

CHAPTER I**I N T R O D U C T I O N****1.1 Background of the Study**

Literature is piece of writing which " expresses and communicates thoughts, feelings, and attitudes towards life by the medium of language" (Rees, 1973 : 19). It reveals so many aspects of life, dealing with human thoughts, values, problems and conflicts. It is understandable that literature is significant in life because it "brings people into contact more closely with the real life. The use of literature is to help people toward a better understanding of themselves" (Rees, 1973 :11). Furthermore, Robert G. Carlson identifies literature as "means to transmit the loves and hates, the hopes and fears, ambitions and frustrations, the failures and the triumphs, the questions, the problems, the experiences of people confronting life". Thus, it can be said that literature's function is to "record man's struggle to life and from it certain recurrent themes and ideas emerge" (89).

The choice of literary field as a source of the thesis concerns with the function of literature as a means to understand life. It is so because literature de-

picts the actual occurances human being deals with. Getting in touch with literature will highly arise awareness of the values of life since it deals with the implied moral and social as well, and others. Working out on literature is expected to bring the writer to the deepening of consciousness at gazing life.

In terms of literary field, this thesis analyzes George Orwell's Down and Out in Paris and London, which takes the form of novel. Taken from *The American College of Dictionary*, a novel is defined as "fictive prosaic story in certain length that describes the action of the character as representation of real life" (1960:830). Compared to other genres, novel provides more events which permits the writer of being able to obtain better understandings since it is greatly concerned with character. Because of its scope, a novel will present one or a few characters in considerable depth, as well as a large array of minor characters in outline. Novel will trace the development of characters as a result of the experiences of which the plot tells, and explore in some depth the personal relationships of characters. It presents us with a clear picture of its times, and lead us to feel that we know its setting as if we have lived in it ourselves.

According to Graham Little in his *Approach to Literature*, there are several kinds of novel. These kinds may be a *picaresque* novel, novel of self-fulfilment, novel of social criticism, satire, historical novel, romance, novel of adventure, detective and mysterious novels, and regional novel. The writer considers that Down and Out in Paris and London as novel of social criticism since it is a vehicle for expression of social, even political and beliefs that provides critics on social and political conditions at that time (104).

George Orwell (1903-1950), whose novel is going to be discussed in this thesis, was one of the great English novelist. He had a great deal of competences at eliciting factual events which provide detailed descriptions in the light of his social and psychological experiences. As an observer of the life of the poor and a writer of political pamphlets, Orwell had important predecessors in the nineteenth century. Like Cobbet, Mayhew and Dickens, he informed a largely middle-class audience about the actual details of working class life, which he himself had observed and shared. But, unlike their works, Orwell's social and political writings involve not only the accurate depiction of poverty and oppression, but also attempts to use his experi-

ences to test himself and define his values. Since Orwell's narrative voice is so vital a part of his books, his created personality has great moral and political relevances. Indeed, Orwell's *persona* in Down and Out in Paris and London (1933), The Road to Wigan Pier(1937), and Homage to California (1938) fulfils many of the functions of the hero in a novel : he is a person with whom we may identify, through whom we may discover, and against whom we may measure and judge (Meyers et al, 1975 : 74).

Furthermore, Orwell is the great master of colloquial case, and believed that concrete words are better than abstract ones, and that the shortest way of saying anything is always the best. His vivid and direct, flexible and far-ranging style is always understandable and interesting. His best feature, as author, that may not belong to others, are his desires to have immediate and actual experiences, to see things from the inside rather than a purely theoretical viewpoint; to fight on the side of the oppressed and to agonize their sufferings; to extinguish, among out-casts, the sense of social class; to feel the pleasurable relief, the anxiety; to undergo the excitement of a *sortie* to the lower class (Meyers et al, 1975 :76). In an introduction of his book, he stated :

...I wanted to submerge myself, to get right down among the oppressed, to be one of them and their side against their tyrants. And chiefly because I had had to think everything out in solitude, I had carried my hatred of oppression to extraordinary lengths. At that time failure seemed to me be the only virtue. Every suspicion of self-advancement, even to 'succeed' in life to the extent of making a few hundred a year, seemed to me spiritually ugly, a species of bullying (xi).

C. Day Lewis said that Down and Out in Paris and London is "a tour of the underworld, conducted without hysteria or prejudice... The facts that he reveals should shake the complacency of twentieth-century civilization if anything could; they are sensational get presented without sensationalism" (xii). According to Dervla Murphy in her introduction of Down and Out in Paris and London said that it is the white-hot reaction of a sensitive, observant, compassionate young man to poverty, injustice and the callousness of the rich....It offers insights rather than solution; but always insights have to precede solutions. No one has ever claimed *Down and Out* is its author 's best book, yet many of his admirers describe it as their favourite Orwell. Its

flaws are numerous but oddly endearing (xiii).

The writer considers that novel entitled Down and Out in Paris and London is quite representative to come out critics on social condition at that time. The theme of class exploitation is dramatized most vividly amidst the luxury and squalor of the grand hotel where the splendid customers sit just a few feet away from the disgusting filth of the kitchen workers. The only connection between these two worlds is the food prepared by one for others, which often contain the cook's spit and waiter's hair grease. From this fact, Orwell posits a wonderfully ironic economic law : The more one pays for food, the more sweat and spittle is obliged to eat with it (Meyers et al, 1975 : 77). In this respect, the writer is attracted to study the relationship between two classes, that is, lower and upper classes who often develop conflicts among them.

Those are parts of the novel which make it interesting and call the writer to study it more deeply. He wants to look into the behaviour and attitude of the main character in facing his challenging life and to describe the main character's struggle to get his dignity that is despised and humiliated by the superpower of the upper class.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Dealing with the preceding discussion, the writer finds several problems rising in the novel that is going to be analyzed. Those are :

1. what conflicts the major character undergoes when he becomes a *plongeur*, *cafetier* and tramp in Paris and London?
2. how does the major character experiences his conflicts as a *plongeur*, *cafetier* and tramp mentioned above ?

1.3 Objective of the Study

This study is intended :

1. to reveal what kind of conflicts the major character undergoes when he becomes a *plongeur*, *cafetier* and tramp in Paris and London;
2. to know on how the major character faces and experiences his conflicts resulting from interaction with his surroundings.

1.4 Significance of the Study

In respect with this study, the writer wants to improve his knowledge and understanding on literature. Hopefully, this study may provide a few contributions to the readers, especially the students of English Department on how to

analyze literary work within more specific object, that is, a novel. In line with an analysis of this thesis, this study may give views and insights on how to analyze novel, determine what problems should be taken as a main subject matter to be discussed more deeply, then determine what theories and approaches to be picked out to analyze that novel properly as whole. In more specific term, this study may enrich knowledge about works of George Orwell. By reading this analysis, the readers could understand about general characteristics of Orwell, about his specific features in the light of his novel. Ultimately, the reader may obtain any significant teachings and get new findings that need to be applied into their analysis, particularly the new beginners in analyzing novel.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This thesis concerns with the major character's conflicts resulting from his interaction with social injustice condition at that time. His life is faced with prominent domination of the upper class, while he is powerless to get rid from them, or make rebellion against them. To survive, he must work hard but his salary can not improve his sorrowful life, so he remains to be the outcast, powerless man

under domination of the upper class, directing him into deeply conflicts. However, it should be noted that, these conflicts purely depend on the work itself. Therefore, the writer will analyze one of the intrinsic elements of fiction, that is, a character. More specifically, the writer will limit the study on conflicts that the major character undergoes in agreement with his position as a *plongeur*, *cafetier* and tramp in Paris and London, respectively.

To know what a kind of conflicts that the major character experiences, the writer feels it useful to make characterization in line with his interaction with his hard and harsh atmospheres. Of course the novel being analyzed is almost dominated by the appearance and performance of the major character.

1.6 Theoretical Background

Having stated previously, this thesis is focused to analyze the major character's struggle for getting the improved life, dignity, getting rid from oppression of the upper class in order to be able to earn decent life. In struggling his fate, he is confronted with government and its tight-rules, pressures and oppression of the riches within capitalist-ruled society that bring him into deeply

conflicts.

First of all, it should be noted that those conflicts are happening in literary work, not in real society. By virtue of these conditions, the writer uses objective theory and supported by structural approach. Hereto, Welleck and Warren said that "the study of literature should first and foremost concentrate on the actual work of art itself" (140). In other words, it views a literary work from its intrinsic elements such as setting, plot, character, theme and so on. Here, the writer will pick out one of them to be analyzed, that is, character.

In analyzing this novel, the writer is demanded to read the work more deeply and make any interpretation to reveal and understand those problems. This can be achieved by hermeneutic theory. Hermeneutics theory that is employed here, permits the writer to obtain an essence of the work better. Paul Ricour said that hermeneutics "is a science of interpretation and the nature of it is to construe a text something more than its physical presence. That is, the nature of text is to mean whatever we construe to mean" (105).

The last, the conflicts that the major character undergoes result from distorted social and psychological states.

From this, the writer is going to employ social and psychological approaches to support this analysis.

1.7 Method of the Study

Having stated previously, this thesis deals with the major character's conflicts rising from pressures of the upper class. Along his life, he is overshadowed by the domination of the rich leading him to be powerless, the poor without improvement. To further extent, the conflicts between the lower and upper class are called class conflicts. To reveal these complicated problems, first of all, he reads the novel, which become the main source of the study, and other supporting materials deeply and critically. After getting profound understanding of what he has read, he describes events and problems being dealt with, then he interprete them accordingly. It means this analysis uses descriptive-analytic method since in working out this thesis, the writer attempts to describe events and problems then analyze them. Since reading, understanding and analyzing of the thesis involve interpretation, the use of hermeneutic method is reasonable. In this method, interpretation is ." to construe text something more than its physical presence. That is, the nature of text is to mean whatever we

construe to mean" (K.M. Newton, 105).

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

-*Plongeur* (French) : a dishwasher, the lowest rank staff in
Paris hotel

-*Cafetier* : a person who works in cafeteria

-Tramp : a person with no fixed home or
occupation who wanders from place to
place

-Spike (casual ward) : a common place for tramps and
beggars in London

Conflict : a stage of disagreement or argument
between opposing groups or
opposing ideas or principles; a
struggle or a battle that grows out
of the interplay of the two opposing
forces. There are four possible
kinds of conflicts : a man against
himself, man against man, man
against a society and man against
nature or destiny.

-Struggle : a great or determined effort
within a person when trying to

deal with difficult problem or
situation.

-Capitalist : person who owns or controls much
capital, the rich person, or person
who supports capitalism and has
means of production

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK