

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Women's position in the past was not as good as now. Although they were the majority of the population, they were treated as the minority. As a result, there was a discrimination of gender which was commonly found in all aspects of life. For instance, men would get better education than women, even if women had chance to get a good education and had the same quality as men, they would not get important positions. Since people more believed in men's capacity than women.

Moreover women's career was limited by the marriage. As women came to the marriage, they were not allowed to continue their career which they had while they were singles, unless they were forced by the economic condition of the family. It was rarely found the married women who continued their career for satisfying their own need to express themselves. And it

was also difficult to find men who could understand women's need. Since wives were inferior to their husband, they did not have any rights to decide anything in the family life. Consequently, wives were fully depended on their husband.

The above phenomenon was happened to the women in the Victorian period. Due to this phenomenon, there were some women authors from that period who had a great concern about this condition, one of them was Charlotte Brontë (1816-1855), the remarkable woman writer from Victorian times and the most admired of the Brontë sisters. She had four published novels, all of them told about the women with the independent mind.

Due to that reason the writer of this thesis is interested so much in her work, that's why she chooses *The Professor*, Charlotte first novel which appeared posthumously after her death and not defined for success. Compared with her three other famous novels such as *Villette*, *Shirley*, or *Jane Eyre*, basically *The Professor* is different from all of them. If in those three other novels she used female major character in telling the story, in *The Professor* she used male

major character. Therefore, it is not a woman who told her own experience, but a man who told his thought and his judgement about the women in his environment. The use of male as the major character is very useful in order to evaluate womanhood by stepping outside the author own sex and giving partisan view[Foster,1985:80].

William Crimsworth as the major character of the story was a young aristocratic man who rejected his aristocratic inheritance and tried to find his own fortune. He worked as an English tutor in Brussels, here he met a lot of women (most were his pupils) with different characteristics. Toward them, he usually gives his comment and his judgement.

Nobody could give a great impression for William until he met one of his pupil, Frances Henri , a young girl who was in struggle to make her way in the world. This girl impressed him so much. As an orphan child, she lived with her old aunt. They lived in poverty, so Frances as a young girl had to work hard in order to support their life. In her difficulties, she never lost her spirit to get a better education, by teaching lace mending she could support her study in school.

Although physically Frances was not a beautiful girl, Crimsworth admired her so much because of her intellectual strength and her perseverance. Her personality made William fell in love with her. But the jealousy of Zoraide Reuter, the owner of the Seminary School separated them. Frances never came to school anymore. After the long searching, finally Crimsworth could find her and try to build a relationship with her. Meanwhile, Frances got a new job as a history teacher in one of the famous school in Brussels.

Crimsworth's admiration toward Frances Henri caused him to marry her. As a husband, Crimsworth was very understanding while his wife said that she wanted to continue her career, he gave her support. Frances herself eventhough she was independent, but she was still full of respect toward her husband. This characteristics made her successfully in her two roles, as a wife/ mother and a career woman.

Based on that reason, the writer of this thesis is interested in the image of woman as portrayed in this novel. The woman major character, in this case Frances Henri, carries Charlotte's expectation of the ideal of

womanhood, in which she combined woman's need of independence within conventional framework. Due to this reason, the writer of this thesis is curious to know further about the image of woman as seen in this novel as an expression of the author's concern about women. Therefore, she wants to emphasize on this aspect.

Considering the reason above, the writer needs to analyze the image of woman as seen in this novel. By analyzing the author's expression, she will see what the author tries to say in the image of woman that she creates in her work, and how far her own life affects the novel. Moreover the writer will see the condition of women during the Victorian times, and how far this condition influence Charlotte's works, especially *The Professor*.

#### **B. Statement of the Problems**

Due to the reason on the background of the study, the writer of this thesis state the problems on :

1. How is the image of woman as seen in this novel?
2. How far does the author's own life affect the novel?

3. How is the condition of the woman during the Victorian period ?

#### C. Objective of the Study

In her analysis, the writer of this thesis will try to answer some problems which are stated in the background of the study. This study is intended to :

1. Find out the image of the woman as seen in the novel.
2. Find out the effects of the life of the author toward the novel.
3. Find out women's condition during the Victorian times and its relationship with the novel.

#### D. Significance of the Study

This analysis, has several aims :

1. In particular, this analysis is meant to enlarge our knowledge about women's life in the early nineteenth century, especially about the image of woman as seen in *The Professor* as a novel which is written by Victorian woman.
2. In general, this study is meant to get the reader into a deeper understanding about literary work .

3. Hopefully, it can also give a contribution, however small, it is for the students of English Department Airlangga University and anyone who are interested in literary work.

#### **E. Scope and Limitation**

In order to avoid the enlarge problems and keep an analysis in its aim, the writer of this thesis will analyze the intrinsic element, by analyzing the woman major character of the story. However this study is emphasized on the extrinsic element by analyzing how the author presents the image of woman in this novel.

#### **F. Theoretical Background**

In doing her analysis, the writer will analyze the intrinsic element of fiction, in order to analyze the woman major character. Besides, she will use an extrinsic elements of fiction, by seeing the way the author presents the image of the woman as her concern about the condition of the women in her lifetime. The writer will also use a sociological approach in order to

see the influence of the author's social environment toward her conception about women.

#### **G. Method of the Study**

Based on the library research, the writer tries to interpret the data and the reference from various books and encyclopedias which have a relationship with her analysis.

The writer also uses the descriptive analysis method that is the descriptive explanation about the problems through the dialogues, the events and the action. In applying this method, the writer uses the work itself as the main source, and the other sources to support the analysis.

#### **H. Definition of Key Terms**

There are some terms which are important to be explained in order to make this analysis easier to understand. They are :

Image

:

The general impression that someone gives to the public (people can get this



impression through his/ her attitude). There are two possibilities a good or a bad image. In this analysis the image refers to a good one.

The Professor :

In Brussels, The Professor does not refer to the university teacher of the highest grade who holds a chair in a subject, but it refers to the teacher, no matter she/he is an elementary or a high school teacher.

Victorian women :

Women who lived in England during the reign of Queen Victoria , from 1837 to 1876

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**