

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background of The Study**

Literature can be defined as writings valued as works of art. Literature exists universally in the world. It is regarded or realized differently in different cultures. There are many names for literature such as English literature, French literature, American literature, world literature, etc.

Literature is inevitably recognized as one of the significant subjects exclusively offered in the curriculum of the English Department of FKIP Unika Widya Mandala. Students are supposed to learn it because it is the reflection of how language is aesthetically arranged into a harmonious piece of art. Whether transmitted through spoken or written words, literature is an art of works that can help students become more sensitive to language and other people to face the condition of all living things - human and animal.

In fact, analysing literature work itself provides great advantages for the students. One of those advantages is the students can gain native-like English competency by improving their language skills (like vocabulary and grammar). Moreover, by studying literature, the students can get more knowledge about life, human problems and culture values. They can learn about love, fears, changes and dreams.

The writer is determined to conduct this literary research because of two substantial points. First, literature is a part of life, concentrated and

interpreted in real life. It is a means of building her understanding and broadening her mind towards life. It contributes her some supplementary inputs in recognizing certain situations in her existence as experiencing something that resembled to the situations she has encountered in the pages of literary work. Concededly, literature is the infinite device, which enables us to maintain the perspective world of her own to be instinctively sharpened and fully matured. Roberts and Jacobs (1989 : 2) state :

"Literature helps us grow, both personally and intellectually: it provides an objective base for our knowledge and understanding: it helps us connect ourselves to the broader cultural, philosophic, and religious world of which we are a part: it enables us to recognize human dreams and struggles in different places and times that we would never otherwise know. It exercises our emotions through interest, concern, tension, excitement, hope, fear, regret, laughter, and sympathy. Literature helps us develop mature sensibility and compassion for the condition of all living things- human, animal and vegetable."

Actually, compared with other reading texts, literature is fun. Literature gives pleasure: people simply like to reading it. Any number of reasons may be adduced for this: insomnia, curiosity, to pass the time, to obviate boredom, to stimulate thought, for excitement or escape, to find out what happens, to admire verbal dexterity, to enter realms of otherwise inaccessible experience, to contemplate characters like or unlike ourselves, and so on. (Peter Widdowson 1999: 131)

Second point for analyzing literature is that literature plays an important role in language application, as it is an example of language in use. When discussing about literature either directly or indirectly, she is discussing about language and the way it is used. Thus, the language used in a work of a fiction is masterly used in such a way that can enable the reader to understand what the work means as well as to enhance the writer's appreciation of aspect of the different systems of language organization.

One of the literary genres is the novel. In this study, the writer chooses a novel to be analyzed. The novel is the longest of fiction in which she may find the most extraordinarily wide range of writing. The underlying reason why the writer is interested in choosing a novel as the media for her study is due to the fact that she intends to analyse the defence of woman's rights, which can be revealed through characters, plots, and settings.

In novel, there are many characters and problems that reflect the real condition of people in society. The story of a novel has long plot. Along together with the length of the plot, the readers' feeling will be touched by the expressions that lead them to understand the story itself. Conclusively, the novel is the most appropriate device functioning as the profound supporting material for the writer in focusing her analysis.

In this thesis, the writer has conducted a study on one of Anne Bronte's novels because she is considered as a great writer. Anne Bronte is the youngest daughter in the Bronte's family. Her older sisters, Charlotte Bronte and Emily

Bronte are known as the greatest writers in the world. Anne Bronte's novels are *Agnes Grey* and *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*.

According to Winifred Gerin (1976 : v), during the short time that Anne Bronte came before the public as a writer ( from 1846 until 1849), she received considerable notice. In the case of her controversial novel, *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*, she even received a success of scandal (a second edition had to be rushed through within a month from publication), while *Agnes Grey* disturbed critics and readers alike with its unfaltering truth. Anne styles in her novels are bold, naturalistic and passionate.

Winifred Gerin states that "Anne Bronte is the bravest of the Brontes those very qualities of forthrightness and independence which made her novels and poems so startling to the readers of her day and age." ( 1976: v)

After doing difficult selections, the writer decides to take *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* as the subject of analysis. *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* is chosen because this novel is one of English literature's most powerful cries on behalf of women. It challenges the social conventions of the mid-nineteenth century in a strong defence of women's rights against their husbands' abuses.

However, on its first publication in 1848, the novel shocked the critics. *The Spectator* (a name of a newspaper) of 8 July 1848 considered that "there seems in the writer a morbid of love of the coarse, not to say the brutal.", while the *Athenaeum* (another newspaper) of 8 July 1848 wrote, "The Bells (the publishers) must be warned against their fancy for dwelling upon what is

disagreeable," yet also stated " that The Tenant of Wildfell Hall was the most interesting novel which we have read a month past".

Charlotte Bronte had never approved of her sister's second novel. She felt that The Tenant of Wildfell Hall's subject matter was 'an entire mistake' and suppressed its further publication after Anne's death. In her Biographical Notice (1850) to the edition of Wuthering Heights and Agnes Grey, Charlotte wrote: "The Tenant of Wildfell Hall had an unfavorable reception. At this I cannot wonder. The choice of subject was an entire mistake. Nothing less congruous with the writer's nature could be conceived. The motives, which dictated this choice, were pure, but I think, slightly morbid. She had, in the course of her life, been called on to contemplate, near at hand and for a long time, the terrible effects of talents misused and faculties abused."

Some critics say that Anne's novel (The Tenant of Wildfell Hall) is naturally sensitive, reserved and dejected nature. What Anne sees sinks very deeply into her mind: it does her harm. She broods over it till she believes it to be a duty to reproduce every detail (of course, with fictitious characters, incidents and situations), as a warning to others.

On the contrary, other critics argue that The Tenant is a fine and important Victorian novel that deserves serious critical attention as a work of fiction. Arlene M. Jackson (1982) acknowledges that the often brutal realism of The Tenant of Wildfell Hall has a way of exploding Victorian myths about gender roles in revealing a marital discord full of suffering, agony, and even ugliness. She understands the novel's uniqueness in the way it asks bold questions about the

power structures that define sexual relationships during the Victorian period. Anne Bronte also answers a question that other novels of her time do not ask-. what happens to a marriage and to the innocent partner when one partner (specifically, the male) leads a solipsistic life, where personal pleasures are seen as deserved, where maleness and the role of wife is linked to providing service and pleasure not necessarily sexual, but including daily praise and ego-boasting and, quite simply, constant attention.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problems**

Related to the background of the study, this thesis is designed to discuss the problems in concrete questions:

1. What kind of abuses does the main character's husband commit?
2. How does she defend her rights as a woman against her husband's abuses?

## **1.3 Objective of the study**

In line with the problems above, this thesis intends to find out:

1. Kind of abuses, which is committed by the main character's husband.
2. How she defends her rights as a woman against her husband's abuses.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The study reported in this paper is expected to give some contributions to the students of the English Department of the teaching training faculty of

Widya Mandala Catholic University about how a woman defends her rights against abuses, which are committed by her husband.

By having this knowledge, the writer also hopes that this study can also give some contributions to the teaching learning in exploring the deep meaning of the content in literary work.

The writer also hopes that the readers will be interested in reading Anne Bronte's novel beside another Bronte's novels

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

According to the statements of the problem above (1.2), the writer doesn't analyse all parts of the novel. She limits her analysis on discussing kind of abuses and the defence. In discussing kind of abuses and the defence, the writer will focus on Helen Huntingdon. It is because she is the most important character in conveying defence in the novel.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

Before any further discussion, it is necessary to clarify the following key terms in order to avoid misinterpretation:

1. A novel is an extended fictional, prose narrative that portrays characters in a plot. The novel may stress adventure for its own sake or characters development or a partisan position on some issue or a blend of these and other emphases. The plot of the novel is more extended than that of the story, having usually many more episodes. (Guerin, 1986)

2. A character is a person in literary work who generally refers to his whole nature, such as his personality, his attitude toward life, his spiritual qualities, as well as his moral attributes. (Potter: 1967:3)
3. Defense is argument and action prepared or advanced to defend policy, or thesis. (Webster: 1986)
4. Human right is an ethical or moral quality that constitutes the ideal of moral propriety and involves various attributes (as adherence to duty, obedience to lawful authority, whether divine or human, and freedom from guilt). (Webster: 1986 )
5. Abuse means to use or treat so as to injure, hurt or damage. (Webster: 1986)

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters. Chapter I contains Introduction which deals with Background of the Study, Statements of the Problems, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Definition of key terms, and Organization of the Study. Chapter II deals with the Review of Related Literature. It talks about the theories, which are used in the study. Chapter III is about the Methodology of this study, which consists of the Nature of the Study, Research Source, The Procedure of Collecting The Data, and The Procedure of Analysing the Data. Chapter IV contains Analysis. Chapter V presents Conclusion and Suggestion concerning this study.