



Bab I : Introduction

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1. Background of The Study

For students of the English Department, it is important to study English thoroughly. English as a language cannot be separated from its literature. Through literature the author can increase vocabularies knowledge and psychology.

What literature is has become a question; In order to know more about literature the writer suggests the fellow students to study the following definitions. There are some definitions given. Roberts and Jacob (1989:1), say that "literature in general is actually everything which is written.". Furthermore they called literature imaginative literature which refers to written (and also spoken) compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveals thought and emotion and also to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden, and ennoble the reader.

The writer takes literature as an object of the study because through literature the writer will increase her knowledge and can learn how other people lived. Literature also gave the writer knowledge about psychology especially the inner life and its relation to the author's appearance from which it is often very different.

Kennedy (1991:xxv) says that “literature is language which is used creatively and beautifully.” The author uses literature to describe about the most painful and terrible aspects of people’s life in the form of beautiful words.

In addition, Burito (1971:1) says that “literature has an element of entertaining or to afford pleasure; so learning literary work can give the enjoyment in people’s life. Literary work can seize people’s interest and more or less makes the rest of the world vanish for a moment.” The author hopes when the readers read or learn literary work they can feel happy and share the enjoyment of the story, so the readers can forget about their problems for a moment.

Burito’s opinion is supported by Mayhead (1965:9) says that “literature is to be enjoyed,” so if the readers fail to share the enjoyment of the literary work it means they do not read it seriously.

One of the genres in literary work is prose fiction. According to Roberts and Jacob (1989:2) fiction is anything made or shaped based on the author’s imaginations. There are many kinds of prose fiction such as novel, short story, myth, parable, romance, and epic. The writer chose novel as the subject of the study since it is different from any other form of literature because through novel the writer is able to feel the emotions that other characters’ experience. So, the writer is able to relate this emotion and understand them. Actually novel is a narrative prose with considerable length. Typically it has plot which is unfolded by the action, speech, and thoughts of the characters. (Soukhanov, 1996:1239)

George Henry Lewes, writing in 1852, accorded Jane Austen for her status and identified his issues and critics that her novels would be repeating and arguing for the next century and a half :

“ First and foremost let Austen be named, the greatest artist that has ever written, using the term to signify the most perfect mastery over the means to her end. There are heights and depths in human nature Miss Austen has never scaled nor fathomed, there are worlds of passionate existence into which she has never set foot; but although this is obvious to every reader, it is equally obvious that she has risked no failures by attempting to delineate that which she has not seen. Her circle may be restricted, but it is complete. Her world is a perfect orb, and vital. Life, as it presents itself to an English gentlewoman peacefully yet actively engaged in her quiet village, is mirrored in her works with a purity and fidelity that must endow them with interest for all time.”

The writer is interested in Jane Austen's novel because her novels have so often been read as easy stories about easy living. Therefore it is worth pointing out a few of their characteristics. With a few significant exceptions, those of her characters who take life easily and lightly achieve success for themselves, are commonly just those who are shown to be shallowest, least likely to achieve enduring happiness for themselves or others.

Laura Raga Ordunia (in her paper published in 2000) stated that Cassandra Elizabeth (1773-1845), Jane Austen's sister said that it was probably the first of the novels to be started (sometime before 1797, under the early name *Elinor and Marianne*). It was worked on in 1797, and probably again heavily revised before publication in 1811. It was the first of Jane Austen's novels to be published, and appeared without her name on the title page (only "By a Lady"). It was advertised as an 'Interesting Novel', which meant (in the jargon of the day) that it was a love story. Jane Austen pledged herself to cover her publisher's losses, if necessary, but actually realized £140 in profit. It was one of only two

novels that Jane Austen revised after publication, when a second edition came out in 1813. The first and second editions were probably not more than a thousand copies each, but the readership would have been very much larger, due to the institution of "circulating libraries" (book rental; shops), and also the fact that the novel was published in three separately-bound volumes (as was the usual practice). This novel contrasts two sisters: Marianne, who, with her doctrines of love at first sight, strong emotions overtly expressed, and admiration of the strange "picturesque", represents the cult of "sensibility"; and Elinor, who has much more "sense", but is still not immune from disappointments. Despite some amusing characters and true Jane Austen touches, it is not generally considered to be her best novel

The writer chose "*Sense and Sensibility*" because it is Jane Austen's first novel. This novel shows 2 sisters with different temperaments who share the pain of tragic love. This provides the theme for Jane Austen's dramatically human narrative, "*Sense and Sensibility*". Jane Austen's authentic representation of early nineteenth-century middle class provincialism, makes her novels the enduring works on the mores and manners of her time.

This thesis discussed about sense and sensibility. According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (1991:1070) "*Sense* is the ability to think in a practical way and make good judgement based on reason;" "*Sensibility* is the ability to experience and understand deep feeling especially in art and literature." In this thesis the writer tries to analyze main characters in the novel that related to

sense and sensibility. There are two main characters in this novel that clearly represents sense and sensibility. It were Elinor's character and Marianne's character. Elinor's character represents sense and Marianne's character represents sensibility. The writer will give some explanation thoroughly about the two kinds of characters and the conflicts in chapter 4.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The writer choses Jane Austen's novel *Sense and Sensibility* because the writer interested in the characteristics of men and women in early nineteenth century. The writer feels attracted to analyze which main characters represent Sense and which main characters represent Sensibility. The problem statements are:

1. Which of the main characters represent Sense?
2. Which of the main characters represent Sensibility ?
3. How the conflict happened between Elinor and herself and Marianne and herself ?

1.3. The Objective of the Study

In line with the problem statements, the purpose of the study is:

1. To determine the main characters which represent sense.
2. To determine the main characters which represent sensibility.
3. To find out the conflict between Elinor and herself and Marianne and herself.

1.4. The significance of the study

The writer hopes that through her study, fellow students may know more about Jane Austen's novels because Jane Austen was critical and very sensitive to her environment. This sensitivity was incorporated in her novels. This study is aimed at the teaching Literature at the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University. With this study many students interested in studying literature thoroughly. Finally, this study hopefully enlarge knowledge to other students of the English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to understand about characters which is important for teacher.

1.5. Scope and limitation

The writers limits her discussion to the characters in Jane Austen novel, *Sense and Sensibility*. The writer wants to analyze which main characters represent Sense and which main characters represent Sensibility.

1.6. Theoretical Framework

The writer uses some theories especially those dealing with main characters, personality, temperament and sense and sensibility and some previous studies related to the topic of the study under report. To be more precise those theories will be discussed in chapter two .

1.7. Definition of key term

In order to avoid misunderstanding in analyzing, the writer gave some definitions :

-Major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme.

(DiYanni, 20017:35)

- Plot is the sequence of incidents of which a story is composed (Perrine, 1966:59)

- Setting is the time and place of the story. (Scholes, 1978:80)

-Sense is ability to make reasonable judgement. It is also concerned with rationalism (Longman's Dictionary, 1993:1198).

-Sensibility is a capacity for feeling or sensation. It implies quickness and acuteness of apprehension of feeling. In general, it indicates emotionalism rather than rationalism.(Longman's Dictionary, 1993:1198)

-Temperament is the person's character shown in the way he/she thinks, feels, behaves. (Oxford's Learner Dictionary, 1995:426)

-Theme, according to Perrine (1970:102) is the controlling idea or the central insight or the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story.

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters, chapter one is Introduction, chapter two is Review of Related Literature, chapter three is Method and Design, Chapter four is the Analysis of the Characters in the novel and chapter five is Conclusion and Suggestions.