CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Analysis

The realm of literature recognizes prose as one genre of literature which is generally placed in contrast with poetry and drama. This contrast is based on theoretical concept for the essence of it, that is, to entertain and to teach is the same. What is called fictional expression such as prose is characterized by the presence of a story. The story constitutes structural building that offers experience and problem of life, to quote Welleck and Warren in Nurgiyantoro, Burhan. (1998: 3)

Understanding literature that teaches and entertains is related to function and goal of literature itself. It summarizes experience of life to be known and gives pleasure while reading it. By doing so, literature is implemented in the medium of language to deliver its ultimate achievement. Language itself is a social institution that use by man to communicate their wish or rejection. And language is a mean for exploring a social reality in which literature represents life in terms of social recognition (Welleck, 1981: 94).

The present thesis analyzes social phenomenon in terms of social stratification through Charles Dickens’ novel Hard Times. The word stratification is confined to class difference because of the amount of wealth, power and prestige exist among social members. The appearance of the gap difference becomes transparently seen for the class of upper, middle and lower class as social status of the social members.

The analysis of this thesis has been restricted to social phenomenon of the stratification among social members Coketown as expressed in the novel. There has been portrayed a certain different recognition of group between employer and
employee and intellectual and circus player or artist. Besides, the thesis also provides an analysis about the rise and the fall of the character of the novel that represents social members of each social class.

The rise and the fall of social status in dealing with social reality results the haves and less. The portrait of such difference has become central in the novel. Let alone, the group class of intellectual and artist has been arising for achieving social status that creates social gap. It all happens in the struggle of hard living in the era industrial revolution. Thus, the phrase *Hard Times* as the title of the novel conveys has meant how hard the life is. This is the reason as well the background of the writer of this thesis to choose the title.

### 1.2 Problem of the Analysis

The thesis analysis is focused on describing stratification that happens in Coketown during the era of industrial revolution towards social members as expressed in the novel *Hard Times*. The stratification refers to the phenomena of social difference of class that tends to be social gap for having social status as the members of society. So, the problems offered to be analysis are:

1. What makes intellectual group of people feel their social status higher than group of circus players or artist and employer group feel the same towards employee?
2. Is it the rise of social status make powerful class and the fall does powerless class that represent the haves and no haves in the social stratification or class difference?

### 1.3 Objective of the Analysis

The objective of this thesis analysis is at first to find out the main cause of sense of social prejudice that happens in social members of Coketown between
intellectual group versus circus player or artist and between employer upon employee that mark social gap in the era of industrial revolution as expressed in the novel. Secondly, it is to explore how the rise relates to power and the no haves becomes powerless that show class difference in the novel.

1.4 Scope of the Analysis

The term of social stratification as written down in the thesis reflects the existence of social sense of being higher than lower as happened in the social members. It is social sense that makes of society. It consciously happened for that social sense has made gap.

This thesis limits its analysis in the portrayal of social stratification as expressed in the novel. It is covering the industrial revolution of Coketown social members in *Hard Times*. Thus, the analysis is restricted to contrast of intellectual group versus artist, employer and employee for one point, and the rise or the fall as represented in character at another point.

1.5 Method of the Analysis

Charles Dickens’ *Hard Times* is a narratives prose better known as a novel. It is one kind of literary works which is dominantly enriched by imaginative power in expressing the ideas. In addition, the text of the novel is much more colored by denotative meaning rather than connotative one. Thus interpretation is allowed to explore the interconnected sense of the work itself.

Interpretation of social problem seems reliable to trace the meaning of the text since it offers more words which are not literal in sense. Because of that the analysis of this thesis is focused on interpretive method of analysis. It means to capture the
actual portrait of the work is reliably understood through interpretation.

In supporting the method of the analysis, this thesis also provides social approach to sharpen its analysis. The social approach is meant to connect to social problem in terms of stratification as expressed in the novel. In addition the writer of this thesis also deals with historical perspective since the matter is related to industrial revolution that has happened in 19th century.

1.6 Review of Related Literature

Adam Kuper and Jessica Kuper (2000:18) in their book entitled *The Social Science Encyclopedia* explain that social prejudice has caused sense of different feeling among members of society. It is related to wealth, power and status that influence to social group class in the society. Such a feeling is reflected in the presence of gap that there has been high class people, lower class people and middle class people. Such a difference that consciously felt in social phenomenon is better known as social stratification.

What is offered as the essence of stratification is the social conflict that result social jealousy. Adam and Kuper argue that stratification is undeniable because it should happen for there is no standard of living for every member of society. It is impossible to have equal domination for everyone has different capacity to trace his or her social recognition. It is only social feeling of that class difference that makes such class difference.

The present of this book has helped the writer of this thesis to grasp characteristic of stratification that applied in this thesis analysis. The term stratification is finally explored as social phenomena that happen for having different status in wealth, power and social recognition.
Rodney Stark’s (1987: 24) in their book entitled *Sociology*. This book explains stratification concept and social mobility. Sociologist uses the concept of stratification to identity the unequal distribution of rewards a valuable among member of a society. These rewards are divided into three major types: property, power and prestige (or honor). This book is very helpful to the clearance of the topic in this thesis.