A. Background of the Study

*The Fierce Dispute* describes three women who live in different eras but in one house, written by American Author Helen Hooven Santmyer. *The Fierce Dispute* novel was firstly published in 1929 by Boston Publisher, but the novel was published again in 1988 by St. Martins Press. This novel has six chapters and 292 pages.

Helen is best known for the widely acclaimed novel *And Ladies of the Club*, published in 1982. Helen Hooven Santmyer was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on 25 November 1895. Santmyer’s mother, an educated woman named Bertha and her’s father was Joseph Wright. In 1925, she published her first novel, *Herbs & Apples*. In 1935, Helen moved back to Xenia, becoming the Dean of Women and the head of Cedarville University English Department. She was 88 when her famous work *And Ladies of the Club* was published, it was a best-seller in 1984. She also wrote *Ohio Town* and *The Fierce Dispute*. She received most of her fame late in life and died on February 21, 1986 in Xenia, Ohio, aged 90. She was inducted into the Ohio Women’s hall of fame in 1996.
The Fierce Dispute novel tells about three women born on different eras. First women is Margaret Baird. She is Lucy Anne’s grandmother and Hillary Baird’s mother. Margaret Baird is a rich woman in Xenia, Ohio. She live in Baird House, the old house forgotten by the townspeople. She live with Hillary Baird, Lucy Anne and Aaron as a house keeper. Lucy Anne is a young girl. Lucy Anne born of Hilary’s scandalous marriage. She pretended that children had come to play with her. She only knew that they would not play with her. Out of doors, she had for her only companion Aaron, the hired man. She followed him about his work in the tool shed, in the vegetable gardens.

Lucy Anne did not go to school. Her grandmother taught her to read and sums and to find places on a map, and helped her to learn heart chapters out of the Bible. Lucy Anne never considered her grandmother perfect, as her mother was perfect. She would not for anything have hurt her grandmother’s feelings, but she wondered sometimes why things should have been so contrary, so twisted, why her mother should have been so different. She know now why her grandmother had been so queer when her father was dying. Lucy Anne thought that they must have forgotten it by this time, because it had never been mentioned again. It was strange, the difference it had made to her mother-Paolo’s being dead.

Hilary had always seemed to Lucy Anne to be waiting for someone. Afterwards, she still waited, but not for a person-for something to happen. Lucy
Anne knew that there were two ways of waiting. If your grandmother had gone away. Lucy Anne, herself, wondered if anything ever would happen. She could see that her mother was growing very tried. One day, Lucy Anne disobey the grandmother’s rules. This incident maked Lucy Anne have cure from Dr. Martin. Everyday, Dr. Martin came to Baird House. Dr. Martin realized the oddity of Lucy Anne when she talked to herself. Dr. Martin told it to Margaret and as a doctor, Dr. Martin suggest that Lucy Anne had to have friends and play with children of the age of Lucy Anne. So, Lucy Anne could grow up normally like others.

One day, grandmother Margaret invite Lucy Anne to visit Lucy Anne’s uncle. Uncle Tom live with his wife, Eleanore and his daughter Margaret. Lucy Anne did not like to the uncle Tom’s house. The cousin’s friend will not play with Lucy Anne because Lucy Anne have Latin blood. Lucy Anne cried. When they arrive at Baird House, Hillary ask to Lucy Anne, is she really like to visit and live with uncle Tom or not. She cried and said that if she live with uncle Tom and her aunt Eleanore, she will get stomachache. Lucy Anne’s face really pale. Hillary said that all of it is a grandmother plan. Lucy Anne look at grandmother Margaret with inspiring pity and pale.

In the morning, grandmother Margaret sick and cannot wake up from bed. Lucy Anne worried and afraid. When Dr. Martim come to see grandmother Margaret, Lucy Anne imagine if her grandmother will pass away and she can
live freely, but her imagine destroyed when Dr. Martin said that her grandmother just need take a rest and medical treatment. Margaret died and she leave last will. The last will of Margaret make the position both Lucy Anne and Hillary in bad choice. They must stay at Baird House and Lucy Anne can not be a musician. But this condition not in long term, because Hillary found the newest of last will of Margaret.

In every literature there are public responses. *The Fierce Dispute* novel also has public responses. The responses come from the editor, reader, and critics. This novel has responses from the reader, and it writte down in the front of the *The Fierce Dispute* novel was published by St. Martin Press. The responses are: Nashville Tennessean said that *The Fierce Dispute* novel has lyrical, highly descriptive..poignant. Cleveland Plain Dealer also has responses that *The Fierce Dispute* novel “The same delicacy and finely tuned sense of detail that lent ladies...its principal charm.” Weldon A. Kefauver as the editor said that “I liked The Fierce Dispute very much.”

There are some opinions about *The Fierce Dispute* novel. Firstly, come from Cecelia Tichi is the William Rand Kenan Jr. Professor of English at Vanderbilt University said that *The Fierce Dispute* is full of the warmth, the rich detail, and the evocation of a bygone era that made Helen Hooven Santmyer a beloved American Author. *The Fierce Dispute* pits Margaret Baird, the proud bearer of the Linley-Hewit-Baird family history, against Margaret’s
cosmopolitan and romantic daughter, Hilary. Set in the Xenia, Ohio, family home, a once opulent villa, with its balconies, bay windows, and towers, the novel’s real battleground is Lucy Anne herself, the child mired in conflict because she loves both her mother Hilary and grandmother Margaret. Next, from the reader of Amazon.com, state that Helen Hooven Santmyer is “one of my favorite authors. Although, "The Fierce Dispute" is not one of my favorites. The characters are beautifully written and are easy to visualize. However, the end of the book left me dissatisfied and wanting more. The plot is good, but it is just not as endearing as some of the author's other novels”. The other opinion from the customer of Amazon.com, Craig Rowland, in March 15, 2010 said that “In spite of the dramatic title, there is no "fierce dispute" in the novel. I was expecting something to develop to explain why the novel was entitled as such. There is not even any tension between mother and grandmother over the care of Lucy Anne; the girl's own mother seems to let the grandmother have her way with making decisions for her. The book got off to an interesting start as the description of the house and its inhabitants reminded me of the Maysles' "Grey Gardens", yet this interest did not last. Aside from a visit to an amusement park, where young Lucy Anne perceives merry-go-rounds and cotton candy for the first time, the storyline is boring. When Margaret dies, Santmyer spends five pages laying down the intricate details of her last will as it is read to her heirs. This is wholly unnecessary and ruins the end of the novel. As with Herbs and Apples, Santmyer's first novel from 1925, one can read the start of a great
novelist who would take a half century to develop before producing her masterpiece ...And Ladies of the club.” From the statement above, the writer can conclude that the pros of The Fierce Dispute novel says it is a good novel with specific detail. But the contras says that The Fierce Dispute novel have not good ending and there is no real fierce dispute in the novel.

The Fierce Dispute novel is the second of two early published novels by Helen Hooven Santmyer. Her first, Herbs and Apples, was published in 1925 by Houghton Mifflin, and The Fierce Dispute followed in 1929 from that same Boston Publisher. Both novels were unavailable for almost sixty years. As far as I know, I really hard to find in internet about the general amount of The Fierce Dispute novel sold out it never mention, and there are no awards and prize for this novel. However, The Fierce Dispute novel was published in some publisher. In 1987, The Fierce Dispute novel was published in hardcover by St. Martin’s Press and in September 15th, 28th, 1988 in paperback. The Fierce Dispute novel was published in paperback and hardcover by Ohio State University Press in September 1st, 1999. In Ohio State University Press, The Fierce Dispute novel by Santmyer was sold out 530 copies of the paper edition and 41 copies of the hard cover edition. The Fierce Dispute novel also published by MacMillan Publishing Company in April 1st, 1999.

According to the writer, there are four reasons why the writer is interested be researcher in this novel. First, because of the characters in The
Fierce Dispute novel tell about character woman in different eras. First woman is Margareth, second is Hilary and third is Lucy Anne. Margareth Baird is a grandmother, the stern matriach, she have power because she have all the authority of the wealth. Everything what Margareth want, the other must do it. The second woman is Hilary, Margareth’s daughter, who really want to leave the Baird House and have journey to Italy with Lucy Anne. The other hand, she cannot leave Baird House because her mother never let Lucy Anne go with her. Lucy Anne, a young girl, who obedient with her grandmother because she never want to make her grandmother hurt. Although, the deep of her heart, she want her grandmother die.

Second, because this novel tells about the story which the set of the novel in Xenia, Ohio, in nineteenth century. When life in America became a whirlwind of change and hidden tumult, even the small town of Xenia, Ohio. The setting of place of the novel is a real in life. So, the reader of the novel can understand the real imaginary of the setting of the novel.

Thrid reason because of the language of The Fierce Dispute novel can be understood easily for the readers. Although The Fierce Dispute novel firstly published in 1929, the language used by Santmyer is modern English. Helen Hooven Santmyer delivering the story in The Fierce Dispute novel with perfectly, because she can build the interesting feeling of the readers to read and read again.
The last reason why the novel has crucial theme to be discussed. The theme of the story in the novel is Child Rights. This theme can we get from the characteristic of Lucy Anne, a young girl who live with her’s parents and her’s grandmother in Baird Place. *The Fierce Dispute* novel tells about a child who want get freedom from her’s grandmother, have friends and be a musician like her father.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is encouraged to entitle the research as follows, “**CHILD RIGHTS REFLECTED IN HELEN HOOVEN SANTMYER’S THE FIERCE DISPUTE NOVEL (1929): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**”

**B. Literature Review**

*The Fierce Dispute* novel (1929) by Helen Hooven Santmyer is appealing novel. So far as the writer concerns, in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and some universities in Central Java, there is no one that analyzed child rights before. The writer also search journal in ProQuest, EBSCO and Cambridge but there is no journal that analyzed child rights in *The Fierce Dispute* novel. Based on the reason, the writer tries to analyze implication of child rights in *The Fierce Dispute* novel by sociological perspective.
C. **Problem Statement**

The problem statement of the study is “How is child rights reflected in Helen Hooven Santmyer’s *The Fierce Dispute* Novel (1929) using a sociological perspective?”.

Based on the major question, the writer questions can be divided into:

1. What is the characteristic of child rights in *The Fierce Dispute*?
2. How is child rights expressed in the *The Fierce Dispute*?
3. Why is it essential for Helen Hooven Santmyer to address child rights?

D. **Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing child rights reflected in *The Fierce Dispute* Novel (1929) based on a sociological perspective.

E. **Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are the following

1. To identify the characteristic of Child Rights in *The Fierce Dispute* Novel.
2. To describe Child Rights in *The Fierce Dispute* Novel.
3. To expose the essential for Helen Hooven Santmyer speak about child rights.

F. **The Benefits of the study**

The benefits expected from this study is as follows

1. **Theoretical benefit**

   The study is proposed to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in literary devices and to enrich the
knowledge and experience of the writer and other students, specially at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

2. **Practical benefit**

The study is proposed to complete the final project of the writer for getting bachelor degree of education in Department of English Education of UMS.

G. **Research Method**

1. **Type of the Study**

   In this study, the writer applies qualitative research. Moloeng (1983: 3) affirms that qualitative research is a research which result in the descriptive data in the form observed people or behaviors. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze using sociological approach. The steps to conduct the 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 *The Fierce Dispute* by Helen Hooven Santmyer and was published in 1988 by St. Martins Press.
3. Type of Data and Data Source

The type of data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *The Fierce Dispute Novel* (1988) by Helen Hooven Santmyer. The type of data source

There are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data as follows:

1) Primary data

The primary data source is the novel of *The Fierce Dispute* published by St. Martins Press.

2) Secondary data

The secondary data sources are internet, books or any information related to the practice of child rights that supports the sociological perspective.

4. Technique of Collecting data

The techniques of data collection is note-taking, and the steps are as follows:

a. Read the novel repeatedly

b. Finding out and taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data

c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category
d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis

e. Drawing conclusion, suggestion and formulate its pedagogical implication.

5. Technique of Analyzing data

In analyzing the data, the writer applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows:

The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of child rights.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer organizes this research paper in order to make it easier to understand. The research paper is divided into six chapters.

Background of American Society in 1929 which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect and religious aspect. Chapter IV is structural analysis of *The Fierce Dispute* novel. It covers (1) The structural elements of *The Fierce Dispute* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *The Fierce Dispute* novel. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. In this chapter also discuss child rights and discussion. Chapter VI is Conclusion. This last chapter draws Conclusion and Suggestion.