

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Jane Austen's novels have become the famous novel in two hundred years. The author creates his works as the reflection of the social phenomena or conditions at the time. As Klarer (2004: 1) said that literature "as cultural and historical phenomena and to investigate the conditions of their production and reception." Literature is a fiction but includes factual information in presenting events, characterization, and scenes (Kennedy, 1983:3). Jane Austen's novels represented the social condition and situation in the early of nineteenth century.

It is interesting that England had several periods and different manners along with the development of the country. One of them is Regency period. Regency period began on 1811 until 1820 when Prince of Wales officially sworn as Regent (Kloester, 2010: 1). It had some manners that reflected in Jane Austen's novels. Jane Austen was born on December 16, 1775 in Hampshire, England (Southam, 1987: 102). Her father served as the Oxford-educated rector for a nearby Anglican parish. The family was close and the children grew up in an environment that stresses learning and creative thinking (Lascelles, 1966: 4-5; MacDonagh, 1991: 110). In the 1790s, during her adolescence, she started to create her own novels. From her many works there are four that becoming major novels, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814) and *Emma* (1815). In 1816, at the age

of 41, Jane started to become ill but she made impressive efforts to continue working a new novel that published after her death as *Sanditon*. She died on July 18, 1817 in Hampshire, England (Honan, 1987: 378-379, 385-395).

The first published novel was *Sense and Sensibility* in 1811. The story is about the loves and life of Dashwood sisters, Elinor Dashwood and Marianne Dashwood. The young ladies move to their new house, a small cottage on a distant relative's property. Sense in the book means good judgment, and sensibility means sensitivity or emotionality. Sense is identified with Elinor, while sensibility is identified with Marianne (Bloom, 2009: 252).

Austen began to write *Pride and Prejudice* in October 1796 and finished it in the following year with the original title *First Impressions*. However, the original novel was never published until she revised it. The title has changed become *Pride and Prejudice* and it became successful after the publication of *Sense of Sensibility* (Haker, 2000). *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) tells about the woman as the central heroines named Elizabeth Bennet, the second of five daughter of Mr. Bennet; and the hero is Mr. Darcy, the wealth man. Both heroine and hero in the beginning of the story are act cold and dislike each other. However, they realize that they had misunderstanding and married by the end of the story. The hero is pride and the heroine is prejudice. In literature, there are numerous work that inspired by this novel. This work showed its quality by engendered several adaptations. This novel has been made the movie twice, in the 1940 and 2005, televisions version in 1980 and 1995, and play in 1936, 1995, and 2008. In 2003, BBC conducted the largest

poll “UK’s Best-Loved Book” in which *Pride and Prejudice* came second after *The Lord of the Rings* (BBC, 2003).

The third novel by Jane Austen is *Mansfield Park*. It was first published in 1814 by Thomas Egerton. A young girl named Fanny Price comes to live with her wealthy uncle and aunt, Sir Thomas and Lady Bertram, because her family is quite poor. The Bertram daughters, Maria and Julia, are shallow, rather cruel girls, intent on marrying well and being fashionable. The elder son, Tom is a roustabout and a drunk. Fanny finds solace only in the friendship of the younger son, Edmund, who is planning to be a clergyman. Fanny grows up shy and deferential, caught as she typically is between members of the Bertram family. The story ends with Edmund marrying Fanny and they live happily in Mansfield. This novel also has been a number of adaptations into BBC series (1983), movie (1999), radio drama (2000), television series (2007), and opera (2011, 2012).

Emma was published in 1815. Austen explores the concerns and difficulties of gentle women in that era. The heroine is Emma Woodhouse, she is clever, beautiful, and rich, but also headstrong, self-satisfied, and rather spoiled. Emma is like a matchmaker with a critical eye. This novel has adaptations into several films, television series, radio, the stage, and fictions.

Northanger Abbey and *Persuasion* were published in 1818. However, *Northanger Abbey* was written around 1798 – 1799 and published after Austen’s death (Litz, 1986: 49). It tells about seventeen years old Catherine Morland is one of ten children of a country clergyman. Although tomboy in her

childhood, she became a beautiful young lady in her seventeen. *Northanger Abbey* has several adaptations into film, televisions, and theatrical adaptations. In 2012, HarperCollins has writer who adapt *Northanger Abbey* for modern audience, as a suspenseful teen thriller (Flood, 2012).

Persuasion opens with a brief history of the Elliot family as recorded in Sir Walter Elliot's favorite book, *The Baronetcy*. We learn that the Elliots are a respected, titled, landowning family. Lady Elliot, Sir Walter's wife died fourteen years ago and left him with three daughters: Elizabeth, Anne, and Mary. Both Elizabeth and Anne are single, but Mary, the youngest is married to a wealthy man named Charles Musgrove; they live close by. Sir Walter, who lavishly overspends, has brought the family into great debt. Like the others novels, *Persuasion* has been the subject of several adaptations into BBC miniseries, television series, teleplay, a musical drama, theatre, and novel.

Those novels represented the social conditions of England society in the early of the nineteenth century. The people mostly like to arrange social activities from morning visit to parties, even share and doing their hobbies together. There are some manners that they have to do to make a good relationship, and to attract the opposite sex such as how to dress, speak, dance, etc. Good manners are shown by the major characters, which explained that Austen agreed with the rules. If Austen did not agree, it would be shown by the minor characters. From those aspects, the researcher is interest to analyze the etiquette based on the author's perspective. These representations of attitude criticize the etiquette in the Regency era.

B. Limitation of the Study

To avoid complexity in this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Northanger Abbey* (1818), and *Persuasion* (1818) novels by using sociological approach to analyze the novels. The researcher analyses the etiquette toward the major characters of novels. Other characters are also included as far as they have contribution to the research.

C. Problem Statements

Based on the limitation of the study, the researcher formulates the problem of the study into:

1. What are the etiquettes reflected in Jane Austen's novels?
2. How are the etiquettes reflected in Jane Austen's novels?
3. Why did Jane Austen address the etiquettes in the novels?
4. Why do some characters break the etiquettes?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To identify types of etiquettes in Jane Austen's novels.
2. To describe the etiquettes reflected in Jane Austen's novels.
3. To reveal the underlying reason why Jane Austen address the etiquettes in the novels.
4. To reveal the factors why some characters break the etiquettes in the novels.

E. Benefit of the Study

By presenting this research, the researcher hopes that there will be some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

The study is hoped to give contribution, understanding and information to the reader, especially the literary studies on the works in connecting to the sociology of literature.

2. Practical benefit

The study is hoped to give additional knowledge, that can be used the next researcher who are interested in analyzing the works to find certain issues.

F. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of *The Etiquette* in Jane Austen's novels is as follows: Chapter one is introduction which is explains the background of the study, limitation of the study, problem statements, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory that consists of previous study, notion sociology of literature, the principles of sociology of literature and the notion of etiquette. Chapter three presents the research method. Chapter four is the etiquette reflected in Jane Austen's novels. The last is chapter five contains of conclusions and suggestions.