

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is parts of man's dream and reality that are put in forms of writings. Andersen (1987:310) states that literature is a record in good writing about what people have thought and felt from the ancient to the present day. Man reveals what he thinks and feels through verbal communication or through writings. Sometimes man inscribes his feeling in an aesthetic way, like in a form of poem. Howe et al (1979:2) say: "Literature means imaginative writings-stories, novels, poems, plays-which portray or reflect or deal with human existence."

What man puts in literature are generally about himself and how and what happens with his surroundings. According to Lerner (1956:5) the subject matter of literature would be something very general, such as 'man's fate', or 'human life' for literature can deal with every possible human activity. Moreover, Beardsley et al (1956:xxiii) add: "The subject of a literary work may be a thing, a person, a scene of affairs, an event, a whole series of events, or all of the universe, time, and eternity."

Literature offers something worthy. Literature conveys moral values, self-identification, and accomplishment as well as failure and culture in other parts of the world. Little (1963:1) says, "It contains the record of the people's values, their thought, their problems and—in short their whole of life." Literature is as important as experience for not all of events, occasions, or experiences can be

gotten. Beardsley et al (1956:xxxv) state that literature gives insight into ourselves and our life and help us to understand them. They enlarge the scope of our experience of human nature. Furthermore, Roberts & Jacobs (1989:2) say that literature can help people grow into the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which they are a part. Literature also helps to recognize human dreams and struggles in order to develop nature sensitivity for the condition of all living things.

The writer chooses literature because it illustrates about human beings in aesthetics ways. Literature gives records of good writings about what man feels and undergoes. The writer gets advantages in reading literary works because they give a picture of values, culture, and man's dream and most of all human nature with the struggles in life. Literature gives her not only a window to see the world outside but also a mirror to see insight.

The advantage of reading literature draws the writer's intention to put literary study as the subject matter of her thesis. From studying a literary work, she gets not only the improvement in reading skill but also the improvement in her perception to understand what it gives.

In literature, there are many of literary works. According to Guerin et al (1988:1134) literary works are divided into three genres: poetry, drama, and prose. Each of them has value and beauty. Novel, one of the prose fiction forms, captivates the writer to take it as the subject of her study. The writer chooses novel since it tells its story in a way that is more like seeing day-to-day life. Kennedy (1979:231) says that a novel is broadly defined, a book-length story in

prose whose author tries to create sense that, while we read, we experience natural life.

Novels are in the form of book for they reveal the elements like, the characters, the actions, the setting with more detail. Guerin et al (1988:1137) define a novel as:

A novel is an extended, fictional, prose narrative that portrays characters in a plot. The novel may stress adventure for its own sake or character development or a partisan position on some issue or a blend of these and other emphases.

Novel is interesting because it depicts picture of life's values. The characters, the actions, and all of the elements in novels reflect the real life. Novels give something more than story about man's activities. They give significant learning. Kettle (1976:13) explains, " The good novel does not simply convey life; it says something about life. It reveals some kind of pattern in life. It brings significance." In line with Kettle, Kennedy (1989:19) says that fine novels, as if by turning on lights and opening windows, help to behold aspects of others that had not been observed before. Lerner (1956:147) explains that people may love a novel because of two reasons. First, it seems to represent the spirit of the society where people live. Second, it reveals a way of social behavior that has previously known little about.

The writer chooses novel since it brings significance in life and it opens her eyes to see aspects in life that have not been realized before. Novel is a book-length story that can give the elements of a literary work, like characters, plots, and setting more details. The author grants different traits to the characters and how the different traits make the characters' relationships flow throughout the

story. What the characters' traits and how their relationships in a novel become a great concern for the writer to achieve the purpose of her study.

There are a lot of great novelists and yet in this thesis the writer chooses Jane Austen. Jane Austen is a great woman novelist with outstanding achievement. According to Bakker (1975:50) Jane Austen is regarded as the first woman writer to achieve a high reputation in English literature in the eighteenth century.

Jane Austen wrote the life around her. She depicted not only the perfectness of life around her but also the imperfectness. She described broadly what the life around her just the way it was. George Henry Lewes says as quoted by Parish (1972:369), "To read one of her books is like an actual experience of life: you know the people as if you have lived with them, and you feel something of personal affection towards them."

Jane Austen wrote six novels: *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1816), *Persuasion* (1817), and *Northanger Abbey* (1818). The main characters in her novels are represented by elegant, witty, and independence young ladies and nevertheless handsome ones. The ideal characters in her novels are not without shortcomings. According to Legouis (1953:297) in the six novels Jane Austen wrote, she set herself to study the way of feminine affection, the delicacies and distresses of young and sensitive but not passionate hearts, their mistakes and their sorrows in first love.

The writer chooses one of her finest novels, *Emma* which presents an ironic fiction. Maugham (1991:68) says, "The great mass of readers, I believe,

have accepted *Pride and Prejudice* as her masterpiece and *Emma* as her peak of maturity work.” Jane Austen was bold in creating irony that results in comedy in her novels. According to Blamires (1984:264) Jane Austen gets the achievement as the perfect ironist to make her heroine have experience that makes her to behave within a double vision of judgement and affection, that sees her laughably silly yet none the less dear. The writer is fascinated by how Jane Austen blends the characters with shortcomings and virtues, at the same time tries to portray the life with its perfect ness and its imperfectness that make her novels reflect the real life.

In *Emma*, Jane Austen portrays a handsome, independent, witty and smart girl named Emma Woodhouse. She is granted with almost all the best quality a girl can have and yet she makes mistakes. She is very keen on doing matchmaking towards her friends. The successful of setting up a relationship of Miss Taylor and Mr. Weston until they are married brings her confidence to do the same thing towards Harriet Smith and Mr. Elton that ends up in her distress because of her blunder. Howe et al (1979:5) state:

They read Jane Austen’s *Emma*, for e.g., and they feel that the heroine of that novel Emma Woodhouse, is vain and snobbish: they wouldn’t want her for a friend or a roommate. But the author knows, of course, that her heroine is vain and snobbish and you’re not supposed to like Emma in any simple-minded way. You’re supposed to see her as an interesting and complicated person with virtues and vices.

She has nature and frailty that make her fail to see things clearly. She is often wrong in interpreting the other characters’ manners and remarks. She believes that Mr. Elton loves Harriet Smith while he often addresses her indirectly. She imagines that Frank Churchill falls in love with her while sometimes he acts deceitfully. She takes for granted that Harriet Smith falls for

Frank Churchill and at the same time she cannot see that Harriet Smith does not care about him at all. An ill judgement about a person whom she does not know very well brings a fancy that, the person, Jane Fairfax has an affair with Mr. Dixon. She believes she knows exactly the other characters' feelings but she does not know her own feelings. It takes Harriet Smith to make her realize her own feelings when Harriet Smith falls in love with Mr. Knightley. All of them represent the discrepancy between the appearance and the reality that result in ironies. The story unfolds in the series of ironies.

The series of ironies in relationship in *Emma* makes the writer wants to know more about them. *Emma* depicts human relationship and human nature, which are filled with surmises, self-deception, and secrecy that result in series of ironies. Irony is the most fascinating aspect in Jane Austen's novel *Emma* for the writer. Irony in *Emma* creates a tension and a curiosity of what happens next. What ironies can happen in a relationship and how they can happen captivated the writer to analyze Jane Austen's novel *Emma*.

The writer chooses to focus the study on Emma Woodhouse's relationship because she is the main character in *Emma*. She has an access to meet and communicate with almost all the other characters in it. *Emma* describes an ironic fiction through out the story. The characters in *Emma* often state something indirectly. There are things, like events, remarks, and actions, and thoughts that sometimes are not same as they may appear. Sometimes, there are the differences in the point of views and possibilities of something between the readers and the characters in *Emma*. The unexpected turns of events that are not expected surprise

the characters in *Emma*. All of them make out series of ironies. Ironies unfold the story in *Emma*. Accordingly, the writer intends to find out the ironies in *Emma*.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

Based on the reasons mentioned above, this study is intended to find out the ironies that happen in the main character, Emma Woodhouse's relationship with the other characters. In *Emma*, there are discrepancies between the appearance and reality in what the characters' say, do, and think in series of events. All of them make ironies in *Emma*. Accordingly, the problem which arises and is discussed in this study is:

What ironies can happen in the relationship of the main character, Emma Woodhouse with the other characters?

1.3. The Objective of the Study

In line with the statement of the problem, this study is determined to find the ironies that can happen in the relationship of the main character, Emma Woodhouse with other characters.

1.4. Significance of the Study

The study on the ironies in *Emma* is expected to give a viewpoint for understanding the novel. The writer has an expectation that this study can help the students of English Department of Widya Mandala Catholic University to recognize the ironies and their forms in Jane Austen's *Emma*. Hopefully this study

can also develop the students' analytical skill in reading literature and enrich their literary experience.

1.5. Scope and Limitation

The subject of the study is Jane Austen's novel *Emma*. The writer limits her analysis on finding out the ironies that can happen during the main character's relationship, Emma Woodhouse with the other characters in *Emma* since they build the story. Then, the writer tries to categorize the ironies found into the major forms: verbal, dramatic, situational irony which are stated by Roberts & Jacobs and Perrine. Based on the statement of the problem i.e. in the characters' relationships, the writer focuses on what the characters say, think, and do, in the series of events.

1.6. Theoretical of Framework

In analyzing *Emma*, the writer uses some theories related to irony and the kinds of ironies, the intrinsic approach, and the literary analysis. The writer has to put the theory of irony because it is fundamentally needed relating to her study. Irony is significant aspect for the authors because irony makes the authors able to make a compression of their materials without sinking the message they want to give. The forms of irony are verbal irony, dramatic irony, situational irony, cosmic irony, and point of view irony (Kennedy, 1979:85). In this study the writer gives more emphasis on the three major kinds of irony because this study is intended to find the three major ironies in *Emma*. The three major kinds of irony

according to Roberts & Jacobs and Perrine are verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony. The writer also uses the other experts' definition of irony to define the ironies found in *Emma*.

The writer discusses about the intrinsic approach and the literary analysis. The theory of the intrinsic approach gives the first way to interpret and to analyze a literary work is to study and stay focus in it. Next, the writer discusses the literary analysis. The literary analysis is used to get an understanding of a literary work better is by dividing the elements into parts: character, plot, setting, and theme. The writer uses all of the related theories above for her study on irony in Jane Austen's novel *Emma*.

1.7. Definition of Key Terms

The writer lists some terms that are used in this study in order to avoid any misinterpretation. The terms are stated as follows:

1. Irony is a result of contradictory or contrast. According to Roberts & Jacobs (1989:303) there are three major ironies in literature. They are verbal irony, dramatic irony, and situational irony. Besides that there are still point of view irony and twist of fate irony.
2. Verbal irony according to Guerin et al (1986:1135) is what one says is the opposite of what he means.
3. Dramatic irony is a device by which a reader is made aware of something the characters know (Guerin et al., 1986:1135).

4. Situational irony involves unexpected turns of events (Guerin et al., 1986:1135).

1.8. Organization of the Thesis

This thesis consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction. Chapter II deals with review of related literature. Chapter III contains research method. Chapter IV contains the analysis and interpretation of findings and chapter V is the conclusion.