

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Since the very beginning of their lives, humans are born with an innate capacity of senses. Through these senses, humans are able to see, feel and also taste whatever is happening around them. Their senses capture every detail from the environment and store it in their minds as experience. Humans' innate senses also encourage them to visualize their feelings, thoughts as well as experience into a form, which is known as literature.

Literature mainly concerns with human interests. It reveals what people think, feel and why people do the things they do. The topic of literature then may stretch as vast as human's mind itself. In consequence, literature may present such abundant information covering almost every aspect of human's life. Though some people may argue that science or history also provide abundant information, there is a fundamental difference between them and literature in the way they are presented. Brooks et.al (1946:3-4) explains that unlike science and history, which present merely facts in the practical and scientific way, literature tries to give human meaning to the bare facts. This humanizing of the facts is the one aspect that distinguishes literature from essays. Further, Brooks et.al (1946:7) adds, "Literature gives us a

picture of life-not the picture that science gives and not the picture that is actually (historically) true, but a picture that is true in the sense that it gives many important things which science from its very nature cannot give; and it presents this picture to us in its most vivid and moving picture”. By reading literature, people try to feel as well as to know.

Carter and Long (1991:2) say that literature expresses the most significant ideas and sentiments of human beings and literature represents a means by which students can be put in touch with a range of expression – often of universal value and validity – over an historical period or periods. Since the subject discussed by literature concerns the universal values of human, which span among cultures, understanding literary works may help readers to understand and hopefully in the long run, appreciate culture different from their own. As a result, readers will grow in terms of their way of thinking both as individuals as well as in their relationships with other people. Moreover, literature always concerns with certain place and period of human’s life and this helps to broaden people’s knowledge. People understand about the culture of their own and others although it is before their time.

Cyrill Connolly (1903 – 1974) as quoted by Bowler and Parminter (1993:7) states, “Literature is the art of writing something that will be read twice”. The writer agrees with this statement in that literary works (in this case, a written one) is worth studying.. Furthermore, the writer herself has experienced the pleasant feeling, which she gets through reading literary works. This is because literary works offer not only facts but also pleasure to its readers. It gives a great pleasure to see how the story

flows smoothly starting from the exposition to the resolution. In short, literature teaches people about culture and at the same time offers a sense of pleasure.

When people speak of literature, people are speaking of a very vast term for literature varies greatly in its form; it may be in the form prose, which covers fiction, play and essay or verse, which covers poem. However, in this thesis, the writer will concentrate on fiction. . The word fiction is derived from a Latin word “fictio” which means a shaping; counterfeiting. Fiction may be defined as a name or term for stories, which are not entirely factual but at least partially shaped, made up, or imaginary (X.J. Kennedy, 1966:23). Fiction is based mostly upon imagination. In accordance, Brooks et.al (1975:2) say, “It is, in other words, an imaginative enactment.” Fiction opens up the gate of imagination, which gives the pleasure of entering the world not known before. There is no limitation to fiction for there is no limitation to human’s imagination.

In this study, the writer chooses a form of fiction, which is novel to be discussed.

Arnold B. Sklare (1996:14) explains, “A novel is a fictional prose narrative of considerable length, in which characters are portrayed in a plot of some complexity.’ The most distinguishing feature of a novel is its length, which may reach up to 1000 pages. Due to its considerable length, a novel allows its writer to include more people and events in the story (Martin and Hill, 1996:12). As a result, a novel is generally more complex than any other forms of fiction. The characters in a novel are

described in a more sophisticated way in that readers may, by the end of the story tend to like or dislike them.

Reading a novel may arouse various sorts of feelings in a reader. As stated by Martin and Hill (1996:12), “A novel can make us cry, laugh, or think, or all of them – it can be tragic, comic, satirical, romantic, a combination of these, or something difficult to define with just these words.” Reading novels can train people to be critical thinkers and at the same time, provides readers with entertainment.

During the eighteenth century, there were not many female writers. Only a few managed to get their works published and Jane Austen was one of them. Jane Austen was truly one of a kind and her works were strange in her day. During her time, most writers would base their characters and settings on imagination but Austen did the opposite. Cubis (1965:35) supports this fact by pinpointing, “...by establishing her art on the sound basis of reality, and by presenting real scenes, real people and probable events with most delightful wit and humour.”

In Jane Austen’s works, it can be seen that the characters determine the development of the plot. She always describes her characters in the liveliest way in that the readers gets as clear picture as possible. As stated by Cubis (1965:36), “-*the creation of full dimensional character* whose talk not only sounds real, but is psychologically true to those speaking;” Through her novels, Jane Austen brought readers to know her characters better.

It is an amazing thing how Jane Austen still struggled to get her works published despite the obstacles she had to overcome. Having finished her first novel

entitled Elinor and Marianne (now known as Sense and Sensibility) in 1795, it was not until 1811 she had the pleasure of seeing her work published although the cost for publishing that novel was covered by Austen herself. In addition, before Sense and Sensibility was first published, Austen had had several of her works namely First Impressions (now known as Pride and Prejudice) in 1797, Northanger Abbey in 1798 and Susan in 1802 sent to publishers without any result.

After tireless efforts for many years, Austen finally succeeded in having altogether six novels published. They are Sense and Sensibility (1811), Pride and Prejudice (1813), Mansfield Park (1814), Emma (1816), Northanger Abbey (1818) and Persuasion (1818). Through her works, Jane Austen has gained recognition from the world and her spirit is inspiring for all writers out there struggling to get their works published.

Jane Austen's works are clearly some of the best works ever written. Her novels have been printed in countless edition spread all over the world and translated into many languages. Some have even been made into plays and films; Pride and Prejudice is one of them. Even until today, almost two hundred years after her death, her novels are still read by many people all over the world.

From a collection of Jane Austen's works, this thesis in particular would like to discuss one novel. The novel is the one entitled Pride and Prejudice. This novel is one of Jane Austen's most popular works. It made a huge hit when it was first published in 1813 and it gather Austen such fan as Sir Walter Scott. Sir Walter Scott

as quoted by Tom Doherty (1994:xix) said that Jane Austen had "...that exquisite touch which renders ordinary commonplace things and characters interesting..."

Dorothy Cubis (1965) in her work entitled Companion to Jane Austen: Pride and Prejudice presents a book –sized notes on Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. The notes state that the Pride and Prejudice speaks of human's imperfections. The human imperfections discussed in this novel are pride and prejudice. In the world today, pride and prejudice may be seen from people's daily behavior. Nowadays, pride may be traced from wealth and possession; Prejudice is shown from the acts of racism and discrimination. The novel as a whole tries to say that to make mistakes is human. However, people should not be selfish as to not willing to admit that they are wrong. On the contrary, people should always try to evaluate their wrongdoings and in the end, correct them. Furthermore, in order to live in peace with others, it is important to develop sense of understanding and tolerance. It is impossible to expect others to always conform to us.

This novel tells about two people namely Elizabeth Bennet, a young attractive woman belonging to the middle class and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich and influential person. They both at first did not like each other. In fact, Elizabeth even considered Darcy to be a very arrogant person and Darcy saw Elizabeth as inferior to him. The story reveals how both characters learn of each other's characteristics, dislike each other because of it but in the end, accept each other. Both of them discovered that they are actually meant to be together.

It is clear that the title Pride and Prejudice refers to the theme of the story as explained above. Still, one question remains, “How does the Austen describes pride and prejudice in this novel?”. The answer is simple, “Through her characters”. However, among so many characters existing in the story it is not easy to determine which character represents pride and which character represents prejudice.

For this reason, the writer of this thesis is interested in analyzing the representations of pride and prejudice in the story. Not simply determining which character represents pride and which character represents prejudice, the writer will proof her analysis by providing supporting facts.

1.2. Statement of the problem

In studying Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*, the writer would like to focus on the following problems, which will lead her to the analysis of the novel.

The problems are as follow:

1. Who represents pride in the story?
2. Who represents prejudice in the story?

1.3. Objective of the study

This study in general aims at revealing the representations of the pride and the prejudice in the story. This study will pinpoint which character represents pride and which character represents prejudice. The analysis will be supported by the facts existing in the novel.

1.4. Significance of the study

In the long run, this study is expected to give contribution to the students of Widya Mandala Catholic University, Surabaya in understanding this novel in particular and other literary works in general.

1.5. Definition of key term

Before moving on to the deep discussion of this thesis, it is necessary to define some key terms, which are used in this thesis.

1. Fiction is a name for stories not entirely factual but at least partially shaped, made up, imagined (Kennedy, 1966:23).
2. A novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that while students read, they experience actual life (Kennedy, 1966:213).
3. Character is an author's representation of human being, especially those inner qualities that determines how an individual reacts to various conditions or attempts to shape his or her environment (Little, 1966:66).
4. Characterization is the aesthetic or structural aspect of characters – the act, the craft, method of presentation or creation of fictional personage (Bain, Beaty and Hunter, 1977:102).
5. Theme of a story is whatever general idea or insight the entire story reveals (Perrine, 1959:61).
6. Plot is the sequence of incidence or events of which a story is composed (Perrine, 1959:61).

7. Point of view is the position which details in literary works are perceived, considered and described (Roberts, 1977:65).
8. Pride is unjustifiable high opinion of oneself or one's achievements; (Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, 1989)
9. According to Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary (1983), prejudice is "an irrational attitude of hostility against an individual, a group, a race or their supposed characteristics". Also, it is "an adverse opinion or learning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge"

1.6. Delimitation

A novel is formed by many elements. Each supports one another. The writer sees that she cannot avoid encountering these elements. However, in this study, the writer delimits her study only on one element; it is on character.

There are many characters in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice but the writer decided to delimit the scope of her study only on the major characters, which possibly represent pride and prejudice. This decision is made on the basis that the major characters are usually the ones representing the theme of a story. The analysis on the characters includes discovering which characters represent pride and prejudice and what facts support the discovery. The study of the characters is based upon what the characters think, say, do and also on the other characters' opinions and judgments.

1.7. Organization of the thesis

The writer divides this study into five chapters. Introduction of the study consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, definition of key terms, scope and limitation and also the organization of the thesis; all are stated in chapter one. Then, chapter two deals with review of related literature. The writer presents the research methodology in chapter three. The analysis is discussed in chapter four and in the last chapter, chapter five, the writer makes conclusion about what she had analyzed.