

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the study

Most of literary works have been influenced by their age. In the Victorian era, many factors like politic, economy, social, and also scientific knowledge have more or less influenced the literary works. It is proven by the development of the industrial matters and also many discoveries in scientific field. It is stated in *A History of English Literature*, Alexander claims that Victorian era has a big role in English development. He emphasizes that it was an age of both exhilarated and bewildered by growing wealth and power, the pace of industrial and social change, and by scientific discoveries (247). The growing and the developments of era lead authors create the literary work which is reflected to that era.

There are many figures in Victorian era. They are Gerard Manley Hopkins, Robert Browning, Charlotte Bronte, Charles Dickens, Anthony Trollope, Elizabeth Barret Browning, John Henry Newman and many others. One of those popular figures at that time is Dickens. The super productive Dickens is the dominant figure of the Victorian novelist. Dickens's novels came out originally not in book form but in parts in illustrated monthly magazines - the 19th-century equivalent of a television series (Alexander 272).

Dickens becomes famous because his works are also adapted into film or musical performance. His works are known by many people. He is very skilled with the language. Benson claims in *The North American Review*, "He was a supreme master of language; his vocabulary was enormous and wholly at his

command” (382). Dickens has talent not only in using his vocabulary, but also in creating a character. Benson adds “There is nothing whatever inconsequent or inconsistent or unexpected about any of his characters” (382). His character is successful to attract people to know more and more. It can be seen in his visualization. The way he describes the character is easily understood.

Usually the character that can attract people is the main character. Undeniably, Dickens is skilled to create that kind of thing but inside of his work, he is also skilled to create minor character, which has power to attract people to know more. In most of Dickens’ works, his minor characters succeed in attracting public interest. One of those works is *Great Expectation*. The minor character inside inspires people to create a movie entitled *Great Expectation: The Untold Story*. It tells the story of *Great Expectation* based on Magwitch, one of minor characters’ view (Gale 113). By that movie, it is true that *Great Expectation* is great novel which has power in minor character. In this novel, another eye-catching characters can be seen on Miss Havisham, which is chosen to be analyzed in this study.

Miss Havisham is a minor character inside of Dickens’ *Great Expectation*. Minor character here means a supporting character in which he/she has role to build the story. Minor character only appears when it is needed. Miss Havisham is created as a minor character with her special characteristics. Her characteristic can be seen through her appearance, speech, thought, other character’s explanation, and her action. She is the strangest character in *Great Expectation* based on her appearance. Dickens visualizes her as an eccentric woman with her financial

independence. It is stated in the novel that she is dressed in rich materials- satins, and the lace and the silks- all of white. Her shoes are white. She has a long white veil dependent from her hair, and she has bridal flowers in her hair, but her hair is white. Some bright jewels spark on her neck and on her hands, and some other jewels lay sparkling on the table (Dickens 41).

From that statement, we can see that Miss Havisham is not as common person. She wears the bridal flower even though her hair was white. It means that she is the one who is very old to be a bride. All the way that Miss Havisham's act is because of her big problem which is happened a long time ago which left a great trauma. It is mentioned in the novel based on the Herbert's explanation. He said that the marriage day is fixed, the wedding dresses are bought, the wedding tour is planned out, the wedding guests are invited. The day comes, but not the bridegroom. He writes her a letter—and at the hour and minute at which she afterwards stops all the clocks (Dickens 133). This time becomes the time when the marriage off.

The trauma that Miss Havisham has relates to the problem she faced long time ago. She is betrayed by her fiancé. Her fiancé left her in her wedding day. It is a great painful shock. In that Herbert's explanation, Miss Havisham buried herself in her wedding day. It seems like she does not want to forget about the time when she had betrayed. That problem is caused her to isolate herself in her house and never look upon the light of a day.

Based on the description above, the trauma that Miss Havisham faced is related to the psychological trauma. In *The Encyclopedia of Psychological*

This study will reveal the effect on a traumatic experience in the minor character Miss Havisham. In this case, the writer wants to know her mental condition and know the way she lives after got a massive problem which left the trauma. By knowing the effect of traumatic experience, the writer believes that this study can be used to motivate the reader to find another way to exit from a trauma.

To my fellowship, UIN's Sunan Ampel Surabaya student, I hope this study will give additional reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting further research.

1.6 Method of the Study

In conducting this study, the writer uses a method. The writer chooses the qualitative method and the way that the writer used is by library based. Qualitative is taken because the analysis is about discussing, analyzing, and finding the characterization. In addition, the qualitative deals with data those are in the form of words, rather than number and statistics. Also, the researcher attempts to get rich description of the characterization of the main character. And then the writer will connect it to the organization of personality based on Freud. Additionally the writer also connects to the systematic study of trauma. The writer collected data from many sources; they are books, e-books and online resources that are related to the study. There are some steps that the writer used in order to present the analysis:

1. Reading the novel *Great Expectation* intensively and decide the topic of the study, the psychological traumatic experience on Miss Havisham.

