

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

A writer or an author is going to express their idea through their writing or text, such as in poem, novel. It is interesting because an author will tell it in beauty of words, phrases, sentences even passages and books. They may express about themselves, their surrounding, environment, society condition, nature, politic, history or criticism of something. According to Engels which rewritten by Laurensen and Swingewood (1972), he stated that literature as reflection of social processes. It means that literature as written language product is related to society that gives colors in the work.

Basing on explanation above, it is clear that literary work is product of society. An author is not able to be separated from the society or environment, they relate each others, and it is harmony. In creating literary work, he will be influenced by surrounding, and the result of writing, literary work, is going to influence the readers as society members. According to Wellek and Warren (1948: 3), literature is “creative, an art”. In this term, they stated that literature is a creativity work in art. This term is still wide and common. Then, Cuddon (1999: 472) defines literature as “a vague term which usually denotes works which belong to the major genres: epic, drama, lyric, novel, short story ode.” Cuddon is able to give explanation clearer than Wellek and Warren, he give the types or work of it.

In several literary works express many features of thought and feeling on subjects as varied as social class, work, love, religion, nature, and art. Literary work is not only written to amuse and entertain as the purpose of writing, but also to persuade or dogma. Wellek and Warren (1948: 20) state that poetry is for pleasure, instruction, propaganda, and pure sound and image. Poetry as one of literary works has function to give pleasure for the readers and hearers. When the readers read and listeners listen the poetry they are going to get enjoy. In other hand, it will be used for giving instruction and propaganda to the reader by presenting facts and reality which happen in the society at that time. By using this way, the author is able to influence and move society to realize as he write and want. And the last one is pure sound and image; it means that poetry as literary work is a form of knowledge. Literary works convey several information and knowledge such as settings (place or time), characters (name of person), history, and social view. It is relevant with the statement that literary is a portable mirror which can convey and reflect all aspect of life and nature. In other hand, Laurensen and Swingewood stated that literature is as source of information and as documentation, it is like fossil and artifact.

Literary work expresses several aspects; such as the author, the reader, social, and history. In the sturdy of literature, there are two approaches, intrinsic and extrinsic. In intrinsic, referring Wellek and Warren (1948: 139-263), the researcher will classify the data based on; first is euphony, rhythm, and meter; second, style and stylistics; third, image, metaphor, symbol, myth;

fourth, the nature and modes of narrative fiction; the fifth, literary genres; the sixth, evaluation; and for the last is literary history. And basing on Laurensen and Swingewood (1972: 11), the intrinsic study of literature is the researcher studies “inner structure, imagery, metaphor, rhythm, delineation of character, dynamics of plot, and so on.” The extrinsic approach to the study of literature studies the literary work through biography, psychology, society, ideas, and the other arts.

In this study examines *protest against child exploitation: a sociological study on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*. Most scholars of literature have taken in studying the relation of individual authors to the circumstances of the social and cultural era in which they live and write. It can be summarized that in studying literature there are two approaches; literary work as pure author product, then, it is called as psychological approach, and the second one literary work is product of society not only individual of author (sociological approach).

In the author aspect, it can be known literary work is the author product. *Oliver Twist* is one of Charles Dickens' novels which published in Victorian Era or Queen Victoria regime. Charles John Huffam Dickens (7 February 1812 - 9 June 1870) was born in Portsmouth, the second of eight children to John Dickens (1785-1851) and Elizabeth Dickens (Culliford 1789-1863). He is an English writer and social critic who is generally regarded as the greatest novelist of the Victorian and the creator of some of the world's most memorable fictional characters. Very soon after his birth the family shifted to

Norfolk Street, Bloomsbury, and then, when he was four, they moved to Chatham, Kent, where he spent his formative years until the age of eleven.

Charles spent his time outdoors, but also he read greedily. He used memories of childhood and a near-photographic memory of people and events in his writing. His father's brief age as a clerk in the Navy Pay Office offered him several years of private education. Because of financial difficulties, the Dickens family moved from Kent to Camden Town in London in 1822. Level to living beyond his means, John Dickens was imprisoned in the Marshalsea debtors' jail in Southwark London in 1824.

Then, Dickens worked at the law office of Ellis and Blackmore, attorneys, of Holborn Court, Gray's Inn, as a junior clerk from May 1827 to November 1828. Then, having learned Gurney's system of shorthand in his spare time, he left to become a freelance reporter. Then he worked as editor of Bentley's Miscellany.

In 1836, he finished the last episodes of *The Pickwick Papers* and began writing the beginning chapters of *Oliver Twist*-writing. *Oliver Twist*, published in 1838, became one of Dickens's better known stories, with dialogue that transferred well to the stage and it was the first Victorian novel with a child protagonist. It was published serially.

On 2 April 1836, after a one year engagement during which he wrote *The Pickwick Papers*, he married Catherine Thomson Hogarth (1816–1879). The ten children of Charles Dickens are the first child; Charles Dickens, Jr. (1837–1896); the second child, Mary “Mamie” Dickens (1838–1896); the

third child, Kate Dickens (1839–1929); the fourth, Walter Landor Dickens (1841–1863); the fifth, Francis Dickens (1844–1886); the sixth, Alfred D’Orsay Tennyson Dickens (1845–1912); the seventh, Sydney Smith Haldimand Dickens (1847–1872); the eighth, Henry Fielding Dickens (1849–1933); the ninth, Dora Annie Dickens (1850–1851); and the last child is Edward Dickens (1852–1902).

On 8 June 1870, Dickens suffered another stroke at his home. He never regained consciousness, and the next day, on 9 June, he died at Gad's Hill Place. He was laid to rest in the Poet’s Corner of Westminster Abbey. A printed epitaph circulated at the time of the funeral reads: "To the Memory of Charles Dickens (England's most popular author) who died at his residence, Higham, near Rochester, Kent, 9 June 1870, aged 58 years. He was a sympathiser with the poor, the suffering, and the oppressed; and by his death, one of England's greatest writers is lost to the world." His last words were: "On the ground", in response to his daughter Georgina's request that he lie down.

Oliver Twist novel is one of Charles Dickens’ literary works. It is unique; the author could mix between imaginary and factual became good story. *Oliver Twist* exposes the social crisis that happened at that period. In this story gives us information about orphan boy, labor, crime, begging, money and legacy problem, sadness, homeless, and jobless. Those are serious problem at that time and it is going to useful up to present, hence they are still relevant if it is discussed. Literature is used as media to express our mind,

events, and society condition. According to Wolff (1981), *art is a social product*. It means that the art is not only pure production of the writer or author, but also other aspects such as; social condition of society at that time, sociology, politic, history, etc take a part in coloring the story.

According to Davis (2007: 271), *Oliver Twist* was written and published in twenty four parts, it was February 1837 until April 1839. From the written year of the novel, it can be known and concluded that it was in Victorian Age. Victorian is a term used to designate broadly the literature written during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). In other hand, it can be called as nineteenth century literature, although, in the early nineteenth century, about a quarter, romantic period still developed. Romantic period itself is about 1798 to 1930. Thus, Victorian Age is about 1830 to 1901 and it is divided into Early (1830 to 1870) and Late Victorian Age (1870 to 1901).

Basing on explanation above, it can be specified that *Oliver Twist* is in the early Victorian Age. *Oliver Twist* is in transition period between Romantic Period and Victorian Era. The taste of Romantic Period still influenced Victorian Age literary work, then, the impact of Industrialization (realism and materialism) becomes the main point of Victorian Age. According to Holman (1985: 158), the Early Victorian Age is romantic and realism literature. Romantic, here, means that *Oliver Twist* tells about the nature, rural area, and village life. Realism, although it is a form of reaction against Romanticism, means the novel tells about real life, society, and condition at the time, shortly

it is called as the truth. Charles Dickens could well mix between imaginary and fiction that become the power of Romantic Period and realistic.

Oliver Twist is the story of a young orphan, Oliver, in other words, it is also known as parish boy, and his efforts to stay good in a society that refuses to assist. Oliver is born in a workhouse, to a mother not known to anyone in the town. She dies right after giving birth to him, and he is sent to the close-minded orphanage, where he and the other orphans are treated terribly and fed very not enough. When he is nine, he is sent to the workhouse, where again he and the others are treated badly and practically starved. The other boys, unable to stand their hunger any longer, make a decision to draw straws to select who will have to go up and ask for more food. Oliver loses. On the appointed day, after finishing his first serving of gruel, he goes up and asks for more. Mr. Bumble, the beadle, and the board are outraged, and decide they must get rid of Oliver, apprenticing him to the close-minded undertaker, Mr. Sowerberry. It is not great there either, and after an attack on his mother's memory, Oliver runs away.

Oliver walks towards London. When he is close, he is so weak he can barely continue, and he meets another boy named Jack Dawkins, or the artful Dodger. The Dodger tells Oliver he can come with him to a place where a gentleman will give him a place to sleep and food, for no rent. Oliver follows him, and the Dodger takes him to a dirty house in London where he meets Fagin, the aforesaid gentleman, and Oliver is accepted to stay in that house. Oliver eventually learns that Fagin's boys are all pickpockets and thieves, but

not until he is wrongfully accused of their crime of stealing an old gentleman's handkerchief. He is arrested, but the bookseller comes just in time to the court and says that he saw that Oliver did not do it. The gentleman whose handkerchief was taken, Mr. Brownlow, feels bad for Oliver, and takes him in.

Oliver is very glad with Mr. Brownlow, but Fagin and his co-conspirators are unhappy to have lost Oliver, who may give away their hiding place. So one day, when Mr. Brownlow entrusts Oliver to return a little books to the bookseller for him, Nancy spies Oliver, and kidnaps him by forcing in public area and taking him back to Fagin.

Oliver is forced to go on a house with the intimidating Bill Sikes to robber that house. At gun point Oliver enters the house, with the plan to wake those within, but before he can, he is shot by one of the servants. Sikes and his partner escape from the house. Sikes holds Oliver on his shoulder but it makes him run slow, finally they leave Oliver in a waterway. The next morning Oliver goes back to the house, where the kind owner, Mrs. Maylie, and her beautiful niece Rose, decide to save him from the police and nurse him back to health.

Oliver slowly recovers, and is really happy and grateful to be with kind and bighearted people, who in turn are extremely happy to know that Oliver is such a good-natured boy. When he is well enough, they take him to see Mr. Brownlow, but they find his house empty, he has moved to abroad.

Meanwhile, Fagin and his strange partner Monks have not given up on finding Oliver.

Nancy, listen in Fagin and Monks, decides that she must go to Rose Maylie to tell her what she knows. She does so; telling Rose that Monks is Oliver's half-brother, who has been trying to damage Oliver so that he can keep his whole inheritance, but that she will not betray Fagin or Sikes. Rose tells Mr. Brownlow, who tells Oliver's other caretakers, and they decide that they must meet Nancy again to find out how to find Monks.

They meet her on London Bridge at a set time, but Fagin has become doubtful, and has sent his new boy, Noah Claypole, to spy on Nancy. Nancy tells Rose and Mr. Brownlow information and how to find Monks, but still refuses to betray Fagin and Sikes, or to go with them. Noah describes everything to Fagin, who tells Sikes, knowing full well that Sikes will kill Nancy. He does it and run away from London. Mr. Brownlow has in the mean time found Monks, who finally admits everything that he has done, and the true case of Oliver's birth.

Sikes is on the run, but all of London is in a chaos, and he go back to London and eventually hangs himself accidentally in falling off a roof, while trying to escape from the crowd surrounding him. Fagin is arrested and after a visit from Oliver, he is executed. Oliver, Mr. Brownlow, and the Maylie end up living in peace, happy, and comfort.

This research studies *protest against child exploitation: a sociological study on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist* because of the following reasons: the

first one is, according Wolf, art (literary work) is social product and it shows author's experience, history, and reality; the second one is *Oliver Twist* is a realistic novel, the third one is *Oliver Twist* was written in Victorian Era and at that time there is child exploitation in several sectors which reflects in story, and the last one is the essence of social tragedy in *Oliver Twist* also still happens in our country, Indonesia.

According to the summary of the story, it can be concluded that *Oliver Twist* has bad experiences in his life. It is started when he was born by his mother and she dies right after giving birth to him, then he lives in orphanage, but he is treated badly at there. It is happened in workhouse and London among the thieves. In the novel, there are several children among *Oliver Twist*; they are in workhouse and London among the thieves. They are weak children and they are forced for doing adult activity. In other word, they are exploited. They are still children, not adult. They should live in peace, happy, and not under-pressure. They have their world, children world.

Referring to the above explanations and to avoid broader interpretation from the readers, the researcher specifies the investigation on child exploitation in Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist* and emphasizes on the children character. Here, the writer uses sociology of literature and exploitation theory.

B. Literature Review

Oliver Twist is famous story about reality and factual, orphanage, children, crime, and labor. There are many scholars and researchers interested

in studying and researching on it. The researcher finds several previous studies concerning with Charles Dickens' *Oliver Twist*. The first one is entitled *Oliver Twist's Workhouse* (Altholz: 2001). He stated that

Dickens was content to obtain his factual information from commonly accessible printed sources: the newspapers (including provincial weeklies subscribed to by the London dailies on which Dickens worked to furnish them with snippets of local news); the 1834 Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws (with appendices of local investigations), on which the new Poor Law had been based; and the first Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners, especially the second Report of 1836 with its notorious 'dietaries' redolent of gruel.¹ This was sufficient for his novelistic purposes, but very generic, and it left Dickens unaware of some of the nuances of workhouse practice.

Then he wrote in the story with a lot of clues as to its location. It can be used as historical reference. He described there were few examples of new-style workhouses for Dickens to examine when he wrote the early chapters which actually take place in a workhouse. Altholz also emphasized on dramatic of the human story, especially children in workhouse.

The method that is used in collecting data is library research. The researcher read several sources, the main source of course *Oliver Twist*. Then, the secondary source is printed sources (the newspapers, the 1834 report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, and the first Reports of the Poor Law Commissioners.

He found that the cause of erecting the workhouse is the Poor Law. In his study, he stated the generic quality of Oliver's workhouse are first, this was enough for his novelistic aims, but extremely common, and it left Dickens

ignorant of various of the degrees of workhouse practice and the second reason is Dickens's own disorder of the previous and new Poor Laws. In other hand it can be summarized that Josef L Altholz emphasized on novelistic and political purposes. Dickens could mix both into good novel. He also could ignore (if he even knew) the extremes of the old regime while drawing those of the new in a plausible setting.

In the novel fact melded with fiction and it is the characteristic of Victorian literary work. In his study, he found that there is “no place better illustrated the contrast between the old and the new Poor Law systems while meeting the topographic requirements of *Oliver Twist*.” He also writes about discontinuity management in the workhouse. There is not good management in workhouse; for example “an old workhouse might be kept in use until a new one was ready, and old officials were frequently employed.” In other word, there is not to do with workhouse, old or new. The next information that is gotten from the journal is there are several locations of workhouse, but it is not called clearly. Referring to the journal, it is able to be summarized that Charles Dickens used novel, *Oliver Twist*, as criticism meant to social condition in England, in this case in workhouse scope.

The second one is entitled "*Please, Sir, I Want Some More*": *Clive Donner's Marxist Adaptation of Oliver Twist* (Holt: 2010). To analyze this study, Holt used *Oliver Twist* as the object then he compares between the conditions in the novel, *Oliver Twist*, in Victorian Era with the economic crisis confronting 1980s. Charles Dickens' novel is good fiction and factual. It

makes everyone interested in studying that, it is included *Oliver Twist*. *Oliver Twist* had made film-maker or director to take scene on it. British director, Clive Donner (1982), created *Oliver Twist* in film version and it became easy for understanding and interpreting social and historical circumstances in the novel. Based on Holt, he argued that “because the fiction of Charles Dickens is among the most highly adaptable and regularly adapted literature appropriated for the screen” (DeBona 78), cinematic “readings” of Dickens’s novels are particularly helpful for envisioning the numerous interpretive possibilities of the original texts.”

The method of collecting data that was used by Holt is library research. He used movie version and novel version then he compare those with the reality at that time and the time when movie was created. He also used other written sources.

Holt wrote and divided his research into four chapters, the first one is Dickens’s Social Critique in *Oliver Twist*; according to Arnold Kettle that is cited, and the main conflict of *Oliver Twist* is “the struggle of the proletariat against the bourgeois state.” Through *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens also drew the abuses of Victorian capitalism as social criticism and his main target was the New Poor Law that replaced the previous Poor Law. The result of the capitalism was there were paupers and crimes. In the last this chapter he concluded that there was Marxist tendencies, although it begun fail.

The second one is Donners’ *Oliver Twist: The Paupers and the Parish*. In this chapter is drawn there were conflict between different social group;

paupers and parish officials, criminals and middle class citizen. He said that “the contrasting lifestyles of these groups reveal how economic differences determine social interaction.”

The third chapter is the Criminal and the Middle Class. Workhouse, paupers, and parish are representation of middle class and poverty. In the study is explained that criminals is occurred because of poverty and middle class, but it is not absolutely true. He stated that there are two sides of middle class; the first is the goodness that reflected in Mr. Brownlow and Rose Maylie, and the second one is crime that exposed in portrayal of Monks.

And the last one is the Cultural Context of Donner’s Adaptation. *Oliver Twist* is novel about the effect of early revolution industry, or in other hand it is not only about orphan, orphanage, labour, and children, but it is also about economy and materialism. The film was made in 1982 and “Britain was in the midst of a dramatic economic transformation due to the 1980-1982 world recession and the drastic economic measures.” It can be summarized that there is similarity cultural context; they are economic, criticism, and social. Donner’s film stands as a critique not only Victorian society and Dickens’s text, but also of the society in which the film made.

The third one is entitled “*Something Covered with an Old Blanket*”: *Nancy and Other Dead Mothers in Oliver Twist* (Elizabeth: 2005). This essay provides the violence against women and this offers a meta-feminist and psychoanalytic analysis why domestic violence continues to present. Literary

criticism is used by the writer directly to explain social changes that give influence to domestic violence.

In this essay, Elizabeth showed how these “psychological perspectives can potentially result in acts of physical violence, which she calls the abject response.” The specific character that she had studied is female; for example is Nancy and the other side of the story is about the prostitute. Based on the study, it tells the reader about female, prostitution, extreme acts of physical violence, and murder. The violence and murder to Nancy is done by Sikes. She argued that the reason for the female violence “from an imbalanced focus in the male psyche on the repulsion aspect of abjection, a focus socially inscribed as a threatening power, which is used to justify violent usurpations of the feminine in masculine constructions of gender.”

The study identifies the cause of woman violence. It proposes a meta-feminist and psychoanalytic analysis that identifies several reasons why domestic violence continues to present. This examination gives understanding that violence against women results from a misplaced abjection.

The fourth is *Anti-Semitism and Social Critique in Dickens's Oliver Twist* (Meyer: 2005). The writer's method is library research in collecting data; of course the primary data is taken from *Oliver Twist*. Then, other sources are obtained from relevant sources.

According to Meyer, Fagin's characterization is a reflection of anti-Semitism. In the story, it is able to be known that Fagin is the Jew. He loves money very much. Meyer argued that Fagin is represented “as part of a

mysteriously interconnected Jewish underworld.” Anti Semitism comes from the contradiction of Oliver treatment. Fagin provides Oliver home, community, and food, but in other side, he is wicked person. He exploits Oliver to join the gang for picking pocket and robbery. He also has wicked plan with Monks to make Oliver in suffer and jailing him to the jail. He hopes gets benefit or money by realizing what Monks wants. All of these conditions make anti Semitism.

As cited in the paper, ‘Looking at the dog, who is eyeing Oliver and growling and licking his lips, “with a kind of grim and ferocious approval,” Sikes tells Oliver, “He's as willing as a Christian, strike me blind if he isn't!”’ According to the writer, these sentences are Dickens’ joke. This joke is the scary joke. “Sikes's bloodthirsty dog” is symbol of Christian who acts brute power to the children who are weak and helpless. They force Oliver to join the Fagin’s gang, a life of crime. The writer emphasizes to the condition of England’s poor and the weak children and uses “Christianity as a rhetorical tool through which to make the social commentary that is at the novel's moral centre.”

Thus, according to Meyer, there are two conclusions in the paper. They are the Jew and the Christian. Fagin’s treatment to Oliver represents the wicked Jew and at last it creates anti Semitism. Then, the writer uses Oliver and Christian, in this scope the workhouse or the church authority, to make social criticism.

The fifth is *Dickens's Oliver Twist* (Deutschendorf: 2005). The writer's method is library research, he uses library research in collecting data, of course the primary data is taken from *Oliver Twist* and other sources are obtained from relevant sources. Deutschendorf observes the relationship between Oliver and the city of London. According the paper, Charles Dickens is the first genius English novelist who is able to reflect the lower and middle class and their environment or society. Then he is also good in giving understanding to the readers and bringing them to be sympathy to the circumstance of the novel.

In the city, Oliver is together with the Fagin's gang. He is exploited by Fagin to pickpocket with other pupils. He is also forced by Fagin to join him in robbery. It occurs in Chertsey, outside of London. In other side, it means that Oliver is escaped from Fagin's gang and removed from the corrupting city. The writer found that *Oliver Twist* is portrayal of London and its life.

According to the five previous studies above, it can be found the difference among this research and the fifth previous studies. The differences are the first one tells about workhouse, the second one draws Charles Dickens' Social Critique and Class Struggle in Marxist view, the third one is captured that there are domestic violence and it still happen until now, the fourth one is about anti-Semitism and social critique, and the last one is Oliver's relationship with the city of London in Charles Dickens's novel *Oliver Twist*. In other hand, the similarity is the object of the research, *Oliver Twist*, although in this case there are two versions; novel (written) and film (audio

video). Referring explanation above, it is clear that this study with the title *protest against child exploitation: a sociological study on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist* is quite different to previous studies and this study is original one. This research concentrates on child exploitation.

C. Problem Statements

Based on the previous background and specification of identification on the children character, the researcher proposes the following questions:

1. What historical context underlies the writing of *Oliver Twist*?
2. How are the social realities of English society reflected in the novel?
3. Why did Charles Dickens give particular attention to child exploitation?

D. Objectives of the Research

According to problem statements above the objectives of this research are:

1. To elaborate the social background of the English society at the first half of the nineteenth century.
2. To find the relation between the novel and the social realities of the English society underlying the writing of the novel.
3. To reveal the reasons why Charles Dickens give particular attention to child exploitation.

E. Benefit of the Research

There are two benefits of the study, they are:

1. Practical Benefit

Basing on the objective of the research, in practical, this research is supposed to give contribution to readers, researcher, and scholars in understanding Sociology of Literature and Marxian Exploitation, especially how to apply those in analyzing and understanding the literary work clearly. If it is related to the object of the study, *protest against child exploitation: a sociological study on Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist*, this study is hoped will give contribution for adult person, parents, society, and government to take care and escape children, do not let them in exploitation and child exploitation occurs in our country. All of parts of the society must be care and save the children for making good future to them.

2. Theoretical Benefit

This study is expected to provide knowledge and scientific information in analyzing and understanding the literary work, especially literary study on *Oliver Twist*. This research is also expected to be the foundation, input, and source for next research or study.