CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

The term literature refers to both written and oral communication. Literature encompasses the skillful use of language, serving as a medium through which languages, traditions, and human customs are depicted in various literary creations (Mahsyur, Fithratullah, Kasih, 2023).Writing can take various forms, expressing abstract ideas through composition and conveying thoughts, ideas, and imagination through speech in any format (Marcus and Sollor, 2009). In other words, literature is written text that not only has literal meaning, but also conveys certain words to express and convey certain messages in real life. It's also evident in how human behavior reflects our thoughts. Mustantifa & Nurmaily (stated that literature is a creation characterized by its aesthetic qualities inspired by elements of human existence. Literature was used to portray a realistic life and to guide society in an ideal way of life (Kardiansyah, 2017). Whether fiction or nonfiction, the themes vary, for example, life, romance, politics, adventure, etc. Kasih and Strid (2020) stated that literary works also serve as reflections of societal occurrences. Literary works emerge as tangible imaginative creativity, a writer with a different process than other authors, particularly in the creation of fictions. Literature as one of the most important media must have values, including moral values, so that literary works not only bring pleasure to the readers, but also convey values and lessons (Mahendra and Amelia, 2020).

According to Jones (1986), literature includes all written materials in its broadest sense. Prose, poetry, drama, and novels are examples of literary works. Both novels and short stories belong to the type of prose, many people enjoy reading novels and short stories. A novel expresses a particular aspect of human love and existence. Because the novel discusses human activities and societal occurrences, it is written in a long composition. Since the beginning of history, there have been a few huge issues connected with science, religion, information, and the universe (Samanik & Lianasari, 2016). These issues also extend to societal structures, where all communities organize their members based on concepts of superiority, inferiority, and equality. Within society, human relationships are grounded in interdependence, encompassing sociological aspects related to interpersonal, social, and cultural levels (Setiawan & Setri, 2020).

The significance of social phenomena and globalization within a specific society has inspired certain writers to create innovative fiction that integrates social elements. Their objective is to portray specific phenomena, providing a reflective depiction of the community through literature derived from their ideas. Ideas can be described as a content, messages and the purpose that is informed by text, (Afrianto, 2018).Literary works often gather someone's life story to highlight their life, particularly focusing on their personality. Additionally, these stories can be considered self-referential texts that reveal the processes of forming one's identity. It can be seen from Leo Tolstoy's work, where he reflects on his life and its significance to Russian society in the eighteenth century. Count Lev Nikolayevich

Tolstoy, usually referred to in English as Leo Tolstoy, was a Russian writer who is considered one of the greatest writers of all time. He was born in Russia in 1828 and passed away in 1910, Tolstoy is recognized as a prominent figure of world literary realism during his time. Globally, Tolstoy is best known for his two longest works *War and Peace* and Anna Karenina, which are usually considered to be one of the finest novels ever written. *War and Peace* in particular seems to define this form for many readers and critics alike (Morson, 2018).

War and Peace is a novel that Tolstoy spent five years writing, from 1863 to 1868, is widely regarded as one of the greatest novels of all time. The novel focuses on significant events during the Napoleonic Wars, particularly between 1805 and 1807, as well as the French invasion of Russia in 1812. The story mainly talks about what happened when Napoleon invaded Russia in 1812. But it actually started seven years before that, when Russia allied with Austria to fight against the French. Tolstoy looks at war from different perspectives, including high-level strategic planning and the experiences of young soldiers experiencing combat for the first time. *War and Peace* describes the war with Napoleon that involved numerous countries such as Russia, Austria, Prussia, Spain, Sweden, and England, with the primary focus on Russia. Tolstoy described Napoleon's invasion of Russia, the battle of Borodino, the slow taking of the Russian army, Napoleon's conquest of Moscow, the fires that engulfed the city and the subsequent capture of Napoleon's army during the deadly winter. While discussing the broader impact and lasting effects of these wars, Tolstoy also explores how individual soldiers behave, revealing his perspectives on war as a human phenomenon. Tolstoy sees war as

people killing each other, which in his view, is illogical regardless of the reasons behind the war. Since war itself is senseless, people act strangely during battles, and afterward, their sense of right and wrong is often disturbed. Tolstoy's main point is that war messes with people, making it a pointless event that diminishes our humanity, no matter what reasons people give for it. Tolstoy portrays Napoleon as an ineffective egomaniac buffoon who believed that humans were meager pons whose purpose was either to live or die on his behalf (StudyBoss, 2019). The writer chooses to analyze the novel *War and Peace* because justice is an important issue in this story; most of the characters of *War and Peace* novel are struggling to get freedom. Alongside these events, Tolstoy described the different classes of Russian society in terms of their participation in war and what impact war had on their lives is an example of social injustice.

Social injustice refers to the perceived unfairness in how society distributes rewards and burdens. This concept is distinct from legal justice, which may not always align with moral principles. The term social injustice is closely related to the formation of human life structures based on the principles of equality and solidarity. Within the concept of social injustice lies the acknowledgment of human dignity and fundamental human rights in all types of interpersonal interactions, both material and spiritual. Fredriche (1977) stated that social injustice arises when the principle of peaceful coexistence among people is disregarded. When gender equality and human rights are not upheld, social injustice prevails. These traditions and structures create significant but often difficult-to-recognize injustices. Addressing

social injustice is essential for a life guided by the principles of religion, ethics, and humanity.

Social injustice occurs when certain groups of people are treated unfairly and denied equal opportunities and rights due to biased laws, traditions, or societal practices. This concept is based on the idea of a just society, where individuals or groups are treated equitably and receive a fair share of society's resources. Today, there is significant competition in society aimed at achieving freedom, a certain standard of living, prestige, happiness, and other goals. However, it is evident that not everyone has the same opportunities to obtain their rights, such as the right to a decent living, education, work, and equal wages for the same work. Typically, those with limited opportunities are from the lower class, and they must fight against social injustice because it contradicts the principles of human rights and equality. Socrates asserts that social injustice leads to weakness rather than strength. He emphasizes that society must establish social justice in all aspects to enable people to live a truly human life. Socrates argues that injustice causes disunity and weakness instead of strength. He states that injustices lead to conflicts and weaken groups, whether in a state, family, or army: "... whether it occurs in a state or family or army or in anything else: it renders it incapable of any common action because of factions and quarrels, and sets it at variance with itself and with its opponents and with whatever is just" (Plato, p. 38). Additionally, injustices foster hatred among people, even within the ruling elite. This internal strife leads to attempts to undermine one another, resulting in a weakened and illegitimate state due to corruption and political struggles (Plato, 1987).

It is clear that society plays a significant role in the process of creating literary works. Literary works may use society and social problems as literary material, because literary work is an imitation of conceptions implying views on the reflection of society's literature (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972:23). The writer focuses on the theme of social injustice and its portrayal within the novel. The issues that reach all the way from the activities of everyday life to broader arenas of ideology and societal institutions are important to be discussed (Setiawan & Lina, 2017). The main reason the writer is interested in choosing the novel *War and Peace* is because it emphasizes the most valuable and practical aspects of social injustice, as reflected in the novel. Through this study, the writer aims to provide readers with an innovative and comprehensive perspective to give insight into this story. Meanwhile, the writer expects those ordinary people who are like the characters and the whole story in the novel can truly understand the essence of social injustice, furthermore, carry it forward.

1.2 Research Question

Considering with the background of the study that has been explained above, the writer formulated the problem in:

How is social injustice reflected in *War and Peace*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research question that formulated, this study has an objective to achieve:

To identify the idea of social injustice that reflected in *War and Peace*.

1.4 Use of Study

The uses of this research are divided into theoretical and practical use. This research will answer and it can help people by using two main uses.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, this research is expected to contribute to the literature study related to social issues by using Marxism approach to future researchers who need reference to conduct further analysis using similar topic and theory, as well as providing readers with more information about the novel so that they can understand the entire story of *War and Peace* novel.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, this research might be useful for the reader and will serve as an additional reference for those who wish to conduct similar research and can assist people in developing an awareness of social issues. This research hopes readers can know about social injustice and how to manage these phenomenons that arise in society.

1.5 Scope of the Study

To limit the topic and avoid the complexity of this research, the writer focuses on discussing social issues and focuses more on the lives of characters in the novel *War and Peace*. It is important to limit the analysis to get clear results. Therefore, the writer will only analyze social injustice focusing on historical materialism and

scientific socialism that occurs in the characters using theories from Karl Marx in

War and Peace through dialogue and narration in the novel.