

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

The existence of literature is influenced by the condition and the phenomena in society, both in individual life and social life of human. As expressed by Kennedy & Gioia (2012: 2), every literary work should have history of how they were produced, because the history itself can teach people about the past time and influence people's perceptions of society and morals. Here, the writer took poetry as one of the example of literary work that is reflecting the phenomena and social condition. The language of poetry can deploy the author's idea about the social or individual life in a certain time. As it is stated by Abrams (2003: 299) poetry is an art based on language, but poetry has more general meaning that is difficult to define because it is less determine and it is also expresses a certain state of mind.

In this case, the writer is interested in analyzing two famous poetries by William Blake that are entitled *London* and *The Auguries of Innocence*. These two poems are indicating that having the similar historical problem that is about the condition of England society during Industrial Revolution. According to Horn et al (2010), Industrial Revolution was a period during which predominantly agrarian, rural societies in Europe and America became industrial and urban. Based on the explanation, it can be said that industrial revolution is a radical and fast change toward human development in creating work tools to improve production and industry.

Although commonly the term revolution is usually used in view of political change or the system of government, but in this case, the Industrial Revolution in Britain was essentially a change in the way manufacturing of goods originally worked by hand or human labor was subsequently replaced by machine power (Horn et al, 2010). As the result of the revolution, social condition at the time was influenced by the change of human life and behavior. Here, the writer finds out that the influence of the revolution can be noticed in the social, economic, and political aspect.

The result of the industrial revolution in social aspect is the appearance of bourgeoisie and labor, the emergence of urbanization, and the emergence of conflict between workers and employers. In addition, the Influence of the Industrial Revolution for England is evident from the growing urbanization in Industrial cities. People outside the UK are interested in living and making a living in the UK. As a result, unemployment and crime are increasingly emerging. Meanwhile, the influence of revolution in the economic aspect is marked by the development of industrial areas is done on a large scale. (Horn et al, 2010). The industrial revolution also affected the emergence of industrial cities like Manchester, Liverpool, and Birmingham. The emergence of these industrial cities is a necessity as the industry develops.

In the other side, the result of industrial revolution in political aspect is influenced by political aspect in which, the development of industrial estates appeared in various cities, most of the people began to enjoy the effects of the Industrial Revolution. The population is getting easier in obtaining the needs and the industrial goods. The entrepreneurs and the owners of capital gain a lot of profits.

In short, the Industrial Revolution has brought a pretty good influence that is improving the welfare of life. But the problem arises when the land used for industry gets narrower and more difficult to produce its own industrial raw materials. The number of people is increasing sharply in line with the increasing urbanization flow from job seekers. (Horn at el, 2010). Actually, there are so many figures whose also bring the issue of industrial revolution into their literary work. However in this research, the writer intends to analyze the literary works from William Blake since he was a 19<sup>th</sup> century writer and artist who are regarded as a seminal figure of the Romantic Age. Also, his writings have influenced countless writers and artists through the ages, and he has been deemed both a major poet and an original thinker.

In accordance, referring to those explanations, the writer finds out that the discussion of Industrial Revolution is only can be found in the Blake works that are *London* and *The Auguries of Innocence* poems. *London* is a poem that explain about the bad condition of society in London at that time for example, murder, persecution, misery, sadness, and poverty. On the other side, *The Auguries of Innocence* tells about working class background, and the start of industrial revolution which is the ignorance of society toward social condition in that era. The ignorance happens since for society, crime, slavery and prostitutes are common things happen at that time. Further, these phenomena are considered as the portrayal of dark side during the industrial revolution.

In that case, the writer is interested to discuss about the dark side of industrial revolution toward society in Blake's poems *London* and *The Auguries of Innocence* in social, economy, and political aspect in this research. It is an

interesting discussion since by knowing the poetries of William Blake the readers also will learn the history of dark side of industrial revolution especially in England.

## **1.2 Research Question**

By seeing the background of the research, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: How is the dark side of industrial revolution toward society in Blake's poems *London* and *The Auguries of Innocence*?

## **1.3 Research Objective**

The objective of this research is to reveal the dark side of industrial revolution toward society in Blake's poems *London* and *The Auguries of Innocence*.

## **1.4 Research Uses**

### **1.4.1 Theoretical Use**

Theoretically, the result of this research will give advantages for everybody, especially for those who are interested in discussing poet's view in literary works. Since, this research provides much information not only about industrial revolution but also William Blake's life as one of Industrial revolution poets, and socio-historical concept that can be used as guidance for next researchers.

### **1.4.2 Practical Use**

Practically, this research provides not only the researcher but also reader's knowledge of the portrayal about industrial revolution in literature. By understanding the objectives, the researcher hopes that people will keep using the

portrayal toward industrial revolution in their works to make them realize that the conditions in their city have worsened under the government's economic and social control, and people have abandoned much of their moral and ethical behavior.

### **1.5 Research Scope**

In limiting the research, this research is focused on analyzing the dark side of industrial revolution toward society in *London* (around 19<sup>th</sup> century) in *Blake's* poems entitled *London*, and *The Auguries of Innocence*. Next, concept of Socio-Historical is chosen as a foundation to analyze the portrayal in the two poems. The concept is chosen because, there is correlation between the approach and also the concept to explain the portrayal about industrial revolution that reflected in those two poems *London*, and *The Auguries of Innocence* can be explained more detail.