

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

As human beings, we are always curious about everything, especially about ourselves. What happened in our life, how and why it happened, in order to satisfy all of our questions, we search information through watching, listening and reading. Reading is one of language skills that holds very important role in our life, we get so many advantages of reading books, journals, magazine and newspaper. Reading can let us be more experienced and educated people. We can know everything happening in the world today and event what will happen in the future.

One of reading functions that gives us much pleasure and entertainment is reading literature. People can read it for different purposes such as getting information, passing the time, enjoying the content and getting the meaning. Literature has various definitions. According to Rees (1973 : 9), he states that "Literature is a permanent expression in words of same thoughts on feelings, or ideas about life and the world". Rees (1973 : 13) also adds that :

By studying literature people are in some sense of making themselves better people. Literature allows the readers to enjoy the vision and imagination of the writer. People believe that literature will expand their minds and sense of life. Because this is important to their life, they do not only enjoyment but also understanding and want literature to give them something more pleasing.



For many years, literature has been considered a great source for readers to trace the knowledge about human life, which is way we get so many advantages which are very useful for our lives. It is obvious that the readers can learn a lot of things about literature. One kind of literature is a novel. Novel is kind of literary text, which is widely accepted, which people are quite familiar with it. Novel has been the favourite for both the writers and the readers. Broadly as quoted by Kennedy states that a novel is defined a book-long story in prose which belongs to the author who tries to create the sense, that while we read, we experience the actual life. Kennedy also quotes Reeve's opinion which states that novel is defined as a picture of real life and manner and time in which it is written (Kennedy, 1989 : 180).

As a tool for research and education, a novel has unique capabilities, one of them is that a novel can record cultures, treat social or political issues and other aspects in the society. Besides, it helps us to understand life, learn something valuable, see and solve problems wisely since novel always serves real life values, such as health, comfort, love, friendship and moral knowledge.

Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* which takes places in the early of 18<sup>th</sup>, is a story of two beautiful girls who seek for a true love. The story begins with a wealthy rural aristocrat, Mr. Henry Dashwood, who has just died and the law demands that the inheritance goes to John, his son from first marriage. The second wife, Mrs. Dashwood and her three children are left with modest annuity. Their situation is getting worse because of John's greedy wife Fanny, Mrs. Dashwood and her daughters are forced to seek shelter in the home of their cousin Mr. John Middleton.

Two oldest Dashwood daughters are forced to earn money in the only imaginable for women in the early social class by marrying wealthy gentlemen. Each woman has found possible candidates. Older and sensible Elinor is attracted to Fanny brothers, Edward Ferrars, while her younger and passionate Marianne is attracted to dashing playboy John Willoughby.

For some people, *Sense and Sensibility* is just another romance story with its own twist, but to the writer, it is more than just an experienced of both romance and heartbreak. By analyzing this novel the writer wants to highlight the culture, the tradition, the life of early 18<sup>th</sup> England. And it is very interesting to come up to the importance of social status held in those days, not to mention the inequality for many women which have received. For some reasons, those social status and inequality for women still happen in today life, in a modern era like we have today. Therefore the writer would like to analysis Gender issues in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.

## 1.2. Statement of the Problem

From the background of the study, this thesis will be focused specifically on:

1. What are the character and characterization, conflict and setting described in Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* ?
2. How does the 18<sup>th</sup> society see gender as revealed in the novel *Sense and Sensibility* ?



### 1.3. Scope of the Study

The writer takes Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* as the object of the analysis. In this thesis the writer would give limitation on the analysis of intrinsic elements including character and characterization, conflict and setting as well as the extrinsic elements that is study of gender phenomenon especially that happened in early 18<sup>th</sup> time where the novel takes places.

### 1.4. Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, the objectives of the study are stated as follows :

1. To identify the character and characterization, conflict and setting of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*.
2. To identify the gender in the 18<sup>th</sup> society as revealed in the novel *Sense and Sensibility*.

### 1.5. Significance of the Study

- 1 As the contribution for Dian Nuswantoro University, especially for English Department Students. This thesis is hoped to give more knowledge about the intrinsic elements including character and characterization, conflict and setting, and extrinsic elements which is gender especially on the novel *Sense and Sensibility*
- 2 The result of the research will be useful for the writer to comprehend about the novel *Sense and Sensibility*.

## **1.6. Method of the Study**

### **1.6.1. Research Design**

The writer will use qualitative descriptive method to analyse the data that will be discussed in her thesis. According to Nazir in Harsono (2000 : 37) state descriptive method is a method to create description of the fact and characteristic in researching a grub of human being or an object systematically, factually and accurately. By using this method the writer will describe systematically the analysis of her thesis accurately.

### **1.6.2. Source of Data**

The writer will only uses Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* as the object of the analysis since she interested mostly to the story and she also uses another source of data that relevant to the story that is from books.

### **1.6.3. Unit of Analysis**

The writer will focus her analysis on the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of structuralism. The intrinsic elements will be emphasized on the analysis of character and characterization, setting and conflict while the extrinsic elements will be on gender study.

### **1.6.4. Technique of Data Collection**

The data that the writer used are classified as primary and secondary data. Primary data are drawn from the novel, while secondary data are taken from some references related to the subject matter.

The first step of collecting data is reading the novel carefully and repeatedly in order to understand deeply the concept of it. The second step is searching the components of intrinsic and extrinsic elements related to the gender as reflected in the novel through dialogues, the behaviour



characters and the expositions. Next step is to determine the given components according to its priority. The third step is library research.

According to Semi (1993 : 8) :

*Penelitian kepustakaan, yakni penelitian yang dilakukan di kamar kerja atau di ruang perpustakaan, dimana peneliti memperoleh data dan informasi tentang objek telitianya lewat buku atau alat audiovisual lainnya.*

(Library research is a research, which is done in the office on in library were researcher gain data and information about the research object through books or other audiovisual equipment).

It can be said that library research means that the research refers to the activity of gathering data from some references related to the subject matter. The kinds of references to which the writer constantly refers are books dealing with the literature, novel, intrinsic and extrinsic elements and gender.

#### 1.6.5. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer uses the structural approach to analyze this novel. According to Semi :

Structural approach is the basic assumption that literary work as a creative work has full autonomy, which has to be seen as a figure, which part from the outside of intrinsic element. If we will analyze the intrinsic elements of a work such as theme, plot, setting, character and characterization, figure of speech, etc. (1993 : 67)

From the quotation above, the writer tries to unite all the unit analysis of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* with the theory systematically into fine paragraphs, and the suitable approach to analyze the novel is structural approach. Besides structural approach, to reveal the issues on gender, the writer needs to apply sociological approach and gender to answer the problem.

### 1.7. Thesis Organization

The thesis has been divided into five chapters and each chapter explains different matters in line with the topic which is going to be discussed. The writer organizes the thesis as follows :

Chapter I is the Introduction. It consists of the background of the study, statements of the problems, scope of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, method of the study and thesis organization.

Chapter II is author and synopsis of the story. It presents the Brief Biography of the Author and Synopsis of the Story.

Meanwhile, Chapter III talks about review of related literature. It talks about character and characterization, conflict, setting, and gender.

Chapter IV is analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of Jane Austen *Sense and Sensibility*. Intrinsic elements furthermore will be explained as character and characterization, conflict and setting, while extrinsic elements is the study of gender as revealed in the novel *Sense and Sensibility*.

Chapter V is conclusion.