

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Industrial Revolution, which emerged between the 18th and 19th centuries, was a period when previously dominant societies were agricultural communities living in rural Europe and America who transformed into industrial and urban societies. Although industrialization led to a shift in the increase in the volume of production goods as well as the rising standard of living for some people, the Industrial Revolution has also led to abusive workers with deprived living conditions and shaping the class as workers. The industrial revolution also created the existence of the bourgeoisie and labor and social inequality. The poverty of the workers and the unemployed is one of the negative effects of the industrial revolution.

Poverty raises various problems such as crime, low public welfare, discrimination, etc. It can affect the social condition of a society in certain area. The profession of social work views poverty as a multidimensional problem. Ellis in Suharto (2005 : 133) said that "the dimension of poverty concerns the economic, political and social-psychological aspects". Economically, poverty can be defined as a lack of resources that can be used to meet the needs of life and improve the well-being of a group of people. Politically, poverty is seen from low access to power. The notion of power in this context includes the order of political systems that can determine a group's ability to reach and use resources.

According to the sociology of literature, literary works are seen as related to reality, to what extent the literary works reflect reality. The fact here contains many meanings, everything that is outside the literary work and referred to by the literary work. Thus, the sociology of literature pays attention to the literary documentary aspect, on the basis of a view that literature is a portrait of social phenomena. In essence, the social phenomenon is concrete, happening around us everyday, observable, photographed, and documented. By the author, the phenomenon is re-enacted into a new discourse by the creative process (observation, analysis, interpretation, reflection, imagination, evaluation, etc.) in the form of literary works.

Literary work presents a picture of life, and life itself is largely composed of social reality. In this sense, life involves inter-community relationships with people, between people, between events that occur within one's mind. So, looking at literary work as the depiction of the world and human life, the main criterion imposed on literary works is the "truth" of the image, or what it is intended to describe. However Wellek and Warren (1949) said that literary works are indeed expressing life, but it is wrong to think of expressing them as completely. This is because the phenomenon of social life contained in the literary work is sometimes not deliberately written by the author, or because the essence of literary works itself that never directly reveal social phenomena, but indirectly, which the author may not know. The author is a living member who deals with the people around him, so in the process of creating an author's literary work is inseparable from the influence of his environment. Therefore, literary work born in the midst of society

is the result of the author's life expression about life, events, and life experiences that have lived it. Thus, a literary work never departs from a social vacuum. This means that literary works are written on the basis of the social life of a particular society and tells the cultures that lie behind them.

The creation of literature is a uniquely human activity, born of man's timeless desire to understand, express, and finally share experiences.

“The fictional world is another world that stands beside reality but according to some aspects shows equality also with the real world, even if a writer vents his imagination by creating non-existent beings living in a fantasy world but there are certain bonds Between the characters and their deeds that can be understood by the reader and acceptable on the basis of his understanding of the real world.”(Luxemburg, 1984 : 25)

History and literature then shared considerable common ground as both were embedded in the social process. Literature and history differ fundamentally in the manner in which social reality is embodied and represented. Literature also provides ‘escape’ from the grim realities of life, and many people read to escape boredom. The higher type of literature helps the reader to escape from trivial reality into significant reality. The primary functions of literature are to delight the reader and heighten his awareness of life.

Anita Diamant is one of the authors who created a literary work that depicts an outcast society in one of the villages in the Massachusetts named Dogtown. In the novel Diamant recounts the last days of the 19th century Dogtown villagers who struggled from various problems they faced. The poverty that hit Dogtown village society is the biggest problem. Diamant told in detail one by one the characters

with full touched and satisfying stories. The story of family, society, friendship, romance enveloping their last day in Dogtown village. This novel is a historical novel that leaves the reader aching with nostalgia described the picture of dogtown village as a real village in the 19th century that has been lost.

According to North Shore Community College Report (www.historicipswich.org: 2015) about Dogtown location, history and legends, Dogtown is an area in central Gloucester of about five square miles, or 3600 acres, stretching from the Riverdale section of the city, north of Route 128, into Rockport, and including the Goose Cove and the Babson Reservoirs, Massachusetts. Development is banned in this protected municipal watershed. Dogtown is known for its woods and for its boulders and rock formations left behind when the last glaciers melted. Because of the availability of water, in 1642, the Commons Settlement was located here and was for a century the most prosperous part of Gloucester. The half century after the Revolutionary War saw the decline and disappearance of the Dogtown settlement.

The 19th century Dogtown villages suffered a setback, the difficulty of getting a job and the absence of natural resources that could be utilized for the citizens besides the big rocks there. Poverty is one of the main social conflicts that occur in dogtown that invites other conflicts such as discrimination and crime. The issues of abolitionism and racial discrimination arises in the 19th century in United States, as happened in Dogtown village where some African American slaves live in continuing life as independent slaves, under the same conditions they still get a

different identity from the whites in the village. Several fights, murders, drunkards and prostitution houses accompanied the dismal history of this village. Some residents enter into work as prostitutes, committing suicide as the only way apart from the prison of hopeless life in dogtown village, until the violence that occurs in the family. all summed up in the worst story of 19th century dogtown village.

The social histories depicted in literary works that tell about social condition of 19th century in dogtown village portrayed in one of the novels written by Anita Diamant entitled *The Last Days of Dogtown*, published in 2005. Anita Diamant is a twentieth century American author, who first started her writing career as a freelance journalist. Her job as a journalist has effected most of her works, which present topics about humanity. One of her novels, *The Last Days of Dogtown*, which is located in Cape Ann, Massachusetts. This novel is interesting to be discussed because of the way she tells about the reality in past time. She creates such interesting characters in the novel, the topic of which concerns with social condition dogtown societies in some problem and crucial issues such as discriminations, proverty, criminality and others.

The Last Days of Dogtown Novel is a historical novel based on the true story of a community that lives through some of the problems they face. In the tiny rural backwater of Dogtown, which is located in Cape Ann, some of the rest of the population still gives an enduring spirit that keeps life and love alive. Among the unforgettable characters are black Ruth, one of only two Africans who still live in the area; he dressed like a man, did not speak to anyone and continued his

expertise as a local mason. Mrs. Stanley is a widow and brothel owner; really selfish, she doesn't care about her young grandson Sammy Stanley living in the midst of the sights and sounds of rural brothels, Sammy lives with Molly and Sally who become prostitutes for their survival. Oliver Younger overcomes a cruel childhood to find happiness in marriage and to be a father who previously lived with an old widow named Tammy Younger who kept an Oliver's wealth for her own sake.

The point of all this is Judy Rhines, women who are very independent, generous and wise, but heartbroken and lonely, who get a bad reputation because of her love for Cornelius, a former slave who really loves Judy. Judy's best friend is Easter Carter that is a mature woman living from a house that provides rooms, selling food and drinks for some people who come. John Stanwood is a man who likes to get drunk, incite Sally and Molly to work as a prostitute, threatening some people in Dogtown to get money. The novel begins with the story of the death of the oldest society in Dogtown village named Abraham Wharf who chose suicide because of despair with the decline and poverty in the village of Dogtown, he was one of those who did not want a relationship between Judy and Cornelius.

One of literary works that shows social conditions of 19th century American History is the novel *The Last days of Dogtown* by Anita Diamant. The analysis is conducted through discussing the conflict in the novel and to analyze the novel *The Last days of Dogtown* the writer uses a socio-historical approach. Social history, often called socio-historical concept, is a field of history that looks at the lived experience of

the past. Socio-historical concept is a branch of literary research that gives attention to both social experiences and the history at that time. This novel reminds the readers of the time when there is a deterioration of social conditions and the decline of Dogtown village caused by various aspects, such as Political aspect, Economical aspect and Social aspect. From these various aspects we can see the problems that occurred in the dogtown village in the 19th century as seen in the novel. The issues that occurred in the 19th century in Dogtown village is a social documentation that can be seen from one of literary work by Anita Diamant *The Last Days of Dogtown* Novel. From analyzing this novel the writer hopes to provide information about issues in the 19th century and the aspects in the field of social history. Therefore by applying socio-historical approach writer able to analyze the novel and its connection with the history and social life in Dogtown in 19th century.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, the writer formulates the problem formulation is :

- 1) How is 19th century social condition in Dogtown village portrayed in Diamant's *The Last Days of Dogtown*?

1.3 Research Objective

Based on the research question above, the objective of the study is to find out and explain social condition in Dogtown village in 19th century as portrayed in Diamant's *The Last Days of Dogtown*.

1.4 Uses of the Study

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

This research is expected to improve our knowledge about socio-historical analysis on the literary work such as discussion about social condition in 19th century American society especially in Dogtown village. This research not only to support and enrich the knowledge of the readers but also will be useful for the readers who feel interested in analyzing the same topic or object or as additional references to do their assignment.

1.4.2 Practical Use

This research is intended to dig out about *Anita Diamant* work especially novel *The Last Days of Dogtown* and also to give knowledge about Socio-Historical discussion because we can learn much from it especially in improving literary understanding from this paper. Then this research paper makes the other researcher easily to analyze the similar research.

1.5 Scope of the Study

In this thesis, the writer limited the main discussion of social problems in the novel from the socio-historical aspects such as political, economy and social aspects as seen in the novel. Therefore, the writer will analyze the data from the novel to describe the issue about American social condition in 19th Century especially in Dogtown village in *The Last Days of Dogtown*. Hence, the socio-historical fact will be revealed in this analysis.