CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*Mansfield Park* is one of the romance novels by Jane Austen. She is a female writer from England. Jane Austen began planning *Mansfield Park* in February of 1811 and finished it in summer of 1813. This novel was first published by Thomas Egerton on May 4, 1814 and the second edition of this novel published by John Murray in 1816. In *Mansfield Park* novel contains 424 pages (48 chapters).

Jane Austen was an English novelist who worked of romantic fiction. She was born on December 1775 at Steventon rectory. Austen came from an ordinary family and living a happy life in the suburban upper class people. The support of her family was very encouraging Austen as a professional writer. From 1811 to 1816, she managed to publish novels that made her successful as a writer, there are; *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1816). She also wrote two other novels, there are; *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*. Both of them was published in 1818 after her death. The last novel entitled *Sanditon* was not completed because of her death. The works of Austen critizes the novel of sensibility flow rapidly growing in the second half of the 18th century and 19 century realism. Austen plot, although more is parody, highlighting the
importance of marriage for women time to ensure the social and economic status.

The story begins when nine-year-old Fanny Price is taken from the home of her impoverished parents and moved to the estate of Mansfield Park to live with the wealthy uncle and aunt, Sir Thomas and Lady Bertram. In Mansfield Park Fanny did not get to close with anyone, except Edmund, male cousin who is very attentive with her. Fanny is abused by her other aunt, Mrs. Norris who runs things at Mansfield Park and her female cousin, Maria and Julia are always despise Fanny because her shallow. That’s why Fanny grows up shy, obedient and respectful in Mansfield Park.

When Sir Thomas leaving Mansfield Park to Antigua. Then Mansfield Park has a new neighbors, they are Mary Crawford and Henry Crawford, they are brother and sister of Mrs. Grant who living in Parsonage. Henry and Mary Crawford are attractive and cheerful so Bertram family loved them. Especially Maria and Julia Bertram were very interested to Henry Crawford and Edmund who loved Mary because of her beauty. Henry Crawford who have income and steady, so he is easily playing with Maria and Julia, especially with Maria who is engaged to a rich man, Mr. Rushworth.

Maria later married with Mr. Rushworth and lived with her husband. Her sister Julia was also went with them to London. Edmund getting closer to Mary and Henry who has a plan to approach Fanny, eventually he really loves her and wants to marry Fanny. Fanny who has known the vices of Henry who like playing with girls, especially with her female cousin, directly refused
Henry. Sir Thomas her uncle, was disappointed that she has refused such a wealthy man, and as an indirect result, she is sent to stay with her parents in their filthy house in Portsmouth to introspect herself with what she had done.

Henry is still to remain near Fanny, until the scandal between him and Maria occur and causing her divorced by her husband. Edmund is getting closer to Mary and finally know the real personality of Mary, who is not expect by Edmund and let him down and left her. Fanny recalled to Mansfield, bringing her younger sister Susan with her. Edmund then realized that the woman who loved him is Fanny, and then they got married and lived happily in Mansfield. Meanwhile, Maria had been exiled from Mansfield and lived with Mrs. Norris in backwoods.

Mansfield Park is Jane Austen’s most controversial novel because this novel is not like Jane Austen’s other novels. There are many pros and contras response about this novel, which makes this novel a controversy. Positive response comes from Rebecca Reid in her website Rebecca Reads, she said that it’s an interesting novel, even if it’s not as romantic as she would have liked. And the contradiction comment come from Helen in her blog She Reads Novel, she said that Mansfield Park is never going to be her favourite Jane Austen novel.

Mansfield Park is one of the Jane Austen best seller novels in the market, because the novel has a lot of viewers and review of its readers. This novel has 108,062 ratings and 3745 reviews. All copies were sold within six months, and Austen's revenue on this novel were larger than any of her other
novels. *Mansfield Park* also widely adapted into a feature film, TV drama and opera. First, in 1983 *Mansfield Park* adapted into BBC series directed by David Giles, starring Sylvestra Le Touzel as Fanny Price and Nicholas Farrell as Edmund Bertram. Second, in 1999 *Mansfield Park* was adapted into film directed by Patricia Rozema, starring Frances O’Connors as Fanny Price and Jonny Lee Miller as Edmund Bertram. Third, *Mansfield Park* was adapted into a television adaptation produced by Company Pictures and starring Billie Piper as Fanny Price and Blake Ritson as Edmund Bertram, was screened on ITV1 in the UK on 18 March 2007. And the last *Mansfield Park* was adapted into a chamber opera by Jonathan Dove with a libretto by Alasdair Middleton, commissioned and first performed by Heritage Opera on 30 July – 15 August 2011.

*Mansfield Park* is a portrait of depicting the social life for England or Britain. In this novel also portrayed the social disparity between Portsmouth the low class and Mansfield Park the upper class. There are five reasons the writer is interested in studying this novel.

First, the main character (Fanny Price) in this novel has a different character to the main character in the novel by Jane Austen others. The main character in this novel is more submissive and obedient, while the main character in the novel Jane Austen others are more brave and assertive. It causes many pros and cons to the readers. This reason lead the writer would like to know more about the character of Fanny Price in this novel.
Second, the setting of the novel. British was the setting of place in the novel, the citizen are very concerned with their social class and status. In this novel Jane Austen describes clearly about the social customs that happened at that time. This makes the writer more interested in knowing how the lifestyle of the British at that time.

Third, the plot in the novel is very interesting, Mansfield Park not only tells the story of romance between the main character but also about family conflicts and social conflict, which is common in British society at that time. But despite the conflicts in this novel, the story of the main character ends up with a happy ending.

Fourth, the style of the author. Jane Austen's writing style is very distinctive and very imaginative. Jane Austen can be very clearly in illustrating the characters created by her, with different characteristics. Jane Austen was also smart in depicting life at that time with a detailed description, so our imagination can lead into the 19th century so perfectly.

The last is subject matter. The issue about social disparity is reflected in this novel. This novel tells about social disparities that occur between Portsmouth and Mansfield. The conditions described by in two places are very contradictory. Portsmouth is a place where parents of Fanny stay, they are very poor and uneducated, while Mansfield is a magnificent home with people who have high social life.

Based on these reason above, the writer will analyze Mansfield Park novel using sociological perspective. Therefore, the writer is interested in
conducting this research entitled “SOCIAL DISPARITY REFLECTED IN JANE AUSTEN’S MANSFIELD PARK (1814): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPERCTIVE”

B. Literature Review

*Mansfield Park* (1814) novel by Jane Austen is a great novel. As far as the writer concerns, the research on the novel *Mansfield Park* has been conducted by graduate students. Some previous studies are as follows:

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<th>No</th>
<th>Writer</th>
<th>Title of the Study</th>
<th>Theory</th>
<th>Result</th>
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<td>1.</td>
<td>Mariana, Bina Nusantara University (2007)</td>
<td>“Women’s Perception of Marriage in Jane Austen’s <em>Mansfield Park</em>”</td>
<td>Desconstruction theory, to analyze the thought of the main character.</td>
<td>Find the thoughts of the young women about marriage, and the reason and purpose for marriage in <em>Mansfield Park</em> novel</td>
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The similarities between the writer and the five previous writers is on the data source (*Mansfield Park* novel) and the differences are the issue and the perspective. This study focusses on Social Disparity Reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* (1814): Sociological Perspective, to know anything the social disparity that exist in this novel.

C. **Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problem of this study can be determined as follows:

1. How the social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* novel (1814) using sociological perspective?
Based on the major question, the resend questions are

a. What is the reason social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*?

b. How is the social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* viewed from the sociological perspective?

c. Why did the social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*?

D. **Limitation of the Study**

In this study, the writer focuses this study in analyzing the social disparity as reflected in Mansfield Park novel using sociological perspective.

E. **Objective of the Study**

Based on the problem statement above, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To analyze the causes of social disparity in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* novel.

2. To reveal the underlying reasons of why social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* novel based on the sociological perspective.

3. To explain how the social disparity reflected in Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park* novel.

F. **Benefit of the Study**

The reason why the writer makes a study is to get a benefit from it. By so doing, the benefit expected from this study as follows:
1. **Theoretical Benefit**

The study is projected to give a novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly to the further studies of *Mansfield Park* by Jane Austen.

2. **Practical Benefit**

This study can give a significant contribution on English teaching and learning, especially teaching literature, in this case novel.

G. **Research Method**

The research method of this study is divided into five aspects: (1) type of the study, (2) object of the study, (3) type of data and data source, (4) technique of the data collection, and (5) technique of the data analysis.

1. **Type of the Study**

   In this study, the writer uses a qualitative research. Qualitative study is the study of the fact that involves individual behavior and the result of the study cannot be fact using numbers in analyzing.

2. **Object of the Study**

   The object of the study is *Mansfield Park* novel. This novel is written by Jane Austen and first published by Thomas Egerton on 1814.

3. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**

   Type of data in this study is a text that consists of words, phrases and sentence. The writer divides the data source into two categories: primary data and secondary data source.
a. **Primary Data Source**

The primary data source of the study is *Mansfield Park* novel written by Jane Austen and first published by Thomas Egerton.

b. **Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data source is other source related to the primary data source. Data source are information about the novel, and the social historical background of British society in 19th century that supports this analysis.

4. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The technique of the collecting data is note taking. The data from both primary and secondary data sources are collected and by reading the novel and collected from the books related to the topics. The step by step of note taking are as follows:

   a. Reading the novel several times until the writer caught the information or the data to be analyzed.

   b. Reading some related books to find out the theory data and information required.

   c. Browsing to the Internet to get several information and articles related to the research.

   d. Taking notes the data of important parts.

   e. Arranging the important data that related the study and develop them to be a good unity.

   f. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.
5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The writer uses sociological perspective and applies it by using the descriptive technique. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the writer is looking for a selecting the relevant of the data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

II. Research Paper Organization

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which explains the Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and the Research Paper Organization. Chapter II deals with the Underlying Theory, which consist of Sociology of Literature, Structural Element of the Fiction, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III contains about the Social Background of the British Society in the 19th Century, covering social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, and religion aspect. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis; the research wants to explain the structural element of the novel and discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of the Novel. Chapter VI is the last chapter that consists of Conclusion and Pedagogical Implication.