

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Classes are social categories sharing subjectively-salient attributes used by people to rank those categories within a system of economic stratification. It is a distinct social grouping that can be distinguished by inequalities such areas as power, authority, wealth, working and living conditions, life styles, life-span, education, religion, and culture. A social class or simply class as in class society, is a set of subjectively defined concepts in the social sciences and political theory centered on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the most common being the upper, middle, and lower classes. (<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/Class.html>, November 27<sup>th</sup>2016).

Economic inequality also known as the gap between rich and poor, income inequality, wealth disparity, or wealth and income differences consists of disparities in the distribution of wealth accumulated assets and income. It refers to inequality among individuals, groups within a society, and also refer to inequality among countries.

The issue above is also discussed by Jane Austen in her novel. *Pride and Prejudice* that was written based on the social culture of English society. The social status of the people can differ based on wealth. Most of the main characters

is described as brave character that could break the social gap. It describes about Elizabeth Bennet as a second daughter of Bennet family has different way of thinking from her four sisters. As a woman, she does not only want the wealthy man, but she also considered the reason of choosing a husband. She is a brave woman rejecting a marriage proposal from a man who she does not want to marry with. She also has a big loyalty to take care of her family. She travels across miles away to Netherfield to nurse her illness. She accepts mocking from Bingley's family because of her act, but she does not consider it further. This act became a unique point for Mr. Darcy, a single man with great wealth to love her at the first impression. She settled for the negative assumption of the society. She can survive in the society. She does not just depend on men or follow the social rules, but she also has bravery to struggle will to be as equal as men.

Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel. The first reason is because the researcher is interested in the story of social issue which is reflected in this novel. This is clearly shown on the difference between the social classes in that time and makes Elizabeth must be fight for her love to get the same happiness. The second reason is that the two of main protagonist characters are from different family backgrounds.

Some previous studies were written by Evi Aprilia (2013), on "The Portrayal of Woman in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and Abidah El-Khalieqy's *Perempuan Berkalung Sorban*", this research has idea to compare both of the novels in the main character with feminist approach. Second, who also interested to analyze this novel is Dimas Nur Baladi (2008), in "Material-Oriented

Marriage in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice: Sociological Approach*", this study analyzed based on Sociological theory.

Based on the reason above, the writer chooses this novel to find out how social class of that time can cause gaps, and how the main character, Elizabeth Bennet can fight to get her right to be happy with the title "**Social Class Gap in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice***".

## **1.2 Statement of the Problems**

Based on the background of study, this research has some problems that will be investigated, there are :

1. What factors are causing the social class gap happening to the two major characters Elizabeth and Darcy ?
2. How is Elizabeth struggle to fight the social class gap ?

## **1.3 Objectives of Study**

The objectives of study on this paper are to analyze the factors causing the social class gap happening to the two major characters, and the struggle of Elizabeth to fight the social class gap.

## **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The research may give benefits for students who are interested in this novel. The writer hopes the reader can understand about literary criticism focusing on feminism or on *Pride and Prejudice*. This study may make readers realize that

one's right is not based on the gender or belief and make them more aware that all people are born to be free and equal. The result of this study is expected to give contributions for the Student of English Department of University of 17 Agustus 1945.

### **1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the scope of the research is limited to the analysis of the social class gap of the two main characters. And in analyzing the social class gap, the discussion focuses on factors that cause social class gap in two characters and its impact.

### **1.6 Organization of the Study**

This research paper organization is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consists of background of the study, statement of the problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, organization of the study. The second chapter discusses review of related literature that describes theory about social class. The third chapter is the method of the study that discusses the way to collect data and theory applied. It contains the following: the research design, literary approach, data sources, and data analysis procedure. The fourth chapter discusses the analysis. It describes the analysis of social class, and effect of social class gap of two major characters. And the last chapter, chapter five explains the conclusion of the whole discussion. In the end of this study, the writer writes bibliography and the appendixes that contain with Jane Austen's biography and the synopsis of this novel.