

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 presents the introduction of the study, which consists of background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, and significance of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

The rule of life might be influenced by the environment and society. If the rule of society started a new movement and required a change, people need to adapt to the new world. Not only Americans got to consider their old founding father's creation would have been changing due to civil war, British also get ready for the new stratifications that occurred during 18<sup>th</sup> century. "Society in 18<sup>th</sup> century was becoming more fluid than in the past" (18<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain, par. 3). Begin from the rich ones digging their own wealth "British lord who controlled large estates saw their wealth increase from a boom in agricultural production, an expansion of investment opportunities, and the domination of the government by the aristocracy" (18<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain, Par. 1). The middle class people who made their way due to the improvement of education and professions "Middle class families earned their livings in trade or in professions, such as law and medicine. They valued literacy, thrift, and education, ideas that were spread by thinkers of the Age of Enlightenment" (18<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain, Par. 3). Last is the increase of poor people which cannot be ignorant due to poverty and the expensive prices of general food "Poverty dominated the lower reaches of British Society, especially as the

population grew and food prices rose in the middle of century”(18<sup>th</sup>-Century Britain, Par. 6).

The history of Victorian era never get expired to be analyzed dealing with social status, gender equality, law, economic and more. The picture of the history could be depicted through history book, biography of famous figure, or it also could be pictured through literary art such as novel, poetry, drama and other. Those literary works really pictured what and how the history within the time it made, related to how the author depicts the problem and resolve it. “The Victorian novel, with its emphasis on the realistic on the portrayal of social life, represented many Victorian issues in the stories of its characters” (The Victorian Age, par.2). During 18<sup>th</sup> century, literary work was lovable for implying the truth life in society and also became a satire. Jonathan J. Szwec states in his observation of literary work:

The 18<sup>th</sup> century was one in which exaltation of wit and reason came to the forefront of literature in the form of both Horatian and Juvenalian satires, which, through keen observation and sharp nimbleness of thought, exposed the superficial follies and moral corruption of society during the neoclassical period in Britain (1).

Dealing with literary novel, there so much famous authors with the works that is still reprinted or even produced into movie and drama, one of these great writers is Jane Austen with her famous novel as *Persuasion*. The novel published in England 1818, stating a place mostly at Bath, Lyme, Kellynch Hall at Somersetshire, Uppercross Cottage, and took a time after Napoleonic Wars (1799-

1815),“When he is married, if we have the good luck to live to another war, we shall see him do as you and I, and a great many others, have done” (99). Besides, the story line in *Persuasion* novel created by the writer also depicts the social life during the time, like the stratification issues that impact the marriage. This novel really depicts the situation that happened during the time that is why analyzing the main character to see how the writer pictured social life during the time is really interesting.

Dealing with *Persuasion*, it is one of the novels written by Jane Austen which is structurally and plotted to give a description about writer worldview toward the world. The Era when social status is a big matter in society. “Vanity was the beginning and the end of Sir Walter Elliot’s character; vanity of person and of situation” (3). Hence, Anne Elliot ignored by her father and sisters for her different habit which is not interested in wasting and exhibits her wealth. On the other side, she is loved by people who understand and find the caring and wisdom personality of Anne Elliot. “but Anne, with an elegance of mind and sweetness of character, which must have placed her high with any people of real understanding, was nobody with either father or sister; her word had no weight, her convenience was always to give away-she was only Anne” (5). She finally falls in love with a man from a lower status but rejected by her aunt who thinks that he has no future and fortune to match with Anne Elliot. That is for the common background and history of 18<sup>th</sup> century or more famous called with Victorian Era reflected in *Persuasion* Novel.

Dealing with Jane Austen, *Persuasion* novel’s author historical background implied the stratification issue which is also brings the issue of marriage. In order to

defend their status, the Victorian people often seek the same status one to married, those who seek for love before status might affect their future. Jane's mother, Cassandra Leigh Austen was actually born as an upper class, but after married to George Austen, Jane's father, which is considered as a middle class people, she had to leave her high social life. Gerry Kelly states:

Jane Austen's mother, Cassandra Leigh Austen (1739-1827), was from a higher social rank, minor gentry related distantly to titled people, but once she married the Reverend Austen in 1764 she entered wholeheartedly and with humor into the domestic life and responsibilities of managing the household economy by no means luxurious, bearing eight children-six son and two daughters. (Par 2).

Beside, Jane never married, she once proposed by a rich man but cut the proposal for the next day because she had no affection for him. In the end, she realizes that family estate and marriage is an important things that woman need at the time. Kelly states "Because his fortune would insure her against a fate she feared-spending her old age in poverty, she accepted him even though he was younger and temperamentally unsuited to her, but she broke off the engagement the next morning and returned immediately to Bath." (Par 21)

To analyze Anne Eliot as the problematic hero and to recognize the writer's step in creating social life represented in the novel, author needs to deal with the intrinsic equal of the novel, nevertheless extrinsic element cannot be ignored since the study of historical background and the author's social life is necessary.

Moreover, Genetic Structuralism study as a branch of Sociology theory is required in this analysis. Genetic structuralism is born as a respond to structuralism study. While Structuralism study abandons the historical background of literary work, genetic structuralism combines intrinsic element of the work with extrinsic element that consist of the historical background, social and culture related to the work. It examines social event and condition pictured in the novel as reflection of the writer's position in society. Richard L. W. Clarke states in his essay and explains about genetic structuralism in relation to history of literature:

The basis of genetic structuralism is the hypothesis that all human behavior is an attempt to give a meaningful response to particular situations and tends, therefore, to create a balance between the subject of action and the object on which it bears the environment. This tendency to equilibrium, however, always retains an unstable, provisional character, in so far as any equilibrium that is more or less satisfactory between the mental structures of the subject and the external world culminates in a situation in which human behavior transforms the world and in which this transformation renders the old equilibrium inadequate and engenders the tendency to a new equilibrium that will in turn be superseded.... Thus human realities are presented as two-sided processes: deconstruction of old structuration and structuration of new totalities capable of creating equilibrium capable of satisfying the new demands of the social group that are elaborating them.

(156)

It is indicated and proved that literary analysis is not enough if only considered through the intrinsic equal. Hence the extrinsic element like environment, behavior, and social life is two aspects that need to be considered to make a balance in making a better understanding about the analysis.

The analysis through intrinsic element of literary work allowed author to point out the problematic hero represented in the novel. A problematic hero is a character created by the writer who will face the entire problem in society related to the novel. A problematic hero clearly depicts the author's world view toward society and how she solved the problem in society. James R. Hull said in his article about "The main Character's Central Problem":

Stories are all about solving problems. Through the main character, we the audiences get to experience what it feels like to live with those problems, and if the story calls for it, discover a way to overcome them. If the main character resolves their issues (and not everyone does), then they have found the appropriate solution to their problems (par 7).

Nevertheless, the background of Jane Austen deal with her relationship issue which eventually cut off because of their social class difference. The picture of their social class issue is related to the character in her novel entitled *Persuasion*. The story in the novel tells young Anne Elliot who cannot resist her aunt persuasion to cut off their marriage because of their social status difference. For all the reasons above, *Persuasion* is really suited to be analyzed to find out Anne Eliot as problematic hero using Genetic Structuralism study.

**B. Problem Formulation:**

The problem formulations of this study are:

1. What are the similarities seen from Jane Austen as the author of *Persuasion* and Anne Elliot as the character in her novel reflected the woman at 18th century?
2. How does Jane Austin characterize Anne Elliot as the problematic hero in the novel?

**C. Limitation of the Study**

By reviewing the background of the study, this analysis focuses on two main problems. The first is focus on Jane Austin's and Anne's similarities reflected the woman in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The last is how Jane Austin characterizes Anne Elliot as the problematic hero in the novel.

**D. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the similarities of Jane Austin and Anne Elliot that reflect the woman in 18<sup>th</sup> century.
2. To analyze how Jane Austin characterizes Anne Eliot as the problematic hero in the novel

**E. Significance of the Study**

The result of this study is expected to be able to give the following benefits:

1. This study can help the readers in learning social phenomenon and conflict happened in 18<sup>th</sup> century reflected in *Persuasion* Novel.
2. This study can also be source of information related to genetic structuralism and social studies, especially in understanding literary work analysis using genetic structuralism.

### **F.Organization of the Study**

This final project consists of five chapters. Chapter one consists of introduction in which the study gives description of the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study. Chapter two consists of review of related literature and the discussion of the theory which is used in this study, such as a definition of problematic hero and its relation to genetic structuralism by Lucian Goldman, intrinsic elements of literature, general reflection of social background and social event in 18<sup>th</sup> century in the novel, extrinsic element, a brief history of social life in 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Jane Austin personal background. Chapter three discusses about the research method, description of the method and procedures of the analysis. Chapter four presents the discussion and analysis, meanwhile last chapter consists of conclusion and suggestion.



