

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Social justice is a justice which is used to all of society. This conception is based on the idea of a just society, which gives individuals or groups fair treatment and a just to share the production of society. In the present day, there are many competitions in the society that have the target to get the freedom of life, standard of living, prestige, happiness, etc. But the competition is often unfair even highly unjust. This condition can be seen that some of society have no equal opportunity to get their right such as: the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to education, the right to work and to equal pay for equal work, etc. usually, societies that has limited chance are from the lower class society and for this reason, they must struggle to get the social justice because social justice is based on the concept of human right and equality.

Basically, social justice reflects the way of people in everyday lives at every level of society respect for human right and also the way of people to reach a solution when they have problems in society especially the problem about human right and equality (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/social_justice). Suryawasita (1989: 13-14) explains that social justice claims for all of production which is produced by society to be divided equally for all of

societies. It does not mean all of societies get equal part of production but it is divided to conform to their portion in society that sometimes it will arise a problem.

In addition, there are many problems of society that demand the social justice policies, for example: poverty and hunger. Poverty and hunger are the social problems in social relationship perspective. This problem is caused by unfairly nationality social structure and on a worldwide scale. However, social structure is related to economy, politic, religion, education, the influence of values system even arrange the people lives (Suryawasita, 1989: 29-30). So, the main point of social justice is focusing in the fate of society in the lower class or proletariat because they often get unjust treatment from the authorities' society.

Furthermore, reality in the real world provides many inspirations for many authors to write their literary works. Thus, it cannot be denied that there is correlation between reality and literary works since sometimes the story of literary works is derived from what happens in reality.

It is obvious that the society has an enormous contribution to the process of literary work creation. A creation perhaps uses the society and social problems as the literary materials, because literary work is a conception of imitation implies a view of literature reflection of society (Swingwood and Laurenson, 1972:23).

In this case, the researcher attempts to discuss a phenomenon of the social aspect that occurs in novel entitled *The Street Lawyer* that was written

by John Grisham. Grisham was born on February 8, 1955 in Jonesboro Arkansas. As the best selling author, John Grisham also write other seller novels such as: *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief*, *The Client*, *a Time to Kill*, *The Chamber*, *The Rainmaker*, *The Runway Jury*, *The Partner*, *A Painted House*, *et cetera*. *The Street Lawyer* is one of Grisham's bestseller with 5 million copies was on the New York time's bestseller.

The Street Lawyer tells the story about the lawyer, named Michael Brock who works in a big law firm in Washington D.C. This firm is Drake & Sweeney. It has an authority in the city. Someday, Michael meet the homeless and he see that the homeless life is very different and difficult. They lack of money and poor. They must live in relocation house because of they have no house to be lived. In fact, they have had the residence by rent the apartment. The homeless crucially pay the rent every month but the real estate company which is helped law firm Drake & Sweeney evicted the homeless with no warning. Michael tries to investigate and know that the law firm was legally and ethically wrong. For that reason, Michael decides to leave his carrier in Drake & Sweeney because having no sympathy with the way of job in that firm. He goes the street and helps the homeless. Michael meets Mordecai Green, the advocate for poor people and the homeless. Finally, they try to struggle to get back of the homeless right and reasonably comfortable life.

Moreover, based on the fact that literature is mirror up to nature, the researcher tries to break down the problem in John Grisham's novel *The Street Lawyer* by using sociological approach. In this study, the researcher

encourages herself to give it a title, “**SOCIAL JUSTICE IN JOHN GRISHAM’S *THE STREET LAWYER*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**”

B. Literary Review

There is no research has been conducted to study *The Street Lawyer*, at least among the students of universities in the neighborhood, especially in Surakarta scope (Sebelas Maret and Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta). The researcher also uses other studies as the additional instrument to conduct this study because they give big contribution for researcher in analyzing the novel.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research above, the problem of this research is “How is the social justice portrayed in John Grisham’s *The Street Lawyer*?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To carry out this study, it is important for the researcher to limit the study. In this case, the researcher analyzes how the social justice is reflected in *The Street Lawyer*, especially viewed by sociological perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the novel in terms of its structural element.

2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

By presenting the thesis, the researcher hopes that there will be some benefits to get like:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give additional information to literature research dealing with John Grisham's *The Street Lawyer*.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. This study is expected to help the researcher get deeper understanding about the novel.
- b. To fulfill the requirement for getting bachelor degree in English Department.

G. Research Method

In this research, the researcher uses the qualitative method:

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is John Grisham's *The Street Lawyer*.

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

Doing this study, the researcher uses two source of data namely, primary and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the novel, *The Street Lawyer* by John Grisham

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data are taken from other source, which are related to primary data such as the sociology history of America, website about the novel *The Street Lawyer*, etc.

3. Method of the Data Collection

The method used in this thesis is documentation, which means that the data from both, primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document used as evidence.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher employs descriptive analysis in analyzing the data in order to make information of the text and content analysis using deductive and inductive meaning.

H. Paper Organization

In order to make the research is easier to follow, the research paper is organized into six chapters, as followings: Chapter I is introduction, covering the background of study, review of the literary study, the problem of study, the limitation of study, the objective of study, the benefit of study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II covers sociological approach containing sociology theory especially the notion of sociology of literature, the principles and the sociology of literature and theoretical application. Chapter III includes the social background of the American Society in the twentieth centuries, and all aspects of social

reality at that time. Chapter IV includes the structural analysis of the novel by describing characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot, style and theme of the novel and also a brief discussion. Chapter V presents the sociological analysis and discussion deal with the problems of the novel. Chapter VI consists of conclusion and suggestion.