CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The novel of Les Miserables is a French novel. It is written by Victor Hugo. The first novel was published in 1862 by A.Lacroix Verboeckhoven & cie. It becomes one of the greatest novels of the 19th century. The novel has been translated into 9 languages. So it has become one of the best-selling books in history. In English edition, the novel was published by Penguin Classic. The novel is divided into five volumes, each volume is divided into several books, and subdivided into chapters, the novel consists of 48 books and 365 chapters. Each chapter is relatively short, it has only a few pages. The novel contains many subplots. The novel is very long because it has approximately 1,500 pages in English language editions, and 1900 pages in French. The novel elaborates about the history and the architecture of French, politics, moral philosophy, antimonarchism, justice, religion, and the romantic of love. Les Misérables has been popularized through a lot of adaptations. They are through the stage, television, and film.

Victor Marie Hugo was born on 26 February 1802. He is a French poet, novelist, and dramatist. He becomes one of the greatest and best known as French writers. He was known as the writer of novels Les Misérables, 1862, and Notre-Dame de Paris, 1831 (known in English as The Hunchback of Notre-Dame). Victor Hugo is also a human rights activist. Victor Hugo was
the third and the last son of Joseph Leopold Sigisbert Hugo and Sophie Trebuchet. He had two siblings Abel Joseph Hugo and Eugene Hugo. His father, Joseph was an atheist republican and an influential officer in the army of Napoleon. While his mother Sophie was a staunch Catholic Royalist. The author died on 22 May 1885, at the age of 83.

The story of the novel is about Jean Valjean who is released from prison, and through the kindness of Mr. Myriel, he becomes a new man who kind, wise, and generous. In his life, he meets a woman, Fantine. She becomes a prostitute. A small incident takes place in the streets, and Fantine is arrested by Javert. Valjean, who has become known as Mayor Madeleine, forces Javert to release her and takes her into his house when he hears her story. Fantine is a poor woman, she never meets her child again, even though Valjean had promised to get the child. Meanwhile, another man has been arrested because he is considered as Valjean. But on the other day, Mr. Madeleine talks in the court that he was an original Valjean. He spends his time in prison, he works in a ship. Eventually he escapes again and retrieves Cosette from the evil Thenardiers whom Fantine had trusted to take care of the child. Then begins 10 years of hiding, moving from place to place, always staying just ahead of Javert. Seven or eight happy years are spent in a convent where Valjean works with the gardener and Cosette attends a girls’ school. Then Cosette married Marius who is a college student who has been raised by his grandfather for supporting Napoleon. Javert always seeks Valjean to be arrested. Once the
time Javert is dead, it means that Cosette, Valjean, and Marius become happy family. Then Valjean dies in the end.

The good responses from the readers of the novel are first, according to Tim, a student in the California (2005) he loves the richness of the story, because he can feel the sadness, happiness and, anger by reading the novel like when he reads the poetry. Second, according to Lauren Beck, a housewife in Los Angeles (2004), she says that the plot is incredible, and the characters are so real and varrying in personalities. Third, according to Bhagwad,a student in the USA (2009), he says that the book is one the greatest book that he has ever read and the book will leave the reader feeling sad, peaceful, thoughtful, and more sensitive.

The critical response from the market is when Les Misérables is published, a lot of French writers comment negatively about the novel. But when the novel is there in French bookshop, it making long lines and traffic jams just to buy the novel. The novel can be sold out until 48,000 copies in the first day. The novel Les Misérables also has many contradictions. Conservatives feared the social impact of the novel, and the Vatican banned it for several years. The French newspaper The Constitutional wrote that if the ideas of the novel were acknowledged, "no part of the social order would remain standing."

The interesting thing about this novel is Les Miserables becomes one of the best novels along of 19th century. The chronology of this novel is written based on the real condition in that time. The writer writes this novel
about people and for people, this novel also makes the government in that time to change the role for social injustice. The novel also has been changed into a movie. It gets some awards from its movie "Les Miserables". Firstly, in 1987 Les Miserables won Tony award for categories as follows Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical, Best Original Score, Best Performance by a Featured Actor in a Musical, Best Performance by a Featured Actress in a Musical, Best Direction of a Musical, Best Scenic Design, Best Lighting Design. Secondly, in the same year, Les Miserables won Drama Desk Award for categories as follows Outstanding Actor in a Musical, Outstanding Orchestration, Outstanding Music, Outstanding Set Design. In 1985, Laurence Oliver award for category Best Actress in a Musical and the last in 2012, Les Miserables also won the Laurence Oliver award for category Audience Award for Most Popular Show.

The reason why this researcher wants to analyze this novel is the first, the writer wants to know the character and characterization of Valjean who becomes the main character in the novel. The second is, the researcher wants to know the condition and situation at the revolution France period. At that time, the people are poor, hunger, and oppressive. The third reason is the style of the writer. The author writes the story of the novel with poem and letter of Victor Hugo as evidence and complement of the novel that has happy ending story. The fourth reason is the novel teaches us about the patriotism, religion, and fondness in the society. It tells about the man that fights against the social injustice in French Revolution.
Considering the explanation above, the researcher believes that it is necessary to conduct an analysis related with this problem. To conduct this analysis the writer will use Marxist approach and constructs the title: **A PROTEST AGAINST SOCIAL INJUSTICE IN VICTOR HUGO’S *LES MISERABLES* (1862): A MARXIST CRITICISM.**

**B. Literature Review**

Before analyzing it, the researcher has read other papers that are relevant with her analysis, especially about the approach. Some research of the novel *Les Miserables* can be divided into two groups. The first group is research about the film of *Les Miserables*. One research is conducted by Susi Wuryanti (2005). Her research title is “Defense Mechanism of Jean Valjean in Bille August’s *Les Miserables*’ movie : a Psychoanalytic Approach”. She focuses on the way of Jean Valjean trust to solve the problem in his life. Another research is conducted by Monica Tan (2012). Her research title is “Penggambaran Kelas Sosial Melalui Kostum Dalam Film : Analisis Semiotik Dalam 8 Karakter Utama Dalam Film *Les Miserables* (2012).” She focuses on the classifying the class social’s characters in *Les Miserables*. The second group is research about the novel of *Les Miserables*. The first is a research conducted by Anggit Eka Pramarta (2012), her research title is “Konjungsi Kausal dalam Novel *Les Miserables*.” In her research, she focuses on analyzing of causal conjunction in *Les Miserables* Novel. And the second is a research conducted by Rudiyana (2010) entitled “Kata-Kata Derivasi Pada Novel *Les Miserables* Volume 2 Karya Victor Hugo.” He focuses on the
analyzing the derivation word in *Les Miserables* novel. So the differences between the researcher and the fourth previous research are the theme and perspective.

In this occasion, the researcher takes Marxist criticism to analyze the protest against social injustice in *Les Miserables* novel by Victor Hugo.

**C. Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problem formulation is “How the protest against social injustices is reflected in Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables*.”

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing against social injustice reflected in Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables* based on a Marxism criticism.

**E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

2. To analyze the novel based on Marxism Perspective.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The result of the study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1. **Theoretical Benefit**

   It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in *Les Miserables*. For teacher, it might to be one of example references in teaching related Marxism theory. For students, it is expected
to give useful information about the novel analyzed by Marxist perspective. And for other researchers, it might enrich the Marxism perspective applying in analyzing novel.

2. **Practical Benefit**

   This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the novel and how to use literary theory in analyzing the novel. And it may enrich other researcher who wants to analyze the novel.

G. **Research Method**

   In this research the writer tries to describe the research method used in this research. There are five points that should be fulfilled:

1. **Type of the Study**

   The research about this novel belongs to qualitative research, because it does not need statistic to explore the fact. Qualitative research is a type of research that does not include calculation and numeration.

2. **Object of the Study**

   The object of the study is *Les Miserables* novel that has been translated in English. It is written by Victor Hugo. And it is published by Penguin Classic.

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

   a. Type of Data

   The type of data in this research is textual data that consist of words, phrases, sentences, and dialogue in the novel.
b. Data Source

There are two data sources that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources.

1) Primary data sources

The primary data sources is *Les Miserables* novel (1862) in English edition by Victor Hugo.

2) Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources consist of material about social injustice books which deals with the research.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collection will be in form of library research. There will be some techniques of data collection as follows:

a. Reading the novel of *Les Miserables*

b. Identifying the topic of the novel

c. Determining the character that will be analyzed

d. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source

e. Reading some related books to find out the theory

f. Determining the issues of the novel.
5. **Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the contain of the novel on protesting against social injustice reflected Victor Hugo’s *Les Miserables*.

**H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper is divided into six chapters; the first chapter is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter is consisting of underlying theory, which presents the notion of Marxism Criticism and Major Principles of Marxism Criticism. The third chapter consists of social historical background of French society in the late of nineteenth century. The four chapter deals with the structural analysis of the novel, which involves of character and characterization, plot, point of view, setting, theme, and discussion. The five chapter presents the Marxist Criticism analysis. And the last chapter presents conclusion and suggestion.