

Chapter I

Introduction

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature is a human creation that has characteristic, original, and was written in beautiful words to give some knowledge about social, humanity and intellectual. Grant (1987:7) says that literature is defined as writing in which expression and form, in connection with ideal of permanent and universal interest. This statement asserts that literary work is a product of human thought. As result of permanent ideas and universal, literature can be comfortably enjoyed by any people in different ages. Literature may happen in the real life. It is not just a collection of real events or just a document of fact. Literature is also written by author.

Literary work is an aesthetics written to tell the readers to comprehend the values of a creation and intended the suggestion value from the author to the readers. This statement is in accordance with the opinion of Nurgiyantoro (1995:322) that *karya sastra atau fiksi ditulis untuk memberikan saran sebagai gaya hidup yang ideal dan memiliki nilai yang diterapkan pada sikap, sifat dari karakter manusia*. (Literary works or fictions are written by the author to offer an ideal lifestyle and there is value application in the attitude, behavior of the character of human being.) It is also applied authority and human prestige. The

author creates the literary works is not only using the skill and creation ability at all, but also based on the vision, inspiration and struggle.

According to Jatman in Endrawarsa (2003:96), sastra dan psikologi memiliki pertautan yang erat, secara langsung dan fungsional. Pertautan tak langsung karena baik sastra maupun psikologi memiliki objek yang sama yaitu kehidupan manusia. Psikologi dan sastra memiliki hubungan fungsional karena sama-sama mempelajari keadaan kejiwaan orang lain, bedanya dalam psikologi gejala tersebut nyata, sedangkan dalam sastra bersifat imajinatif (literature and psychology have a tight relationship. Both literature and psychology have similar object, that is human life. However, psychology has real phenomenon in our life and literature only imaginative one.)

From the statement above, we can find something in literary works that related with everything about life such as behavior, attitude and social interaction. Literary works is also viewed psychological phenomena because the writer thinks that literary works uses feeling, thought and idea.

Literature has some function. First, literature gives us knowledge. Literature provides some information in which the reader can access. Second, literature give us some entertainment. Third, literature as a moral education. Of course literature provides the reader some knowledge about what the differences of good and bad thing in our life. And the last is literature has a power. Literature can be a media to persuasion, urge and criticism to society or government and so on. However, Koesnosubroto (1998:2) states that *sastra memberikan kenikmatan, namun bukan hanya kenyamanan saja tetapi juga pemahaman* (literature gives us more pleasure, which is not only enjoyment but also understanding.)

Prose is a kind of literary work that has free composition. This literary work ignores the rule of writing like the amount of syllables of lines of sentences. According to Culler (1997:20) there are three literary genres namely prose, poems, and play (drama). In this case, the writer takes prose in the form of novel as the object of thesis because novel is a kind of literary work that presenting many kinds value and view. In this study, the author intended to analyze the novel by using plot, setting, characters and theme to find out the hedonism tendency.

The writer chooses an Oscar Wilde's novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. *The Picture of Dorian Gray* is a one of the most popular novel by Oscar Wilde that published in 1890. This novel concerned about a hedonism who has happened to Dorian Gray.

In novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, there is psychological collapse that happened of Dorian as a main character. The novel described that Dorian has a double live. He has an obsession to get the terrible pleasure. Evidently when Dorian visits to the place of opium dens in London.

Oscar Wilde prefaces his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* with reflection on art, artist and utility of both. He was concluding in the quote : "All art is quite useless" (Wilde 1890:4). Wilde enlose the principles of Aesthetic motion popular in Victorian England. It means that, the real art takes no part on modling of social identity or social morality. Here, aesthetic suggest all kind of behavior to make a maximize beauty and happiness life of someone in tradition of hedonism. In this

novel, Lord Henry Wotton said about aesthetic philosophy with his majesty and bravery that persuade Dorian to trust his principles.

Dorian Gray personifies the aesthetic lifestyle in his action, pursuing personal gratification with abandon. However, while he enjoys these indulgences, his behavior ultimately kills him and others, and he dies unhappier than ever.

There are some reasons the writer chooses this novel as the object of study. Firstly, the author interested to know with hedonism, the definition about hedonism and what the affect of that. Secondly, the writer interested to explore what happen with Dorian as a main character.

1.2 Research Questions

According to the background of the study, the writer tries to find the problem as follows :

1. How are the plot, setting and characters that are portrayed in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel?
2. How are the plot, setting and characters portraying the theme and hedonism tendency in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In accordance with the resesarch problem, the purpose of the study are :

1. To find out how are the plot, setting and characters that are portrayed in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel?

2. To find out how are the plot, setting and characters portraying the theme and hedonism tendency in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel?

1.4 Limitation of the Study

In order to avoid misunderstanding, this research is limited to analyze the hedonism tendency and how are the plot, setting, characters and theme theory found what happened with Dorian Gray as the main character of the novel.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The result of analyzing of hedonism tendency in *The Picture of Dorian Gray* novel is expected to provide valuable contribution theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically

This study is expected to provide a preference on the literature research in educational institutions.

2. Practically

The author can apply the knowledge of the research would be useful for the reader to understand how the intrinsic values (plot, setting, character, theme) find out the hedonism issues in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

Frame of Work

