CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

A novel is one of the genres of literary work which presents in detail the enlargement of character, or complicated social circumstances, or a relation between many personalities. It is composed of many different phenomena and intricate relationships surrounded by a few people in the novel (Stanton, 1965:44)

Every novel has a particular message presented by the author. Some of the novelist's thought or ideas are transformed through the sequences of the story. It is influenced by social background because it is used as a vehicle for the expression of social and political beliefs (Little, 1970:101-102). A novel develops a theme which is one of the best ways to express moral and social thoughts.

One aspect about social criticism in a novel is about the moral value. Moral is concerned with principles of right and wrong behavior (Hornby, 2010:959). There is a belief about what is right, what is wrong, and what is important in life (Hornby, 2010:1649)

Reading a novel is not only to make the readers enjoy the story but it is also made the readers understand the messages which appears in the novel. Through a novel, a novelist can improve the morality of the readers. When readers read the sequence of the story, readers can imagine or feel the situation in the story although there is no picture in the novel, which helps the readers to understand the context of the story.

In this research, the researcher wants to read a novel entitled *Oliver Twist* which was written by Charles Dickens because this novel shows the readers about the effect of different social stratification to the people moral values and it contains lots of moral values that the readers always find in life.

This novel is also containing about different social classes that emerged in Victorian age. In the Victorian age different social classes can be distinguished by inequalities in such areas as power, authority, wealth, working and living

conditions, life-styles, life-span, education, religion, and culture (Cody 2002). By reading this novel, readers can recognize that social class stratification refers to a ranking of people or groups within a society (Harold, 2000:1)

Oliver Twist is a boy who was born in a workhouse in 1830s England. Oliver's mother dies just after Oliver's birth. He spends the first nine years of his life in a badly run home for young orphans. One-night Oliver runs away and travels toward London. In London, Oliver meets Fagin who trains Oliver to become a pickpocket for him. Few days after training, Oliver is sent on a pickpocketing mission with other boys but he is caught by the mass. Mr. Brownlow, the man whose handkerchief was stolen, takes Oliver to his home and nurses him back to health. Oliver thrives in Mr. Brownlow's home, but Fagin's gang capture Oliver and returns him to Fagin. Then Fagin sends Oliver to assist Sikes in a burglary. Oliver is shot by the servant of the house and after Sikes escapes, is taken by the women who live there. But again, Fagin and a mysterious man named Monk are set on recapturing Oliver. Meanwhile it is revealed that Oliver's mother left behind a gold locket when she died. Monk then obtains and destroys that locket. At the end, Fagin is hung for his crimes. Finally, Mr. Brownlow adopts Oliver.

This novel is one of Dickens' great novels which tell the readers about one poor child who has to work hard because of poverty and this novel also tells people about how to struggle to find a better place and how to be accepted in this world. From this novel, the researcher hopes that the readers can know the different moral values that emerged in the main character Oliver Twist before and after he was adopted.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Novel as we know contains moral value, human thought, problems and conflicts. In other words, moral values can be concluded as people whole way of life (Little, 1970:1). From this statement, people know that every novel has their own moral values. In this research, the researcher would like to focus on the following problems:

Main Problem

1. What moral values that are found in *"Oliver Twist"* novel by the main character Oliver Twist?

2. What moral values that are found in different social stratification class by the main character Oliver Twist in the novel "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens?

1.3 The Objectives of Study

Based on the statements of problems above, the intentions of the research are as follow:

1 Main Objective:

Find the moral values of the main character Oliver Twist in the novel written by Charles Dickens.

2 Sub Objective:

Find out the difference moral values of Oliver Twist in every social stratification class

1.4 The Significance of the Study

a. The study can be used to provide some information of literary study particularly among the people who are interested in literary study.

b. The study expects that the readers can understand the moral values found "Oliver Twist" novel.

1.5 The Scope of the study

This study is focused on the moral values that related to the social stratification that emerged in the main character of the novel that is *Oliver Twist*.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. Moral Values

Moral concerns something that is good and bad in human change in their life (Hornby, 2011, p. 285). Moral values are values concerning principles of right and wrong and the standards of behavior.

2. Novel

A novel is prose story telling with a great amount of detail on every page, and usually reveals human values (John Peck and Martin Coyle 1986: 102).

4. *Oliver Twist* novel

One of Charles Dickens' most well-known novels. It is the first English novel that uses a child as the protagonist main character. It is utilized to contribute some social critics in the Victorian period. 'Oliver Twist' tell us about an orphaned young child who has difficult life. Oliver wants his life to get better. He acquires an idea to run off to London but unfortunately things turn from bad to worst. He was caught by the company of band of thieves. He has to struggle discovering his own true place in the world.

5. Social Stratification

Social stratification is largely a condition that builds in a community after a certain level of development (Dobriner, 1994:214-228)