

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Social environment plays an important role and effectively restricts human behaviors due to the cultural and psychological life of mankind. Humans are much influenced by their environment. Literary work is the reflection of life as it is also influenced by society. According to Jdanov in *Escarpit*, literature has to be seen as something unseparated with environment, background or condition of the era when a writer was alive and social condition influenced the writer (8).

A literary work is the representation of feeling of someone such as the feeling, idea, critic etc. Because it expresses writer's feeling when he or she writes it, then it makes the reader close to what the writer has written and understand what the message of the literary text. According to Wellek and Warren,

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature 'represents' 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation'. The poet himself is a member of society, possessed

of a specific social status; he receives some degree of social recognition and reward; he addresses an audience, however hypothetical. (94)

“Heroic Stanzas” is the first important work by Dryden which is written in 1658. This poem is written after the funeral of the late lord protector of England, Oliver Cromwell. This literary work concentrates on the glorious memory of Lord Protector of the Commonwealth, Oliver Cromwell. It is written in the form of satire, and as we know that satire often has implicit meaning. That is why, the writer is interested in conducting a research about it, since literary work that is written for the glorious memory of someone but is written in form of satire. Satire is characterized by literary work that consist of follies and foible or vices and crimes of a person, humankind, or an institution held up to ridicule or scorn, with attention of correcting them (Safra Eds 293). In the writer’s opinion, through this poem, Dryden wants to deliver some messages. He wants to make the reader remember about the struggle of Oliver Cromwell, he also wants to criticize about social condition of that era.

“Heroic Stanzas” will be very interesting to analyze because the expression in the poem is in contrast with the meaning, because it write in satire. A glorious memory here, is just a satire. According to Laura Brown in Houston Dryden’s has a purpose in exemplifying his satire (5). In analyzing this literary work , the writer uses the theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann that relates the form of the literary work and the structure of the social environment in which it is developed (Goldmann, Toward 6).

John Dryden was born on August 19, 1631, in Aldwinkle, Northamptonshire, England. He received a classical education at Westminster School and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1657 he moved to London and worked as civil services and started to write a play of heroic tragedy and satires. In 1658 after the funeral of Late Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell wrote *Heroic Stanzas*. When the restoration of Charles II, as the celebration he wrote *Astræa Redux* in 1660. Then in 1661 he wrote *To His Sacred Majesty, a Panegyrick on his Coronation*.

On 1 December 1663 Dryden married the daughter of Earl of Berkshire, Lady Elizabeth Howard, and had three sons. His first play *The Wild Gallant* was staged in 1662. Then 1663 his play was also staged which much influence by Spanish *The Rival Ladies*. The first successful play was written in heroic couplets, *The Indian Emperor* (1665). At the same year of the Great Fire in London, he wrote *Annus Mirabilis* (1666) as the celebrating the English Navy's victory over the Dutch. In 1667 he wrote *The Maiden Queen* composed in blank verse. And *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668) was written two years after the Restoration with the reopening of the theatres. Dryden joined the contract with the King's Theatre Company in 1668 and for his efforts, the Archbishop of Canterbury awarded him an M.A. in 1668. At same year he became Poet Laureate. In early 1678, he wrote *Mac Flacnoe* and also *Absalom and Achitophel*. Dryden's allegorical poem which appeared in 1681 and his didactic poem *Religio Laici* in 1682 which argues the case for Anglicanism. He wrote *Threnodia Angustalis* (1685) as an ode to Charles II. Then

he continued to write for the theatre, producing such plays as *Don Sebastian* (1689), and *Amphitryon* (1690). He also adapted a number of Shakespeare's plays such as *The Tempest* and *All for Love* (1677), a retelling of *Antony and Cleopatra*. John Dryden died in London on May 12, 1700 because inflammation caused by gout. He was buried to the Poet's Corner in Westminster Abbey next to Chaucer Westminster Abbey, London, England.

Most of John Dryden's life was in the transition to restoration and in the era of restoration itself. It was the era when Charles II started and restored to the English Throne. Charles II was the symbol of the end of the Puritan Interregnum, which had abolished the monarch in 1649. Charles II regained the Crown of English since May 1660. The restoration of the Stuart monarchy was an important landmark in English History and landmark (Bakker 34). In this era, it was time of amazing expansion for England — or for "Great Britain," as the nation came to be called after an Act of Union in 1707 joined Scotland to England and Wales. Britain became a world power, an empire on which the sun never set. It made many changes in the daily life, the way of thinking from British people to nature and others.

Restoration period is also known as neo-classical period because in this period the writers are influenced by some ancient writers. The characteristic of the literary work in this period is rationalism. Rationalism means as an intellectual attitude, regarded as reason or ratio as the guide to conduct human affair. Rationalism has two effects: the clear light of reason does not only sweep away all sorts of

superstitions, it also tends to underrate, or even deny, the possibility of attaining knowledge through faith, revelation, the intuition and the imagination. The classical poets are more interested in the “general” and “universal” than individual and particular. “General” means the description of what a number or person and “universal” is nature appearances have in common.

John Dryden is influenced by the condition of transition from puritan period to restoration period when he writes “Heroic Stanzas”, the political situation especially the idea to settle the succession of the state makes Dryden bored (Supradjana 130). “Heroic Stanzas” is the reflection of John Dryden’s thought about glorious memory of Oliver Cromwell and criticizes government ruling in the era of Oliver Cromwell. The writer hopes that from this study the reader will see and understand the picture of Oliver Cromwell’s era from the point of view John Dryden in the poem “Heroic Stanzas” because literary work is reflection of the condition and the feeling of the writer.

1.2 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEMS

In order to analyze the poem related to relate the influence of social condition to John Dryden’s poem, the writer would like to state two questions as follow:

1. What is Dryden’s world view in his poem “Heroic Stanzas”?
2. What is the relation between world view and its social structure in the poem “Heroic Stanzas”?

1.3 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

According to statement of the problems, the aims of the study are:

1. To show Dryden's world view in his poem "Heroic Stanzas"
2. To show the relation between Dryden's world view and its social structure in the poem "Heroic Stanzas"

1.4 SCOPE AND LIMITATION

To make this study more significant and not out of the track, the writer would like to decide a scope and limitation. The first thing to analyze is about Dryden's world view in the poem 'Heroic Stanza'. Then the study will continue to analysis social structure that consist of human facts and collective subject and the structure of the poem. Later on, the study will focuses on the relation between Dryden's world view and its social structure in the poem "Heroic Stanzas". Indeed, the writer only concentrates on the data that is taken within the poem and other sources that can support the arguments on the analysis.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Every literary work has its own style, meaning and message. Each poet also has his/her own style, depending on when his/her period of life, social background which influences them, and message which they want to deliver to the reader and audience. The poet is an important part in literary work even though in some analysis we have to leave the author to understand the meaning of the text. In this study the writer would like to analyze the influence of social condition to the poet in the poem

“Heroic Stanzas” because the environment around the poet influences the thought of the poet. Indeed it is very interesting to know about the social environment that influences and inspires John Dryden when he wrote “Heroic Stanzas”.

1.6 THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

The study focuses on Dryden’s world view in the poem “Heroic Stanzas”. And in order to analyze the poem, the writer would like to use the theory genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann to analyze the fact that there are some influences of social condition to the poet in the poem “Heroic Stanzas”. It is a fact that human behavior is the response of particular situation and condition around them which is sometimes reflected in the written text like literary work.

Literary work is influenced by the society because it is written by the people who is member of society, possesses a specific social status, and the poet also receives some degrees of social recognition and reward. Goldmann state to analyze a literary work based on sociology of literature, the writer needs to think about collective consciousness of the poet (aspect of social reality around the poet) then the reproduction of the immediate aspect of social reality and the collective consciousness in the work (Toward 160).

1.7 METHOD OF THE STUDY

The method used by the writer in in collecting data is the library research, and the main source is the poem itself. The writer also uses other literatures such as online sources in order to provide sufficient supports to elaborate the study.

All data are taken from the content of the poem that relates to the analysis. The data collect with makes data classification and selecting the data that can be related with the relation of world view and social structure of poet in writing his poem. Then, the data are analyzed by using Goldman's dialectic method. In doing analysis, there are some steps to consider namely (a) state the world view of the poem "Heroic Stanzas". World view found by unitary understanding from the structure of the text and the social structure when the text is written. (b) structure of the poem "Heroic Stanzas" is analyzed based on Goldmann's concept of poem structure and viewed as unitary structure, because the poem is viewed as the world view expression. (c) Finally, the poem is related to social structure where it is developed so that it can inspire the poet to write the poem. In relating the social structure, the writer sees social condition, social group of the poet, and social structure of the poet. Then the result of analysis is used continuously until it meets the whole concept of meaning.

In doing the analysis, the writer also uses descriptive interpretative method. The data that have been collected are analyzed based on the theories; and from the analysis, the writer gives descriptive explanation to make the readers more understand about the influence of social condition to the poets in poem "Heroic Stanzas".

1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Influence : the power of person or things to affect others.

Social Condition : condition of some one in the some situation that consist of history of human fact and collective subject

Genetic Structuralism : branch of sociology of literature that study the heredity in general and genes in master piece literary work

Constituent element : a person who appoints another to act as an agent or representative element of a group in similar world view.

World view : a view that the group does not create, but elaborated by its constituent elements and the energy that possible to bring it together.

Social Structure : structure of the author that consist of human facts and collective subject

Collective consciousness: neither primary reality nor an autonomous reality; it is elaborated implicitly in the over-all behavior of an individuals participating in economic, social , political life, etc.

Collective subject : a subject as individual in the society and a social group who has similar view with his/her society and social group.

Social group : a group of people in the society

Structure of Literary text: imaginary world view expression to express the world view, the author creates character, object and imaginary relation.

Mental Categories : consist in the group only in the form of tendencies moving toward a coherence