

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there are some points conveyed including background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Children used to be explained as the small version of adult. Children are categorized as human being under 18 years old and have rights to feel safe and secure as mentioned in the convention on the right of children in 1989 in article 1, “For the purposes of the present Convention, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.” Children can be known as the form between birth and adult. During childhood, children need to be given special attention to ensuring their physical and mental growth. They should receive sufficient love and feel the happiness in their life. UNICEF explains about the definition of childhood and children’s right in that period.

Childhood is the time for children to be in school and at play, to grow strong and confident with the love and encouragement of their family and an extended community of caring adults. It is a precious time in which children should live free from fear, safe from violence and protected from abuse and exploitation. (UNICEF)

Children's right is protected by their parents. One of children's rights is secured from any violence, abuse and exploitation. In fact there are many children in the world who have no right to feel happiness in their childhood. For example, the have to work in very young age because of many reasons such as poverty, exploitation, or because they are orphan. Children who are forced to work because of any reasons called as child labour.

Child labour is a term to define about children who are forced to work in their childhood and makes them cannot be happy. Lana Osment explains about the definition of child labour, "Child labour refers to children who miss their childhood and are not able to have the basic amenities which a child should have" (6). Moreover she adds, "They are often mistreated and work for prolonged hours, in very bad conditions. This can affect their health physically, mentally and emotionally. These children do not have the basic rights like access to school or health care" (Osment 6). The quotation above explains that child labour is a term refers to children who have no opportunity to get their rights as the normal children, like playing and learning in a proper way. They are forced to work in improper situation which can endanger them. From the explanation about child labour above, it can be understood that child labour means children forced to work in bad condition and it can affect their health.

In early policy-oriented discussion of child labor, it was often assumed that all work by children is necessarily harmful. By the mid-1990s, it became more commonly understood that some work could

be beneficial for children, since it could allow them to achieve at least a subsistence level of consumption or to acquire skills (Rogers and Swinnerton, 2002).

Dealing with child labour, Roger and Swinnerton argue that child labour happens when children are forced or tricked to work in any kinds of places. The works done by children bring harmfulness and no benefit to them. If they were lucky they will receive big payment, but most of children are forced to work very hard with less or without payment. In other hand, Roger and Swinnerton explain that some children work to improve their skills. Although children think they can improve their skill by working, in fact they still get bad treatment and disadvantages such as violence, injustice, and so on. In the end child labour still gives bad impacts to children whatever the reason is.

Child labour already existed since very long time ago, but the amount of child labour increased during Victorian era. Victorian era was a period when England was led by Queen Victoria and it began from 20 June 1837 until 22 January 1901. That era was well known as an era of the expansion of industrial revolution. Industrial revolution made some people became rich but some of them suffer in poverty. “When industrialists specialized and mechanized production during the Industrial Revolution, human life lost value due to a labor surplus in cities, which resulted in lower wages, widespread poverty, and child labor” (Dykstra 3). Industrial revolution became the root of poverty and it triggered child labour happened in Victorian era. Anindita Dutta said that “Poverty however was

found to be the root cause of child labour during this period” (2). Dutta explains that poverty became the major reasons of child labour during that era. Pradon Fanette explains the fact that child labour has already existed before the industrial revolution, but industrial revolution has important role to make child labour increased because it brought up the job in that era (Fanette10). Moreover Fannette explains how industrial revolution makes the vocation to the children.

Indeed, the discovery of new technologies revolutionized the work in factories and especially in the textile and coal mining sectors. The agricultural sector started to develop a bit later...With an expanded market and a high demand in English industrial commodities, the country started to import materials and export manufacturing goods on a large scale. A new system of mass production was established. Therefore, this new economic vision combined with the development of new technologies brought the industries to hire more and more people. Consequently, a large part of the population, suffering from a lack of work and trying to make ends meet became employable (7).

The market expansion and the development of the technologies make industry needs to hire more labourers. Besides the development of the technologies, the increasing population supports the industry to fill the vocation. Therefore, the increasing population in Victorian era became another reason of child labour in working class. “Other historians focus on the causes of child labour increase. They argue that child labour increased in the context of the Industrial Revolution and the post Napoleonic War, not only because factory owners employed more

children but because of a growth of population” (Fanette8). Because of the increasing population and also poverty, children and women in that era must work to help the father in order to fulfill their economic need. That is why in that time, there are many places that employ children.

One of the literary works that contains the issue of child labour is a work by Frances Hodgson Burnett entitled *A Little Princess*. *A Little Princess* is a children classic story published in 1905. It tells about a girl named Sara Crewe who must struggle in her life because of the changes of her status. Sara who comes from wealthy family must face the reality because she becomes an orphan and poor. Because Sara has no relatives, Miss Minchin as the head of Sara’s school is the only one who is responsible to Sara. In sort, Sara is forced by Miss Minchin to work as a servant for her living. Becky, another character in the story, also represents the child labour. She is a child who is fated to be a servant or called as scullery maid since she was born.

This study discusses about child labour that deals with the social problem that happened in the story. This study uses novel as the object, then the focus of the discussion in this study is sociology of literature. Arun Murlidhar Jadhav defines sociology of literature as,

The sociology of literature is a growing body of critical theory that studies literary work in the context of social institutions and gatekeepers who determine the literary works. It focuses its attention upon the relationship between a literary work and the

social structure in which it is created...The sociology of literature, thus, helps to understand the socio-economic situations, the political issues, the personality and creativity of writers, the relationship between certain thought and cultural configurations in which they occur and the several social determinants of the existence and success of literary works (66).

Jadhav explains that sociology of literature is a study which examines the correlation between literary work and social aspects that happens when literary work is created. The social aspects are various such as economy, culture, political and so on. In addition, the social aspect mentioned above can influence the literary work itself. It means when the authors create the literary work, it was influenced by the social aspect at that time.

This study analyze about child labour in *A Little Princess* novel. As explained before about child labour, this study focuses on child labour depicted in *A Little Princess* story and the factors causing child labour.

B. Problem Formulation

1. How is the picture of child labour reflected in *A Little Princess* novel?
2. What are the factors causing child labour as depicted in the story?

C. Limitation of the Study

This study highlights on child labour depicted in *A Little Princess* story, also the factors that cause child labour as depicted in the story. In term of data, this study is limited by textual sources and analyzing based on novel.

D. Objectives of the Study

1. To describe child labour reflected in the story.
2. To know the factors that cause child labour based on *A Little Princess* novel.

E. Significance of the Study

The aim of this study is to give deep knowledge to the readers about child labour. The study about child labour depicted in *A Little Princess* story is expected to help students of literature program who would like to use it as areference in their proposal writing or final project for further study that is related to child labour.

F. Organization of the Study

This study is systematically organized in chapters. Each chapter discusses different matter as follows. Chapter one provides introduction that consists of the background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objective of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study. Chapter two is synopsis and review of the related literature. Chapter three is research method that deals with types of research, data organizing, and analyzing the data. Chapter four, contains Discussion and Analysis. Chapter five provides Conclusion and Suggestion.

