Devon, the film runtime is 180 minutes, released in VCD. The series was penned by Andrew Davies, the writer of a number of highly acclaimed BBC costume-dramas including Pride and Prejudice and Bleak House.

Sense and Sensibility movie is directed by John Alexander, an American Director and screen play by Andrew Davies. John Alexander is better as the maker of scientific and adventure film. He directed some movies such as Small Island (2010), Survivors (2008), Life on Mars (2006), Teachers (2002) and the other.
Sense and Sensibility is a story of two young sisters on a voyage of burgeoning sexual and romantic discovery. They are Elinor Dashwood and Marianne Dashwood. Actually, they belong to high class family, but after their dad dies, they are forced to live in poverty. According to the law in England, a daughter only gets small income than man. They are children from the second wife. So, wealth of their father is given to his son by first wife, John. They cannot do anything because if they move to another place they only have small income.

Elinor is attracted to Edward Ferrars, a charming and polite man, but his mother prohibits him to marry with poor girl like Elinor. While, Marianne, she is attracted with Willoughby, a philandering man who charms Marianne’s heart, but he left Marianne to marry with other girl for money. Meanwhile Edward lies Elinor, actually he has saved the secret engagement with Lucy during four years. Both of young sisters are left by their boy friend because they are not rich girls.

The good acceptance does not only come from the viewer, but also from the film expert. David Billen of The Times praised writer Andrew Davies’ decision to "daringly the dark, palpitating heart of a novel too easily mistaken for a how-to manual on how to choose a man". He also called David Morrissey's performance was excellent. Nancy Banks-Smiths of The Guardian also picked up on the sexual overtones of Davies' script, She said “Watching how the one instance of sexual in sense and sensibility
and given it due prominence because it shown before the opening movie” and She praised the series as "a charmingly domestic and spontaneous treatment of the story". In *The Independent* Thomas Sutcliffe praised the casting decisions, pointing out Mark Williams performance in particular as simply on to the screen. Because of good acceptance not only from the viewer but also from the film expert, *Sense and sensibility* was three nominated for three academic award including nominated Best Original Television Music, Best Outstanding Costume Design in a Miniseries or TV Movie, Best Outstanding Cinematography for a Miniseries or Movie - Sean Bobbitt and Best Outstanding Music Composition for a Miniseries, Movie or Special (Original Dramatic Score). (http://www.bafta.org/awardsdatabase.html).

Besides the good responses, *Sense and sensibility also* gets some negative responses. In the US, Gina Bellafante of *The New York Times* called the serial "lush and tidy" but this story given with "a certain eroticism". She also found Hattie Morahan "disadvantaged" in the role of Elinor Dashwood, and that the role of the sisters in the story had in general been "downgraded". While according Brian Lowry of *Variety*, he said that this movie given labeled the series a "leisurely adaptation" and found the acting uniformly "splendid", although acknowledging the "thematic repetitiveness" of Austen's works to be a weakness in PBS' tight scheduling of their *The Complete Jane Austen Collection* season. (http://www.bafta.org/awardsdatabase.html).
Sense and Sensibility is an interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is character both of young sisters who are different character. Hattie Morahan as Elinor is a girl who is very rational, calm and principled. She is respectable girl and always concerns of others interest above her own benefits. She thinks straight and uses her brain more than her heart. It is portrayed when, her heart is broken but it is not shown to other people. While her younger sister Charity Wakefield as Marianne, she is portrayed passionate and emotional girl who characterizes the term sensibility. She does what she feels correct and believes that a person shall fall in love once in their entire lifetime.

The second aspect is setting of this movie. This movie is adapted from the Jane Austen’s novel with the same title in nineteen century. This setting of this movie took place on several sites on location in England. So, this movie also uses setting as the society in England in nineteen century. This movie shows how the condition, tradition and the way of people’s behaviorism at the time. So, the audience can know the life of society in England at nineteen century.

The third is Plot. The plots in this movie are unpredictable, it can be shown when the most audience predicts that Marianne will marry with Willoughby but in the ending of story she marries with Colonel Brandon. On the other hand, the treason of Edward is never predicted by Elinor before. This movie uses forward plot so although the story is easier to
understand but difficult to predict it. So, it makes the audience become interested to follow the story until finish.

The last is the oppression against the poor which is reflected in *Sense and Sensibility* it is one of appealing aspects that is interesting to be studied. John Alexander, the director, wants the audience to underline that the oppression the poor happened in nineteen century. The society in this century, consider the poor girl is prohibited to marry with a man from high class. It shows the oppression of the poor’s right as human being. Besides that, the people think that the poor can be oppressed easily; the people can offend and do anything as their want.

Based on the explanation above, the writer will observe *Sense and Sensibility* by using Marxist Criticism. So the writer takes a title:

**OPPRESSION AGAINST THE POOR IN JOHN ALEXANDER’S *SENSE AND SENSIBILITY* (2008): A MARXIST CRITICISM.**

B. Literature Review

The writer finds previous research on *Sense and Sensibility* novel conducted by Maria Irvania Avian (2004), Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta student entitled “Jane Austen’s World View in *Sense and Sensibility* : A Genetic Structuralism Approach”. In her research paper, she investigated Jane Austen’s world view toward the concept of marriage.
Other researcher is Inayah Mala Hayati (2004), University Muhammadiyah Student too. In her research entitled “A Comparison between The Novel and The Movie Version of Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*”, she compared the structural elements of the novel and the movie version.

The differences between the writer and two previous writers are the theme and the perspective. Maria Irvania writes about world view of Jane Austen by using Genetic Structuralism Approach and Inayah Mala writes the differences about structural elements the novel and the movie version of Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility*, while the writer analyzes the oppression against the poor in *Sense and Sensibility* movie by using Marxist Criticism.

C. Research Problem

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement, the major problem is how the Oppression against the poor is reflected in John Alexander’s *sense and sensibility* (2008) viewed by Marxist perspective.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is how the Oppression against the poor John Alexander’s *sense and sensibility* (2008) viewed by Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are described as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.

2. To analyze the film based on Marxist approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

There are two benefits of the study:
1. Theoretical Benefit

Theoretically the result of the study contributes to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary study.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the writer and to get deeper understanding about the movie and how to use Marxist theory in analyzing a literary work.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The kind of this research is descriptive qualitative research. The main reason is because the writer just collects the data, analyses them and then draws conclusion. Descriptive qualitative research is a research which the data are in the form of written and oral words that are descriptively analyzed. It consists of exactly data and library research that merely focuses on the analysis of textual data. The writer also applies Marxist approach.

2. Object of the Study

The writer takes Sense and Sensibility (2008) as the object of the study. This film is directed by John Alexander and published in UK.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

A. Type of Data
The data of this research are text and image of *Sense and Sensibility* movie (2008). The text consists of words, phrases and sentences while image consist of the picture of the actor and scene that show setting (place and time) of the movie.

B. Data Sources

While the data source, there are two sources namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the text of film *Sense and Sensibility* (2008) directed by John Alexander and the writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from books or internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

There are some techniques of data collection:

1. Watching the film several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
2. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
3. Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
4. Capturing of image from the film.
5. Classifying the data into categories.
6. Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer employs descriptive qualitative analysis. Descriptive qualitative research is a research which the data are in the form of written and oral words that are descriptively analyzed. Here, the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the film and Marxist analysis. Hence, the collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through Marxist approach. In this case, it is by showing the oppression of the poor to Elinor (Hattie Morahan) as the major character of this story viewed by Marxist approach.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make the research is easier to follow; the research paper is organized into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist approach; it covers nature of Marxism, major principles and theoretical application. The third chapter is the social background of United Kingdom in the twenty first century; it deals with social, economical, educational, religious, political, science and technological aspects. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The researcher describes the structural elements of the film Sense and Sensibility and discussion. The fifth chapter presents the Marxist analysis and discussion related to the problem of
the novel. Finally, the sixth chapter is the last one, integrating the overall discussion, and bringing it to the conclusion of the study and also the suggestion of the researcher.