

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Prestige is the respect and admiration that someone or something gets because of their success or important position in society (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English). Speaking about prestige, this concept is very abstract to be interpreted, but in general the social prestige is something that contains in ourselves that sometimes makes us do something or even can not do. We do it only to gain recognition, or maybe the other way around, making us unwilling to do something because it is considered to reduce prestige (Kompasiana.com). Baron and Bryne (2004) define prestige as an evaluation of self doing by individuals and influenced by other people's characteristics which is the comparison. While Chaplin (2004) provides an understanding of prestige is self-assessment that is influenced by attitudes, interactions, appreciation, and acceptance of others towards individuals. Prestige is a positive evaluation and negative about oneself that someone has.

Sometimes the roily and colorful complex of life, humans are involved in the process of "available and expectation." The concept realized in life both socially and morally, really effected on the condition of the soul. "Available" means that someone is able to make something that they feel capable of being done and fulfilled. "Expectation" means that it happens in imagining and pushing yourself beyond the limits of ability without any effort that they did.

Humans are the result of God's creations in which the soul can't control their lusts. Curiosity, greed, and the feeling of dissatisfaction, make people loosing sense and control. As widely happen in the era of globalization today, humans tend to live by giving priority to

material matters only. Looking up to the assumption, people today are respected by what they wear, what things they use, what they eat, what positions they occupy, and all the shadows that make them blind in an instant etc.

Reader response theory is a theory, which gained prominence in the late 1960s, that focuses on the reader or audience reaction to a particular text, perhaps more than the text itself. Reader-response criticism can be connected to poststructuralism emphasis on the role of the reader in actively constructing texts rather than passively consuming them. Unlike text-based approaches such as New Criticism, which are grounded upon some objective meaning already present in the work being examined, reader-response criticism argues that a text has no meaning before a reader experiences reads it. The reader-response critic's job is to examine the scope and variety of reader reactions and analyze the ways in which different readers, sometimes called "interpretive communities," make meaning out of both purely personal reactions and inherited or culturally conditioned ways of reading. One of the reader response theory is from David Bleich that the researcher use.

Subjective Criticism outlines a framework for literary engagement that places the individual reader at the center of critical concern. In subjective Criticism, David Bleich suggest using response statements as a way of discovering and analyzing the subjective factors perceptions, affects and associations that influence readers reaction to texts. According to Bleich once readers adjust to writing about their perception of texts, they will seek within themselves the causes of these perceptions: " The act of articulating a perception creates a motive to articulate the motivating feeling " (148). Furthermore, a text may be read efferently or aesthetically for different purposes, and parts of the same text may elicit different stances. A reader with a predominantly efferent stance may pay some attention to qualitative overtones while a reader with a predominantly aesthetic stance may focus on some cognitive elements.

Bleich's establish literary significance according to the classes "generated" knowledge of how particular persons recreate texts.

The problem of prestige this time is found in a literary work entitled "The Necklace". This story tells the main character who fools herself with his limitations. She assumes that rich and well-trained women will be more respectable and worth. Being unaware of the natural beauty she has, she always wished if she had everything. She forces herself to look more charming and extraordinary for one-night party. She sacrificed most of her life to pay the stupidity she had done for the sake of a moment's reputation.

In this study, the writer are interested in focusing on a specific perspective on a short story and therefore the author wants to make a final project entitled *Prestige on Female Character in The Necklace as a Reader Response criticism*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In order to be more focused, this research is limited to some problems so it's easier to understand and to avoid some of misinterpretation of the purpose and objectives of this study. Based on the background, the problem of statement are as follows :

1. What characteristics does the main character have in "The Necklace"?
2. What does the main character do to fulfill her prestige?
3. What is the effect of prestige toward the main female character?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Seeing the full content and moral message conveyed to the story, "The Necklace", it is important to help the research for the writer. The objectives of the study are:

1. To find out characteristic that Madam Loisel's does, as the main character
2. To find out her efforts to achieve her prestige

3. To find out the effect of being prestige

1.4 Scope of the Study

The writer focuses this study to analyze the main female character and prestige, presented in "The Necklace" by Guy Maupassante.

1.5 Approach of the Study

This study applies qualitative research. Qualitative research is a type of social science research that collects and works with non-numerical data and that seeks to interpret meaning from these data that help us understand social life through the study of targeted populations or places (www.thoughtco.com). Qualitative research is a research that focuses in social phenomena and it uses multiple systems of inquiry for the study of human phenomena including biography, case study, historical analysis, discourse analysis, ethnography, grounded theory and phenomenology.

In this study, the writer applies reader – response critical approach. Critical approaches to literature review on stress the validity of reader response to a text, theorizing that each interpretation is valid in the context from which a reader approaches a text. (www.enotes.com). The theory applied in this study is Rosenblatt's. One of the earliest proponents which stated in *Literature as Exploration* (1938) that "a poem is what the reader lives through under the guidance of the text and experiences as relevant to the text." The significance Rosenblatt and other reader-response critics placed on the reader was in direct opposition to the position taken by formalist critics in the past—for them, the text was the primary focus, and its impact on the reader or the idea that the reader's response is in any way relevant in the interpretation of the work was inconceivable. According to David Bleich, the source of meaning is the reader, and little attention is paid to analyze the social and institutional influences on reader respons.

Bleich's theory differs from other reader-oriented approaches in several ways: unlike Stephen Booth, Stanley Fish, and Wolfgang Iser, Bleich discusses the reading experiences of actual readers rather than those of ideal : Bleich's model of reading is subjective and psychological and not structuralist and sociological like Jonathan Culler's: and though both Norman Holland and Bleich rely initially on psychoanalytic accounts of reading.

1.6 Organization of the Research

The organization of the research paper is divided into five. Chapter I is introduction that contains background of the study, statements of the problem objective of the study, approach of the study and organization of the research.

Chapter II describes about biography of Guy De Maupassant and synopsis of The Necklace.

Chapter III discusses about review of related literature. This chapter is arranged to support and direct the writer in analyzing the data by applying a certain theory. It consists of previous study, fiction, and reader – response.

Chapter IV the explanation after the researched including the analysis and discussion.

Chapter V contains conclusions from the results obtained after carried out research, and research suggestions can be considered for further research.