

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

One of the problems in society is social stratification. Stratification problems begin as comparative economic status between human with each other especially developing country. Stratification can be defined by social differentiation quite simply. People are classified in terms of biological characteristics such as sex, size and they are differentiated by social roles, work tasks or profession. (Kerbo, 2003: 11).

According to Soerjono Soekanto (2012: 198) states that the distinction of the population or society into classes is hierarchical. The phenomenon is the higher classes and the lower classes. There is no balance between the distribution of rights and obligations, the responsibilities and social values and the influence among the members of society. In society, social differences become the problems in human life. Later, wealth becomes a measure of stratification in the social environment. The problem of social stratification is happened by itself. This process is appropriate with the growth of society itself. The people who occupy a particular layer are formed not based on the deliberate nature prejudiced by the society, but naturally accordance by themselves.

Social stratification is not only the attention of scientists in the field, but also becomes the attention of the authors in the literary world. Emily Bronte wrote 200 poems which her sister Charlotte Bronte thought had a music peculiar wild, melancholy, and elevating. Emily Bronte as the author has an idea in describing how social stratification occurs due to human activity through the novel of her work. Bronte died the following year, aged 30. Best known for her novel *Wuthering Heights* (1847).

Wuthering Heights novel is the most real novel which shows the social stratification that happened in society. It tells a story of demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, adopted by Mr. Earnshaw. After Mr Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Hindley. Heathcliff take revenge from Hindley. Heathcliff plans to take over the wealth of *Wuthering Heights*.

Wuthering Heights is the name of Mr Earnshaw's house at first. He has a wife and also two children named Catherine and Hindley. Once upon a time the house with normal atmosphere changed when Mr. Earnshaw took a child from the street named Heathcliff. The presence of Heathcliff in the Earnshaw family became the beginning of the disaster in their family. Earnshaw's loving personalities toward Heathcliff rather than his own two children then it make Hindley jealous.

On the contrary, Catherine's personality towards Heathcliff was very good, because both had an adventure soul then they became familiar each other. This intimacy proved a strong love between Heathcliff and Catherine, because of the diversity of social class and their relationships opposed by their families, their love were not until marriage. Earnshaw's family meet Linton's family, the owner of Thrushcross Grange. The location near from *Wuthering Heights*. Linton in love with Catherine. Catherine decided to marry with him although she did not loving him because she was only loving Heathcliff. She did it because she did not want degraded her social class if she married with Heathcliff.

Catherine's decision made Heathcliff go away from *Wuthering Heights* and after a few years he was back to that house with a new appearance and educated person. He began to make a plan to taking his revenge to Earnshaw's family and Linton. His revenge grew inside and destroy Linton's family. No one could safe from Heathcliff's revenge.

The public response against this novel gives strong reactions from its readers. Some people love it and others hate it. The reader thought that it would be sweet, but it also turned out to be too dark. The reader cannot fault Emily Bronte for a deficiency in writing, though. The fact that she was able to create a constant state of tensions while keeping the reader attracted, refer to her genius. At least, it is a horrible story well told.

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel. *Wuthering Heights* is written in one person and from two different viewpoints namely Mr Lockwood and Nelly. These two characters view the story of history of *Wuthering Heights* from an outside perspective and show how Heathcliff's actions affect the other character. The first character is Heathcliff. He is a savage in the sense that he is untouched by social norms. It is full of illustrations of the book delight the researcher when reading the novel. This is the story of the major character and how they came to be, what they did and how their interactions with society.

The second, point of view in *Wuthering Heights* is awesome. Nelly as a narrator in the story know how the emotion in each characters what they feel, what they do at that time. She gives some detail information to the readers from the beginning until the end of the story. Nelly has its own interpretation when she describes each characters objectively.

The last reason, while Catherine admitted to love Heathcliff. Heathcliff has been degraded to a status so low that it would never be permissible to marry her. In *Wuthering Heights*, class was not just something you were born into, it was something you could become. Heathcliff is a gypsi who was sheltered by Earnshaw's generosity, it was once considered to be in the same class as Catherine and Hindley. After Mr Earnshaw dies, Hindley turns him into a servant. Therefore, unfit to marry Catherine. Despite this, Catherine and Heathcliff continue to love each other until the end of their days.

Based on the illustration above about love relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine that distinguished by social status each other. The researcher is interested in analyzing the novel with the title: **PROTEST AGAINST SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IN EMILY BRONTE'S WUTHERING HEIGHTS NOVEL: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the background of study, the researcher concerned to analyze "How is Protest against sociostratification of the major character reflected in *Wuthering Heights* ?

Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the research questions as follow:

1. What are the indicators of social stratification on the novel ?
2. How is the social stratification depicted in the novel ?
3. Why did the author address the issue of social stratification ?

C. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher focuses on the analysis of Protest against Sociostratification in major characters which is reflected in Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* novel 1847 by using Sociological Perspective.

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To identify the indicators of social stratification on the novel.
2. To describe how social stratification depicted in the novel.
3. To reveal the underline reason why the author address the issue of social stratification.

E. Benefit of the Study

The result of this research hopefully can give some benefits as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefits

This research expected to give contribution, information, motivation, and enlarge knowledge on English Literature research particularly the literary study of Emily Bronte's *Wuthering Heights*

2. Practical Benefit

By using Sociological Perspective, the researcher studying *Wuthering Heights* wrote by Emily Bronte and found new perspective and understanding about the novel.