CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is an expression of human experience through their imagination. Basically literature is a work of creative text, but literature is not only about the whole of text which has story and meaning. Literature also reflects the life of society in such of period of time. Swingewood (1972) said that sociology is the scientific and objective study about people in society, it is also study about some institutions and social processes. There are many kinds of literary work, such as novel, drama, poetry, epic, and movie.

Hypocrisy is one of the characters of human which does not coming up naturally. Hypocrisy can be defined as a pretense of having a virtuous character, moral or religious beliefs or principles that one does not really possess. In a monarchy society, especially in the Victorian society, most of people received hypocrisy as a tool that is used with some people to build and maintain their image and their social strata. It is clearly that social circumstance has the influence to the social behavior. Burgess and Bushell (in Ritzer, 1980: 151) defined that socialization as an interactional process whereby an individual’s behavior is modified to conform to the rules or standards of the groups to which he belongs. Recognition of the society is the influential thing to be reached by people.
Hypocrisy of the society always relates to the prestige and privilege in the society. Due to that, many people from certain group sometimes life with many acting. Their life is full of acting and pretend to be someone else to get good image from the society. That’s why, in many literary works, hypocrisy is often being an issue of the literary work.

Drama is one of the literary works which is old and rarely played. It can be said that drama is the old form of movie, but it doesn’t mean that drama is same with movie. Primarily, there are some of differentiations between both of them. Literally, drama is a play which is acted by group of people in the stage with its setting and theme. Kennedy (1983:11) argued that drama is the performance of a play, however, is much more that an occasion for the exchange of emotions between performers and audience. A play is work of art composed of words (like fiction and poetry), and the words, of course, remain essential.

*Lady Windermere’s Fan* is one of the well known dramas in the end of nineteenth century in England. *Lady Windermere’s Fan* is written by Oscar Wilde, an Irish playwright, and the writer of poetry, and it is written in 1891 and was published for the first time in St James Theatre in London at February, 20th 1892. This play has four acts, and it takes setting in London. This play is acted by sixteen people, nine women and seven men. *Lady Windermere’s Fan* is a comedy play that tells about the lifestyle of the society in the Victoria era. Like many comedies, it is a biting satire on the moral of Victorian society, particularly marriage. Oscar
Wilde, through his play, he felt irritable and he tried to critique the Victorian society about their way of life.

Oscar Wilde is an Irish person, he was born in Dublin on October 16th 1854. He is a popular playwright and the writer of poetry. Although he is an Irish, but he is well known in England because of his plays. He was educated at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, Country Fermanagh (1864-1871), Trinity College, Dublin (1871-1874) and Magdalene College, Oxford (1874-1878). After he graduated, he began his debut as a literalist with moved to Chelsea, London in 1879. He published his first collection of poetry, which received reviews with many critics. He worked as art reviewer in 1881, lectured in the United States and Canada in 1882, and he also ever lived in Paris in 1883. He also lectured in Britain and Ireland in 1883 until 1884.

The greatest of his talent is on the playwright. He wrote many plays which was very popular especially in England. He begins popular with his first play *Lady Windermere’s Fan* (1892), a comedy satire play that gets many success in the society. His other popular plays are *A Woman of No Importance* (1893), *An Ideal Husband* (1895), *The Important of Being Earnest* (1895). These plays were a most popular play by Oscar Wilde that established him as the greatest playwright.

*Lady Windermere’s Fan* is a play about a fracas on marriage which involved the third side. Lady Windermere is a respected person, she is a
wife of Lord Windermere, and her marriage is just about two years. She is also having a perfect life in her society. She is going to hold a party to celebrate her birthday. One day there is Duchess of Berwick who told her that her husband gets involved into illegal affair with unrespected woman in London named Mrs. Erlynne. She was also told that her husband often transferred sum of money to Mrs.Erlynne. Lady Windermere can not believe it, and she dares opening his husband’s books bank to check it. She is very surprised to know that there are sum of money that was given to Mrs.Erlynne. Suddenly her husband comes, and he is angry to know that her wife dares to open his book bank without his permission. Then, they get involved in dispute about Mrs.Erlyyne. Her husband tries to convince to her wife that there is not affair between him and Mrs.Erlyyne. Then, Lord Windermere asks her wife to send an invitation to Mrs.Erlynne to come in her party tonight, because Mrs.Erlynne needs Lady Windermere’s help to back into society after marginalized for a long time in the society. Lady Windermere’s refuses her husband’s request. Then Lord Windermere sends an invitation by his self to Mrs.Erlynne without his wife knowing.

In the Lady Windermere’s Party, many guests come in, one other guests involved in the lighted chat. Suddenly Mrs.Erlynne comes, all guests even Lady Windermere are surprised in her coming, because all of society of London know her bad reputation. Lady Windermere gets angry with her husband and she feels that her husband ignores her and does not care anymore with her. Then Lady Windermere comes out from the room,
and then she chats to her friend, named Lord Darlington. Because of confused and angry, she asks Lord Darlington to be intimated friend. Lord Darlington is so surprised, but he is happy also, because truly, he loves Lady Windermere. Using this situation, Lord Darlington asks Lady Windermere to begin new life with him, and go away from London. Lady Windermere accepts Lord Darlington asking. Then Lady Windermere leaves a letter to her husband and she goes to Lord Darlington house. Mrs. Erlynne who reads the letter is surprised and can not let the situation like twenty years ago happen to her daughter, Lady Windermere. To keep in order Lord Windermere does not know that Lady Windermere goes out from home, Mrs. Erlynne asks Lord Augustus, her fellow, to ask Lord Windermere to go to club. Lord Augustus does what Mrs. Erlynne asks.

In the Lord Darlington’s house, Lady Windermere feels so anxieties, she thinks about her decision. She also thinks whether her husband has read the letter or yet. Suddenly Mrs. Erlynne comes, Lady Windermere is shocked, then Mrs. Erlynne asks and forces Lady Windermere to come home and come back to her husband. Mrs. Erlynne also tries convincing that between she and Lord Windermere there is no affair. Lady Windermere can not believe and she accuses that Mrs. Erlynne’s coming is only a part of plot which is made by her husband to convince her that there is no intimate relation between Mrs. Erlynne and her husband. Finally Lady Windermere agrees to come home after Mrs. Erlynne warns her about her baby whom still needs her. When
Mrs. Erlynne and Lady Windermere will leave Lord Darlington’s house, they hear that there are some people come. They are Lord Darlington and his friend, they are Lord Augustus and Lord Windermere. The men come into Lord Darlington house, and one of them notice that there is a fan in the table, they conclude that Lord Darlington was just visited a woman. Then Lord Windermere recognizes that the fan is his wife’s fan that he gave as a birthday’s present to her wife. Believing that his wife is in Lord Darlington house, then he is looking for the place where his wife is hiding. Then Mrs. Erlynne allows Lady Windermere to slip away unnoticed. Unpredictably, Mrs. Erlynne appears in front of them, and she admits that she took Lady Windermere’s fan.

In the next morning, Lady Windermere feels so roomy. But she is still anxious whether she wants to tell what happened last night or not to her husband. Lady Windermere apologizes to her husband for her suspicion toward her husband relation to Mrs. Erlynne. Then Mrs. Erlynne comes, and she returns the fan back, Lady Windermere insists on seeing her although her husband forbids her. Mrs Erlynne enters and states that she shall be going abroad, but asks that Lady Windermere gives her a photograph of herself and her son. Lady Windermere returns with the photograph which she presents to Mrs Erlynne, and requests that Lord Windermere checks for the return of Mrs Erlynne's coach. Now that they are alone, and being owed a favour, Mrs Erlynne demands that she will not reveal the truth of the night before to her husband, and Lady Windermere
promises to keep the secret. After Lord Windermere's return, Lord Augustus enters. He is shocked to see Mrs Erlynne after the events of the night before, but she requests his company as she heads to her carriage, and he soon returns to the Windermere with news that she has satisfactorily explained the events of the evening, and that they are to marry and live out of England. Their marriage is restored, but both Lord and Lady Windermere keep their secrets.

*Lady Windermere’s Fan* was enormously popular and it got successful instantly. Although this play is a satire comedy which reflects the life of Victorian society and loaded with many critics, but most of people in London like that play, because the theme of the play is flame. After the play was performed for the first time, this play touring the country for months but largely thrashed by conservative critics. *Lady Windermere’s Fan* is an interesting play to be analyzed. There are four reasons that make this play interesting. The first is from the title of *Lady Windermere’s Fan*, the word *Fan* can be assumed into two meaning, *fan* as equipment, and *fan* as a person. In this play, both of the meaning of *fan* can be found in the play. In the *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play, *fan* as equipment is a fan that is used to move the air around, which is given to Lady Windermere by her husband as the birthday’s present. *Fan* as a person is Lord Darlington who quietly admires and falls in love with Lady Windermere.
The second is the theme of the play is unique. This play is categorized into comedy satire play. Basically, the story is the dispute of marriage due to the scandal. Although the main theme of this play is only about the complication of marriage, but it reflects the manner of the majority the Victorian era society. *Lady Windermere’s Fan* also provides a play which established between comic and serious theme contiguous.

The third is the setting of the play. The setting of *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play takes the life of society of Victorian era. The Victorian society is a community which is interesting to be discussed from the political, social, economic, religious even behavior aspect therefore many parts of the aspects from the Victorian being a main issue in the many literary works.

The last is the hypocrisy as the main issue reflected in the *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play. Hypocrisy can be defined as pretending to be something one is not or feigning to believe one does not. Most characters in Wilde’s play accept hypocrisy as a necessary component of their social world. People in high society must pretend, must conform to the social norm in order to maintain their position. Oscar Wilde wants to show that he feels so irritate and abhorrent with the life of upper class in Victorian era.

Based on the reason the writer is going to observe *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play using sociological theory by Swingewood and
Laurenson. Therefore the writer constructs the title **HYPOCRISY AMONG THE UPPER CLASS IN OSCAR WILDE’S *LADY WINDERMERE’S FAN* (1892): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

**B. Literature Review**

In analyzing this drama, the writer found another research using *Lady Windermere’s Fan* drama. As the writer browses on the internet, the writer found the research from some researcher, the first is Herlina Tias Susanti (2006) from University of Muhammadiyah Malang. Her research entitled “A Study on Mrs. Erlynne’s Sacrifice in Oscar Wilde’s Drama “*Lady Windermere’s Fan*”. In her research she describes the sacrifice of Mrs. Erlynne, to know why the main character (Mrs.Erlynne) sacrifices, and also to find out the way of Mr.Erlynne sacrifices on Oscar Wilde’s *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play.

Second is Paul L. Fortunato, Ph.D. (2004) from University of Illinois at Chicago. His research entitled “*Lady Windermere’s Fan: Modernist Aesthetics Meets the Aesthetics of Fashion*”. In his dissertation, he analyzes about Oscar Wilde’s thought, view, which was reflected through the character of *Lady Windermere’s Fan*. Oscar Wilde was as a popular modernist aesthetics, and his aesthetics focuses attention on the woman fashion or female aesthete. The protagonist character of Mrs.Erlynne in *Lady Windermere’s Fan* reflects as a female aesthete.
Based on the literature review above, the writer assumes that there is no researcher who analyzes “Hypocrisy among the Upper Class in Oscar Wilde’s Lady Windermere’s Fan”. The writer will analyze the play using sociological approach.

C. **Problem Statement**

The problem of this study is “How is the hypocrisy reflected in *Lady Windermere’s Fan*”.

D. **Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing hypocrisy of the society reflected in *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play based using sociological approach.

E. **Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the play.

2. To describe the hypocrisy reflected in *Lady Windermere’s Fan* based on sociological approach.
F. The Benefits of the Study

The Benefits of the Study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play.

2. Practical Benefit

To enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of University of Muhammadiyah Surakarta or other students universities who have interest with literary study on the play from sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play which is written by Oscar Wilde.

2. Type of the Data and Data Source

Type of data in this research is text, which the form of text is dialogue between the characters. While types of data are divided into two types, namely primary and secondary data, they are:
a. Primary data is taken from *Oscar Wilde’s Lady Windermere’s Fan* play

b. Secondary data sources are taken from other data that have connection with the research including books, thesis, homepages and other relevant books

3. Technique of Data Collection

   The technique of collection is taking notes of important part from primary and secondary data available.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

   In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive qualitative analysis. The analysis is started from the structural analysis of the work and finally the sociological analysis of the literary works.
H. Research Paper Organization

The systematic of research paper is the ways which refer to the roles that systematic. The research paper organizations of this research are:

In chapter I, the researcher explains the background of the study, problem statement, the literature review, objective, benefit, and research method and thesis organization. Chapter II contains the underlying theory used in analyzing *The Lady Windermere's Fan* using sociological approach. Chapter III deals with the social background of Victorian Society in the late nineteenth century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the work, which includes the structural elements of *Lady Windermere’s Fan* play, such as the character and characterization, setting, plot, and other elements of the work. Chapter V is the sociological analysis of the society in *The Lady Windermere’s Fan* play. Finally, this study presents conclusion and suggestion in Chapter VI.