

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Research

All people and surrounding environment which can affect to person's life are called social conditions. The social condition in *Oliver Twist* is depicted in the era of industrial revolution in England which contained social problems. This social problem is experienced by the main character written by the famous novelist named Charles Dickens. He had history of his life when he was 12 years old. In his 12 years, he was having a hard time and it also affected the provisions of his life. His father was deeply in debt and sent to prison, so he was forced to drop out from school and work in a factory to help his family. Several months later, Dickens completed his education at the age of 15 and worked as a maid in a law firm. Then, he worked as a reporter at that time.

After long journey, Charles began sending periodic short stories and essays. For example, the title *A Dinner Popular Work* was Charles first work published and appeared in the magazine. Then, he produced his first book entitled *Sketches*. After many works during periods, Charles eventually became a British novelist, journalist, editor, illustrator, and social commentator who wrote such classics English novels that was *Oliver Twist*.

*Oliver Twist* is the best fiction story of children. This is the second novel from Charles Dickens. Dickens began writing *Oliver Twist* after the adoption of the poor law of 1834. Dickens composed this novel to show violence between

people. This depiction occurred because Dickens had experienced of this condition so Dickens through the main character tried to reveal the violence and social inequality that occurred at that time.

This novel talked about an orphan child named Oliver Twist who lived in workhouse. The workhouses used for child labor and as a place for the illegal trade in child slavery. As long as Oliver lived there, he always got bad treatment and punishment. However, Oliver's life is limited to survival that he remains strong and excuses his fate. Then, the effects show that Oliver's life as a child always experienced adversity. Thus, this story describes of how social condition force the major character did the horrible life and got violence from the society.

The forms of violence exist because there is a conflict. Between conflict and violence, there are close relationship. Therefore, the symptoms of conflict lead to violence. In the world of violence, it is considered as aggressive treatment. Moreover, the concept of violence is used as satisfaction that remains controversial. The controversial representation of violence contains because exists of the effects or the occurrence of violence.

Violence can be in many forms, both force as well as violation. Based on Thompson (2001), it was stated that "The concept of violence forms a moral concept but it is not an absolute form of action" (p. 07). Thus, the representation of violence could be from physical assault that happens to the body of one person by another, could be violence by individuals against other individuals, and also could be violence by the community of the state. It shows that the degree of violence like this can be found anywhere in human society.

Nowadays, the degree of violence against children are often found in the community. Englander (2002) argued that “The phenomenon of violence by children are often occurs. Almost every minor is the target of violence” (p. 21). Then, the violence that the underage against children is known as child exploitation. For example, the exploitation is still often found in any civilization that shows there are still many children work in command by adults and usually they lost their childhood that it takes their happiness as a child. Therefore, those phenomena are related on the reality issue in the society lives.

In the reality lives, there are still many children who are treated improperly, where the children become workers who are commanded by adults. This incident can contrary to the rights of a child based on government law, where the child should be entitled to treatment to be given a decent life like children who are cared with love and affection. However, there are also children who are still neglected or do not get the love they should receive. This action in the story shows that public awareness of children’s rights to live properly is very concerning situation.

The situation can be seen from the public unconsciousness of children’s rights that should live in the social conflict which is only solely looking for wealth. It happens due to inadequate environmental conditions so it also appears to commit crimes. Even the tragical things something like that involves the main character going through it because he is tortured by the society around him. Even, the crimes which are committed are used for the benefit of the society

themselves without considering the rights of children who live properly. Thus, this story shows a dark side of a child who does not have a child's life.

By explanation above, the depiction of a child like Oliver Twist is very important to discuss because there are many kinds of violence that can be found in our surrounding right now. The writer chose Oliver Twist because the story shows the feel of sadness and misery which is the little boy lived in a poor neighborhood that always got a punishment. In addition, this is also the worst act by society towards children. Moreover, it refers to the relationships between novels and social ideas.

The social ideas of violence, therefore, are shown as reflected in the novel Oliver Twist. Basically, an environment can produce a civilized society. A human civilization that deals with the environment and its people is called the world of sociology of literature. The existence of sociology of literature shows us the way how to understand about social condition which is reflected in a literary works. Damono (1978) stated that "Literature deals with human society which shows human efforts as a form of adjustment to their environment to create a social world" (p. 17). In addition, it can be understood about an act of violence treatment surround us through a novel can relate to the reality in our surrounding because a literature is an art that develops in human society. By all the explanation above, this research finds the discussion about violence towards child in society so the writer chose the title of this research "REPRESENTATION OF VIOLENCE TOWARDS MAIN CHARACTER IN THE NOVEL "OLIVER TWIST" BY CHARLES DICKENS"

## **B. Questions and Scope of the Research**

### **1. Questions of the Research**

In this research, the writer only focuses to arrange this research through the following questions:

1. What are the main factor of violence can happen in the novel Oliver Twist?
2. What are the types of violence in the novel Oliver Twist?

### **2. Scope of the Research**

In conducting this research, the writer focuses on the main factor and the types of violence. Thus, the writer uses some theories from two experts proposed by George D. Zgourides & Christie S. Zgourides entitled Sociology. Then, the writer also discusses about violence using theory from Elizabeth Kandel Englander entitled Understanding Violence Second Edition.

## **C. Objective and Significance of the Research**

### **1. Objective of the Research**

In accordance with questions of the research that have been described previously, there are two objectives of the research as described as follows:

- a. To find out the main factor of violence in society through sociological approach.
- b. To classify the types of violence that happen to the main character in the novel *Oliver Twist*.

### **2. Significance of the Research**

In this research, there are some benefits that can be taken from this research. The writer hopes this research can give significances which are theoretical benefits and practical benefits.

Theoretically, the aim of this research is to give a comprehensive understanding toward knowledge through violence in sociological perspective toward children. In addition, the writer hopes that it can add insight to the reader about the social phenomenon of *Oliver Twist* in the Victorian era as a form of literary research.

Practically, this research can be used as a reference to provide an overview to the reader about social violence in the novel so the reader can be motivated to be more grateful and never give up in life whatever the

circumstances, and can also give inspires to the outside children through this encouraging story.

#### **D. Operational Definition**

It is important to define the terms or variables of this study in order to avoid ambiguity and misunderstanding of the matter and to guide the writer to discuss further. The followings are explanation of the terms used in this research.

##### **1. Literature**

Literature is a branch of literary works in the form of drama, novel, poetry or it can be as a reference source for a reading or information in the realm of literature.

##### **2. Novel**

Novel is a media tool for author to express all their ideas to create a story that is more compact in explanation.

##### **3. Intrinsic Element of Fiction**

Intrinsic element of fiction is the structure in literary works that are used to arrange the writing system in the story. There are several kinds of structures such as plot, theme, characters, settings, climax, and point of view.

##### **4. Sociology**

It is a description of human social environmental conditions that survive to determine whether the environment is bad or not in a human

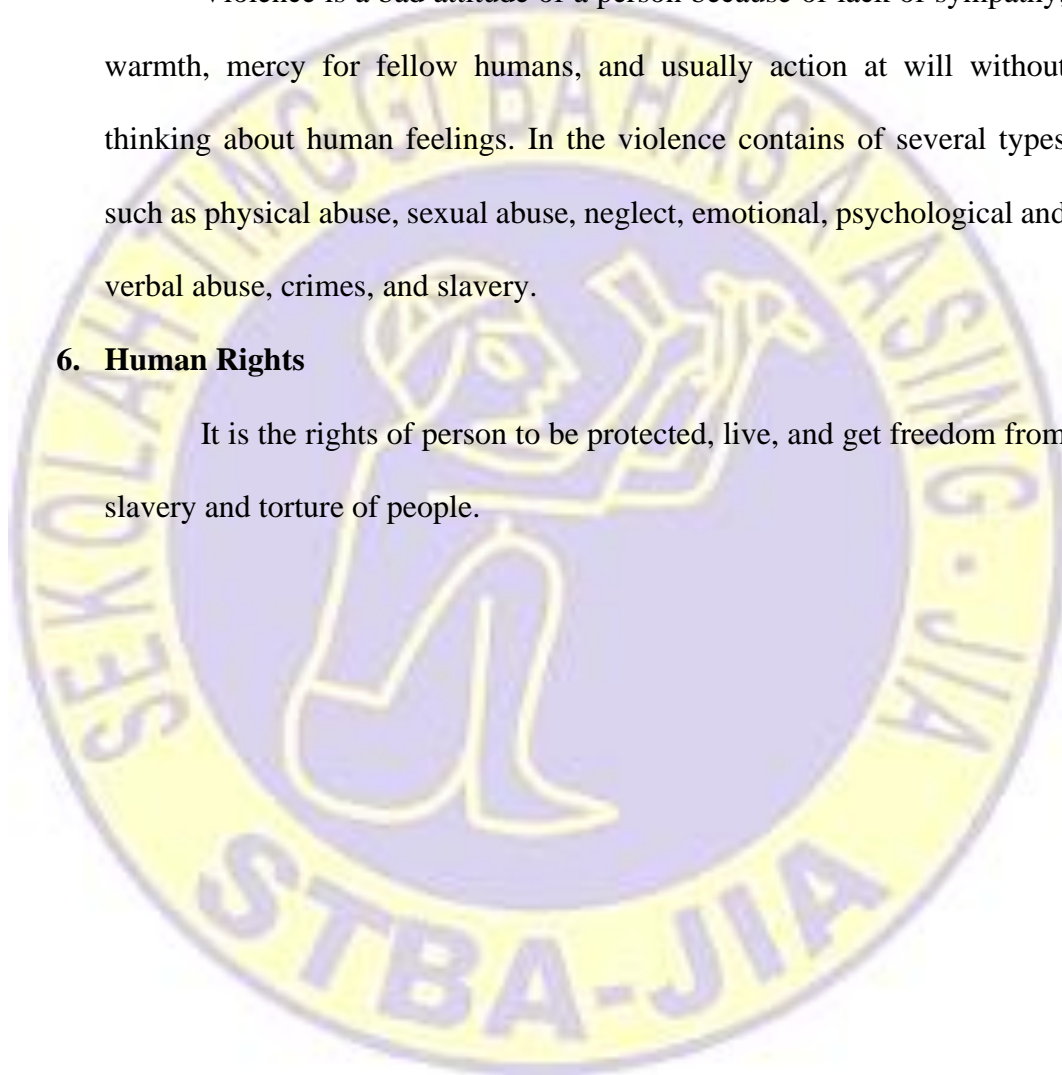
group which is based on every different human behavior. In this sociology also contains of the categories of social stratification, poverty, social conflict, discrimination, and deviance.

### **5. Violence**

Violence is a bad attitude of a person because of lack of sympathy, warmth, mercy for fellow humans, and usually action at will without thinking about human feelings. In the violence contains of several types such as physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional, psychological and verbal abuse, crimes, and slavery.

### **6. Human Rights**

It is the rights of person to be protected, live, and get freedom from slavery and torture of people.





## **E. Systematization of the Research**

The systematization of the research is explained in order to make the reader understand the content of each analysis easier. The systematization are as follows:

Chapter I is introduction which explains about background of the research, question and scope of the research, objective and significance of the research, operational definition, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is theoretical description consisting of the definition about literature, novels, intrinsic elements of fiction, sociology, violence, human rights, and research of the relevance.

Chapter III is methodology of the research about procedure of the research, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and source of the data primary and secondary data.

Chapter IV is research findings and discussion which show about data description, data analysis, and interpretation of research findings.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion which give the summary of the conclusion which relate of the discussion, and suggestion which relate of the research