

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the background of research, the research questions, the research objective, significances of research, the clarifications of terms, and the organization of writing.

1.1 Background of the Research

Social conflict is a social process that occurs between two or more parties, in which one party attempts to get rid of the other party by destroying or making it powerless. According to Ginanjar (2016:13) social conflict occurs between two or more individuals, between individuals and fate destiny, or nature. It is also possible the conflict is carried on within the individual himself. It's called psychological conflict.

In general, conflicts occur because of differences (opinions, ideology, culture, and others) in the community which then cause problems and have not found an agreement in solving the problem. Then regarding the portrait of this social conflict, the substance of the problem regarding social conflict is almost at every level of society, both social conflict on a small scale and large scale. As well as social conflicts that can take the form of physical social conflicts or in other forms.

Social conflict in the community also, the substance does not recognize the circles or classes in society, social conflict can occur in the upper class, middle class or lower class. Therefore, this certainly has implications for the emergence of massive social conflict in the social life of society. This refers to the definition of social conflict as expressed by Coser as follows:

"Social conflict is a struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflict groups are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralise, injure, or eliminate rivals. Defines conflict as an opposition of interest between

and among various individuals and social groups, which may or may not be overtly observable, and which may or may not break out into open dispute or physical violence.” (1956:23).

Based on Coser's explanation of social conflict, social conflict becomes a value that is contained in people's lives, or in other words social conflict can occur with internal and external problems whether it is violence or disputes among upper and middle class and even the lower classes.

Then concerning literary works, of course, social conflict can be photographed in a literary work and become a basic idea in creating a literary work. This is very reasonable because an author creates a literary work aimed at the wider community, as an alternative teaching power in improving the norms of life. In a literary work like a novel, there will certainly be a lot of various phenomena and relationships found so complicated or some kind of social conflict found in the characterization of the characters in the novel.

Speaking of characterization in the novel, characterization is a description off behaviour that is carried out by highlighting the values (true-false, good - bad) implicitly or expeditiously. Certainly, the character is different from the personality which does not involve values at all. This is in line what Robert revealed as follows:

“Character is the persons presented in dramatics of narrative work who are interpreted by reader as being endowed with the moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say and what they do in action.” (1993:20)

Furthermore, in the problem of characterization in novels, this certainly has implications for the emergence of social conflict. However, if a literary work is created to provide an understanding of good values for the upper, middle and lower classes, through the depiction of characterization as in the novel, it can also be said that the literary work was created as a measure of preventing impairment or norms and

becoming a benchmark for conflicts that occur in that community. Thus it is clear that this shows that literature was created or written to frame the actions of people who experienced a decline in values to be more humanistic in future life.

In completing its function as a tool used to teach values or norms, literature is then divided into several types of works, one of which is a novel. This is very reasonable because it is stated by Craven (in Endraswara, 2012: 13) the life of literary narratives represents something prepared for the reader to understand the truths about life.

Then the novel depicts various social conflicts in the community, one of which is a novel called *A Christmas Carol*. *A Christmas Carol* novel is the most widely known Charles Dickens novel. The novel *A Christmas Carol* is the sixth novel by Charles Dickens and most popular since it was first published on December 19, 1843.

This *A Christmas Carol* novel at the beginning of its appearance was only written in a relaxed time, along with Martin Chulewit's novel, but it was precisely this novel that became an important novel and influenced Dickens's thoughts and imagination in writing forward. In this *A Christmas Carol* novel, Charles Dickens took clear pictures of the background of British social life in the 1840s.

If we relate to social conditions in England at the beginning of the 18th century, in this novel there is a very visible social change. The 18th century or the so-called Victorian era was marked by rapid changes to all aspects of life, from the advancement of science, medicine, technology to a rapidly increasing population as a result of the industrial revolution.

In this Victorian era, it can be said as an era of prosperity as well as an era of poverty of the British nation. Because in this era of the industrial revolution, British transportation and industrial progress to export to the British Commonwealth kingdom took place very rapidly. In this era also

began to develop many political movements such as socialism, liberalism and organized feminism.

But behind all of Britain's progress as a positive impact of this industrial revolution, there are also various problems due to the negative effects of the industrial revolution that took place in British society such as the social gap between the elite and the working class where the phenomenon of widespread tension between the rich and the poor, starvation, workers feel increasingly miserable, harmed, and so on. This portrait of negative effects is very clearly illustrated in the novel *A Christmas Carol*.

In the novel, *A Christmas Carol* can be found the issue of social conflict from the upper and lower circles. *A Christmas Carol* novel reveals Dickens' standpoint in terms of charity and the role of Christmas in carrying it out. The story is, Scrooge is an old grandfather who is rich but stingy. So stingy that he doesn't want to buy coal to warm his office space in the winter. Scrooge figures are always alone, never mingle in the crowd, even the main character in the novel *A Christmas Carol* does not want to celebrate Christmas, because according to him celebrating Christmas is just a waste of time and money and Scrooge does not allow employees to holiday when Christmas arrives. The anti-social attitude that was shown to his employee, Cratchit, and his nephew, Fred, was because he did not want to be involved in any relationship. For him, every relationship risked him to spend money.

A Christmas Carol is one of 13 novels published in 1843 in English written by Charles Dickens. Citing a review in the London Times, "Dickens wrote his work with a combination of quality intellectual and social inequalities were outstanding." Which in this case *A Christmas Carol* is a literary work that is able to criticize the social situation of English at the time the main character portrayed by a figure of him that the

social situation is just as apparent sign of life was not free from any conflict of life going.

Therefore the researcher found many problems that occurred in each of the characters, and most of the problems which occurred primarily in the main character on the novel. Problems that happened with the surrounding environment. So, in this analyses novel especially the social conflict. So with the portrait of social conflict in the upper class during the industrial revolution illustrated in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* novel, this study focuses on the heading "*Social Conflict Of The Main Character As An Upper Class In Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol Novel'*".

Then to emphasize the position of research on social conflict in the novel *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens in the repertoire of literary studies, the researchers include several studies that have been done before. The first previous study is a graduating paper from Roihatul Adfariyah entitled *An Analysis of Conflicts Faced by Oliver Twist as The Main Character of Charles Dickens' Oliver Twist* in the year 2007.

The second previous study is graduating paper from Aris Yulianto entitled *Social Conflict Between Upper Class and Lower Class As A Result of Industrialization Found in Jack London's Short Story "South of The Slot"* in the year 2007. Then, the last previous study is graduating paper from Agie Ginanjar entitled *Social Conflict of the main Character in Charles Dickens' Great Expectation* in the year 2016.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on background of the research above, the researcher will identify the following problems:

1. How are the characterizations of the main character as an upper class in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Novel?

2. How social conflict does occurs of the main character as an upper class in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Novel?

1.3 Research Objectives

The main objective of this study is, to make the readers know and understand well about the content of the novel. Besides, the researcher wants to provide the answer from the problems of the study. The objectives of this study are:

1. To find the characterizations of the main character as an upper class in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Novel.
2. To find the social conflict occurs in the main character as an upper class Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* Novel.

1.4 Significance of the Research

There are also benefits in the following research:

1. Theoretically

The researcher hopes that this study can provide an appreciation of the literary world, which can understand any social conflict in a novel and to provide an understanding of the main character in the face of conflicts that arise in the novel's plot.

2. Practically

The researcher hopes that this study can provide development study of literature, just not by skimming, but the give criticism to literature, particularly among those who enjoy the study of literature.

1.5 Clarification of Terms

There are the clarifications of the key terms used in this research. The researchers clarify the key point, as follow:

- a. *A Christmas Carol* is a novella by Charles Dickens which first published in London by Chapman & Hall in 1843.

- b. Charles John Huffam Dickens or commonly known as Charles Dickens is a famous romance writer or novel from England from the reign of Queen
- c. Main character the people who make something happen or produce an effect in the story and they perform the action of the plot.
- d. Social conflict is a struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflict groups are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralise, injure, or eliminate rivals. Defines conflict as an opposition of interest between and among various individuals and social groups, which may or may not be overtly observable, and which may or may not break out into open dispute or physical violence.” (Cosser, 1956:23)
- e. Novel is the term which now applied to a great variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being extended works of fiction written in prose. As an extended narrative, the novel is distinguished from the short story and from the work of middle length called the novelette; its magnitude permits a greater variety of characters, greater complication of plot (or plots), ampler development of milieu, and more sustained exploration of character and motives than do the shorter, more concentrated modes. (Abrams, 1999:190)

1.6 Organization of Writing

This research is divided into five chapters and the description are as follows.

Chapter 1. In the chapter one, there is an introduction of the research and the researchers will explain about background of the research, the research questions, the research objective, significances of the research, the clarifications of terms, and the organization of writing.

- Chapter II.** This chapter contains about foundation theory that are relevant to the research and divided into seven sub-chapters, there are: social conflict of the main character as an upper class, theory sociology of literature reflection in literature, understanding social conflict, social conflict in literature, novel, Charles Dickens, *and A Christmas Carol* Novel.
- Chapter III.** The third chapter explain about methodology used in the research that consists of the research method, the source of data, the data, the technique of collecting data, and the technique of analyzing data.
- Chapter IV.** The fourth chapter is finding discussions and explain the result of the research clearly, that consists of the research findings and the explanation of the research questions.
- Chapter V.** The last chapter in this research contains about the conclusion and the suggestion of the research.

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