

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human being is part of society who usually faces some problems in life. One of the big problems that can be faced is injustice. As one of the social phenomena, injustice can emerge in a society especially in some varieties, such as the political injustice, economical injustice, and social injustice.

Social Injustice is a concept relating to the claimed unfairness or injustice of a society in its divisions of rewards and burdens and other incidental inequalities. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Social_injustice). The concept is distinct from those of justice in law, which may or may not be considered moral in practice, or from the concept of justice within a coherent ideological system, which focuses on just process rather than on incidental inequalities. Social injustice arises when equals are treated unequally and unequal are treated equally.

Social injustice is caused by certain barriers that prevent full social justice. Some of the major barriers include: prejudice, discrimination, oppression, racism, classism, ableism, ageism, stereotyping and sexism. Over the last 30–40 years, most social injustice in the US and the world has been based on economic class and the lack of access to non-violent mechanisms for reform by the middle class and working class. In order to fully overcome incidental inequalities which some [who?] view as socially unjust

these barriers must be removed from our society and differences to rig equality of outcome must be embraced.

Many other people accept some of the basic principles of social justice, such as the idea that all human beings have a basic level of value, but disagree with the elaborate conclusions that may or may not follow from this. The problem of the social injustice is phenomena of life that deals with condition of the society that perceived unfairness or the situation that peoples do not getting their due. Each time someone cheats you out of what you deserve, there has been injustice. Other people can treat you unjustly. But at least your tormentors normally are working in their own self-interest. They are not pretending to be fair, or to be working on your behalf. When your own government acts unjustly, it is all the more galling. The Injustice Line will focus mainly on injustices committed by the government, especially those arising from the court system. The condition above is appearing as the problem of the social injustice.

Meanwhile, in the literary works the author may take a certain world which then represents his ideas. An author, in his works can present a portrait of social, politic and economy during a particular time. The portrait represented in a literary work shows the relation between the social reality and the literature itself because when the literary work indicates a reflection or portrait, the characters in a fiction often indicates or reflects the presence of the similar social attitude to that in the society during their time.

Literature is reflection of social realities and condition of social being in the society. It means that literature cannot be free from the social issue around the society. In edition, literature is closely related to the sociology science that reflects the phenomena happening in the society. "Literature and sociology are not wholly distinct disciplines but

on contrary, complement each other in our understanding of society”. (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 20)

Charles Dickens states the novel by analyzing injustice and the condition of the society. He is the great novelist in Victorian era. Charles Dickens was born of February 7th, 1812 in Landport division of Porsea, England. He was the second child and the oldest son of John and Elizabeth Dickens. During his childhood Charles Dickens lived in poverty. His fate become worse then since his father, John Dickens, was imprisoned for unsolved debt earthily was living in London and Dickens who twelve years old, went to work in a factory for making boot blacking. He bitterly presented having to leave school to do unskilled work from of this kind, feeling that he would never have the chance of doing well in life. When he was fifteen, he become a clearly in a lawyer’s office. Dickens grew as an ambitious figure and he went on his own education, reading as much as he could he also taught himself shorthand and as the result he was soon as an expert of shorthand writer. Such skill than led him become a reporter in the law contras, taking down the political speeches for newspaper. The real beginning of his career as author came in 1836. At the time he wrote the *Pickwick Paper*, which he developed and become his first novel *Picwick*, this was foundation of his career as an author until he succeeded creating a large number of novels: *Oliver Twist* (1837), *Nicolas Nickleby* (1838), *The Old Curiosity Shop* (1840), *He Battles Life* (1846), *Hard Times* (1854), *Little Dorrit* (1855), *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) and soon. *A Tale of Two Cities* is a part of historical novel, the background of the novel is French Revolution. This novel narrates aspect of major historical event the French Revolution the story focused on the effect of political upheaval more than on character development. *A Tale of Two Cities*

related to the class struggle because those who feel the negative effects of social injustice begin to struggle against it. Dickens maintains a complex perspective on the French Revolution because although he did not particularly sympathize with the gruesome and often irrational results, he certainly sympathized with the unrest of the lower orders of society. Dickens vividly paints the aristocratic maltreatment of the lower classes, such as when Monseigneur only briefly stops to toss a coin toward the father of a child whom he has just run over. Because the situation in France was so dire, Dickens portrays the plight of the working class in England as rather difficult, though slightly less difficult than in other works such as *Hard Times* or *Oliver Twist*, which also emphasize social injustice.

Shortly talking *A Tale of Two Cities* is very interesting. In order to know the social injustice in *A Tale of Two Cities* using Sociological Approach, in this study the researcher encourages himself to give a title: **“A Fight Against The Social Injustice in Charles Dickens’s *A Tale Of Two Cities*: A Marxist Approach”**.

B. Previous Study

There are two researchers who have conducted different studies on the novel. The writer found that the novel had been analyzed by student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta namely Saefudin Apri Perdana (2008). He conducted a research entitled *“The Social Injustice Reflected In Charles Dickens’s A Tale of Two Cities A Sociological Approach”* He discuss about how the social injustice is reflected in Charles’s Dickens’s a Tale of Two Cities. Another research was conducted by students of IKIP PGRI University of Semarang namely Srianto Loroati. He emphasizes on the reflection of the story of the novel one in the history. His title for his research is, *“The French Revolution*

as Portrayed in Charles Dickens "A Tale of Two Cities". He discusses the situation and condition when the revolution happens, with some tragedy.

After finding the other researcher, the writer makes this research that is different from the other research; the present writer uses the same object, but uses different approach, that is Marxist approach.

C. Problem Statement

The major problem of the study is: "How is a fight against the social injustice reflected in Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities*?"

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher will focus on a fight against the social injustice reflected in Charles Dickens's *"A Tale of Two Cities"*

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural element of the novel
2. To analyze the novel based on Marxist perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to give contribution to other literary researchers, especially in study of Charles Dickens's work.

2. Practical Benefit

This research is expected to be able to give deeper understanding for the researcher about the content of the novel that consists of structural elements which is viewed from Marxist perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Objective of the Study

The object of the study is Charles Dickens's *A Tale of Two Cities* novel published in England by Penguin Popular Classic 1994.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data is text, while the data sources are divided into two kinds:

a. Primary data source

The primary sources of data are the literary work itself that consists of words, phrases, and sentence.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary sources of data are books of literary criticism, and articles on the internet.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The technique of data collection in this study is library research. It consists of some steps, as follows:

- a. Reading the novel rapidly and tries to imagine to understand the novel
- b. Identifying the data
- c. Takes notes and underlines the important words, phrases of sentence, which are related to the study
- d. Classifying the data into some categories

4. Technique for Analyzing Data

The technique of data analysis of the research is descriptive analysis. In this case, the researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and Marxist analysis. Hence, the collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through the appropriate approach, in this case is Marxist approach to show a fight against the social injustice reflected Charles Dickens's "*A Tale of Two Cities*" with Marxist Approach

H. Paper Organization

To make it easy to understand, the writer arranges the research paper into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consists of the background of the study, literature review, the problem statement, and the objectives of study, limitation of study, benefit of the study, structural elements of novel, theoretical approach, research method, paper organization, and theoretical review. The second chapter deals with underlying

theory covering with the notion of Marxist, the major principle of Marxist perspective, the structural elements of the novel, and theoretical application. The third chapter presents the social historical background. The fourth chapter is structural analysis. In this chapter, the writer explains the structural elements of the novel. The fifth chapter is Marxist analysis. The sixth chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.