

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Research

Literary work is an expression of the author's thoughts and feelings related to the realities of life. As a result, it will also be influenced by social, economic, cultural, and political issues at the time it was created. In other words, literary work is a depiction of reality during a certain period of time that represents the author's worldview. It depicted the history, the current events, and even the predicted future. As Teeuw (1988, p. 228) stated, literary work is both an imitation and a model of reality.

In general, literary work is composed in response to the events that occurred in the author's surroundings. Thus, it can involve the author's experiences, thoughts, ideas, sentiments, interests, and so on. It is in line with Saryono's statement (2009, p. 18) that literature has the capability to record both empirical-natural or non-empirical-supernatural experiences, or that literature has the ability to observe and criticize the human life.

Novel is one of literary work that, more than any other, can depict the realities of life in more detail. On the other hand, it is one of the most popular literary genres among readers. Since it has a wide communicative power in society, novel is widely produced and distributed literary work. According to Wellek and Warren (1993, p. 94), novel is essentially a knowledge of non-scientific reality that appears and occurs in society. Therefore, the novel that can describe the real life of society can be considered as a good novel.

Apart from what researcher have revealed before, it is hard to deny that reading and interpreting a literary work, specifically a novel, is a difficult task. Many issues are implicitly expressed in a literary work or a novel, forcing the readers to have difficulty grasping the substance of the story and the messages contained there. Therefore, the literary research plays an important role in assisting the readers or the literary enthusiasts in comprehending the story's substance and the message the author wishes to communicate in a literary work or a novel.

Considering the importance of literary research, the researcher will analyze the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* (1859) by Charles Dickens, an English writer whose popularity soared in the nineteenth century due to his masterpieces. *Oliver Twist* (1838), *A Christmas Carol* (1843), and *Great Expectations* (1861) are among his notable works. Many of particular themes, including the imprisonment, injustice, social anarchy, resurrection, and the renunciation that encourages renewal, were portrayed throughout his novels.

The novel *A Tale of Two Cities* is set around 1789 to 1799 in London and Paris, or thirteen years before Charles Dickens was born. It depicts the upheaval of the lower-class people against the arbitrariness and greed of the aristocratic groups during their reign. Besides, the novel compressed a highly complicated event into the scope of family history. The novel was first published in 1859 and became one of Charles Dickens's masterpiece.

The novel *A Tale of Two Cities* was chosen as the subject of this study because of its success, which has outstripped the sales numbers of all of Dickens' previous works. Despite conflicting critical reviews, the novel succeeded in catching the interest of general readers with its swift tale and detailed depiction of the French

Revolution. Moreover, despite the fact that the French Revolution occurred thirteen years before Dickens's birth, but he expertly depicts the horrors of mob violence through the plot he presented. Therefore, it would be interesting to investigate the variables that enabled Dickens to write the work, such as his viewpoints, hopes, or thoughts that he wanted to express to readers. The researcher will use a genetic structuralism approach to complete the analysis, which will focus on the author's worldview of the novel.

Genetic structuralism is one of the most popular research methods used in analyzing literary works such as novel, short story, and poetry. It is one of the approach methods in the sociology of literature that combines the structure of the text, social context, and worldview of the authors (Yasa, 2012, p. 28). The worldview itself is closely related to the structural aspects of literary works and the structure of society. In other words, it determines the structure of a literary work. The worldview, on the other hand, is an abstraction or not a fact with an objective existence, that will be concretized in literary works. It is a theoretical reflection of a particular group of people's conditions and interests.

Before the researcher decides to do this research, there are at least two theses related to this topic of study. Those theses are *Social Stratification During the French Revolution in Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities* by Moh. Syamsuri (2008); and *A Fight Against the Social Injustice in Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities: A Marxist Approach* by Daisy Ronniasih Hartono (2012). However, unlike the study that the researcher will deliver, those two theses are mainly focus on the novel's social context, hence they do not clearly describe the context surrounding the author.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on the background of research above, in order to find out the author's world view in the novel *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, this research will focus on answering the following questions:

1. How is the social background of the author of the novel *A Tale Two Cities*?
2. How is the social context of the novel *A Tale of Two Cities*?
3. How is the author's worldview in the novel *A Tale of Two Cities*?

1.3. Research Objective

The objectives of this research are:

1. To find out the social background of the author of the novel *A Tale Two Cities*;
2. To find out the social context of the novel *A Tale of Two Cities*;
3. To find out the author's worldview in the novel *A Tale of Two Cities*.

1.4. Research Significance

There are two significances from this research, theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretically, this research is a useful resource for people seeking to expand their understanding. This research is also aimed at the general public, particularly students, for further analysis.
2. Practically, this research is aimed at people who are interested in the given topic.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

- Novel: a fictional prose story that is usually long and complex as well as deals with human experience through a series of events that are usually connected.

- Genetic Structuralism: a theory that highlights the idea that people are not free beings, but rather followers of particular social classes.
- Worldview: a complex set of ideas, intentions, and sentiments that bind the members of one social group together and contrast them to the members of the other social groups.
- *A Tale of Two Cities*: a Charles Dickens novel published in 1859. The novel set in London and Paris during the French Revolution.

