CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter explains the literature and sociological theories. Both theories are used in collecting and analyzing the data.

2.1 Literature

Literature is work of written expression as Mario Klarer (1998) stated that literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word (1998, p 1). It means that not all text documents can be said as literature, one of genre of text which can be said as the literary text is fiction; novel.

2.1.1 Novel

Novel is a literary work that is written more than hundred pages, novel also known as a work of fiction. E. M. Forster stated in Ian Milligan that novel should contain more than 50,000 words in length (1983, p 14). It implies that because the story in novel describes a lot of event experienced by the characters so novel written in many pages. Besides, Jeremy Hawthorn (2001, p4) stated that novel is a fictitious prose narrative or tale of considerable length in which characters and actions which is the representative of the real life of past or present

times are portrayed in a plot of more or less complexity. It means that novel is a reflection of the story in real life which appears in literary work. From both statements we can conclude that novel is written in a long length because it describes about the event that happened in real life in which it is presented by the experience of the characters.

2.1.2 Plot

Plot is the chronological event which is experienced by the characters in novel, Hawthorn argues that 'plot is an ordered, organized sequence of events and actions' (2001, p 96). Therefore, plot is the pattern of the way of how the story is being told. Ian Milligan states that plot is

> composed of all the elements which, taken together, suggest the direction, or tendency of the work. It is the way in which the author has arranged his material so that it can be seen as having an analyzable form or meaning (1983, p 143)

The elements of the plot are the sequence of the events which creates the story. Plot is also the idea of the author in novel in which every word that he writes has the meaning in creating the story or meaning which we can interpret. Mario Klarer also states that plot is the logical interactions of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative (1998, p 15). Both Klarer and Milligan agree that plot is the sequence in which the story is being told and there are elements of plot which form the story.

According to Klarer (1998, p 15) there are four elements of plot; exposition is where the character is introduced in the beginning or the introduction of the story, complication is the indication of the raised conflicts which will lead to the main problem, then climax is when the characters face the main conflict and they have to decide their decision which will lead to the resolution. The resolution is the result of the decision that the characters take and the story ends.

As mentioned above, the main problem in a story begins in complication where there appear the conflicts faced by the characters. According to Laurence Perrin, conflict is a class of actions, ideas, desires, or wills (1988, p 42). Thus, conflict is the essence of fiction and it is the main problem of the story which will lead to the main problem of the story.

Furthermore, Perrin also divides conflict into four; first is man versus man, conflict that puts one person against another. Second is man versus society where one person has to face the society, for example when the characters have to face the values and rules that exist in society. The third there is man versus nature conflict where one have to face the force of nature. The last is man versus self conflict where one has to face that the enemies is within himself.

2.2 Literature and Society

Talking about literature cannot be separated from society because literature is closely related with the society, Wellek and Warren say that ‘literature is a social institution’ (1977, p 94). It means that literature can become an image

of society like in literary works, such as novel which can become the illustration of a certain society. It is mentioned by Umar Junus (1986) that *"karya sastera dilihat sebagai dokumen sosiobudaya, yang mencatat kenyataan sosiobudaya suatu masyarakat pada suatu masa tertentu"* (1986, p 3). Besides, Lucien Goldmans (1964) also states that novel is a social chronicle (1964, p 4). Therefore, novel can be a story of the certain society and also can be a historical document because it describes the situation when the novel is produced and the society where the author lives.

Wellek and Warren say that the author is not only influenced by society, he influences it. Art not merely reproduces life but also shapes it (1977, p 102). From the statement above we can draw a conclusion that it is not only society which affects the work of author but also the work itself which can affect the society. Thus, the work can create a new trend in a society.

Moreover, literature belongs to the society in which there are existences of certain society value and social problems. The social problems that occur in society can become an interesting issue that the author might raise in their works. Therefore, literature is closely related with society since it explains the phenomenon that occurs in the society. One of the social phenomenon that exist in literary works is social class which can be further studied using Marxist theory.

2.2.1 Marxist Theory

Marxism is known as the school of thought of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels about the inequality in the society which covers the economic terms between the company or land owner and workers. According to Peter Barry, the aim of Marxism is to make the classless society, based on the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange (2002, p 156). Thus, according to Marxist theory a fair society is society where there is equality and fair treatment from the employers towards employee. The position of someone in society is also determined by their social class.

Social class is a grouping of people based on their occupation and position in society. D Stanley Eitzen and Maxine Baca Zinn (1991) stated that social class is a complex concept that centers on the distribution on the economic resources (1991, p 231). It means that the social class is based on how much money that one's had in society also determines the society treatment towards somebody.

> Marx argues that all mental (ideological) systems are the products of real society and real economic existence. The material interests of the dominant social class determine how people see human existence, individual and collectives (Shelden and Widdowson, 1993, p 71).

From the excerpt above we can see that the social status has a certain role in determining someone's position in society. The power in society is held by the upper class and upper middle class who have a lot of money so that they can get the privilege. Furthermore Ralf Dahrendorf in Giddens mention;

> Classes are constituted by the relationship of groupings of individuals to the ownership of private property in the means of production. This yields a

> model of class relations which is basically dichotomous; all class societies are built around a primary line of division between two antagonistic classes, one dominant and the other subordinate. (1994, p 37)

The excerpt means that the social class appears because there is a difference income and property which one has. Besides, the division of social class is separated into four groups groups, the upper class which contains of aristocrat and the wealthy people, the upper middle class who has a lot of money or own a company, lower middle class and the lower class consisting of little merchant, workers and poor people. Thus, the upper class and upper middle class that is wealthy and has power in society is known as the dominant one and then the lower middle class and lower class containing of workers who works for the upper class is known as the subordinate one because they are dependent on the upper class. Thus, their dominancy among the society becomes obvious either in economic and political aspects. Royle mentions;

> Instead of multiplicity of status groups within the social hierarchy, bonded together by community, deference and paternalism, horizontal cases to and control over economic resources, in conflict with one another about the distribution not only of economic but also of political, social and ideological power. (1987, p 83)

They exercise their power on the lower class and it makes the lower class suffer because their actions in society are restricted to the rule of upper class. In economic aspects we can see their dominancy towards the lower class or working class as the oppressed party; they work very hard for the landowners and

employers of company and only get low wages which is not enough to meet their ends since the upper class only thinking about their own profit. As Barry stated;

> …workers are bereft of their full humanity, and are thought of as ‘hands’ or ‘the labour force’, so that, for instance, the effects of industrial closures are calculated in purely economic terms. People, in a word, become things (2002, p 157).

It implies that the employees are only tools for the employers to get a lot of profit for their own benefit and make their company succeed. Besides, the workers do not get fair payments for their work and dedication in developing the company. In class society, the upper class is become the oppressor and the lower class is the oppressed as mentioned by Shelden and Widdowson (1993)

> Marx was arguing that what we call ‘culture’ is not an independent reality but is inseparable from the historical conditions in which human being create their material lives, the relations of exploitation and domination which govern the social and economic order of a particular phase of human history will in some sense ‘determined’ the whole cultural life of the society (1993, p 71).

Moreover, Giddens (1994) also stated that

> Any and every ‘economic’ phenomenon is at the same time always a social phenomenon, and the existence of a particular kind of ’economy’ presupposes a definite kind of society (1994, p 10)

From both statements we can draw the conclusion that the relation between the domination and exploitation of the upper class towards the lower class has a certain role in shaping the society and developing the socio economic history. The domination of upper class in society is not only in economic field but also in the political field where they also controlled the society as the government. Giddens

(1994, p 6) stated that the ownership of property still largely determines political power. It implies that the power of governments is determined by those who have a lot of money.

The domination of upper class in society makes the lower class demand for changing because the power of upper class harmful for them. The lower class makes some movement in society by collecting people from their class to revolt the rule in society which is controlled by the upper class. The aim of revolution is to get their rights and fair treatment from the government and upper class. It is as form of their disappointments toward the government's policy. Giddens mentions that the class engaging in a revolutionary struggle for power fights in the name of absolute human rights, presenting its ideas as 'the only rational, universally valid ones' (1994, p 44). It implies that the appearance of revolution is in order to get the fair treatment.

It concludes that Marxism sees the problem happened in society; the struggles among the people in class society economical and political terms. As mentioned by Barry;

> Marxism sees progress as coming about through the struggle for power between different social classes. This view of history as class struggles (rather than as, for instance, a succession of dynasties, or as a gradual progress towards the attainment of national identity and sovereignty) regards it as 'motored' by the competition for economic, social, and political advantage. (2002, p 157)

The people from all the social class wants to reach the higher position in society in order to get power and wealth and to reach such position they used all their effort to accomplish their ambition to reach the higher position in society.

2.3 Literature and History

The function of literature also can be as the social document. The history describes the society. It has been mentioned before that literary work can be a historical document in yielding the outlines of social history (Wellek and Warren, 1977, p 103). Literary work can illustrate the condition of certain society. We can see that there are many literary works that illustrates the condition such as in *The Princess Casamassima* by Henry James which illustrates the struggles of lower middle class and lower class in London to fight for their rights and the rising of democratic movements in the late eighteen centuries.

Here, the writer will focused to explain the social class which occurs in the time in which the novel is produced since this research analyzed the social class problems. The society in Britain in late nineteen century is also divided people into their position. Robert Colls and Phillip Dodd mention a capacious liberalism remained the dominant force within the political culture between 1880 and 1920 (1986, p 29). It means that the problem in Britain in late eighteen century is about the existence of liberal or democratic movements that formed by the lower class as reaction towards the dominance power of upper class in controlling the society. In which their treatment towards the lower class is considered arbitrary. As Colls

and Dodd states ‘Liberal freedom was cast as the English, in history, clawing back margins of freedom from an arbitrary State’ (1986, p 32). One of the upper class policies which are considered harm to the lower class is in the education field.

The privilege in getting the education at that time for the lower class seems impossible. Although education is a right of everyone to get lower class cannot get good education since the cost is expensive and they do not have money to pay. Eitzen and Zinn (1991, p 205) mentioned that better-off people can purchase good education, good medical care, comfortable homes, fine vacations, expert services of all kinds, safe and satisfying occupations which poor people cannot because they had no money. Moreover, Joseph Barker in Royle states that education was not easily come by because;

> Almost the only opportunity I had of learning anything, except what I might learn at home, was by attending the Sunday-school. when we had work, we had no time to go to school; and when we had not work, we had nothing with which to pay school wages, so that a Sunday-school was our only resource. (1987, p 349)

From the excerpts above we can see that the opportunity of the lower class to get education seems impossible because to get education they have to work to get money so that they can pay for the school fees. However, they have to work every day in a week except Sunday so they only can learn on the Sunday-school. Thus, they only get a little knowledge and still they cannot get a better job since they do not have good education which they need to apply to company. ‘…it was the basis of a progressive society in which the poor would be equipped to play their allotted

part' (Royle, 1987, p 386) it means that education is really important for the lower class to get a good job.

The problems of the society at that time are not only about the condition of the lower class which cannot get education and job but also their position in getting marriage. Since, women at that time looking for a man who has a good job and position in society it limits the opportunity of the man from lower class to get woman they loved. David Waldron Smithers states that man were largely judge by their wealth and position and ladies by the profitable marriage they secured (1981, p 23). It implies that woman looks for a man from his background and position in society since they think marriage as the opportunity to improve their social status and to assure their future. This matter prevails for both the lower class and upper class women. As for the upper class marriage is seen as the way to pretend their aristocracy as Rolye mentions "…together with the junior members of aristocratic families who might expect to have to seek fortunes through marriage, political office or the professions". It means that the upper class woman or for the young man of the families which will not get the legacy from their family the way to get them stand in the aristocracy is by marrying the aristocrat family or get good position in the governments.

Here, we can conclude that at that time in the class society in Britain the power is held by the upper class especially the aristocrat. Since, they are having power in society they can get all the privilege while the lower class has to work hard to get it. Besides, the position of someone can determine the society opinion

especially in getting the marriage since the people at that time see the marriage as the way out to get a better position or to pretend their position in society.