

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of The Study

After watching movies, people will react to what movie they watch. They can give different reaction toward one movie. Their reaction can be feeling of sad, angry, happy or disappoint. That feeling appears because of reaction of audience toward character or story of the movie or their expectation to the movie. That also happens with reading books. People will give a reaction and opinion toward what they read. According to Holland who uses psychology to explain the process of reading, there are no people will work through a text in the same way or arrive at the same point of understanding, (<http://www.docin.com/p-351546616.html>). So readers always have different responses toward what they read and they will react and create understanding differently.

The writer wants to analyze *Oliver Twist*'s characteristics as the main character in the novel through his conflicts using reader response criticism, and the response from the active reader is needed. It will show how the reader gives their response or opinion differently toward the main characteristic. So every reader has different understanding to the novel. The writer wants to ask responses about the characteristics of *Oliver Twist* from five students from Satya Wacana Christian University, English Literature Department, who had passed English Prose class and had been taught technique of analysing novel during the semester. And the readers are Sandra is a twenty four years old female as the 1st reader, Erhans is a twenty years old male as the 2nd reader, Ginan is a thirty years old male as the 3rd reader, Rani is a twenty five years old female as the 4th reader, and Adi is a 28 years old male as the 5th reader. The writer will give

them questionnaire to collect their opinion and their point of view about action of the main character. The questionnaires will focus on the main character itself through his conflict. According to Nicholas Royle in his book *An Introduction to Literature Criticism and Theory* (1995 ;12), the response can explain about the individual character attitude, desire, need or experiences. It is called subjective criticism or personal criticism.

And supported by Charless E. Bressler in his book *Literary Criticism*,(1998 : 73), subjective critics is the reader's belief, thoughts and experience will create the meaning of the text. So the writer wants to use reader response criticism to analyze characteristics of the main character Oliver Twist in Charles Dickens's, *Oliver Twist* because the writer wants to know how the reader react to the novel based on their different experiences, thoughts, belief and background, and it will create different response and point of view. *Oliver Twist* is the story of a young orphan, Oliver. He was born in a workhouse. He escapes from workhouse and travel to London where he met a gang of juvenile pickpocket. And then he met with Mr. Brownlow, the man who saves and gives him a better place to stay after he involved a pick pocket incident with Oliver. He also involved into dangerous robbery with the gang of pick pocket. *Oliver Twist*, Charles Dickens (1987).

To support this research, the writer will use character and characterization theory. Character is a fictional representation of a person – usually (but not necessary) a psychological realistic depiction. Characterization is the way writer develop characters and reveal those characters' trait to readers and the writer may portray characters through their action, reaction to a situations or to others character. Laurie G Kirszner (1991: 93) .Character can be showed by reaction and action toward conflict that happened to the character. And conflict can be from contradiction of one character to situation or other characters, or to the character itself.

Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces that emerges as the action develops. This conflict is a clash between the protagonist, a story's principal character and an antagonist, someone or something presented in opposition to the protagonist, Literature, Laurie G Kirszner (1991: 93). Through the conflict that happened to Oliver Twist as main character, the writer wants to analyze the characteristic of Oliver Twist using Reader Response criticism. Reader response explains that the meaning is the result of the text and the reader, and the reader must be an active participant in the creating meaning of literary work. And for this criticism, the text have control over the interpretative process than the reader does, Literary Criticism, Charles E. Bressler (1998 ;67-69).

1.2 Problem Formulation

This research will be conducted in order to answer the question,

1. How do the readers response on the characteristic of the main character *Oliver Twist* through his conflicts?

1.3 Objective of the study

1. To find out how do responses about the main character "*Oliver Twist*" from several readers.

1.4 Scope of the study

This study will concentrate on reader response toward main character "Oliver Twist" in *Charles Dickens's Oliver Twist Novel*. The study will take responses of the readers from English

Prose class about the conflict that happened on the main character and the characteristic of Oliver Twist as a main character in the novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is dedicated to the students of English Literature, in order to give a new knowledge to analyze a literary work using reader response because this is the first thesis in this department which uses reader response criticism to analyze literary work. Beside as enrich literary collection, it motivates the students to study literature especially about reader response criticism and character, characteristic or characterization. It also shows that the students as responders may have different response and understanding in different way toward what they read.

1.6 Definition of Terms

These following terms will be used regularly in this study according to definition mentioned.

1. Reader response criticism is a criticism which explain that meaning of literature work is the result from interaction of the text and the active reader, Charles E. Bressler (1998 ; 68).
2. Character is a fictional representation of a person – usualy (but not necessary) a psychological realistic depiction, *Literature, Laurie G Kirszner (1991: 93)*.
3. Characterization is the way writers develop characters and reveal those characters' trait to reader. Writers may portray characters through their actions, their reaction to situations or to other characters, their physical

appearance, their speech and gestures and expression and even through their names, *Literature, Laurie G Kirszner (1991: 93).*

4. Conflict is the struggle between opposing forces that emerges as the action develops. This conflict is a clash between the protagonist, a story's principal character and an antagonist, someone or something presented in opposition to the protagonist, *Literature, Laurie G Kirszner (1991: 93).*

