CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Human beings have two roles in their life. First, human being as an individual, they have to be responsible for themselves. In another side, human as a social creature have to associate with their environment. Each person has some roles in every aspects of his life such as in his family, education or in his society. In other hand, human have to survive on their own life. They have to be responsible with their own life but they can’t do that alone or it means that they need the other people to help each other. Then, there are so many way for us to survive in this world and become a human that live happily although in bad or suffer situation.

Generally, social skills are one of the importance points to understand in the process of increasing communication with other people (www.mysocialskills.com). Often we take our social skills for granted, without realizing all the complicated skills we use when we interact with others. Some of these skills are very basic and simple, like saying hello and good-bye, or smiling and making eye contact when we see someone we know. Others are more complex, like the skills we use to negotiate in a situation of conflict with somebody. Some people learn social skills easily and quickly, whereas others find social interactions more challenging, and
may need to work on developing their social skills consciously. (www.embracethefuture.org)

Social skills are not only learned by adults but also very important to learn by children. Adults have to teach the children as early as possible about social skills, especially when children start to communicate with other people. In a family circle, parents are responsible to their children’s attitude, while in education circle the responsible of children’s behavior depend on the teachers. When adults have good behaviors then the most children around them also will have good behaviors, the other way, if adults show bad behaviors then the children will do so because children have characteristic to do as someone does around them. When children have good social skills then they will easier to make relationship with other children.

The studying of social skills not only draws attention to the parents or teachers but also the author of A Little Princess novel, Frances Hodgson Burnett. Burnett was the eldest daughter in a family of two boys and three girls. She was born in Manchester, England on November 24 1849. A Little Princess was written by Burnett in 1904 and published in United State by Warne Publication. It is a children’s novel that revised and expanded version of Burnett’s 1888 serialized novel entitled Sara Crewe: or, What happened at Miss Minchin’s boarding school, which published in St. Nicholas Magazine. (www.imdb.com)
In her novel, *A Little Princess*, Burnett talks about a little girl named Sara Crewe who at the beginning of the novel is a solemn seven year old girl. Sara is the only daughter of the widowed Captain Crewe, and during her early childhood in India she was given everything a little girl could possibly desire. Sara was brought all the way to London in Victorian-era England for a formal education and to escape the inevitable hardships of India such as disease. When Captain Crewe leaves Sara at Miss Minchin’s boarding school, he wishes that Miss Minchin will give everything to her – Sara have a private sitting room, a personal maid, and all the comforts that money can buy.

In the story, everyone is ready to think about Sara as an arrogant and spoiled child, but instead she is compassionate, considerate, very intelligent, polite, and creative young girl, and very much aware that her father’s great fortune doesn’t make her better than anyone else. But, after four years coincide with Sara’s eleventh birthday, she gets news that her father died. Her father dies after a friend loses his money in a business deal in India. Sara is left penniless and without any family, then she has to work as a servant at the school. She lives in the attic room next to the cook and not only runs errands of all kinds but also must keep up with her studies and help teach the younger girls about French lesson. The next story is about Sara’s survival to life as a servant in Miss Minchin’s boarding school and to face her sufferings because sometimes Miss Minchin doesn’t give her meals whereas Sara has finished working hard
all day. But that’s not for a long time because Sara return become a wealthy girl after she meets Mr. Carrisford, the one who “lost” Captain Crewe’s fortune in a business. But in reality the business deal is successful but Captain Crewe dies before knowing the truth about his money and about his friend.

There are some reasons why the writer interested in studying this novel. The first reason is the character of the novel, especially Sara Crewe as the main character. Sara is a unique and interesting girl. Sara always thinks like an adult even though she was only seven years old. Her mother’s death since Sara still a baby makes her closes and loves her father very much. Sara is a realist and imaginative girl. Since she knew that her father had died and she has nobody as her family, she realizes that she has to fill her needs by her own self. But in that situation, she still has imagination and hope that helps her to face her suffers.

The second reason is the plot of the novel. Burnett uses traditional plot in this story. In the novel, Burnett shows how Sara Crewe survives and struggles after her father’s death. Of course, the inevitable happy ending is predictable, but honestly these are all charming stories even if we can see their emotional climaxes coming from miles away.

The third reason is the theme of the novel. From the story, it can be concluded that one of the themes is about the way to treat others. This is seen when Miss Minchin knew that Sara was no longer a rich girl, she told Sara to work as a maid and not half-hearted to torment her. Especially
when the other servants also told Sara doing all the work for a girl her age is very hard to do.

The last reason is the importance of social skill which is reflected in *A Little Princess* is one of appealing aspects that interesting to be studied. Sara Crewe is one of the examples how social skills become very important for children when they have no other people to depend on.

Based on the reasons above, the writer will observe *A Little Princess* novel by using sociological approach. So the writer constructs the title **The Importance of Social Skill in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess* Novel (1904): A Sociological Approach.**

**B. Literature Review**

In analyzing this novel, the writer found other researches using Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess*. The first research was conducted by Sulistiana graduated from Muhammadiyah University of Malang (2005) entitled *An Analysis of Sara Crewe’s Suffering in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s Novel “A Little Princess”*. The purpose of the research is to find out what are Sara Crewe’s sufferings, what are the causes of Sara Crewe’s sufferings and how does Sara Crewe solve her problems. The researcher used descriptive research because she tried to analyze the novel descriptively by focusing on Sara Crewe’s sufferings. The result of the research shows that there were six Sara Crewe’s moral sufferings, include: sadness of her father’s death, feeling lonely, being neglected, being hated
by Miss Minchin, being scorned by everyone and being hopeless. In addition, it was found out that there were three Sara Crewe’s physical sufferings, include: Sara was kept in the Attic, the hunger and coldness was faced by Sara Crewe and the clothes were wore by Sara Crewe. Then, Sara Crewe’s suffering was caused by her father’s tragic death, leaving no money for her. Next, the way Sara Crewe solved her sufferings was by being an errand girl and servant and becoming a beggar.

The second research was conducted by Palchick graduated from Truman State University (2007) entitled A Feminist Analysis of Frances Hodgson Burnett's A Little Princess. This paper examined the ways in which the young protagonist of Frances Burnett’s A Little Princess (1905) overcomes hardship as a young intellect in the Victorian era trapped under the oppression of feminine expectations, restrictions, and projected ideals. Investigating this novel using a Feminist perspective enlightens several startling ideas that the text suggests are imperative to surviving as a woman in Victorian society.

The third research was conducted by Otero graduated from University of Puerto Rico (2007) entitled An Analysis of Gender Representations in Children's Novels by Frances Hodgson Burnett. This research examined gender representations in three children's novels by Victorian author Frances Hodgson Burnett. It focuses specifically on the construction and representation of femininity in the novels Little Lord Fauntleroy (1886), A Little Princess (1905) and The Secret Garden (1911).
Employing the methodology of feminist literary criticism the researcher examines the mechanisms through which these novels teach children lessons about appropriate and inappropriate female gender roles analyzing specifically how these books represent the female gender. In addition, the researcher presents a case study of literary interpretation based on an in-depth interview with a contemporary young female reader in order to examine how she relates to and interprets the gendered messages within these novels. This study informs discussions about gender representations in children’s literature and highlights the need and importance of gender education in school curricula.

The next research was conducted by Grist graduated from Boise State University (2010) entitled *Child Mothers in Children’s Literature: Victorian Gender Negotiations in Burnett’s Girlhood Fiction*. Victorian girlhood literature frequently reflects and reinforces the dominant gender ideology of English culture by constructing female protagonists who are ultimately rewarded for conforming to the domestic ideal of the Victorian era. Through the medium of children’s literature, writers and publishers responded and contributed to the discourse on women’s roles in Victorian society, reacting to the Women’s Rights Movement and the rise of The New Woman by targeting The New Girl. The object of the research is to examine (1) the ways in which Francis Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*, as well as *The Girl’s Own Paper* assess female value by the standard of motherhood; and (2) how these texts offer
models to girlhood readers both contemporary and modern. The research reveals the female-centered gender ideology present in these texts and how/why it impacted readers.

The last research was conducted by Safitri graduated from Teknokrat College of Lampung (2007) entitled *The Incapability of Sara in Facing the Reality after Her Father’s Death as reflected in Burnett’s A Little Princess*. The researcher disclosed about what the incapability of Sara happen in facing the reality after her father’s death and how does the incapability of Sara in facing the reality after her father’s death. The researcher uses the theories of psychology, character and characterization, incapability and psychological approach to analyze the novel. Sara’s incapability begins when her beloved father is dead. That condition makes Sara incapable to face the reality that she is alone in this world. The process of incapability itself after her father is dead, her father left no money for Sara and she loses everything that she has. Sara incapable to face the reality that she is becomes poor people.

From the literary reviews above, the writer can show that this study has similar part from those researches that is the writer also analyze *A Little Princess* novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

Then, the differences between this study and the researches above are that the writer uses a sociological approach and focuses to analyze the importance of social skill in the novel *A Little Princess*. 
C. Problem Statement

Based on the title and background of the study above, the writer proposes the major problem of this study “How is the importance of social skill reflected in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess* Novel?”

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the importance of social skill in *A Little Princess* novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett based on sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the study are mentioned as follows

1. To analyze *A Little Princess* novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett based on the structural elements of the novel.

2. To describe the importance of social skill in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess* Novel based on sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give a new information and contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *A Little Princess* novel and movie.
2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the novel from sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while the data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the novel using sociological approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, (5) determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is A Little Princess novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett and publishing by Warne Publication in 1904. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two data source that are needed to do this research.
a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of this research is the texts and paragraphs in *A Little Princess* novel written by Frances Hodgson Burnett.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are books and other sources that support the analysis.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are:

a. Reading repeatedly the story book.

b. Determining the character that will be analyzed.

c. Underlying of important parts in both primary and secondary data.

d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.

e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the novel.

5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis.

It concerns with the structural elements of the novel and sociological approach.

H. **Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of “The Importance of Social Skill in Frances Hodgson Burnett’s *A Little Princess* Novel (1904): A
Sociological Approach” consists of six chapters. Chapter I is Introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory. It deals with notion of sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, structural elements of the novel and theoretical application. Chapter III presents the social historical background of English society in the early twentieth century that consists of social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspect. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of A Little Princess novel; (1) the structural elements of A Little Princess novel. It consists of character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and theme, (2) discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of A Little Princess novel. It consists of social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Pedagogical implication.