CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Every literary work covers its own historical and sociological background based on its period. One period that cannot be neglected is Victorian period in the mid of nineteen century as one period of literature development. Victoria's long reign saw a growth in literature, especially in relism fiction. Many Victorians allowed their understanding to be led by thinkers, poets, even novelists. It was an age both exhilarated and bewildered by growing wealth and power, the pace of industrial and social change, and by scientific discovery. In more far-reaching ways, especially in the late of 19th century the novel form also documented the social changes of the time. The move from the high moral didacticism of midcentury to the exploration of moral issues and responsibilities can be seen particularly clearly in the novels of Thomas Hardy. Like so many of the major writers of the time, Hardy was something of an outsider.

Several years before Thomas Hardy carrier as author, the woman author was rising and female character was dominant. Nevertheless, Thomas Hardy still dominated his novel by man characters. Hardy's vision has been called tragic, and the fate of many of his characters is indeed bleak. Henchard in *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886) rises to power, then brings about his own fall in a manner that recalls the classical forms of tragic drama (Ronald Carter and John McRae, 2002: 312). If woman writer

show the feminism in her novel's character, then, Hardy's novel show masculinity in his novel's character.

Remember that literary work has several issues which want to deliver to the readers, here, in this research; I am going to use Novel; *The Mayor of Casterbridge* as my object of study. This novel has subtitle, it is 'the life and death of a man of character'. By this subtitle, this novel focuses on the character of the man who *the Mayor of Casterbridge* is called Michael Henchard. Regarding of this reason, I am going to use masculinity theory to discuss his character. Moreover, this issue is going to be my subject of this study.

This issue has to bring masculinity theory. This theory is a vibrant. It means masculinity theory is interdisciplinary field of study broadly concerned with the social construction of what it means to "be a man." "Masculinity" refers to the behaviors, social roles, and relations of men within a given society as well as the meanings attributed to them (Kimmel and Bridges, 2011). Thus scholars of masculinity often refer to masculinities in the plural to highlight the diversity of meanings, roles, and behaviors consumed in the term.

Being a man, absolutely, it should be different to woman characteristics. Moreover, in social aspect, the ideal man can be found out in the way society's perception of Hegemonic masculinity such as Physical strength and boldness, heterosexuality, economic independence, authority over women and other men, an interest in sexual relationships

(Ikrima, 2015). Therefore, being an ideal man has to have performative-social practices, power, heterosexual and economic independences (Blackburn & Smith, 2010; Dutro, 2003). Not only attitude, according to Henning Bech there was a change in the traditionally different cultural wardrobe of each gender, i.e. in clothes, accessories, gestures, postures and so on. So, the researcher propose '*The masculinity of Henchard in Thomas Hardy's The Mayor of Casterbridge'* as the title of the thesis research.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

This study is going to conducted to answer the problems formulated in the following questions:

- 1) How is Michael Henchard characterized in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*?
- 2) What masculinities which are had by Michael Henchard in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Based on the problems above, the objectives of the study are aimed:

- 1) To know the characterization of Michael Henchard in Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
- To know what kind of masculinity which possessed by Michael Henchard.

1.4 Significant of The Study

The significances of the study are to give contributions in gender theory especially in hegemony masculinity theory. The finding of the study is expected to be references or alternative information about how to apply masculinity theory in a literary works such as a novel or short story. The result of this study is expected to give exploration and deeper understanding toward how should a man be. So, the researcher hopes every man must be receive their gender and act as his gender to minimize LGBT community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender).

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study is going to be focused on Michael Henchard, the protagonist Thomas Hardy's *The Mayor of Caterbridge* who passes various experiences in his life from poor man to be rich man. The analysis is going to be centered on the characterizations of Michael Henchard which illustrate as an ideal man.

Concerning the theories employed, I limits the term 'Masculinity' in the sense of sociologic concept, which analyzes the power relations among the social classes of a society. Those masculinities appear in man's thought, utterance and attitude. In revealing such issues, the writer employs the theories on intrinsic aspects, i.e. the narrative and characterization aspects.

1.6 Definition of Key Term

- 1. **Masculine**: a term to refer the characteristics of a real man
- The Mayor of Casterbridge: a fiction realistic novel written by Thomas Hardy
- 3. **Thomas Hardy:** an English novelist and poet in Victorian period.

1.7 Method of Study

This study is categorized as a descriptive-qualitative study which uses a library study. This approach is chosen because in explaining what kind of masculinity possessed by Michael Henchard in Hardy's *The Mayor of Caterbridge*. I need a descriptive method to know what are the marks or signs used to determine Michael Henchard as an ideal man.

1.7.1. Source of Data

1. Primary Data

The source of data comes from the object itself. The object of this study is Hardy's *The Mayor of Caterbridge*. The subject of this study is 'the portrait of Michael Henchard as a masculine man'.

2. Secondary Data

Regarding of the subject of the study, absolutely, I need several journals, books, and other resources which has related to hegemonic masculinity and Hardy's *The Mayor of Caterbridge*.

1.7.2. Procedure of Analysis

1. Data Collection

The first step to understanding the data required to finish the analysis is through the extensive and close reading. The following intensive reading together the data which comes from characterization of characters' expression, thought, attitude and action, and also narrator's description which represent the masculinity aspects of Michael Henchard. During the intensive reading, I am going to coding, classifying of expression, thought, and others aspects.

1.7.3 Data Analysis

The filtered data compiled from what mention in data collection, will be analyzed by using the declared concept which mention in theoretical framework (Chapter 2). The analysis will be taken by classifying what are the masculine characteristics which appear in the Henchard characterization. Hence, from Henchard characterization will be taken some masculine characteristics to be analyzed one by one based on the masculine theory.