

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Human is unable to be separated from society. Therefore, human is usually called social being. Society is different from era to era. In England, every era is distinguished by the leader. For instance, Victorian era. Victorian era appeared during leadership of Queen Victoria. She became queen and ruled England from 1837 in age 18 until she died in 1901. Then the leadership was carried on by King Edward which was called by Edwardian era. Since the era was getting more developed, the society of one era would be different from other eras.

The Victorian era made the great progress. This era was characterized by long peace, industrial revolution, prosperity, development in economy, technology, and even literature. Although in Victorian period made great progress, social class system and also gender inequality still existed. In Victorian era, the social class system was divided into three classes; they are upper class, middle class, and lower class or working class. Usually, education was unequal in social class nor gender (<https://www.ucm.es/data/cont/docs/119-2014-02-19-3.%20The%20Victorian%20Age.pdf>).

“During the Victorian period men and women’s roles became more sharply defined than at any time in history” (Hughes). Victorian woman should not get the education as the same as the man. They must kept their children and take care of

house. It was assumed that men and women were obviously distinctive in capacity and social role as well. Men were destined to be on top, whereas the women were fated to serve and obey the men (Fariza, 2012: 25).

Literature is human creation. Since the author is part of the society, there is the correlation among the author, his literary works, and also his social condition. The social condition can inspire the author to create the literary work. Based on the author's experience and life values, he or she creates the imitation poured into the literary work. Even the author creates the imaginary character to perfect his or her creation. Therefore, some literature can be reflection of author's social life in certain range of time (Nur'aini, 2009: 1).

In the Victorian era, literature changed as well. This period was the transition of the literature genre, from the romantic and allegoric style to the realistic one. The writers began to see the social issues as their idea to be poured into the literary works, especially in novel. At that time, novel replaced poetry as the most popular literature. The writers also published their works in literary magazines and periodical frequently (<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/victorian.php>).

Literature of this age tends to come closer to daily life which reflects its practical problems and interests. It becomes a powerful instrument for human progress. Socially & economically, Industrialism was on the rise and various reform movements like emancipation, child labor, women's rights, and evolution (<http://olenglish.pbworks.com/f/Victorian+Lit.+Char.pdf>).

Victorian literature was a mirror of Victorian life. It was a portrayal of Victorian society dealing with social problems such as child labor, class conflict, women's right, and so on.

Victorian era was the golden age of the novel since many great writers appeared in this era. One of the great writers of that era is Thomas Hardy. "Thomas Hardy must be regarded as a key forerunner of the Modernist Movement in literature. His novels and poetry all display tendencies that would reach their apex in the early twentieth century" (<http://www.online-literature.com/periods/victorian.php>). Thomas Hardy was born on 2 June 1840 at Higher Bockhampton, near Dorchester. He got local education at the village school and later in Dorchester. He continued his studies under guidance of Horace Moule, a Cambridge graduate, who affected his writings deeply. Hardy went to London in 1862 to obtain his architectural career and began to write. Besides poetry, Hardy wrote many novels as well. Some of Hardy's novels are *The Poor Man and the Lady*, *Under the Greenwood Tree* (1872), *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (1878), and his masterpiece was *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). He died in age 87 on 11 January 1928 (Hardy, 1985).

Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* tells about an English man named Michael Henchard who treats women in bad ways. He sells his wife and daughter because of drunk. After eighteen years, his wife, Susan, and his daughter, Elisabeth-Jane, come to look for Henchard who is the mayor of Casterbridge at that time. Then Henchard and Susan remarried. Susan died soon after her remarriage with Henchard and leaves Elisabeth-Jane. Henchard also

causes Lucetta's social downfall. Lucetta is a lady whom Henchard involves with during Susan's absence before the remarriage. Lucetta cannot survive from the public insults and then she died. Henchard curbs Elisabeth-Jane to not marry to Farfrae, Henchard's assistant of corn business. Knowing that Elisabeth-Jane is not his biological daughter, Henchard lies to Newson, the biological father of Elisabeth-Jane, that his daughter was died. Due to his complicated conflicts, Henchard goes far away from the Casterbridge.

Literature, especially fiction, has two things to be concerned to understand it. The first is the intrinsic elements and the second is the extrinsic elements. The intrinsic elements cover plot, characters, setting, and point of view. Meanwhile extrinsic elements cover sociology, psychology, and anthropology dealing with the literature. Literature, society, and history are correlated each other. To understand and reveal the meaning of literature thoroughly, one should see and notice the society and history behind the literature. The approach that combines the two kinds of literature elements is Genetic Structuralism.

Genetic Structuralism appears due to the dissatisfaction against the approach of structuralism, which is only focused on the intrinsic elements without regard to extrinsic elements of literary works, literary works are considered to be separated from its social context (Nur'aini, 2009: 17). It combines the intrinsic elements and the extrinsic ones.

Author as the representative of certain society expresses his or her idea dealing with the social circumstance into his or her literary work. Therefore,

literature is as a mirror of the society. Lucien Goldmann develops this approach into several aspects; human fact, collective subject, world view of author, structure of literary work, and dialectic method.

To get further comprehension dealing with women treatment in Victorian era, Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge* is chosen to be the object of this study. Meanwhile Genetic Structuralism as social literary device is applied to draw the author's perspective depicted in the literary work.

### **B. Scope of the Study**

According to the background of the study, this study only deals with the treatments toward women depicted in characters of Susan, Lucetta, and Elisabeth-Jane found in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*. Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism is used to reveal the author's worldview about the treatments toward women in Victorian era.

### **C. Problem Formulation**

1. How are the women characters depicted in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*?
2. How are the treatments toward women in Victorian era as Thomas Hardy reflects in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*?

### **D. Objective of the Study**

According to the background of study, the objective of study can be stated as follows:

1. To analyze the women characters depicted in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

2. To analyze the treatments toward women in Victorian era as Thomas Hardy reflects in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

This study is made to give some benefits:

1. The result of this study is expected to be useful for students of College of Languages of Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang, mainly for Literature students who are interested in Sociology of Literature.
2. This study can help the readers in learning social phenomenon, especially about Victorian women.
3. This study can be source and further research dealing with genetic structuralism.

#### **F. Outline of the Study**

This proposal is divided into three chapters. The first chapter is introduction which consists of the background of the study, scope of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study. The second chapter is review of related literatures which consists of synopsis of Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, biography of Thomas Hardy, intrinsic elements of fiction, sociology of literature, genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann, and Victorian period. And the last chapter is about the research method.