

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study

Conflicts are part of human life. Conflicts happen because there are two opposing forces, the tension between two contradictory elements which may cause war, betrayal, jealousy, slanders, or disasters. Conflicts affect the lives of people and cause suffering to those who experience them. Literature, which often acts as reflection of life, also raises conflicts as one of its important elements. As conflict is one of the most important elements in the theory of literature, I am interested to analyze the conflict in one of the literary genres; a novel written by Alexandre Dumas entitled *The Count of Monte Cristo*.

I select this novel because the plot of the story is supported by many conflicts and it contains moral values the readers can pick from the subject matter of this story, revenge, into the readers' daily lives. Besides that, the novel uses simple language; it is an easy-to-read novel.

The author of this novel is a French novelist, Alexandre Dumas, who has written many books including novels, plays and children novels. Before he is famous by his novels, Dumas was first well-known for his plays. And he was one of

the most prolific writers ever, based on the large number of works and masterpieces he has created. 'Many of his works are historical novels; he takes the chance to write the history in order to achieve good stories, but he never claim that it was an accurate history'. (www.alexandredumas.com). His novels are in a good order to be filmed since American producers have adapted 2 of his masterpieces; *The Man in The Iron Mask* and *The Count of Monte Cristo* into movies. These facts prove that his works are respected, well known also contribute the world literature. As in France, he was one of greatest novelists and playwrights.

I want to discuss the social and inner conflicts in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Conflicts are very important in fiction because they support the plot of the story as Shaw says, 'Conflict is the opposition of persons or forces upon which the action depends in drama and fiction. Dramatic conflict is struggle which grows out of the interplay of opposing forces (ideas, interests, wills). In a plot, conflict may be termed the material from which a plot is constructed' (Shaw, 1672:289). So the plot of the story will be more interesting if there are conflicts inside the story, if there is no conflict, the story will be flat and less interesting.

There are three types of conflicts; social conflict is the struggle between man and man. Inner conflict is the struggle between desires within a person and physical conflict is the struggle between man and the physical world. The most dominant conflicts in this novel are social and inner conflicts.

Statement of the Problem

After reading Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*, I would like to analyze the following points:

1. What are the social and inner conflicts in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*?
2. What causes the conflicts?
3. How are the conflicts resolved?

Purpose of the Study

Based on the statement of the problem above, I would like:

1. To show the inner and social conflicts in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*.
2. To show the causes of the conflicts.
3. To show how the conflicts are resolved.

Method of Research

The method applied in this thesis is library research. First, I begin by reading the primary text, Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. In addition, I read some references books and internet study guide to help me analyze the novel. Besides, I also get some valuable information about the book and the biography of the author from the internet. Finally, I draw the conclusion from my analysis.

The Organization of the Thesis

I will present my thesis in three chapters. It begins with Chapter One, which is preceded by the Preface and the Abstract. The first chapter is the Introduction which contains the Background of the Study, the Statement of the Problem, the Purpose of the Study, the Method of Research, and the Organization of the Thesis. The second chapter is the Discussion of Conflicts in Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Chapter three is the Conclusion.

I end my thesis with the Bibliography and the Appendices, which consists of the Biography of Alexandre Dumas and the Synopsis of *The Count of Monte Cristo*.