

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Man is created differently from other God's creatures. God has given man intellectual ability in their life. Unlike animal that has no fear and worry about limitless and lack, man always tries to fight against his lack and limitless. As individual who exists in the world, man cannot live without interacting with others. No doubt that man, as a creature of God cannot be separated from the rule in their society. He belongs to a part of the component, which he begins to enter since he was born. He becomes unseparated element in his society. This condition leads to an interaction between one man and the other people. By that kind of interaction, man always lives closely to his society.

Literature creates reflection of human lives. Literary works have been continually giving considerable contribution in shaping the human's civilization. It gives contextual analysis toward certain character as individual in relation to certain society and the value system, which are adhered by certain social community. Literary work describes the reality in the subjective point of view, in author's point of vie. Author's imaginative process exists through the making of a literary work. It means author ideas comes from his surrounding condition as a response toward it. So, literary work is merely reflection of the author toward life surrounding. Damono (in Faruk, 1994: 4)

says that sociology of literature is a kind of approach that considers the social aspects in a literary work.

Literary works such as novel cannot be separated from its author's creativity to present their ideas of life. The novel is the mirror of the society at that time. Therefore, even though works of literature are "fictional" they have the capacity for being "true". Thus it represents the author's idea, feeling, attitude, desire and experiences toward the society through his work. On the other hand, the author lives in a society with particular condition and status. That is way, literary work cannot be separated from the society in which it was produced. Wellek and Warren (1956:94) clarify the idea of the sociology of literature that a literary works, its author and the society background are unity. Wellek also states that here that literature represents life in large measure, a social reality. It means that literature is a picture of reality in life

English society in late nineteenth century was era of Queen Victoria and usually known as Victorian period. Victorian morality and values dominated by this era. The enlightenment of the intellectual revolution in social change, economic and politic as the freedom of the individual to determine his own destiny and creates his own life. The Victorian novelist's conception of the English working class is accurately conveyed from middle-class perspective and ideology. If one looks back on English literature in the decades between 1854 and 1900, one will find out Oscar Wilde.

Oscar Wilde is an Irish writer, author of some of the most brilliant essays and comedies in English. He was born Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde on October 1854 in Dublin. At 17, he won an entrance scholarship to Magdalen College, Oxford. He left Oxford for London at 1878-1881, he publishes poem and immature melodrama called *Vera*. Some of his works are *Happy Prince* (1888), *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891), *The Duchess of Padua*, *The Woman's world*, *Intention* (1891), *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892), *A Woman of No Importance* (1895), *An Ideal Husband*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, etc.

Oscar Wilde's only novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891) is considered as controversial story of the novel just like its author himself. It is talk about the man who sells his soul. It is complicated by the fact that the diabolic purchaser is no longer possible. His secretly homosexuality had led him into a conflict between his society. This story is identifying his personality itself. That is why it is sad that *The Picture of Dorian Gray* qualifies Wilde for his flamboyant, paradoxical and immoral personality and it is a decadence novel. Wilde in this novel to show that Dorian Gray as the major character gives meaningless life because he can not handle his personality problem. He falls to Lord Henry influenced by Lord Henry's view of life. Dorian has become corrupter and criminal in his life.

Dorian Gray as the main character is the picture of a young man who possesses almost of nature gift; an extraordinary handsome, a youth and beauty purity and a high-class Englishman and he is influenced by his society

that creates his behavior. It becomes interesting when social class and environment influence moral behavior. Social class becomes an important factor in developing one's personality and searching his future.

The writer tries to focus on examining the relation between the internal structure of the novel and the external structure in association with the social background that influence of the author in this novel. The novel deals with the relation ship between an individual, social interaction and the moral values of society. to describes these phenomena, the researcher uses sociology approach by Alan Swingewood. The study is focused on moral society in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, a novel written by Oscar Wilde.

B. Literature Review

There is researcher who conducted different studies of Oscar Wild's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Theresia Aniek S.S; with her thesis entitled “ *Personality Change of Dorian Gray The Main Character of Oscar Wild's The Picture of Dorian Gray(Psychoanalysis Approach)* from Sebelas Maret University.

Therefore the present researcher wants to analyze the novel from different analyzing using, Sociological Approach in Oscar Wild's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Whereas this approach has never been studied as far as the researcher knows, at least among universities in Surakarta. That is why the researcher takes this approach to analyze this novel.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background explained above, the writer formulates the problem that will be analyzed in this thesis as the following “ How does society influence morality in Oscar Wild’s *The Picture of Dorian Gray?*”

D. Limitation of the Study

In order to focus the study, the writer limits her study on sociological approach to analysis in this novel.

E. Objective of the Study

To avoid deviation and misleading in writing this thesis, the researcher has some dealing with the study, There are:

1. To analyze the novel based on its structural elements by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot and theme.
2. To analyze the other materials connecting Oscar Wild’s life and works, and some critical commentaries in order to contribute to his behavior and morality based on sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

2. Practical Benefit

This study gives contribution to enrich the literary study as the reference to other writer in analyzing this novel through different perspectives.

G. Research Methodology

In this study, the writer uses qualitative method and to understand this novel, the writer previously relates one another to make this easy to analyze. The method applied is the library research that takes texts or work of art as an object of the study. In this study, the writer has some steps as follows:

1. Objective of the study

The object of the study is Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

2. Data source

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources.

- a. The source of data is taken from the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, consist twenty chapter written by Oscar Wilde, published of David Chambell.
- b. The secondary data are taken from other information and source such as Wild's other writing and essay, critical commentaries, articles from

interpret, author's biography and book of sociological which relevant to the subject matter in the research.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting the data, it uses library research Therefore the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as the source of the primary data is read repeatedly and comprehended. Then, the researcher will underline and write some important texts or quotations as the data which are relevant to the problems and research objectives can be draw. The secondary data will be recorded and classified concerning the issues such as, from critical review, essays, Internet and other references related to the topic. Therefore the problem appearing will be able to be answered.

4. Technique of Analyzing Data.

In analyzing the data, there are four steps, which are inseparable and have a close relationship. Description phase is classifying the problems as well as the data that have been edited as needed. Then analysis phase, the research analysis in data based on the sociological approach open the available data in Persuasion. Interpretation phase is the crystallization of the analysis based on the aims and functions as the judgement step to evaluate the result that has been obtained from the previous phases. The data are expected to be sufficient to clarify the concept that can relate one to another.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper consists of six chapters and each of them is subdivided into subsequent divisions. The First chapter is introduction that consists of the background of study, literature review, the problem statement, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The Second chapter deals with underlying theory covering with basic principle theory of sociological approach and the notion of morality. The Third chapter is social condition of English society in the late of Nineteenth century and Biography of the author. The Fourth chapter is structural elements of the novel. The Fifth chapter is sociological analysis. The Sixth chapter is closing that consists of conclusion and suggestion of the research paper

