

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ENGLISH SOCIETY IN EARLY 19<sup>TH</sup>

CENTURY AS REFLECTED IN *PRIDE AND PREJUDICE*

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisa novel *Pride and Prejudice* tentang ciri-ciri khusus masyarakat Inggris pada awal abad ke 19. Dalam skripsi ini diulas bagaimana keunikan masyarakat Inggris dalam menjalankan kehidupannya sehari-hari, yaitu tentang stratifikasi sosial masyarakat Inggris, gaya hidup, dan peran gereja beserta orang-orangnya dalam kehidupan masyarakat Inggris.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori sosiologi sastra oleh Alan Swingwood, perspective pertama yang menganggap karya sastra sebagai dokumentasi sejarah pada saat karya sastra itu dibuat dengan didukung pendekatan sosiologi. Pendekatan sosiologi digunakan untuk mengetahui permasalahan yang terkait dengan kehidupan sosial. Kemudian, penulis menggunakan metode kualitatif, dimana hasil penelitiannya akan dijabarkan secara deskriptif atau berupa kata-kata atau kutipan dari novel dan sumber-sumber lain yang berkaitan dengan karakteristik masyarakat Inggris saat itu.

Dari penelitian ini, penulis memperoleh kesimpulan bahwa masyarakat Inggris memiliki tiga karakteristik, diantaranya 1) mereka memiliki sistem stratifikasi terbuka, dimana sistem stratifikasi ini dapat berubah naik dan turun tergantung pada jumlah kekayaan dan jabatan yang mereka miliki. 2) Perbedaan gaya hidup antara kelas atas, tengah dan bawah membuat masyarakat Inggris menjadi materialistis. 3) Selain itu, masyarakat sangat menghormati gereja karena memiliki otoritas dalam penyelenggaraan pernikahan dan anggota gereja yang kebanyakan berasal dari kelas atas dan menengah.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Background of the Study

Most characteristics of country are interesting to be known by people who want to enrich their knowledge. The characteristic of people in a country can be seen from society, culture, style, language etc. one of country in the over world that is interesting to be known its characteristics is England, because it is great country in which its society divided into three social class. They are upper class or aristocrat, middle class and lower class. They are interesting to be studied because each social class has different characteristic. Many ways are to know how the characteristics of a country. One of them is by reading the literary work. It is avoided that a literary work always relate to social life and situation where the author live (Jabrohim, 2001: 167). By reading a literary work, the reader can get information about social life and condition that happen in the real world.

Based on the explanation above, the writer would like to conduct her analysis by seeing a literary work as documentation or imitation of real world. Taine stated (Swingwood and Laurenson, 1972: 23): "Plato's conception of imitation implies a view literature is reflection of society". It means that the reader of novel can imagine the phenomena, events, tragedy that happened in early 19<sup>th</sup> century through a literary work. The reader can get the information about the portrayal of social life or social condition at the time--when author writes his novel.

Furthermore, the writer will take object from a novel entitle *Pride and Prejudice*. This novel is one of the best novels in England. Besides, the author of *Pride and Prejudice* is Jane Austen. She is the famous woman author. She has produced some novels from 1811 until 1815, with the release of *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), and *Emma* (1815), she achieved success as a published writer. She wrote two additional novels, *Northanger Abbey* (written in 1798 and 1799 and revised later) and *Persuasion*, both published after her death in 1817, and began a third (eventually titled *Sanditon* .Almost of them describes English social life in early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition, Jane Austen is a brilliant author who can elaborate the picture of English social life at the time. *Pride and Prejudice* had already reprinted eight times and had visualized through a film. According to Endraswara, that case means the novel might be suitable with society desire and is appropriate with what the society wanted. Hence, it can be relevant to study of social such as social history (2003: 82-83).

In analyzing this analysis, the writer applies sociology of literature theory by Alan Swingewood and use sociological approach. The writer assumes that both sociology of literature theory and sociological approach is suitable to do this analysis. In doing this analysis, the writer will compare situation or condition in work with the situation or condition in real world. Then, explaining whether those descriptions in the work are occurred or not in real world.

Jane Austen in *Pride and Prejudice* has described clearly the condition of English social life in early 19<sup>th</sup> century such as social class and marriage. Therefore, the writer is interested in analyzing the characteristics of English

society at the time by seeing description in the novel. There are three characteristics of English society that the writer finds. They are: 1) the stratification of English society is open stratification. 2) Almost character in the novel is described materialistic. The authority of church is respected by English society, especially marriage ceremony.

Because of some reasons above, the writer sees *Pride and Prejudice* as reflection of English society characteristics in early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hence, this analysis is entitled *The Characteristics of English Society in early 19<sup>th</sup> century as Reflected in Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen*.

## 1.2 The Statement of the Problem

Having read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen, the writer finds there are problem caused by different social class. In which each social has different characteristics. Jane Austen also describes social class changing of some characters. Then, Most of characters become materialistic as effect of the changing of social class. At the same time, English society was authoritarianism church, because almost of members of church come of upper class and middle class and church was the only one of marriage institution. By seeing the problem above, the writer find out how the characteristics of English society in early 19<sup>th</sup> century as reflected in *Pride and Prejudice*. Meanwhile, Characteristic is indicating of the character or particular quality of person or thing (Merriam, 1972: 248). It shows that amount or number that make somebody or country different from other or typical of the nature of somebody or something.

## CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Most phenomena of human life are interesting to be written in a literary work such as social, economy, tragedy, war etc. The novelist named Jane Austen who most of her novels tell about social life of English society in late eighteenth until nineteenth century. Because of that, the writer applies sociology of literature theory to analyze this novel. It emphasizes that a literary work as a documentation of the real world, in particular English society's characteristics.

Having analyzed *Pride and Prejudice*, the writer finds out description of English society characteristics is occurred in real of English society life. There are three that been analyzed in this research. They are:

Firstly, the open stratification, one of system stratification in which the social class can change through some ways. Namely, a marriage can be up or down social class. If a woman marries with a man who comes from rich man, automatically her social class will be up equal with her husband. Otherwise, if a woman marries a poor man, her social class will be down too. Besides that, an occupation can also change social class. If someone has a good job or position, he or she can enter to high social class.

Secondly, materialistic society, it is caused by changing of social life on English society in industrial revolution era and the system of open stratification in England. The upper class has power and influence in English society. The comfortable life of upper class and miserable life of lower class make wide gap between rich and poor. Therefore, many people have a desire to be a rich man in order to get great attention from other people.

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