

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### I.1. BACKGROUND OF STUDY.

As God's perfect living creature, human being is provided with heart and mind. It depends on human himself to gain the highest position in the eyes of God. Human ability in using his heart and mind to live his life as 'khalifatullah' on the world enables him to do self-criticism. His ability in using self-criticism is one of the way in gaining in gaining happiness in his worldly life and after life.

Using self-criticism, man comes to the need of expression. Man needs tools to express his thoughts, views, experiences as self criticism. Literature allows man to express self-criticism as work of art.

Literature as work of art, is one way to express man's ideas. Through written and oral literature, man in the future will be able to know the condition of the previous Era. Literature contains records of people's values, thoughts, and all aspects of life, including self-criticism. Literature may fairly be regarded as the best way of expressing and finding self-criticism.

Novel as one form of literature covers a large scope as it can be seen from its length. As one of literary forms, it also describes various aspects of human life. Novel conveys a special message through its contents. As one aspects of human life, self-criticism can also be found in great degree in the novel.

One of the novels containing a large part of self-criticism is Sense and Sensibility, written by Jane Austen. Jane Austen illustrates self-criticism in both her heroines, Elinor and Marianne. They both have their own characters causing them to react differently toward similar problem.

Jane Austen's novel, Sense and Sensibility appears to be the earliest in conception. The novel which compares the beliefs and conduct of two protagonists with the object of finding one invariably right and the other invariably wrong, seems to have been particularly fashionable during the years 1795-6.

All novelists who choose the contrast format do so in order to make an explicit ideological point. Jane Austen conscientiously maintains the principle of a comparison. Her novel advances on the assumption that what happens to one of the central characters must also happen to the other.

By that reason lies the interest of the writer of

the thesis towards Jane Austen's novel Sense and Sensibility. The novel presents comparison, yet ideological point does not lay on one central character rather it lies on both central characters, Elinor and Marianne Dashwood.

The motive of the first volume is the attitude of each girl towards the man she hopes to marry. In the opening of the novel, Elinor already knows Edward Ferrars. When Edward and Elinor has to separate, Mrs. Dashwood invites him to visit them at Barton, but he seems reluctant. Thereafter, Elinor's endurance of uncertainty about Edward's feelings becomes a factor in her character.

The dramatic entrance of Willoughby, Marianne's lover into the novel, with his more flamboyant character as well as in his appearance, is contrasted with Edward's. However, such contradiction is developed by Jane Austen to enforce a similarity of situation in order to bring out the dissimilarity of character. When Willoughby leaves, Mrs. Dashwood once more issues her invitation, which is inexplicably not accepted, and Marianne, like Elinor, is left to a period of loneliness and anxiety.

In the second volume, the two heroines are placed again in similar predicament. Both expect to meet the

loved one there, both are uneasily to wait; cards are left by each of the young man; each is lost, or seems lost to a rival woman.

Elinor and Marianne, again in contrasted personality deal with their own problems differently. The contrast is between two modes of thinking and perception. Marianne's way is subjective, intuitive, implying confidence in the natural goodness of human nature when untrammelled by convention. On the other hand, Elinor's way is more cautious orthodoxy, she mistrusts her own desires, and requires even her reason to seek the support of objective evidence. Those contrasted personalities bring about the different self-criticism, which furthermore reveals the different attitude in judging one's personality, understanding self-limitation, self-interest, and the way to deal with sorrow.

Shortly, the story ends with happiness for both heroines. Elinor married Edward Ferrars and Marianne, losing her first lover, married to Colonel Brandon. The different outcome of the love story is caused by a different way of handling problems in their life. Elinor handles her problems in more rational way, which loosens her broken heart and brings her to real life. While Marianne lets the problem judged by her sentimentality and the problems take over almost her life.

The chain of background of the study above shows that self-criticism is significant for the existence of human being toward himself and his surrounding. That is the reason why self-criticism is necessary to be discussed in larger extent.

### I.2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM.

The main issue of the thesis necessarily presented are: Is there any self-criticism in the novel Sense and Sensibility? How far is self-criticism illustrated by Jane Austen through her heroines Elinor and Marianne Dashwood in her novel Sense and Sensibility? and what is the meaning of self-criticism?

### I.3. OBJECTIVE OF STUDY.

Due to the statement of problem as the main issue in the thesis, writer of the thesis wants to find out:

1. The existance of self-criticism in the novel.
2. The way in illustrating self-criticism.
3. The meaning of self-criticism.

### I.4. SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY.

The writer of the thesis wishes that the discussion on self-criticism will give a slight understanding on

the issue, furthermore it will give another way to know its implication.

Hopefully, the thesis will give clue on how to use self-criticism as one way of learning process, which guides us to encounter problems in our life. The thesis is also made to complete the final assignment in achieving the Sarjana degree.

#### I.5. SCOPE AND LIMITATION.

The thesis discusses self-criticism of Elinor and Marianne as the main characters of the novel. Self-criticism evokes as individuality process in both individuals. It is brought by general characterization of Elinor and Marianne. Each of those characters is facing the similar conflicts in love affair. Conflicts were dealt differently by each character.

Due to this circumstance, the thesis limits the scope of study in self-criticism, which brings about the different attitude in judging one's personality, understanding self-limitation, understanding self-interest, the way to deal with sorrow.

#### I.6. THEORY AND APPLICATION.

The writer of the thesis discusses one of the intrinsic elements in literary work. She is approaching the

main issue by using philosophical approach. While analysing and describing the main issue, she uses suitable structural theory, as the writer wants to analyze the work within the work itself.

Novel has a number of common elements; character, plot and setting. Those elements are called the intrinsic elements of literature. As the writer of the thesis intends to discuss the characters, which happen to be one of the intrinsic elements of literary work, she uses structural theory in analysing her main issue. Structural theory concerns the work within the work of art itself. It studies the elements inside the work, which are plot, characters, and setting (Wellek, 1956, p:216)

Philosophical approach is used to support the theory in analysing self-criticism. It studies the meaning, process and significance of self-criticism.

#### I.7. METHOD OF RESEARCH.

The writer of the thesis uses library research to collect informations needed for the thesis. The writer collects required informations through books of theory and literature work related to the novel and the main issue, that are Sense and Sensibility and self-criticism in Elinor and Marianne's characters. The collected infor-

mations are being selected due to the discussion of the main issue of the thesis. The selected informations are used to be analysed in accordance to the objective of the writer.

The thesis is written descriptively to explain the writer's analysis. According to Fredson Bauer in The Art of Literary Research, stated that "Descriptive Analysis is a technical investigation of a printing practice to get all the datas by using methods of analitic to describe the content of a book given".

Descriptive analysis which is connected with the theories used in discussing the thesis will obtains datum. Datum obtained from the analysis are fused and interpreted to gain the meaning of self-criticism.

#### I.8. KEY TERMS.

As the thesis discusses self-criticism in Elinor and Marianne in the novel Sense and Sensibility, there might be some special words or phrases which need to be explained prior to the analysis:

**SENSE:** Foundation on which everything good may be built. Any special capacity for perception or impression of something. An opinion or judgement formed or held by an assemblage or body of person. (Lexicon Webster Dictionary. 1976)



**SENSIBILITY:** A nice and delicate perception of pleasure or pain, beauty or deformity. It is experienced in a much higher degree in civilised than in savage nations, and among persons liberally educated than among boors and illiterate mechanics. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 1797)

**SELF:** A person or thing, with respect to his, her or its own person, individuality, or identity. The nature or character of a person or thing at a particular time or in particular aspect.: (Lexicon Webster Dictionary. 1976)

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**