

**A STUDY ON SATIRE TOWARD SOCIETY  
THROUGH THE FOUR CHARACTERS' ATTITUDE  
IN AUSTEN'S *NORTHANGER ABBEY***



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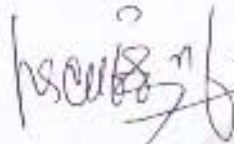
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**MOTTO**

*The classic targets of satire are folly and vice,  
and its field of operation is human society.*

*(PATRICK MURRAY)*

**DEDICATION PAGE**

*With love and thank, I dedicated this thesis to:*

- ♥ *My beloved parents, **Sardjiman and Sutarijah**.  
I am really grateful for your support as well as your eternal pure love. Your belief in me always means a great mercy.*
- ♥ *My beloved husband, **Nono** and my beautiful daughter, **Mira**.  
You give me strength and hope through your prayers. Thank you for the love and care that you put into everything you do for me. I love both of you eternally.*
- ♥ *My beloved sisters, **Sari and Vitri** and my brothers in-law, **Budi and Adi**.  
You have always been there with your love and support. I am so lucky to be part of this family that is full of such love and support for each other.*
- ♥ *My cute relatives, my smart nephews, **Rafi and Naja** and my sweet niece, **Chacha**.  
You always make me smile when I think of you.*
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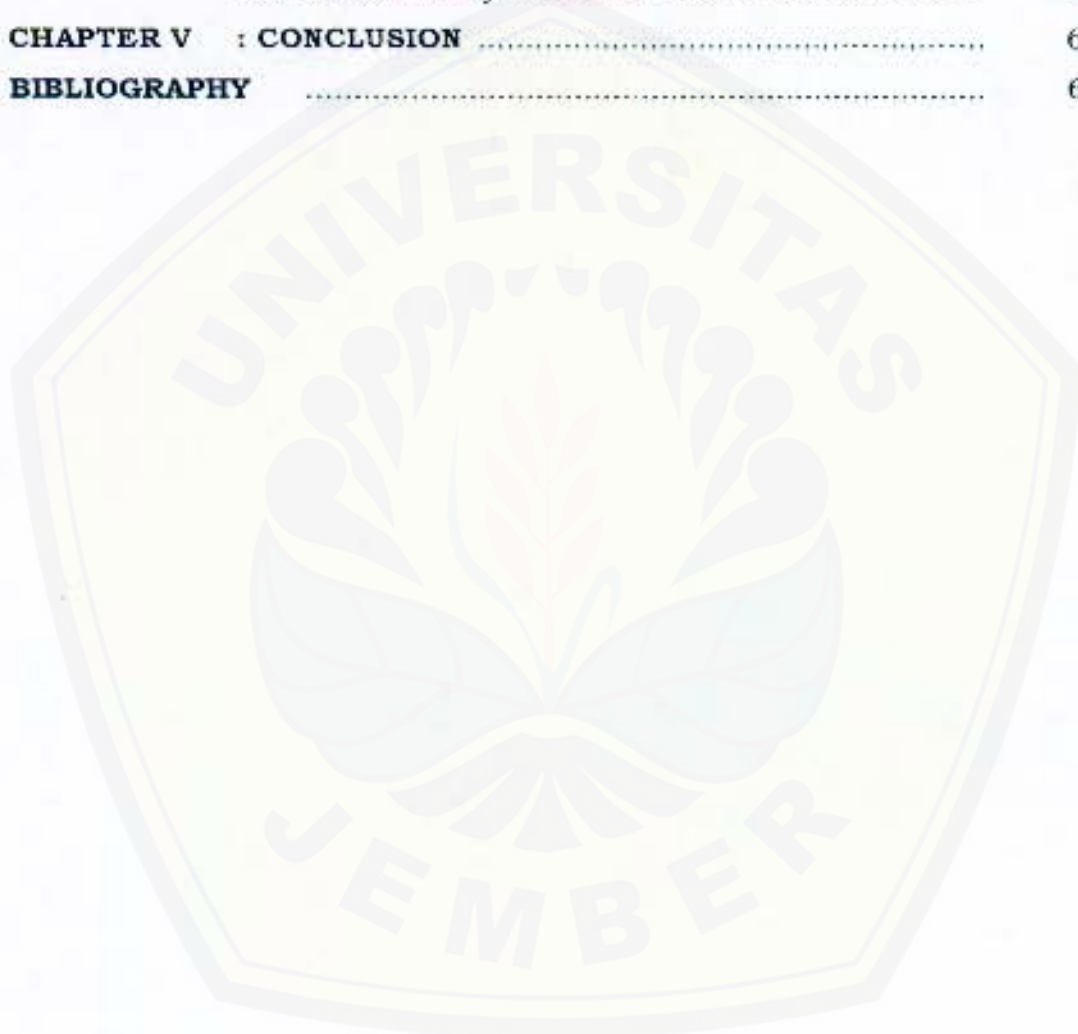
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Rationale

In *Literature for Writing* Martin Steinmann and Gerald Willen state:

*"Satire is not a literary genre at all. Unlike the essay, the short story and the drama, for example, it is not distinguished or defined by its language, its length, its structure, or its subject. It may be in prose or in verse. It may be a short story, a novel or a drama. It may have as its subject an individual person, or a class of people, or a class of things. It may be simply an element of a work, or it may be a musical composition, a ballet, a painting or even be a comic strip."*(1967:67)

Moreover, they say, "It can be said that satire is a work of art or element of a work of art whose purpose is reform and whose method is ridicule."(1967:67)

The word "satire" evolved from the Latin word *satira* meaning "full". Shaw in *Dictionary of Literary Terms* states :

*"Satire is the ridiculing of folly, stupidity, or vice; the use of irony, sarcasm, or ridicule for exposing or denouncing the frailties and faults of mankind. Satire is literary manner, or technique, that blends humor and wit with a critical attitude toward human activities and institutions. Satire is general term, one usually considered to involve both moral judgement and a desire to help improve a custom, belief, or tradition."*(1972:332)

Based on Shaw's quotation above, satire is a kind of criticism which is coloured by humour and moral value to fulfill a desire for reformation. Moreover, Woodward in *The Craft of Prose* says that :

*"As a specific type of emotional persuasion, satire achieves its effect by so presenting a subject-idea, institution, person, or a type of person – that becomes ridiculous in the eyes of the reader and seems worthy of only contempt or scorn or, at the very least, amusement. The purpose of satire is to create or change opinion and ultimately to correct the weakness or foible that is its subject."*(1969:209)

From the statements above, it can be concluded that satire is one of the literary techniques which is applied by literary men to reform the wickedness and the stupidity of the society that they idealize or based on their principles of moral value.



Jane Austen began to write *Northanger Abbey* in 1798 and it was published in 1818. She used the society as the subject of all her novels, including *Northanger Abbey*. It is emphasized by Marilyn Butler that "Jane Austen's novels share society's growing seriousness of tone during the period of her writing life." (1976:164) In addition to that statement, Albert states that : "...The incidents of the novel are commonplace and the characters flatly average. Yet the treatment is deft and touched with the finest needle-point of satiric observation." (1973:342)

*Northanger Abbey* is a novel that represents Austen's satire toward the wicked society in Romantic period. The presentation of ideas, characterizations and situations in the spirit of ridicule reveals satire toward society in the novel.

Austen herself is known as a society novelist. Charlotte Bronte states "...objecting to Jane Austen's morality of self discipline, good sense, and rational feeling , and classifying her as a "society" novelist, not a novelist of humanity." (1981:106) Thus, the main purpose of her satire is to reform the wickedness of society which is exposed in the narrative stream of the characters in *Northanger Abbey*. Those characters are Catherine Morland, Isabella Thorpe, John Thorpe and General Tilney.

In Catherine Morland, as the main character of the novel, Jane Austen presents a figure of current satire. She is a young woman who is so captivated by the exotic thrillers of the Gothic that she is ready to see the world through the lens of her latest reading which is Gothic novels. Employing this satirical device, Austen's special aim was to show that the heroine does not have to look for excitement in books since there is a Gothicism of ordinary life which can be experienced in daily life.

Isabella Thorpe is a naturally vulgar person with a superficial polish. She has obviously great physical beauty, and nobody is more aware of it than she herself. Admiration is as necessary to her as food and she lives on it.

John Thorpe, Isabella's brother, is one of the very few characters in Jane Austen's novels for whom she seems to have a really fatuous

behaviour among others are his boasting, his deceit and his complete self-strong dislike. S. Farrar says :

*"Jane Austen is not content to sit back and watch John's boorish centredness and indifference to anybody else's feelings receive scathing treatment at her hands. One almost has the feeling that John Thorpe was drawn from some person in real life whom Jane Austen greatly dislike."*(1962:8)

General Tilney, the head of the Tilney's family, is more than the "heavy father" who browbeats his family. Something of the routine of army life has remained with him.

Those four characters' attitude reveal Austen's satire toward society in Romantic period which she wrote in this novel.

### **1.2 The Problems to Discuss**

A novel consists of some elements, one of which may be taken as a problem to be discussed. Considering that the satire is dominating in the novel *Northanger Abbey*, it is worth noting whether the author uses satire to criticize the society which is revealed by the characters' attitude in the novel. And also whether the author applied the satire in the form of formal (direct) or indirect satire.

### **1.3 The Scope of the Study**

In order to get better understanding of the topic and to avoid more complicated discussion; this thesis attempts to limit the scope of the study. Therefore, the discussion will be focused on the structure of novel, namely point of view. Edgar V. Roberts in *Writing Themes About Literature* states :

*"Point of view is the position from which details in a literary work are perceived, considered and described. First and foremost, point of view is method of presentation, the selection of particular voice with which to tell a story, define a problem, or describe a state of mind."*(1977:65)

In the structure of novel, satire belongs to point of view. It is emphasized by Malarkey that " Satires are so named because of the way

the author treats his subject. In other words, satire is a matter of point of view rather than form." (1969:276)

#### **1.4 The Goal of the Study**

This thesis is written for presenting the way how Jane Austen uses characters to criticize the society. As a member of her society Jane Austen wants to express her feelings, opinions or thoughts toward what goes on around her. She is not happy with the situation that she wants to give the contribution to create a better social condition.

In this regard, this study intends to analyze how Jane Austen uses the satire to criticize the society in the Romantic period through the four characters' attitude in the novel.

#### **1.5 The Approaches to Use**

The main problem discussed is the satire. In discussing the topic the writer applies the structural and sociological approach. The structural approach will be applied for analysing the satire itself, since satire is one element of the structure of novel. According to Wilbur S. Scott in *Five Approaches of Literary Criticism* :

*"Structural approach shares with formalistic approach that they have a close attention to the literary text and an attempt to account for its features. Structural approach is a key element for literature concern the relationship between language and what language refers to." (1962:176)*

The sociological approach is used to analyze the relation between literature and society. For that purpose one needs to understand the institutions and traditions of society which is presented by the characters in the novel. It is stated by Harry Levin that, "...the relations between literature and society are reciprocal. Literature is not only the effect of social causes; it also the cause of social effects." (1962:126)

### **1.6 The Method of Analysis**

The writing of this thesis is done by means of library research. It concerns with collecting data and information taken from several books, journals, articles and other references.

Inductive method is employed to obtain general laws from particular cases. Before discussing the purpose of Jane Austen's satire, the characterizations, situations and ideas of the characters in the novel will be analyzed.

### **1.7 The Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis is organized into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. The biography of the author and the synopsis of the novel will be explained in the second chapter. Chapter three concerns with the review of literary terms. Chapter four is the main discussion of this thesis because it will discuss the satire itself. While the last chapter, which is chapter five, is the conclusion of the analysis.



## CHAPTER II

### THE BIOGRAPHY OF JANE AUSTEN AND THE SYNOPSIS OF NORTHANGER ABBEY

#### 2.1 The Biography of Jane Austen and her Works

Jane Austen was born on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December 1775 at Steventon rectory in the county of Hampshire and there she spent her years of childhood and youth. Her life was private and uneventful. Her forty-two years, from 1775 to 1817, were passed entirely among her family and friends. She visited London from time to time but never mixed in fashionable society. She never married; she never traveled abroad; she was unknown to the public. The novels were published anonymously and her authorship was revealed only after her death, through a biographical notice that came out with *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* at the end of 1817. The pattern of her life was set by her dedication to writing; and this in turn may help us to understand her obsessive need for privacy, her choice of being unmarried, and her role in the family as a dutiful daughter, an affectionate sister, and a favorite aunt to great numbers of nephews and nieces. In addition Brian Southam mentions :

*"The circumstances of her life also help us to understand her certain qualities in her writing; its highly personal tone, its allusiveness, and its concentration on personal and family relationships."*(1981:107)

Her childhood was spent in the small Hampshire village of Steventon, where her father, George Austen, was the parish clergyman. Her father was a classical scholar with a taste for fiction, including the Gothic thrillers that Jane Austen was to make fun of in *Northanger Abbey*. Her mother was well-known for her impromptu poems and stories. While at Oxford her brothers, Henry and James, edited a literary periodical, *The Loiterer*, in 1789-1790. There was a tradition of reading aloud; and with two daughters and five sons in the household, the family was able to put on plays. Friends and relatives were recruited into a small theater for summer performances.

Her early writing, dating from about 1787, called *juvenilia*, came down to us in three manuscript notebooks in 1793. Soon after that she wrote her first important work, a novel in letters, entitled *Lady Susan*. About 1795 she began another epistolary novel, *Elinor and Marianne*, which was eventually turned into *Sense and Sensibility*. In 1796-1797 she completed the earliest version of *Pride and Prejudice*, then called *First Impression*, which her father tried unsuccessfully to get published. In the next year *Northanger Abbey* was written.

Until this time Steventon had provided an ideal context for her work. There was a wide neighbourhood of families of clergymen and local gentry. But this pattern of life changed in 1801, when Mr. Austen gave up his parish and retired to Bath with Mrs. Austen, Jane and Cassandra, Jane's sister. Then, Mr. Austen died in 1805. And until 1809 they had put up long visits to their relatives in Bath, London, Clifton, Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire (the family seat of the Leighs, her mother's family) and Southampton. During this period Jane Austen wrote little. The moves upset her, and there were other dissappointments. In 1803 the manuscript of *Northanger Abbey* had been sold to a publisher, but it was never printed. In December 1804 she lost her closest friend, Anne Lefroy, and a month later her father died. These events seem to have stopped her work on *The Watsons*, a manuscript she abandoned altogether.

In 1809, Jane Austen came to her last home, Chawton Cottage, two miles south of Alton on the Winchester road, not far from Steventon. Here, she spent the remaining years of her life. The return to a settled existence seems to have revived her energies. She took up the manuscripts of *Sense and Sensibility* and *Pride and Prejudice* to get them ready for publication; and in 1811 a publisher agreed to produce the first of these novels with her guarantee against loss. In 1811 she also began *Mansfield Park*, which was completed in the summer of 1813 and published in 1814. Between January 1814 and March 1815 she wrote *Emma*, which appeared at the end of 1815. *Persuasion* was written between August 1815 and August 1816; and in 1816 she also revised *Northanger Abbey*. The novels were indeed based upon direct observation;

and we can see from her novels that the world of the fiction is an account of the small social world in which she passed her days, with its local balls, its gossips, chatter and scandalizing, its marriageable young ladies and eligible young men. "Manners matter greatly in Jane Austen's code of morality: behaviour must be and has to be controlled, even if feelings cannot be so regulated." (Stephen, 1984:119) Moreover, Cecil says :

*"... she satirizes in relation to a universal standart of values: her books express a general view of life. It is the view of that eighteenth-century civilization of which she was the last exquisite blossom. One might call it the moral realistic view." (1970:33)*

All of her novels also focus upon the experiences of young women in life. In *British Writers*, Brian Southam says :

*"These historical issues bear most immediately upon Jane Austen as a woman novelist, presenting an account of society from the women's point of view – the women's experience of men, of other women, of their families, the social circles to which they are confined, and, ultimately, their experience of themselves and of life."(1981:105)*

In January 1817 she began *Sandition*, her seventh novel. But by then, in May, she was far taken to Winchester to be under the care of a surgeon. Her illness was unidentified; we now know it to have been Addison's disease. On the morning of 18 July 1817, she died. Asked for her last wishes, she replied, "I want nothing but death." Six days later she was buried in Winchester Cathedral. Until the day she died, she spent most of her life in the country within the family circle.

The earliest of her surviving letters date from 1796, when she was twenty-one. They tell us of the parties and dances she went to, about visits to London, Bath and to the coast. But there is virtually nothing about her relationships with men. There are a number of other stories connecting her with someone, a naval officer, an army officer, or a clergyman, with whom she is said to have fallen in love with but who died before their friendship could develop.

What remains, in the novels themselves, is the unquestionable proof that their author profoundly understood the experience of love, of love broken and disappointed, and the pains of loss and loneliness.

Learning the biography of the author is necessary, because it informs about the life of the author which is used to understand his viewpoint toward something and his principles of moral value. Therefore, learning the biography of the author is worth doing to know the aim of his literary works, including Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.

Jane Austen is a novelist who is very sensitive toward social problem around her. Seeing in the imbalance of the society, she tries to criticize the society in Romantic period through the satire implied in the novel. In the application of *Northanger Abbey*, Austen uses the characters as the media of her satire.

## **2.2 The Synopsis of *Northanger Abbey***

No one would take Catherine Morland for a heroine. She is neither beautiful, nor brilliant, nor penniless, nor hopelessly in love. In short, she is the opposite of the Gothic heroines of Jane Austen's day. Growing up in Wiltshire village where her father is clergyman, she gets her first chance at romance when childless neighbours, the Allens, invite her to go to Bath with them. But at first Bath dissapoints her high expectations. Mr. Allen is sensible , but silent; while Mrs. Allen thinks of nothing but clothes and gossips. And they have no friends.

Even Catherine's first ball is a bitter dissapointment of crowded rooms and she has no partner. Her second ball is better. The master of ceremonies introduces a young clergyman called Henry Tilney who, then, dances with her and teases her agreeably. In the next day Mrs. Allen meets an old friend, Mrs. Thorpe, who is in Bath with her daughters. Catherine and the eldest one, Isabella, instantly become dearest friends. They are exchanging details of the latest "horrid" romances they have read, and happily discussing Henry Tilney and Catherine's elder brother, James Morland, who is at Oxford with Isabella's brother, John Thorpe.

Catherine's only sorrow is that Mr. Tilney has dissappeared and she is too innocent to understand Isabella's indirect indication about her own brother James. Soon James Morland and John Thorpe arrive. James Morland is a young clergyman, sensible in everything but being in love



with Isabella. John Thorpe is an uninteresting young man, who decides at once to be in love with Catherine, when he mistakenly thinks an heiress. He engages to dance with her at that night's ball, but it is late in claiming her hand. Henry Tilney reappears with his sister, Eleanor, and asks Catherine to dance, but she has to refuse him and spend a miserable evening with John Thorpe.

Isabella and James are happy together, but Catherine is increasingly disillusioned with John Thorpe. Worst of all, he threatens her ripening friendship with the Tilneys by lying about her engagement. The first time he does this he succeeds, but at the second time she runs after the Tilneys to explain. Their father, General Tilney, treats her with extraordinary kindness and invites Catherine to go back to the Tilney's house, *Northanger Abbey* with them. Catherine is in ecstasy. The Abbey is sure to be just like the one that she has read about, with a ghost, at least, a skeleton somewhere. Meanwhile James and Isabella get engaged, but Isabella is dissatisfied with the financial preparation that is prepared by Mr. Morland senior for them. The Thorpes have been misleading themselves about the Morlands finances. Catherine is surprised that, in James' absence, Isabella should dance and flirt so happily with Henry's elder brother, Captain Tilney. She consults Henry about this, but he laughs at her affectionately as usual. He is becoming serious when he sees that she is really concerned and reassuring her as best he may.

At first, Catherine feels dissatisfaction to see *Northanger Abbey*. It is so modern, so comfortable that there seems little chance of ghost or skeleton. But alone in her room at night, with the wind rising outside, Catherine gives way to her heart the romantic fears. She has just found a mysterious document in a chest, when her candle blows out and she retires to bed in terror. In the next morning the document turns out to be a laundry list. She feels a fool, but is too happy to be angry with herself for long. Only the General is curiously oppressive. Effusively polite to Catherine, but he has a quelling effect on his children. Catherine is soon convinced that the General either murdered his wife, or, more likely, has

shut her up in some remote part of the house. Late at night, Henry finds her investigating Mrs. Tilney's room and gently disabuses her. Once again she feels a fool. Even the news that James and Isabella have broken off their engagement cannot cloud her happiness for long. And a clearly insincere letter from Isabella who has lost both James and Captain Tilney, and wants James back, opens her eyes at last. She feels very grown up. Henry has gone back to his parsonage a few miles away. One day, General Tilney asks Catherine and Eleanor to visit Henry. The General's behaviour makes it clear that he looks on Catherine as Henry's future mistress.

But it is a relief when the General goes to London for a week, even though Henry can spend only a part of his time with the two girls. He is away when the General returns home. Unexpectedly, late at night, he gives furious orders that Catherine is about to leave in the next morning. Eleanor, his reluctant messenger, does everything she can to console Catherine. The angry General will not even send a servant with her. She must set out on her long day's journey alone. But she is too unhappy to be frightened. What can she have done to make the General so angry? And what will Henry think when he gets the pitiful little farewell message she leaves for him?

She reaches home safely, and her family's warm greetings are some consolation. But she cannot help pining for Henry, and her mother is soon anxious about her. A few days later, Henry himself appears, defying his father to propose to her. The General was misled by John Thorpe into thinking that Catherine is an heiress and therefore ordered his son to court her. Then he met John again in London and the General was told that she was penniless. Then, he ordered Henry never to see her again.

The Morlands refuse to sanction the engagement until the General gives his consent. Luckily, the young man who left the laundry list in the spare room at *Northanger Abbey* becomes a viscount and is able to marry Eleanor, whom he always loved. The General is mollified by this, and by

the discovery that Catherine is not penniless after all, he consents to Henry's marriage. They are all ready "to begin perfect happiness".

It is important to know the synopsis of *Northanger Abbey* to understand what is really described in the novel for those who never read it. Furthermore, the synopsis of the novel will help the readers to easily follow the analysis of the topic of discussion presented in the thesis.





### CHAPTER III

#### REVIEW OF LITERARY TERMS

Concerning with the terms used in the study, it is necessary to introduce the review of literary terms related to the topic of discussion, because it may enable the readers to follow the analysis of the problem in the next chapter.

To get a better understanding of the problem, this literary review will present ideas relating to the terms which are taken from several sources. Those terms are satire, society, character, and attitude, each of which will be presented as follows.

#### 3.1 Satire

This sub-chapter will present ideas relating to satire. In order to have a clearer understanding about satire, it is necessary to know what the word satire is derived from, the purpose, the application and the forms of satire.

Kitzhaber in *Literature IV* remarks :

*"The word **satire** evolved from the Latin word **satira**, meaning "full and also referring to a bowl of mixed fruits or a salad". As you read these selections, you may well picture the writers as salad makers, adding a pinch of this, some bits of that, and stirring the whole mixture into a highly seasoned delicacy."* (1969:276)

The quotation suggests that the word satire actually means "a dish filled with mixed fruits". It means that a satirist is "a salad maker" trying to combine different things to get "a highly seasoned delicacy".

Mixing humor with criticism may seem a little like trying to mix oil with water. Yet this is the kind of mixture that the satirist uses. He is making us smile or even laugh and at the same time he is also telling us that something goes wrong. In addition, the satirist has special purposes in producing satire. And so does Jane Austen. Through the satire implied in *Northanger Abbey*, she tries to form and to express her opinion toward society in Romantic age. In the novel, Austen makes her criticism by

judging the attitude of the four characters. She makes those criticisms in order to get a better social condition in the society.

### 3.1.1 The Purpose of Satire

It is necessary to begin a description of satire in terms of its commonly-accepted aims. Murray states in *Literary Criticism: A Glossary of Major Terms* :

*"Its chief aim is to diminish the status of its subject in the eyes of its readers. The satirist does this by arousing ridicule, amusement, contempt, hatred, anger, scorn, disgust or other hostile emotions."*(1978:138)

Moreover, Woodward says : "The purpose of satire is to create or change opinion and ultimately to correct the weakness or foible that is its subject."(1969:209) It can be concluded that satire is one of the literary techniques which is applied by literary men to reform the wickedness and the stupidity of the subject that they idealize.

Whereas Harry Shaw in his book entitled *Dictionary of Literary Terms* says : "Satire is a general term, one usually considered to involve both moral judgement and a desire to help improve a custom, belief, or tradition."(1972:332) Based on Shaw's quotation, satire is a kind of criticism to fulfill a desire for reformation.

The basic ideas of the purpose of satire are to reform the weakness, wickedness and stupidity of the subject and also to help improve a custom, belief or tradition.

Austen in *Northanger Abbey* tries to reform the weakness and stupidity of the society which are revealed by the four characters. She also wants to improve the custom and tradition of society at that time.

In order to achieve the purpose of satire, there must be a way of how to apply it in a literary work.

### 3.1.2 The Application of Satire

To understand how satire is applied, Murray states : "The satirist does this by arousing ridicule, amusement, contempt, hatred, anger, scorn, disgust or other hostile emotions."(1978:138)

Moreover, Holman in his book entitled *A Handbook to Literature* emphasizes : "The satire is expressed through a NARRATIVE and the CHARACTERS or groups who are ridiculed not by what is said about them but by what they themselves say and do."(1986:448)

The explanations above give information that satire is applied with ridiculousness, amusement and also through spoken or written account of events or a certain character in a literary work.

In the application of satire in *Northanger Abbey*, Austen employs the characters as the media of her satire. The satire is expressed through the characters by what is the author said about them and by what they themselves say and do.

The point of view of a satirist will vary according to the seriousness of his subject. When the point of view of a satirist as described above is still unclear, it is necessary to describe it in terms of its forms.

### 3.1.3 The Forms of Satire

There are two forms of satire based on the point of view of the satirist. Woodward mentions in *The Craft of Prose*:

*"The point of view from which the author attacks his subject further divides satire into two categories : **formal and indirect**. In **formal satire**, the author speaks in first person, as himself. **Indirect satire** is often more difficult to detect, since the author's own voice is lost among the characters and plot he has created."*( 1969:209)

Furthermore, **formal satire** is fundamentally distinguished into two basic types. It is based on the names of two great Roman poets, **Horace** and **Juvenal**. It is explained by Holman :

*"**Horatian satire** is gentle, urbane, smiling; it aims to correct by gentle and broadly sympathetic laughter; **Juvenalian satire** is biting, bitter, angry; it points with contempt and moral indignation to the corruption and evil of human beings and institutions."*(Holman,1986:448)

It can be concluded that the satirists may at one time be a **Horatian** and at another time be a **Juvenalian**. It depends on the importance of the subject and their own attitude toward it. This statement is emphasized in *Literature IV* :

*"For instance, a young girl's romantic silliness is suitable for treatment in the **Horatian** manner, whereas a social condition which permits people to suffer in abject poverty is appropriate for treatment in the **Juvenalian** manner. Politics and politicians are natural objects of satire of both kinds."* (Kitzhaber, 1986:448)

As a satirist, Austen expresses her judgement toward society through **formal satire** in which she speaks in first person, as herself and through **indirect satire** which is revealed by her characters' attitude.

And she is called as a **Horatian**, because she criticizes Catherine Morland's romantic silliness. It is described that Catherine was invited by General Tilney to pay a visit at *Northanger Abbey*, his house. To her romantic imagination, the Abbey would consist of long and damp passages, narrow cells, ruined chapel with traditional legends and awful memorials of an injured ill-fated nun.

With all the chances against her of house, hall, place, court, and cottage, Northanger turned up an abbey, and she was to be its inhabitant. Its long, damp passages, its narrow cells and ruined chapel, were to be within her daily reach, and she could not entirely subdue the hope of some traditional legends, some awful memorials of an injured ill-fated nun. (Austen, 1994:126)

When she arrived at the Abbey, she was disappointed to find it not in ruins, but it is admirably maintained and furnished in quite modern style. Here, Austen expresses her satire toward Catherine's romantic silliness by showing that her romantic imagination is far from the truth.

At another time, she is also called a **Juvenalian** because she forms her opinion toward the social condition at that time. She tries to show it through the attitude of one character, General Tilney. In view of his great wealth, the General's desire to increase the family's wealth by marriage seems to be an obsession. He told his son, Henry, who falls in love with Catherine, to think of her no more. Although he had told Henry before to cultivate Catherine's acquaintance with a view to make her to be his wife. This change of attitude was to be explained by the General's furious indignation at being misled by John Thorpe who is wildly exaggerated the wealth of Catherine's family.

Thorpe, most happy to be on speaking terms with a man of General Tilney's importance, had been joyfully and proudly communicative; and being at that time not only in daily expectation of Morland's engaging Isabella, but likewise pretty well resolved upon marrying Catherine himself, his vanity induced him to represent the family as yet more wealthy than his vanity and avarice had made him believe them. (Austen, 1994:229)

It proves that Jane Austen tries to show the social condition at that time. In short, in Austen's lifetime the classes grew wider apart in wealth. It is caused by the widening gap between rich and poor.

### 3.2 Society

Persell in *Human Behavior and the Social Environment* gives a basic definition of society : "Society is a group of people who share a heritage or history and ways of interacting."(1987:47-48)

Although a society is made up of people, it is more than just a human aggregation. It is a population or a group of individuals united by some common principles.

It is emphasized by Hoebel in *Anthropology: The Study of Man* :

*"A society is bound together by an awareness of mutual belonging, by a sense of social and economic interdependence, and by the sentiments of consciousness of kind and of common interest."*(1966:30)

Eitzen in *In Conflict and Order: Understanding Society* defines :

*"A society is the largest social organization to which persons owe their allegiance. It is an aggregate of people, united by a common culture, who are relatively autonomous and self-sufficient, and who live in a definite geographical location."*(1991:30)

For further consideration, *Volume 1 of the Webster Reference Dictionary of the English Language* states that society is :

*"a) a group of persons united for the promotion of a common aim, typically literary, scientific, political, religious, benevolent, or convivial b) an association of individuals, as a nation, organized for mutual profit and protection c) persons from any region or any period of time viewed in regard to manners, customs, or standards of living."*(1983:921)

Based on the quotations above, it can be said that society means a group of people who live together in certain area and establish certain relationship for certain aim and standard of living. Society is a place to



get social status where everyone shares his ability, morality, religion and a heritage or history.

To understand how society is reflected in a novel, Elizabeth Langland gives an explanation in her book entitled *Society in the Novel* as follows :

*"Society in novels does not depend on points of absolute fidelity to an outside world in details of costume , setting, and locality because a novel's society does not aim at a faithful mirror of any concrete, existent thing. So, too, our everyday experience of society is not of a particular, existent thing. In life as in art, society emerges from patterned, formal relationships among aspects of our experience."*(1984:5)

Thus, the statement above shows that society in a novel is created as a reflection of life which is based on the author's experience. In Austen's county of Hampshire, the gap between rich and poor grew wider. Based on her experience, Jane Austen tries to show in the novel of *Northanger Abbey* how the society in Romantic period is, as reflected by how and where the characters live.

### 3.3 Character

One of the great attractions of fictions, whether they are long or short stories, is their ability to describe imaginary people or **characters** whose lives and personalities interest us.

Alex Martin and Robert Hill in *Modern Novels* give a simple explanation about character : "The 'people' in a novel are referred to as characters."(1996:19)

Their definition about character is almost the same as that of Kennedy in *An Introduction to Fiction* : "A character, then, is presumably an imagined person who inhabits a story."(1983:45)

James L. Potter in *Elements of Literature* remarks :

*"Characters are a basic element in much imaginative literature, and therefore they merit the considerable attention paid to them. When critics speak of a character, they mean any person who figures in a literary work, not particularly a peculiar or eccentric one; sometimes a given character does not actually appear but is merely talked about."*(1967:1)

Potter further explains :

*"When the term **character** is used not to refer to a person in a literary work but to what he is like, it generally refers to his whole nature-his personality, his attitude toward life, his \*spiritual qualities, his intelligence, even his physical build, as well as his moral attributes."(1967:3)*

It can be concluded that character is any person who figures in a literary work whether he appears physically or merely talked about.

In its application in *Northanger Abbey*, Jane Austen uses characters as the media of her satire. Those characters are Catherine Morland, Isabella Thorpe, John Thorpe and General Tilney, each of whom has his own attitude.

### 3.4 Attitude

People, events, and situations have consequences for us. Some of these consequences are positive while others are negative. It is hardly surprising, that we should develop our feelings and thought to act toward those consequences. Many psychologists define those actions as attitude. Edmund J. Fantino in *Understanding Psychology* emphasizes :

*"An attitude is a predisposition to respond in particular ways toward specific objects. It has three main elements: 1) a belief or opinion about something, 2) feelings about that thing, and 3) a tendency to act toward that thing in certain ways."(1974:257)*

Fantino explains that an attitude is a state of mind that makes somebody likely to act in particular way. And that state of mind will produce a belief or opinion, feelings and a certain action.

In *Social Psychology* James W. Vander Zanden gives further explanation : "An attitude is a learned and relatively enduring tendency or predisposition to evaluate a person, event, or situation in a certain way and to act in accordance with that evaluation."(1984:160-161)

It can be concluded that an attitude is a state of mind to react in certain ways toward specific objects. An attitude is always directed toward something which is an object. There is no attitude without an object.

Jane Austen tries to criticize the attitude of society in Romantic period through *Northanger Abbey*. She tries to criticize what is going on in the society which is revealed by the four characters' attitude. Jane Austen makes these criticism because she has a certain reason.

### 3.5 The Background of Austen's Satire

This sub-chapter will discuss the reasons of why Jane Austen criticizes the society at that time. They are the development of Gothic novels and the social condition of the society.

#### 3.5.1 The Development of Gothic Novels

The rapid increase in the production of Gothic fictions in 1790s is one of the most remarkable phenomena in the British Romantic period.

The aspects of Romanticism is explained in *Encyclopedia of Americana Volume 23* : "Several aspects of Romanticism is the supernatural, emphasizes on intense feeling, interest in the past, concern with remote settings and the melancholy, mysterious and fascinating figure."(1972:681) The aspect of Romanticism can be seen in Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*. It emphasizes by S. Farrar in *Jane Austen: Northanger Abbey*:

"At *Northanger Abbey* we have detailed descriptions of general lay-out and appearance of the grounds and buildings. Anybody who looks down on Bath for the first time from Beechen Cliff cannot fail to be impressed by the Abbey, the squares, crescent and terraces, in their warm Bath stone, laid out as if on a giant plan."(1962:6)

Moreover Southam further explains:

"In *Catherine Morland*, Jane Austen presents a stock figure of current satire, the young woman so captivated by the exotic thrills of the Gothic that she is ready to see the world through the lens of her latest reading, in this case the most popular of all such novels, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1774) by Ann Radcliffe."(1981:111)

Those quotations explain that in *Northanger Abbey* Jane Austen describes the Abbey with intense feeling, among others are its general lay-out, its grounds appearance, the squares, crescents and terraces and many others. Through *Catherine Morland*, she tries to describe a young woman who is attracted greatly to see the world through her latest

reading which are Gothic novels. According to Ian Ousby in *Cambridge Paperback guide to: Literature in English* :

*"Gothic novel is a type of romance popular in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. 'Gothic' had come to mean 'wild', 'barbarous' and 'crude', qualities which writers cultivated in reaction against the NEOCLASSICISM of earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century culture. Monasteries, castles, dungeons and mountainous landscapes were made settings for plots which hinged on suspense or mystery and flirted with the fantastic or supernatural." (1996:163)*

The quotation above says that gothic novel is a novel that was popular in Romantic period. It has castles, dungeons or mountainous landscapes as the setting and has suspense, mystery or supernatural things as the plot of the novel. It was a reaction against Neoclassicism which insists that nature is the only true model and standard of writing. On the contrary, for the romanticist, art takes its value with personal feelings. And those feelings produce honesty and truth. It is mentioned in *Encyclopedia Americana Volume 23*:

*"Where the Neoclassic writer had seen all art forms as mirrors held up to nature and had espoused a literature of consciously observed rules, its object being the rational portrayal of human beings in their public or social roles, the Romanticist saw all art as an illuminating flame fed from the inner self, a source of truth superior to logic and reason." (1972:680)*

The gothic novels were written by such authors as William Beckford, Horace Walpole, Ann Radcliffe and many others. Those authors had given Jane Austen inspiration to make a satire about their novels. She wants to criticize those authors' way of describing the stories in unreasonable ways such as the destruction of a building by an immense ghost inside it, the devil, moving walls and other strange events.

An author, Ann Radcliffe, developed the novel of terror, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* in 1794. She caused interest by describing unusual scenes and sights and strange events. Thornley says :

*"The Mysteries of Udolpho is set in the Appenine Mountains. The girl Emily is held in a castle by her aunt's husband, an evil character. In a locked room Emily sees a dark curtain and wants to look behind it. She is afraid of what may be there, but she bravely pulls it aside. On a long seat she sees a dead body, with blood on the floor below." (1968:89)*

Further, he remarks : "*Northanger Abbey* was begun as a satire on Mrs Radcliffe's *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, and to show that real life is very different."(1968:115) Employing this satirical device, Austen's special aim was to show that Catherine Morland, the heroine, does not have to see the world from which she experienced in her latest reading. Beside the development of Gothic novels as the reason of Austen's satire, it will discuss about the social condition of the society.

### 3.5.2 Social Condition of the Society

Austen uses satire to criticize the society in Romantic period which is revealed by the four characters' attitude. Through these four characters' attitude, Austen wants to describe how the attitude of society at Romantic period was. Moreover, Farrar states :

*"Though the novel seems to set out largely as a satire on the contemporary 'horror' novel by such authors as Beckford, Lewis, Mrs Radcliffe and others, the author's interest in character-study and observation of social customs and habits quickly became the more prominent element in the book."(1962:5)*

The explanation above shows that Austen is interested in not only criticizing the gothic novels, but also in character-study and social customs and habit observation. She wants to criticize the social customs and habits of the society at that time.

As a clergyman's daughter and belonging to a landless family, Jane Austen, her sister and her widowed mother, had not shared the increase of power of their class. For that reason, Austen, as a member of her society, wants to express her feelings, opinions or thoughts toward what goes on around her. She is not happy with the situation and she wants to give the contribution to create a better social condition.

It was emphasized by Marilyn Buttler in *Romantics, Rebels and Reactionaries: English Literature and its Background 1760-1830*:

*"In her own county of Hampshire, she could see the grounds for criticizing her class. In short, the Hampshire village, in Jane Austen's lifetime, was in centrifugal phase as a community: the classes grew wider apart in wealth and physically moved away from one another."(1981:102-103)*

The above quotation tells about Austen's home in the county of Hampshire. It tells that in her county, the society was differentiated by their wealth, so it caused the classes grew wider apart between rich and poor. Moreover Buttler explains:

*"Enclosing common land and marginal land meant more food, but also made it harder for the poor to keep the cow or pigs of their forefathers. Instead of farming their strips in the community fields round the villages, they now found the land reapportioned in coherent, manageable blocks, and given to the large landowners or middling yeomen. The poor became hired workers, largely or wholly dependent on a wage; more numerous than ever before, and more of a problem, as parishes haggled over how to feed them. The lucky middle-sized men who got land moved out on to it, and built new farmhouses there, on a quite different system from the old farmhouses, which had been the home not only of the immediate family but of a larger miscellaneous group of cowherds and dairymaids."*(1981:102-103)

It explains that the society is divided into two groups, landowners or middling yeomen and hired workers. The poor becomes hired workers who depends on wages which is given by landowners. The status of people is differentiated by their possession of wealth.



## CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

Literary works will be more interesting if the author includes the literary devices, such as satire that is applied by Jane Austen in *Northanger Abbey*. She was born at Steventon rectory in the county of Hampshire in 1775 and there she spent her years of childhood and youth. In this county, a person was differentiated by his status according to his possession of money. There was a gap between rich people and poor one. The poor people became hiredworkers for the rich people who were usually landowners or middling yeomen. Besides the social condition of the society, the development of Gothic novels is another reason of Austen's satire. The Gothic novels were very popular at that time. Austen wants to criticize what happened around her. She uses four characters as the media of her satire. She criticizes the society through the presentation of characters' ideas, characterizations and situations. The attitude of each characters will be analyzed as the revelation of the attitude of the society at that time.

Catherine Morland is a young woman who is so captivated by the exotic thrillers that she is ready to see the world through the lens of her latest reading which is Gothic novels. She has romantic and horror imaginations about the place where she visited, *Northanger Abbey*, and about the General who has a very strong dislike of his wife's picture.

Isabella Thorpe's main thought on her engagement to James Morland was the picture which she formed in her mind of having her own carriage and a number of splendid rings on her fingers. But when Captain Tilney seemed to offer more splendid things, she has no scruples in changing over from James. She thinks nothing but finery and flirting.

John Thorpe likes to talk only about horses, their speed, carriages, the way he drives and many other things about himself. In the development of the plot, John plays an important part in twice misleading General Tilney about the wealth of the Morlands and the extent of the expectations that Catherine might have from the Allens.

The routine of army life makes General Tilney observing a strict routine in trifling matters. In view of his great wealth, the General's desire to increase the family's wealth by marriage seems to be an obsession. It leads him to be influenced by John Thorpe into an error which makes the General to behave in an outrageous manner. Thus, he told his son, Henry, to cultivate Catherine's acquaintance with a view of making her to be his wife. But when he finds out that Catherine is not as rich as he thought before, he does his best to separate Henry and Catherine.

In expressing her satire, Jane Austen uses both direct and indirect satire. In direct satire, she speaks in the first person, while indirect satire is expressed through the four characters' attitude. Each of those characters shows different attitude. At the end of the plot, they finally realize their mistakes. It explains that Jane Austen wants to make a reformation. Through this novel, she tries to show that we do not have to experience the world through the lens of our reading and it is wrong to see other people from the point of view of the wealth that they have. For this reason, the conclusion is that there is a satire toward society at that time which is carried out through the four characters' attitude.



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