CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The social class in the novel has a certain effect to the social condition. The effect of distribution of social class makes a different social treatment towards the upper class and lower class. Society praise more to the aristocracy and their treatment towards the lower class seems unfair. Here in the novel *The Princess Casamassima*, the writer attempts to find out how are the effect of social class towards the characters and the effect of social class towards its relation to the society of the time represented in the novel.

4.1 The Effect of Social Class in Dealing with Society

The society has a role in deciding the social class position of someone. In Hyacinth case, although he has an aristocrat blood but still he is an illegitimate child of Lord Frederick. His mother, French artist, killed his father so Hyacinth was born in prison while his mother served her punishment. Therefore, the society put him as the lower class because he is an illegitimate child and because his foster mother comes from lower class also. As his background is an illegitimate child of a landlord he feels sympathized for himself since the society has a low

opinion of illegitimate child. Thus, he also feels sympathized for those who come from a lower class.

> *When Hyacinth was not letting his imagination wander among the haunts of the aristocracy, and fancying himself stretched in the shadow of the ancestral beech, reading the first page of the* Revue des Due Mondes, *he was occupied with contemplations of a very different kind; he was absorbed in the struggles and sufferings of the millions whose life flowed in the same current as his, and who, though they constantly excited his disgust, and made him shrink and turn away, had the power to chain his sympathy, to make it glow to a kind of ecstasy, to convince him, to the time at least, that the real success in the world would be do something with them and for them.* (James, 1886, p 111 - 112)

Hyacinth sometimes imagines himself as descendant of an aristocrat as illustrates '*…the haunts of the aristocracy, and fancying himself stretched in the shadow of ancestral beech'* (James, 1886, p 111 - 112). Besides, when he is not thinking about the aristocracy, he thinks about his fate and those who come from same class as him '*he was absorbed in the struggles and sufferings of the millions whose life flowed in the same current as his'* (James, 1886, p 111 - 112). The fact that his father is an aristocrat make Hyacinth feels proud, but since he is an illegitimate child the society has low consideration about illegitimate child which put him in the lower class. Therefore, he feels sympathized for people in his class since he is in the same position as them.

The lower class suffers because the government's policy does not support the rights of lower class. It makes the upper class oppresses the lower class by

giving them low wages. They work for the upper class but they still do not get enough wages and get arbitrary treatment; the workers become a slave of the object..(Giddens, 1994, p 11). It implies that the upper class does treat the workers as a slave and does not even appreciate their work. In the class society, people who come from lower class always become the sufferer one because they do not have any power to fight against the arbitrary government. Giddens mentions the worker payment becomes an ever cheaper than the goods he creates (1994, p 11). From this statement it is true that the worker only gest a low wage while the price of the goods they produce is even more expensive. As a result, although the workers have worked very hard, they cannot make a better living for their family because the price of the goods is high and their wages are not enough to pay the high living cost.

The problems above are also experienced by Hyacinth in which although he tries very hard to get better living he still in his position as the lower class. Thus, in class society when someone is in lower class, no matter how hard they try to get a better life, they still cannot reach that position although Hyacinth has an opinion that someday they can make a change *to the time at least, that the real success in the world would be do something with them and for them* (James, 1886, p 111 - 112).

We can conclude that the society can determine the position of someone. In Hyacinth case the society has put him in the lower class although he has an

aristocrat blood. It is because Hyacinth is only an illegitimate child in which the society has a low opinion about this matter. Hyacinth's position as the lower class makes him see and experience some problems in dealing with the society for instance the arbitrary treatment that he and the people from his class get from the government and upper class especially in economic terms. Therefore, the social class affected Hyacinth's in dealing with the society.

4.2 The Effect of Social Class in Education and Job Field

The effect of the position of Hyacinth in the story makes him cannot get the same privilege as the upper class. Although he is an illegitimate child of Lord Frederick, but his foster mother cannot give him a good education because she is only a poor dressmaker. Therefore, Hyacinth cannot get a good job as stated in the conversation below between Hyacinth and Millicent Henning, his childhood friends. Millicent thinks that Hyacinth would be someone who can succeed in the future and when they met again she is surprised that Hyacinth only becomes a bookbinder.

> *'You might be, really, for all the tea you drink! Why didn't you go for some high profession?'*
> *'How was I to go in? Who the devil was to help me?'* (James, 1886, p 61)

Here, we can see that Millicent was surprised that Hyacinth does not improve his social position by getting a good job. Her disappointment can be seen in her previous statement *'...it isn't where I should looked to find you,'* (James,

1886, p 61). Her disappointment may be because when they were child, all of people around them have said that Hyacinth is a son of Lord Fredrick. Thus, she expects that Hyacinth to be someone that has better position than he is now, as a bookbinder.

However at that time, someone who comes from the lower class is hard to get a good job if they do not have a good education and position in society. According to Wellek and Warren, the lower class had a little opportunity for education (1977, p 96). It indicates that Hyacinth who comes from a lower class could not get a good job because he does not go to school. We can see from the statement *'How was I to go in?'* It indicates that at that time people who can get education are only people who have money as 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 and which poor people cannot because they had no money. It means that Hyacinth does not have any qualification to get good job since he has no money to get education.

It concludes that if someone like Hyacinth wants to improve his life he has to have good education while to get this, they have to come from upper class or at least they have a connection with people who has power in society as Hyacinth stated '*Who the devil was to help me?*'. It means that he and his family do not have someone who recommends. Thus, one of the effects of the social class is only people who come from upper and middle class that could get the education in

classes' society and it also shows that people who come from the lower class cannot get a good job because they do not get education.

The hardest ways in searching a job is because education is not only felt by Hyacinth but also by those who come from lower class as presented in the following statement

> *There were members of the clubs who were apparently always in the enjoyment of involuntary leisure – narrating the vainest peregrinations in search of a job, the cruelest rebuffs, the most vivid anecdotes of the insolence of office.* (James, 1886, p 237)

In the democratic community where Hyacinth becomes a member there are a lot of people who have the same fate as him. They come from the same class where they also feel the hardest way in getting job because they do not have education '*in search of a job, the cruelest rebuffs'*. It implies that they get bad treatment from the staff of the office which rejects them because they do not have the qualification.

The data shows that people in the lower class do not have a chance to get education so that they can not get a good job and they cannot improve their life to be better. Nevertheless, education is a right for everyone to have it, Royle states that education is part of society, not a separate level by which society can be moved (1987, p 385). In the reality not all people can have education it is because of the class society a person is trapped in their social class. There is inequality between upper class and lower class's right.

We can conclude that the social class can also affect the lower class in getting the education; since the lower class do not have enough money to pay the education fee. Thus, they cannot have a good job to improve their life, in Hyacinth case he only becomes a bookbinder and not as a clerk as Millicent expected *'I should have thought you'd be a clerk at a banker'*. It is because Hyacinth's foster mother cannot give him good education because she does not have money. Besides education, the effect of social class existence in society also can determine the marriage of someone.

4.3 The Effect of Social Class in Marriage

The social class of someone also has a role in deciding the relationship of someone and their marriage. In Hyacinth case, he realizes his position as the lower class makes the limitation of his chance to get a woman he loved and as women at that time chose the man from upper class to get the social status. Therefore he has no confidence to make relationship with woman as he stated below.

> *'Does who expect me? I should like to see the woman who does!'* (James, 1886, p 105)

It is Hyacinth statement to Miss Pynsent his foster mother. Miss Pynsent asks about marriage to Hyacinth and about His relation with Millicent Henning, Miss Pynsent wants to know whether he is in a serious relationship with Millicent or not. However, from the statement '*Does who expect me?*', we can see that

Hyacinth does not have any confidence in marriage because he believes that all woman want to get a man with a good occupation and can give them good future.

Marriage at that time has been considered as a way for woman to raise their social status and get a good future. Thus, woman should marry well, which means married to a man who has position and social status. As Smithers states man were largely judge by their wealth and position and ladies by the profitable marriage they secured (1981, p 23).

The phenomenon above also shown in *The Princess Casamassima* as Hyacinth stated '*one of these days she'll marry an alderman*' (James, 1886, p 107). Hyacinth sees that most women wish to marry someone with a better position and job, and there are no women wishing to marry him. So, if Hyacinth wants to marry someone he has to work to collect some money. If he has no money, there no is one that wants to marry him.

Since Hyacinth comes from the lower class, he does not have confidence in getting a relationship with a woman because he does not have position and money. Below is Hyacinth statement which illustrates his low confidence to ask Millicent a date since Millicent wants to go to theater a place where only people with money who come there

> *'I'm sorry to say she won't go there. She wants something in the Strand: that's a great point. She wants very much to see the Pearl of Paraguay. I don't wish to pay anything, if possible; I am sorry to say I haven't a penny. But as you know people at the other theatres, and I have heard you say that you do each other little favours, from place to place – a charge de*

> *revanche, as the French say – it occurred to me that you might be able to get me an order. The piece has been running a long time, and most people (except poor devils like me) must have seen it: therefore there probably isn't a rush.'* (James, 1886, p 124)

Hyacinth is ashamed that he could not take Millicent Henning on a date to the fancy theatre because he has no money. He also never goes to a theatre as he mentions that '…*and most people (except poor devils like me) must have seen it'* (James, 19886, p 124). It implies that people from lower class rarely go to entertainment place since they do not have money. We can conclude that at that time people who can get such privilege like going to the theatre and other entertainment place is an upper class.

The data shows that there is nothing that the lower class can offer to the women at that time since they cannot give what women wants and cannot guarantee a good future. As Hyacinth does not have any confidence to confess his love to woman he loved because he does not have something to promise the woman a good future. From the data above we also can see that it is true that because of his status, Hyacinth has a limitation of chance to love a woman since woman at that time see marriage as an opportunity to raise their social status as mentioned above. Thus, through marriage someone can change their status in society.

4.4 The Effect of Social Class in Political Position

As the climax of the effect of the existence of class society is in the political aspect. The dominance power of the government and upper class in treating the lower middle class and lower class makes the lower middle class and the lower class suffers and demands for justice. The existence of social classes is considered as something unfair for lower class because the high classes have power either in economic and political aspect. They used their power in controlling the aspects of life of society. Therefore, the lower class wants to change the structure of society so that they can get their rights in conveying their opinion and in getting the fair wage for their hard work. To achieve their goal, they make a democratic movement to revolt to the government and upper class. As illustrates from the statement below;

> *'He doesn't know, and – if you will allow me to say so – I don't think you know. How should you? I am one of many thousands of young men of my class – you know, I suppose, what that is – in worse brains certain ideas are fermenting. There is nothing original about me at all. I am very young and ignorant; it's only a few months since I began to talk of the possibility of social revolution with men who have considered the whole ground much more than I have done. I'm a mere particle in the immensity of the people. All I pretend to is my good faith, and a great desire that justice shall be done.'* (James, 1886, p 150)

From the statement above we can see that the democratic community consists of those who feel oppressed by the upper class. Hyacinth joins the group because he feels the same fate with those men who experience injustice. Although Hyacinth is inexperience, he thinks that join the democratic community and make a plan to do a social revolution is the right way to do a justice.

The economic force from the upper class is one of the most influential reasons for the formation of democratic community. Giddens mentioned that the political power was directly contingent upon an expressive of the division of society into stable economic orders (1994, p 4-5) it implies that the dominance of government and upper class leads into the economic control by them in society in order to take a lot of benefit for themselves. Because of that, lower middle class together with the lower class makes the democratic movement to roll over the dominance of upper class and make a fair society. As stated by Captain Sholto who is suspected the movement.

> *'About the lower orders, the rising democracy, the spread of nihilism, and all that'*
> *'The lower orders? Does she think we belong to them?'* (James, 1886, p 140)

It is the conversation between Millicent and captain Sholto in which he suspected Millicent and Hyacinth belong to the democratic movement. From the statement of captain Sholto '*About the lower orders, the rising democracy, the spread of nihilism,'* we can see the terms 'nihilism' is means that the democratic community formed by the lower middle class and lower class aimed to make the classless society since 'nihilism' itself means that there is no limitation in society it implies from the purpose of democratic movement in the novel. Besides, the upper class thinks that the democratic movement is as the 'lower order'. It is because although the upper class knows that the aim of the democratic movement is to roll their power in society, it is not influence them to think about it seriously since they has wealth and the lower class do not.

Hence, the lower class is always be careful in holding the existence of the community since they do not want the upper class to know what they are doing in which can ruin their plan.

> *'...Seriously, as you say, it's perfectly conceivable. I am not in the least surprised at the aristocracy being curious to know what we are up to, and wanting very much to look into it; in their place I should be very uneasy, and if I were a woman with angelic manners very likely I too should be glad to get hold of a soft, susceptible little bookbinder, and pump him dry, bless his heart!'* (James, 1886, p 160)

It is the conversation between Hyacinth with Paul Muniment. From the statement, we can see that the movements of the community always being watched by the upper class *'the aristocracy being curious to know what we are up to'* (James, 1886, p 160). It indicates that the upper class has a curiosity of the group made by the lower class. The upper class has feel threaten because they are afraid that the lower class can obstruct their way in controlling the society and threat their power. We can see from Muniment statement *'in their place I should be very uneasy'* (James, 1886, p 160) from the statements Muniments imagines if he were in the upper class position he would feel uneasy and want to know what are lower class up to. In this case Hyacinth should be aware of everyone from the upper class since they are suspected every move of the lower class as stated by Mr. Muniment '*if I were a woman with angelic manners very likely I too should be glad to get hold of a soft, susceptible little bookbinder, and pump him dry, bless his heart!'* (James, 1886, p 160). From the statement we can see that even a woman who has a good manner also curious to know the movement of lower class

because they afraid the lower class will take over their power. In the fact there are some parties in the upper class in which sees this movement as something impossible to be done.

For some party of upper class they think that the democratic movement which form by the lower class is means nothing; however, for several parties they see it as the opportunity to strengthen their position. Therefore, they start to collect people from lower class.

> *'I was looking for anything that would turn up, that might take her fancy. Don't you understand that I'm always looking? There was a time when I went in immensely for illuminated missals, and another when I collected horrible ghost-stories (she wanted to cultivate a belief in ghosts), all for her. The day I saw she was turning her attention to the rising democracy I began to collect little democrats. That's how I collected you'.* (James, 1886, p 304)

It is the statement of captain Sholto who is the right hand man of Princess Casamassima. From the statements we can see that he would do anything the princess order. As we can see when the Princess is interested in the democratic movement issues, he begins to collect the lower people like Hyacinth to become their tools to reach their goal in reforming the power of noble people in Britain government and getting society's reliance. Besides, the lower class cannot run the democratic movement by themselves since their do not have a good financial therefore they still need the upper class to support their financial. Thus, the democratic movement not only parts of the lower class to demands their right but also a tool for the upper class to still stay in their position.

> *'I have no such pretensions, and my good old friend is laughing at me. Of course that is very easy; for what, in fact, can be more absurd, on the face of it, than for a woman with a title, with diamonds, with a carriage, with servants, with a position, as they call it, to sympathise with the upward struggles of those who are below? "Give all that up, and we'll believe you," you have a right to say. I am ready to give them up the moment it will help the cause; I assure you that's the least difficulty. I don't want to teach, I want to learn; and, above all, I want to know* a quoi m'en tenir. *Are we on the eve of great changes, or are we not? Is everything that is gathering force, underground, in the dark, in the night, in little hidden rooms, out of sight of governments and policemen and idiotic "statesmen" – heaven save them! – is all this going to burst forth some fine morning and set the world on fire? Or is it on sputter out and spend itself in vain conspiracies, be dissipated in strerile heroism and abortive isolated movements? I want to know* a quoi m'en tenir.' (James, 1886, p 153)

It is princess Casamassima statements. From the statements we can see that the princess interested to know what the democratic movements up to and how they run the community '*I don't want to teach, I want to learn; and, above all, I want to know* a quoi m'en tenir' (James, 1886, 153). The princess wants to learn what the lower class is up to and she will help them so that they can run the democracy '*I am ready to give them up the moment it will help the cause;* (James, 1886, 153). She also hopes that it will bring the changes in society and will not be fiddlesticks movement.

Princess Casamassima is a Lady but since she comes from Italy she had no power in society. Since, Britain society is controlled by the aristocrat people who had power for a long time so that princess Casamassima can do nothing in political aspects. Therefore, princess Casamassima use lower class to strengthen her position since she sees opportunity from the democratic movements that the other party do not.

> *'It is more strange than I can say. Nothing of it appears above the surface; but there is an immense underworld, peopled with a thousands forms of revolutionary passions and devotion. The manner in which it is organised is what astonished me; I knew that, or thought I knew it, in a general way, but the reality was a revelation. And on top of it all, society lives! People go and come, and buy and sell, and drink and dance, and make money and make love, and seem to know nothing and suspect nothing and think of nothing; and iniquities flourish, and the misery of half the world is prated about as a "necessary evil," and generations rot away and starve, in the midst of it, and day follows day, and everything is for the best in the best of possible worlds. All that is one half of it; the other half is that everything is doomed! In silence, in darkness, but under the feet of each one of us, the revolution lives and works. It is a wonderful, immeasurable trap, on the lid of which society performs its antics. When once the machinery is complete, there will be a great rehearsal. That rehearsal is what they want me for. The invisible, impalpable wires are everywhere, passing through everything, attaching themselves to objects in which one would never think of looking for them. What could be more strange and incredible, for instance, than that they should exist just here?'* (James, 1886, p 287 - 288)

From the statement above we can see that there are many people want the changes and the democratic movement will lead to the revolution. It makes princess Casamassima amazed of how the community runs their plan without upper class known '*In silence, in darkness, but under the feet of each one of us, the revolution lives and works'*. Their plan every step that they will take to roll over the upper class neatly and once they do the plan there will be a great changes in society which can make the aristocrat shocked because they never imagine the great revolt from the lower class '*It is a wonderful, immeasurable trap, on the lid of which society performs its antics. When once the machinery is complete, there will be a great rehearsal.'* (James, 1886, p 287 -288).

Princess Cassamassima can see the immeasurable movements of the lower middle class and the lower class that can used to strengthen her position

politically. Thus, princess Casamassima gives the financial support to the movement but actually she exploits them. As illustrates below the princess Casamassima exploit lower people like Hyacinth to get what she wants.

> *He was not in the least a natural human being, but had a hundred affectations and attitudes, the result of never having been obliged to put his hand on anything; having no serious taste and yet being born to a little 'position.' The Princess remarked that she was so glad Hyacinth had no position, had been forced to do something else in life but amuse himself; that was the way she liked her friends now.* (James, 1886, p 310)

This is the statement of Princess Casamassima that she is glad she has Sholto who is able to do anything for her and he does not have position that could make her order anything without get interruption. Then, now she has Hyacinth who has no position *'she was so glad Hyacinth had no position, had been forced to do something else in life but amuse himself; that was the way she liked her friends now'* (James, 1886, p 310). The position of someone can determined what they want to do the upper class can get whatever they want since they have everything power and wealth. Here, princess Casamassima can get what she want since she has people who will do anything as her order.

The movement that conducts by the lower class with the help of upper class still makes the lower class not satisfied since they are used as a tool to expand the upper class power. Thus, they still cannot get a significant change since in the end they trapped in the other power.

> *'Oh, all the straw one chews, to cheat one's appetite; all the rot one dabbles in, because it may lead to; something which it never does lead to;*

> *all the beastly buncombe (you know) that you and I myself have poured out, damme, with an elloquance worthy of a better cause. Don't you remember what I've said to you – all as my own opinion – about the impending change of the relations of class with class? Impending fiddlesticks! I believe those that are on top of the heap are better than those that are under it, that they mean to stay there, and that if they are not a pack of poltroons they will.'* (James, 1886, p 302)

This statement indicates that although they already dedicate themselves to work for the upper class but they still do not get what they should get '*something which it never does lead to*' (James, 1886, p 302). Captain Sholto has worked for the Princess for a long time and he see that what he doing is only the same as labors who work for their employers. From his experiences, he can see that the relation between the classes in class society will always be the same since people always sees someone based on their position and society praise aristocracy much. Therefore, Sholto sees the democratic party as something useless because the lower class will not that easily to get what they want since they work under guidance of the upper class we can see it from his statement *'Impending fiddlesticks!'* (James, 1886, p 302). It is because Sholto seen that the lower class is always dependent on the upper class so that they become the tool for the lower class to reach into position that the upper class want.

It conclude that although the lower class has formed the democratic movement to get a better position and to roll over the dominance of the upper class they still cannot reach a higher position in society since they still need help and financial support from the upper class. Hence, the characteristic of class

society is where the power is held by the upper class and the lower class is dependent to the upper class power. As Dahrendorf in Giddens mentions;

> 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)

It implies that in the class society the society divided into two categories the dominant one and subordinate one. So although the lower class has work very hard to get the equality rights they still do not reach a significance change.