

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of The Study

Literature used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific work, most often used to refer to creative imagination works, including nonfiction, fiction, drama and poetry (Stowe 34). literature is an imaginative work that describes human life in a society that can be understood, enjoyed and utilized by the community. The writer's imagination will be written by the writer in the form of literary works.

There are many kinds of literary works, one of them is a novel. Novels are long narratives in the form of prose, depicting fictional characters and events, usually in sequential stories. Novels are the same as short stories, both of which are included in prose narrative fiction. The similarity between novels and short stories is found in their intrinsic elements, such as setting, characters, plot etc. (Sumardjo & Saini 29). A novel is a story which tells about a person's life, which presents a documentary picture of life and sometimes a novel can be reflected in our daily life.

The novel became the most popular work of English literature during the Victorian era because of the plot it self. According to Herbert F. Tucker, he states in his book *A Companion to Victorian Literature and Culture* that the plot of the Victorian novel is what made it an important genre in the Victorian period where solutions to individual's real life problems can be given. Every novelist in this

period had his own style. For example, the novel discusses life inside the family, marriage, social class differences, women issues, child labour, and so forth.

Hobsbawm argues that "The Victorian era is most known as the great developments of the industrial Revolution which officially happened in 1750 in England. At this time, the Victorian Era was a changed Revolution in the industry and marked the most fundamental transformation of human life in the history of the world. Because of this industrial Revolution, so many children work as labourers to earn money, and the Victorian Era was a historical time in which children often experience violence from their families.

The definition by Forst explains that "The Victorian period, the reign of Queen Victoria (lasted from 1837-1901), was a time of widespread social, and cultural change, not only did this period mean advances in science, new discoveries, populations and technology" (Forst 55-56). At the time, the population in London grew rapidly, and by 1900, 80% population lived here. Because of the increasing population, some of them who don't have a job or born to be poor, the vast majority of child labourers worked in rural areas or worked for their families, or remain invisible to work in domestic homes and unregistered place but, as these primarily linked, initiated the expansion of the Industrial Revolution which on the one hand brought wealth to many people, but also created the messes of the working class.

As stated by Carter, "The Industrial Revolution created major changes in the British Society, during, at the time, the economy was changing based on

manufacturing from agricultural to the industrial era" (Carter 71). The Victorian Era was the time of very rapid economic and social change in the nineteenth century in England.

Child labour is One of the worst social effects of the industrial revolution was child labour, a phenomenon that culminated during this time. The increased number of families led to creating the workhouses, and the population's growth made a world of children. The children of the poor who lived in the workhouse were expected to work by six or seven. They were useful to factory owners because they were easy to discipline; unlike adults, they were cheap. Therefore, in the nineteenth century, poor children's condition was to become the main area of social reform because it was a response to the fact that children were suffering and their sufferings were public (McDowall 1999, p.120).

Diniejko has argued, "Dickens was not only Britain's first great urban novelist but also one of the most important social commentators who used fiction to criticize the moral abuse, economic and social of the Victorian era." Dickens explores the many social themes at *Oliver Twist*, but he focuses on child labour. He highlighted the problems of poor children that became the victims of the Industrial Revolution.

His life journey inspires the story behind Dickens's central character in *Oliver Twist*. Charles Dicken, born in Portsmouth in 1812, was the son of a clerk at the Naval Payments Office. Although the family was relatively wealthy, they were in heavy debt, and when Dickens was only twelve, his father was imprisoned

in London's Marshalsea debtor prison. Dickens was employed at a factory for several months. Dickens's intense suffering at this place made a deep impression on him, and he made great use of this experience in the novel *Oliver Twist*.

*Oliver Twist* is a novel by Charles Dickens published in 1830. *Oliver Twist* tells a story about a little boy named Oliver. The novel begins with the birth of a fatherless baby boy. Dickens presented another character in the story, Mr. Bumble and the Fagin gang, as the master of crime. Oliver should work in a workhouse, and he got a small portion of food. The food made Oliver grow up to be a skinny child, then Oliver tried to ask for more from the workhouse master. Unfortunately, it makes him get punishment, Oliver was imprisoned and earned the nickname of a rebel. The next day the board in front of the workhouse announced that whoever wanted to take Oliver would be five pounds.

This novel will describe child labour that happened in England in the 19th century. Thus, the researcher wants to show the forms of child labour in *Oliver Twist* novel that has been portrayed by the main character. Secondly, this study is intended to show the effect of child labour. *Oliver's twist* novel guides researchers to find out more about child labour and its effects. Therefore, the researcher intends to conduct research with a sociological approach entitled "The Influence of Child Labor in the Novel by Charles Dickens *Oliver Twist*".

## **B. Limitation of the study**

Based on the problem above, the study focuses on analyzing the proof and the Impact of child labour in the Oliver Twist novel and used journal references about child labour.

## **C. Problem Formulation**

Based on the title and the background above, the study formulated the problem into several questions as follows :

1. What are the depiction of child labour in Victorian Era Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist ?
2. What are the Impact of child labour portrayed in Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist ?

## **D. Objectives of the study**

Every discussion has certain purposes. The purpose of this study are :

1. To describe the child labour in the Victorian Era portrayed in Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist.
2. To analyze the Impact of child labour in the Victorian Era portrayed in Charles Dicken's Oliver Twist.

### **E. Significance of the study**

The result of this study hopefully can give knowledge dealing with literature, especially about child labour, can give a reference to literature students in university and others who are interested in studying about child labour and the Impact. And this study could give a piece of information about child labour and in the victorian era and the Impact of child labour at the time based on the novel.

### **F. Outline of the study**

The discussion is systematically divided into five chapters. Each chapter would discuss different matters as follows :

The chapter one provides an Introduction that consists of these matters: Background of the study, Problem formulation, Objectives of the study, Significance of the study, Outline of the study. Chapter II consist of a synopsis and review of literature theories. It discusses child labour, its Impact and the victorian era. Chapter II consist of the object of the study, types of the research, method of collecting data and data analysis techniques. Chapter IV result of the data. Chapter V conclusion and suggestions.