

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Looking at the culture of the world, one finds that no society is 'classless'. It means that there is always stratification. Man acts and works based on his status and class in the society. Most often, but not always, the status is given to a person based on his social category or position that he occupies. Someone may possess his status since he was born or he may possess it after doing some effort. The former usually comes from aristocrat or baronet family.

A baronetcy is an inherited title passed down from father to son. It is common that a baronet family has a high-class status in a society. As a high-class person, one must undergo his way of life based on the rules that has been given by his family. Since a child, he has already been told about the rules and trained to behave as a high-class person.

Having a high-class status, one must interact and communicate only with the equals, makes friend with the equals and even married to a man or woman from the same class. Members of the high class associate together easily because they have the same tastes, attitudes and usually also comes from the same kind of family.



In a study of social stratification in England, where class lines are more clearly drawn than they are in the United States, Bott found that people are class conscious and do act in term of their understanding of their class positions. But their conception of class structure is not clearly described and develops from the ways in which the various individuals personally experience prestige and power in their daily life. Most people are conscious of class differences, but their conception of the system varies with their experiences. Bott concluded that a social class is constructed reference group - an audience to which project their own respective expectations and of which they do not in fact possess accurate knowledge. (Shibutani, 1974:259)

Many great authors portray class difference in their works. They usually write about the way people behave in facing the class difference in a society. How they accept the difference or how they suffer from it. One of the authors who write about class difference is Jane Austen.

Most of Jane Austen's novels talk about the class difference in a society. Class difference was a fact of life for Jane Austen, an observation of the fine distinction between one social level and another was a necessary part of her business as a writer of realistic fiction. She does not want this class difference although at the time of writing her novels she herself - as the unmarried daughter of a

country clergyman - knew what it was to suffer from the class system.

Jane Austen's novel such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Mansfield Park*, and *Persuasion* itself talk about class difference. The heroines always undergo their life in a society in which the social class is an important matter. Jane Austen's *Persuasion* portrays a heroine who has such a perfect personality. In this regard, this very thing is the one that makes the story more interesting to discuss.

Persuasion, is then, a novel about the life of someone who lives under such pressure from the society and the family of the high class. She suffers from the rules of the family, which forbid her to make a relationship with a man from different class or position.

Anne Elliot, the major character of the novel, is a member of the family in which nobody cares for her. In her family she has no power and always considered as a useless person. That is why she feels isolated within her family and often privately amused at what she sees. The condition of the family, however, influences Anne's attitude towards the members of the family.

Actually, Anne is isolated because she has a different perception from her family. Her own perception that she must accommodate to whatever social commonwealth she inhabits sets

her always at a slight distance. Since her family demands her to make relationship only with their equal. Because of the class difference, Anne must suffer in her youth. Now as a mature woman, Anne realizes it and does not want to suffer anymore.

One's aspiration is usually influenced by the society or environment in which one lives. It is common that the society is the one that shapes someone's aspiration. Moreover, this fact also goes for Anne. In this case, there are two kinds of societies, the family and outside the family, which affect her pretty much. Because of all the persons outside her family who seem to respect her and appreciate her opinion, Anne eventually realizes that she must follow her heart and fight against all the pressure that she gets from her family. She is aware that she must do whatever is the best for her as well as for her future.

B. Statement of the Problem

Having read Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, there are some interesting questions that arise relating to the discussion above:

1. How is the condition of the society in which the major character lives?
2. How is Anne's reaction due to the pressure from the family viewed from psychological and sociological view points?

C. Objective of the Study

In connection with the statement of the problem, the objective of the study are:

1. To describe and look into the condition of the society in which the major character lives.
2. To discuss Anne's feeling and reaction due to the pressure from her family viewed from psychological and sociological view points.

D. Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that by knowing the class difference in England, especially in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*, the reader would have clearer picture about the pressure faced by the major character, Anne Elliot, and also to make the reader appreciate the struggle done by Anne Elliot in reaching her happiness.

Moreover, the writer also hopes that the reader, to whom this work is purposed, would get some valuable teaching to broaden the knowledge and understanding about life and all that is related to it during the time when Jane Austen wrote *Persuasion*.

Eventually, the writer expects that this thesis would contribute something for further literary research in connection with the novel.

E. Scope and Limitation

This research is concentrated on the analysis of the effect of social and family pressure on Anne Elliot in Jane Austen's novel entitled *Persuasion*.

To obtain this purpose, the writer limits the focus of attention in the intrinsic elements of the story, namely setting, plot and character. The writer believes that these three elements are considered to be representative enough as the main elements of the structure of the story in which they are interrelated to one another to express the wholeness of impression.

Nevertheless, to have a better explanation, the analysis is also supported by the extrinsic elements, namely psychological and sociological approaches.

F. Theoretical Background

The intrinsic approach is used to analyze the effect of social and family pressure on Anne Elliot in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*. It will use the internal aspects of the novel that support the analysis such as setting, plot and character which will answer the statement of the problem.

Nevertheless, to make the analysis more adequate and objective, both psychological and sociological approaches are

necessary. The psychological approach is used to support the analysis of Anne's reaction toward the pressure from the society and the family. On the other hand the sociological approach is used to support the analysis of the social influence, in this case the high class society, toward Anne Elliot.

G. Method of the Study

In the process of writing this thesis, the writer is using the research in the library. Since the writer is dealing with a work of fiction, she must collect and find material and data in the library to make a proper analysis.

The writer collects data and information from various books on criticism and theory, encyclopedias, articles, and other printed material dealing with Jane Austen's works, especially *Persuasion*. This is also what the writer does in obtaining materials and data for the literary theories and approaches.

Finally, regarding the subject of the study, the writer is using descriptive analysis by describing the problems through dialogues, events and actions. This method is applied based on the work itself supported by other information about the work such as criticism by famous critics.

H. Definition of Key Terms

- Pressure** : Force or strong influence which caused mental suffering for someone.
- Persuasion** : Great influence which is intended to change someone's vision about something.
- Baronet** : Member of the high class society, marked by the title 'Sir' attached to the first name of man, and 'Lady' for woman.
- Class** : System of ranks based on heredity and economic order, as the result of social stratification in a society.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK AND RELATED STUDIES ABOUT JANE AUSTEN'S PERSUASION