

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Les Misérables is a novel written by Victor Hugo. It was published by Lacroix and Verboeckhoven in 1862. The novel was firstly published in Belgium. *Les Misérables* is translated into 9 different languages so all people in the world can read it. It consists of 1500 pages in English version editions, and 1900 pages in French. This novel becomes one of the longest novels in the world and the best novel along of nine-teen century. This novel also makes changes the government rule in that time. *Les Misérables* was adapted into movie, drama, and opera with the same title as its novel. The movie won some achievement, there are Laurence Oliver award in 2012, Laurence Oliver award in 1985, Tony award and Drama Desk Award in 1987.

The author Victor Marie Hugo was born in Besancon, France, on 26 Pebruary 1802 and died on 22 May 1885. He had an original name, it was Avenue d'Eylau. 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. Hugo requires nearly 20 years to complete this novel. Some characters in the novel were created by the writer who ever intersect with him. His other novels are *Han d'Islande* published in 1823, *The Last Day of a Condemned Man (Le Dernier jour d'un condamne)*

published in 1829, *The Hunchback of Notre-Dame (Notre-Dame de Paris)* published in 1831.

Les Miserables told a story of a main character named Jean Valjean, he is a Frenchman imprisoned for stealing a loaf of bread. He spent nineteen years in prison. Once out of prison, it turns out no better life than in jail. People detest him caused of his status as ex-prisoner. Jean Valjean's life changed after he met with a bishop named Mr. Myriel. The bishop helps him, but even so, he steals bishop's cutlery silverware. Jean Valjean is arrested again by the police for theft. When confirmed by the bishop, however, the bishop says that the silverware was a gift. Valjean spared from prison, but the bishop asks him to help others with equal kindness. That Myriel's kindness was able to open the hearts of Jean Valjean, so he decides to turn into a good person. After that, he became someone new and changed his name to Mr. Madelaine. He becomes mayor that he also maintains many successful factories.

Jean Valjean also meets Fantine, the beautiful woman who is suffering. She was abandoned by her lover when she is pregnant. She had to raise her daughter Cosette her-self. She entrusted her daughter to the Thenardier family so she could work and sent money to Cosette every month, but later she knows that Thenardiers is a cruel family. They always squeeze a lot of money to Fantine. Fantine goes bankrupt so she could not provide the amount that Thenardiers want. To overcome that situation, she plunges into the world of prostitution.

When Madeleine helps Fantine, he is suspected by Javert that his true identity is Mr. Jean Valjean. Javert arrests Valjean with a life sentence. Fantine, who is having illness, is shocked and dies. A few years after Fantine's death, Valjean breaks out of the jail to pick Cosette to fulfill his promise. He escapes again from his prison to pick Cosette, but Javert is still sniffing Jean Valjean. Jean Valjean raises Cosette as her own daughter until she becomes a beautiful girl.

This novel gets some responses from the readers. Tim, a student in California (2005) comments "I love the richness of the story, because I can feel the sadness, happiness and anger by reading the novel like when I read the poetry". Bhagwad, a student in the USA (2009), also comments that "The book is one of the greatest books that I ever read and the book will leave the reader feeling sad, peaceful, thoughtful, and more sensitive". From the comment above, the readers enjoy reading *Les Misérables* because the novel will make the people feel what in the story of the novel is.

Royal Larvae (<http://forums.welltrainedmind.com>) also comments that "Les Misérables is not a nice book. There is questionable content that is not detailed, but it can get graphic. Things happen that are not pleasant, the prostitutes, the criminals, the violence, and the thieves. Les Misérable is not a fun and enjoyable book". It is a negative response from the reader. He comments that he does not arrive to the detail on the novel content. At the beginning of publishing, a lot of French writers also comment

negatively about the novel. But when the novel was released in French bookshop, the novel can be sold out until 48,000 copies in the first day.

Les Miserables has negative and positive responses from the readers. However, the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel because of four reasons. The first reason is the interesting life of the characters of the novel. Most of the characters experience suffer, they always struggle in difficulty. The second reason is many critics and messages in the novel about the patriotism, religion, romance, and fight in the French revolution period. The third one is the cleverness of the main character in escape from Javert, a smart police. The last reason is the novel tells us the life of the main character, named Jean Valjean. His life is drawn as the hero of his family and Cossette. He is sincere to help someone without expecting anything in return.

The researcher is interested in analyzing the novel by using psychoanalytic approach. The issue of this study is the altruism shown in Jean Valjean character. Therefore, the researcher decides to carry out a study entitled: **ALTRUISM REFLECTED AT VICTOR HUGO'S *LES MISERABLES* (1862): A PSYCHOANALYTIC STUDY OF LITERATURE.**

B. Literature Review

There are some literature reviews concerning with *Les Miserables* (1862) written by Victor Hugo. By using *ProQuest*, the researcher managed to find foreign researchers. Algis Valiunas (2007) with his thesis

entitled *The Sacred Heart of Victor Hugo*. He concludes that the story of Victor Hugo's last time effects to his novel. Steven Alan Carr's thesis (2002) entitled *The Holocaust in the Text: Victor Hugo's Les Misérables and the Allegorical Film Adaptation*. He tells many movies are adapted from *Les Misérables*, and Hugo's novel signals a resonance between the book and a modernist response to the Holocaust. The other thesis is from Mary Anne O'Neil (1999) with her thesis entitled *Pascalian Reflections in Les Misérables*. He concludes that Pascal and Victor Hugo are an abstract philosopher. The divinity Victor Hugo promotes in *Les Misérables* have in common with the some philosopher acknowledged by Pascal.

C. Problem Statement

Formulating problem statement is quite significant. It helps the researcher understands the research that will be conducted. Therefore, based on the background of the study, the researcher concerns to analyze how altruism of Jean Valjean is reflected in *Les Misérables* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the discussing of altruism based on the novel *Les Misérables*. The discussion only uses the theory of psychoanalytic by Sigmund Freud.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of study are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on structural elements of the novel.
2. To describe altruism phenomenon based on psychoanalytic approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

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

1. Theoretically, to the knowledge of the aspects of psychoanalytic literary study.
2. Practically, to enlarge knowledge and experience of the researcher and another students who have interest in literature.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

The type of the study is qualitative research.

2. Type of Data and Source

The sources of the data used in this research are categorized into two namely primary data and secondary data:

a. Primary data

It is taken from the Victor Hugo's novel *Les Miserables* (1862).

b. Secondary data

It is taken from the materials related to the study. The data are taken from website, dictionary, and some books which support the research.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The method to collect the data is by note-taking. The researcher involves some required steps:

- a. Reading the novel for several times to get deep understanding.
- b. Giving underline to the important information in the novel.

- c. Determining the main issue of the novel.
- d. Determining the characters that will be analyzed.
- e. Reading some related books reference to find out the theory, data and information needed.
- f. Accessing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the object of the study.
- g. Taking note of important thing both primary and secondary data sources.
- h. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- i. Classifying the material that has been selected to support in analyzing the novel.

4. Techniques of Data Analysis

The technique to analyze the data uses descriptive analysis. The researcher collects the data which is relevant to analyze the novel. Psychoanalytic theory is used to analyze the novel to find psychological condition of the character in the novel.

H. Paper Organization

This research paper consists of five chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, object of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents notion of psychoanalysis, major principle of psychoanalysis, notion of altruism, and structural elements of

the novel. Chapter III deals with structural analysis and its discussion of the novel, which involves the structural elements such as, character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, and theme. Chapter IV discusses psychoanalytic analysis and its discussion of the novel. The last is Chapter V presents draws conclusion and suggestion based on the analysis of the previous chapter.