CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Literature is a medium used by the author in conveying his idea and opinion to express his point of view towards life. Through literature the author could write the condition that happen around the society he lives in. As Wellek and Warren (1977, p 94) stated, literature reserve about life and life, in most part, is part of the real society. Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life, and also contains the cultural and social background which indicates that literature and society is closely related because literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society.

The social problem often occurs in literary works as can be found in the novel. The story in a novel describes the situation and the social problem happening in the society at a particular time. The social problem in the novel usually illustrates about poverty, gender, discrimination and social class, for example Henry James in his novel *The Princess Casamassima* telling about the social classes.

In the novel *The Princess Casamassima,* Henry James writes about the social class struggle among the society in London. The main character, Hyacinth Robinson, struggles to be accepted in the society and to achieve better condition socially and economically because Hyacinth belongs to the lower class and there

are the different social treatment for upper class and lower class in *the Princess Casamassima*.

The issue about the social class has raised the writer's curiosity to analyze it and to find out the effect of social class to the social condition in *The Princess Casamassima*. In this research Marxist theory is considered appropriate in analyzing the class struggle problems.

There are some researchers using Marxist theory in analyzing their studies. The previous analysis used Marxist theory is written by Krishnawaty from English Department, Indonesia University of Computer. In her *skripsi* entitled *"The Representation of Ideology of Doris Lessing in Good Terrorist Novel"* she tells that Marxism considered as the ideology of the author. Besides, there is also a *skipsi* by Anggi Anggraeni Ramadliyantie entitled *"Patron Slave Relationship in the Novel: Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier (A Study of Marxist Feminism Theory)"*, which tells about the condition of woman as a slave and her research emphasizes on the Marxist feminism analysis.

Different from the previous research, this research attempts to analyze the social condition focusing on social classes and its effect towards the social condition in *The Princess Casamassima* by using Marxist theory. Therefore, this research is entitled '**Social Classes in *The Princess Casamassima* by Henry James**'.

1.2 Research Question

1. How does the social class in '*The Princess Casamassima*' and its relation with the social condition at that time?
2. To what extent does the social class affect the social condition in *The Princess Casamassima?*

1.3 Objectives

1 To find out the relation of social class in *The Princess Casamassima* with the social condition at that time.

2 To find out the effect of the social classes towards the social condition in *The Princess Casamassima.*

1.4 Significance to Knowledge

This *skripsi* analyzes the social problem which is social classes existing in *The Princess Cassamasima* by using Marxist theory. This research can be used as the source for the next researcher who is interested in analyzing the social problems that exist in novel or literary work. Personally, this research helps the writer to understand the social problem that happens in the society.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

Since this research analyzes the social classes in Henry James's *The Princess Cassamasima,* therefore sociological approach is used. The society also has a great role in shaping the literary work as Wellek and Warren state that the social problems, of the work can be analyzed as part of literary analysis. The sociological approach in analyzing the content of the novel is known as the analysis of the external elements of literature. Besides, to understand the social class in *The Princess Casamassima* Marxist theory is considered appropriate to be used.

According to Peter Barry (2002) Marxism see struggles among the social class to get higher position (2002, p 157). It means that Marxist theory analyzed the struggles that happen among the class of society to get better life for whatever status they have because the more money someone has, the more respect and power they can get in the society. In this case, struggles between the upper, middle and lower class.

Marxist theory is also used in analyzing how the history of society in at that time when the novel produced affects the literary work since Marxism always focuses on the history behind the work itself, such as the time when the novel publishes. As Barry (2002) states that one method of what Marxist critics do is to explain the nature of a whole literary genre in terms of social period which produced it (2002, p 167). The Marxist theory is also employed to find out the social condition in Britain when the novel produced.

In order to find out the social class in *The Princess Casamassima* the intrinsic element is used as the tools of the analysis which focuses on conflict. According to Laurence Perrin conflict is a class of actions, ideas, desires, or wills (1988, p 42). Perrin also divided conflict into four; man versus man, man versus society, man versus nature and man versus self. However, in this research the writer only limited the data to two conflicts that are man versus man and man versus society because the most conflict which occurs in the novel is only both of it.

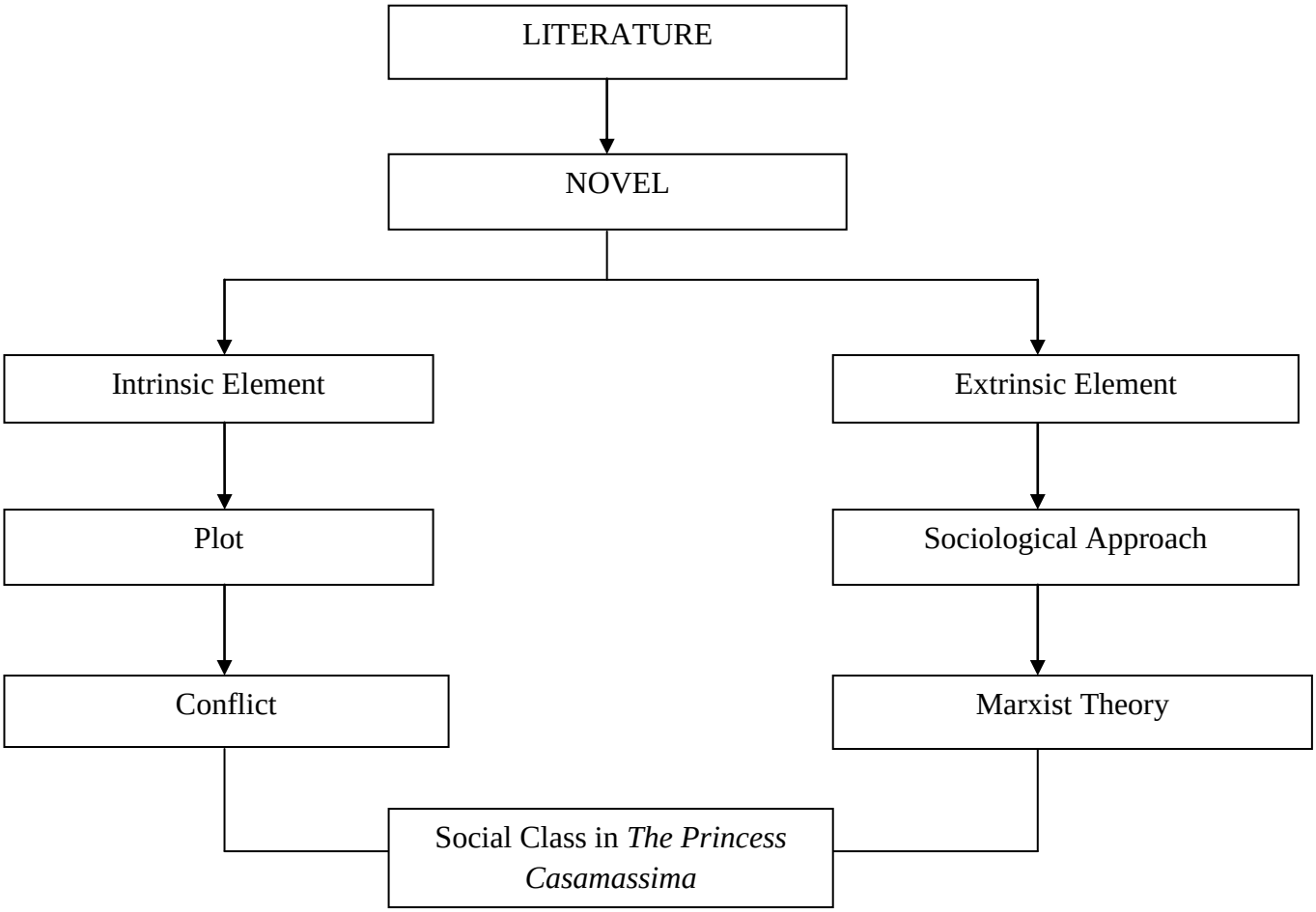

LITERATURE
NOVEL
Intrinsic Element
Extrinsic Element
Plot
Sociological Approach
Conflict
Marxist Theory
Social Class in *The Princess Casamassima*

Figure 1.1