

## **Chapter I: Introduction**

This chapter presents several subtopics that will be described in this research. It is divided into five subtopics such as background of study, research question, research objective, research significances, and scope of study. All of the sub topics are described below.

### **Background of Study**

Everyone has characteristics such as language, ethnicity and culture. As social beings, people are always agreeing with various problems that must be faced either between individuals, groups or the environment. Those problems are come from the differences that involve disagreement, dislike, and conflict. The issue that appears about this problem is discrimination. It means someone treats other people in a different way or unfair manner.

Many people have fixed ideas about groups of people who are different from themselves. According to Tyler (1994), individuals value their group status, because high status validates self identity, self esteem, and self respect. For instance, is the social gap between the rich and the poor. In social stratification, the rich are placed on a layer of the upper classes, powerful, respectful, and treated very well, whereas the poor are in the lining of the lower classes, considered weak, and not be treated properly or unfairly. It is supported by Nezelek (1999), perceptions of status affect how individuals react to fair or unfair procedures and treatment. Then, such actions can be said as discrimination.

According to Krigger (1999) discrimination deals with unreasonable negative behavior by which members of society in a different way because of their membership in a particular group such as based on race, skin color, ethnicity, family status, or membership of social classes. It can be said that discrimination means unfair treatment where this act gives rise to a presumption and a different judgment between individuals or groups because their own privileges are only addressed in one instead of two.

In real life, discrimination becomes a social issue among society that always happens and becomes an interesting issue to be discussed. However, it does not only happen in real life, but also in a literary work that makes some authors interested to present and reveal the social problems in the line story. It is relevant to Endraswara (2003) explain that the social condition of society can be a conspicuous target of denunciation in literary work. It draws how discrimination as social condition in society may be present in literary works.

In addition, literature can be viewed as a social phenomenon (Luxemburg, 1948). It describes human's life that related to culture, moral, religion, social, etc. By means of the medium of this literary work, the author wishes to adopt the values of life to be able to understand the meaning of life and the nature of life. As stated by Wellek and Warren (1977), literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society.

Literary work can be a social criticism of the society in certain age. One of several novels tells about the discrimination as the main problem is *Wuthering*

*Heights*. A *Wuthering Heights* novel is taken as the object of study intended to be investigated the problems of social condition in 19<sup>th</sup> century. This novel was written by Emily Bronte, published on 1847. It becomes the one of greatest works she ever created. She is a great author in England ever exist in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Set in Yorkshire moor in Northern of England, *Wuthering Heights* is the residence of Earnshaw's family. One day, Mr. Earnshaw as the landowners travel to Liverpool. In a moment, on the way home, he finds a little boy with no family that makes him takes a decision to pick him up. Mr. Earnshaw gives the boy's name 'Heathclif'. Heathcliff become the major character in this novel. Heathcliff is a dark skinned boy. He is an orphan and no one knows his origin. He has a different background with Earnshaw's family like his race and social class. Nevertheless, Mr. Earnshaw treats and gives the same affection to Heathcliff as like as his children.

In contrast, Hindley and Catherine as the children of Mr. Earnshaw dislike and hate Heathcliff's presence in the house. Then, secretly they treat Heathcliff in ways that are not fair. Hindley is jealous with affection that given by Mr. Earnshaw to Heathcliff. Hindley did not want the attention and affection looted by Heathcliff. Suddenly, Mr. Earnshaw gets ill and died. And after the death of Mr. Earnshaw, the head of family had taken over by Hindley. Hindley hates Heathcliff so much and it makes him continuing treat Heathcliff in ways that are unequal and different from others because his racial, status in family and social class. Unreasonable treatment and discrimination felt at that experienced by Heathcliff. It is clearly seen in:

“Poor Heathcliff! Hindley calls him a vagabond, and won’t let Him sit with us, nor eat with us anymore; and, he says, he and I must not play together, and threatens to turn him out of the house if we break his orders. He has been blaming our father (how dared he?) for treating H. too liberally; and swears he will reduce him to his right place”  
(*Wuthering Heights*, p.16)

This datum shows there are a lot of unfair treatments performed by Hindley to Heathcliff such as never let him to sit, play, and eat with them. Catherine write the incident in her diary. The paper found by Mr.Lockwood who was visiting *Wuthering Heights*. Catherine saddened with the treatment of her brother. He did not want Heathcliff continue to be hurt and treated unfairly by Hindley. Humiliation, avoidance, and exclusion that experienced by Heathcliff. Not only physically, but also materially Heathcliff get discrimination because of race and his social status are in a different situation of groups. According to Krieger (as cited in VicHealth, 2008) discrimination is a process where members of socially defined groups treated differently because of their membership of that group. Furthermore, it is related with Newman theory that classifies into five forms of discrimination are verbal discrimination, avoidance, exclusion, physical discrimination, and extermination.

The term discrimination is one of important discussion in the field of sociology, because it is one humanity phenomenon occurs among society. Thus, the researcher argues that sociological approach is appropriate to analyze discrimination in Emily Bronte’s *Wuthering Heights*. Sociological approach is a criticism focuses on the relationship between literature and society. It considers with all of the social aspects. This approach uses text analysis to know structure

and to be used to understand the deeper social phenomena outside literature. In accordance with Damono (2002) that defines sociology of literature is the approach that used as a criticism in literature that considers aspects of society.

Additionally, the novel already analyzed on some journals and thesis. One of them is BrataWijaya (2009) with the title *Patriarchy in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights*. He found that there is a kind of patriarchy and patriarchal family in Wuthering Heights. A man as a head of the family dominates and discriminates a woman whom considered as a second sex in the family life. They are: such as name of a woman always follow by the names of a father, a woman has to agree with her father or brother's choice in married. In marriage's life, a woman is always kept at home.

Based on the description above, it becomes an interesting reason why the researcher is interested in analyzing this novel. First, data are needed and available. Second, this novel describes the social condition within society such as upper and lower class in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England. Third, this novel is the one of the greatest novel ever created by Emily Bronte. For that reason, the researcher will conduct a research entitled "*The Forms of Discrimination in Emily Bronte's Wuthering Heights*"

### **Problem Statement**

Based on the background of study, the problem of this study is "What are the forms of discrimination in *Wuthering Heights*?"

### **Objective of Study**

The main objective of study is to describes the forms of discrimination in *Wuthering Heights*.

### **Significances of Study**

#### *Theoretically*

This study is supposed to enrich the theoretical bases of literary studies, particularly in analyzing social issue or social aspects in society by using sociological criticism. Also, this study is expected to help further research as a reference in conducting research who is interested in analyzing social problems or social phenomena that exist in a novel or literary work.

#### *Practically*

The researcher fully expected this study can be a useful contribution to the academic studies which is included in teaching learning process of literary criticism, especially as a reference for the lecturer and students in the English Department. Also, the researcher expected this study can encourage reader's spirit to read as many as books on literature, especially novel to enrich and enhance their knowledge about life. And the last significance, the researcher expected this study useful to give information and improve reader's knowledge about discrimination. Because nowadays, discrimination issue remained to be polemics that continuously grow till now in real life.

### **Scope of Study**

This study focuses on Heathcliff as the main character where he experienced discrimination. This study observed the forms of discrimination in a *Wuthering Heights* novel by using sociological approach and use Newman's theory to find out five forms of discrimination; verbalization, avoidance, exclusion, physical abuse and extermination. By using the sociological approach, we can criticize them based on the social background of the author, the content of literary work and the reader. In this case, the researcher will analyze the content of literary work deals with social issues.