

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

19th Century Era was the period when English was under rule command of Queen Victoria, so many people called 19th Century Era as Victorian era. In that Era, English became one of the developing countries because of the industrial revolution. Social class differentiation is based on various factors such as power, authority, wealth, employment situation, lifestyle, education, religion and culture; as well as landlord, farmers and workers. That who does not have land does not have an opportunity to change his social status. Example of the important thing to differentiate the social strata is education.

Victorian era is the era of unfair life in England. That era is full of social strata which make despair people. The stratification is based on one's wealth. People who life in luxury and neat are people who have much wealth, while people who have no wealth cannot afford. It is clearly differentiates people to each other in that era. Zahia says that social strata can be divided into 3 classes, upper, middle and lower class. Upper class is reflected to rich people that have very much wealth, middle class is reflected to the clean worker or can be called the decent work, and the last one is lower class or working class is the physical labor (15).

Reay explained that if lower class people want to get educations, they have to work hard to get it, (3). That is the cause of the social gap that occurs in education and economic aspect between the rich and the poor. So it is clear enough that lower class people or middle class people cannot improve the welfare of their lives to a higher level in the education and economic aspect. This happens because the middle and lower class has no right in Politics. Belong to politic side; they must have education which only upper class people can afford.

There are many ways used by people to increase their social class, by running business, working hard or by getting inheritance. By getting inheritance, people can increase their social class, a lower class people may change to be a middle class, upper class, as well as the middle can be the other way. From that issue Feldman give his opinion. Feldman says that inheritance always influences to someone social class. He explained that a person's wealth or income is very influential on one's social class and also lifestyle. According to him, the size of income in a family can affect the social class and the influence of inheritance can raise the people social status because of the income they have (1). The explanation by Feldman is also delivered by Szydlik. Szydlik strengthen Feldman statement that inheritances favor individuals with a higher level of education and discriminate against those individuals who, in any case, have a much slighter change of achieving higher social position (1). Feldman explain about income and Szydlik about educations, but both of them talking the effect when people getting inheritance. The statement establishes the

relation between inheritance and social class, that getting inheritance means getting more income, finally more money means higher social class.

By getting inheritance people can change their social status and can make their life better than before, they can prove their dream. For example being a gentleman, gentleman is a man upscale luxury social class living. Jenny Rothman describes the eighteenth century polite gentlemen as a man of conservation, distinguished by his civility, good breeding, manners, and his ability to please and make others feel easy (5). It is clearly describes that a man is called a Gentlemen if he has well breeding, good manner, and of course be polite.

Great Expectations is one of the great literary works in 19th Century Era. A novel written by Charles Dickens contains of social criticism in that Era. “Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations* portrays both models of class structure within the nineteenth century through the story of Pip Pirrip. Pip struggles to categorize others and him due to the societal shifts that occurred in England during the nineteenth century”(5).

Then based on Pip’s experience in *Great Expectations* novel, the setting on 19th century era in which upper class people can do everything they want facilitated by their wealth and also they have good connections that they got a place of secure life in the future. It is unfortunate that Pip comes from the lower class and that of course he has no wealth and good connections, he cannot do what upper class people do. *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens included in one of the greatest

works of the English Literature in Victorian Era. Event, the author of the Victorian Era tends to have a tendency to the theme of social inequalities by raising the value of humanity.

This novel tells about the journey of the main character, Pip, that experiences changing in social status. Pip comes from the lower class, proved by his daily life describe in that novel. He wants to be a “gentleman”. In that era “gentleman” is a man with upscale luxury social class living. Same with Ágústsdóttir opinion, she explains that gentleman must be from upper class people and they live in luxurious living. Their social class is totally different between upper and lower class. Pip joins evening classis to get education. Because, it is too difficult for lower class people to get education, so in that novel the main character at the first time get illegally education.

Pip’s journey is to become a “Gentlemen”, totally brings many differences. This made Pip get many experience in lifestyle. It makes pip understand the meaning of “Gentlemen” in that era. According pip view, at first, become a Gentlemen is hope that must be come true. It is because of Estella, he becomes more ambitious to be a Gentleman, as he wants to marry Estella. It is also because of Estella’s stereotype about him before. He thinks that becoming a Gentleman is a solution; he can be classier and not underestimated by his appearance. But after he lives among the Gentlemen, he felt different. These Gentlemen are not as his first perspective about gentlemen. It is true that Gentlemen are rich, live luxurious, by well dressed, can buy

everything because they have much money. But they have no courtesy, impolite, and bad manner.

The gentlemen around the main character are arrogant, selfish, and have no manners at all. This makes him realize that become a gentlemen is no more become his dream that must be achieved. Wealthy cannot buy love, being a good person is more important than become a gentleman if he has no manner.

Because of the social class, and its relation inheritance issue found in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens is interesting, this paper will show the main character's journey to searching for the meaning of true gentlemen after his social status changing as an effect of getting inheritance.

B. Problem formulations

The author states the problems formulation in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens as follows:

- 1) What kind of social classes described in the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens?
- 2) How does inheritance change the social stratifications in the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens?
- 3) What is "Gentlemen" mean learned by the main character in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens?

C. Limitations of the study

This paper focuses on the social class problem in 19th century era, as well as the influence of inheritance to social class changing in that era reflected in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens. Those are background of the main character's journey for the meaning of real gentlemen.

D. Object study

The author states the Object study in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens as follows:

- 1) To describe the kind of social class reflected in the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- 2) To elaborate the relation between inheritance and social class in the novel *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.
- 3) To explain “gentlemen” mean learned by the main character in *Great Expectations* novel by Charles Dickens.

E. Significance of the study

This study can be significant academically and practically. Academically, the study can be used as the base for the next study in these major. The next generation can see this project as an example if they will write the final project.

Practically, the study can develop the writer's knowledge about *Great Expectations* novel particularly related to the social identity, inheritance, gentleman theory. People can understand about the Gentlemen mean because of change social class after getting inheritance in 19th century era and how it is related in literary work.

F. Outline of the Study

This final project is systematically organized in 5 chapters. Each chapter will discuss different matter as follows:

Chapter one provides introduction that consists of these matter: the Background of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Problem Formulation, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study and Outline of the Study.

Chapter two consists of The Synopsis of the Novel *Great Expectations*, and the Relation between Social Class, Inheritance and Gentleman Theory.

Chapter three consists of Types of Research, The Sources of the Data, Data Collecting Method and Data Analysis Method.

Chapter four is about discussions which aim to answer each problem formulation and will be discuss clearly.

Chapter five consists of conclusion and suggestions.