

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

One issue that happens in society is social stratification. Social stratification is a concept of class, involving the classification of persons into groups based on shared socio-economic conditions a relational set of inequalities with economic, social, political and ideological dimensions. There are three layers: upper class, middle class and lower class. It can be called by social differentiation, which occurs, quite simply, when we find people with distinct individual qualities and social roles. People are differentiated in terms of biological characteristics such as sex, size, strength, and agility; and in every society they are differentiated (at least to some degree) by social roles, work tasks, or occupations (Kerbo, 2003:11).

Social stratification is “ranking some individuals and groups as more deserving than others; from this a social hierarchy is formed which is a set of ranked statuses from highest to lowest” ([http://stmarys.ca/~evanderveen/wvdv/class\\_relations/social\\_stratification.htm](http://stmarys.ca/~evanderveen/wvdv/class_relations/social_stratification.htm)).

Social stratification is a classification of person into groups based on socio-economic condition a relational set of inequalities in aspect economic, social, political and ideological dimensions”(wikipedia.htm).

From definitions above, it can be concluded that social stratification is the difference of class or level that happens in society with economic, social, political and ideological dimension.

Social stratification is not only studied in social and political science but also some of man of letters or women of letters who are interested social stratification's issue in their works. One of them is William Shakespeare. William Shakespeare is the greatest writer in England. His works consist of about 38 plays, 154 sonnets, two long narrative poems, and several other poems. His plays have been translated into every major living language and are performed extra often than those of any other dramatist.

One of William Shakespeare's works reflecting the social stratification is *Cymbeline*. *Cymbeline* is one of the most popular drama which is written by William Shakespeare. The written *Cymbeline* drama cannot be precisely dated. In Shakespeare Complete Works by W. J. Craig, M. A. There are three versions of the written of this drama. The first, according to Malone *Cymbeline* was written in 1609. The second is Furnivall, *Cymbeline* was written in 1611. The last, according to Modern Critics, *Cymbeline* was written in 1610. It can be concluded, *Cymbeline* was written in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. This drama was published in 1623 as part of the First Folio. It is published after passing away of William Shakespeare.

*Cymbeline* was a king of Britain. He had three children; two boys (Guiderius and Arviragus) were kidnapped 20 years before. There leaved his daughter, Imogen, as the only heir to the throne. *Cymbeline* married with the

queen who had a son named Cloten. Cymbeline wished Imogen to marry her stepbrother, Cloten. Imogen disobeyed and married her childhood friend Posthumus Leonatus. Cymbeline, outraged, banished Posthumus from Britain and imprisoned Imogen in the castle.

Posthumus went to Rome and met his wartime friend, Philario. In Rome, Iachimo (a Frenchman) beted Posthumus that Iachimo could persuade Posthumus' wife (Imogen), thereby breaking her chastity. After that he returned to Italy and convinced Posthumus that Imogen had been unfaithful and so claimed the diamond ring. Meanwhile the new evil Queen arranged to have her Physician made a poison to give to Pisanio, the loyal servant of Posthumus, disguised a tonic. The physician, knowing how evil the Queen was, made a potion that numbs the senses but did not kill. Cloten was once again spurned by Imogen who tells him he was not fit to wear Posthumus's shabbiest clothes Posthumus ordered Pisanio to accompany Imogen to Wales where Posthumus had arranged to meet Imogen. He ordered Pisanio to kill Imogen. Pisanio realised that Posthumus had been deceived and instead advises Imogen to get to Rome so she could see Posthumus. The plan was for Imogen to dress as a page and join the Romans as a servant. Pisanio gave Imogen the 'tonic'.

Imogen met Belarius, a nobleman, who lived with Guiderius and Arviragus, two lost sons of Cymbeline whom Belarius had kidnapped twenty years before. Imogen dressed as a page and calling herself Fidele, was of course, although unknown to them, their sister. Cloten discovered Imogen had

gone to Wales and seeking revenge follows her (dressed in old clothes owned by Posthumus as a reminder to Imogen of her cutting comment) Cloten met and argued with Guiderius, Arviragus and Guiderius decapitated him. Imogen took the potion as a tonic and was believed dead when she was discovered. Guiderius and Arviragus took both the bodies to the forest and covered them with flowers. When Imogen awaked she found herself next to a body wearing the clothes of Posthumus and believed that he had been killed. Imogen wicked stepmother, gone mad over the disappearance of Cloten, dies. Arviragus and Guiderius were reunited with Cymbeline. Iachimo confessed and Imogen revealed her true identity and was reunited with Posthumus.

From the story, there are some reasons that make the writer be interested in analyzing the play by using Marxist approach. The first is from the title, the title of this drama is *Cymbeline*. Although the title of this drama is *Cymbeline*, but the major characters in this drama is Posthumus and Imogen. This reason makes the writer be interested why the author gives the title with *Cymbeline* not Posthumus and Imogen.

The second is characters. From the characters here the author chooses Imogen and Phosthumus as a major character. Because Imogen is a daughter of King that is *Cymbeline* and Phosthumus is Lower-class man who marries Imogen. So the writer uses Marxist perspective to analyze this drama.

The third is setting. The setting of this drama is interesting. The author takes place in ancient England, Wales, and Rome in the age when the forces of imperial Rome occupied Britain. Because the author lives in England and he

lives as a writer in kingdom so he takes place in England and chooses the character from bourgeois that is Cymbeline as the title of this drama.

The fourth is plot. The plot is interesting to be analyzed. The plots range from comedy to tragedy and the great male and female comic and tragic characters that bring the plots and stories to life are the wonderful. It makes the writer be curious what will happen in the story.

The fifth is from the theme. This drama gives a good message like a faithful and innocent young woman overcomes mistreatment, calumny, and other injustice to be reunited with her husband. This drama draws that Love does not care for social stratification.

The last is style or language. The language used in *Cymbeline* script is different with language used by many people in England now. In *Cymbeline* script, the author uses language English in 17<sup>th</sup> century. The author chooses the special diction to make the drama colorful. The using of language in this script makes the writer understand the content and aim of the script.

Based on the reason the writer will study on *Cymbeline* drama by using a Marxist perspective. So the writer raises the title **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IN WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S *CYMBELINE* (1623): MARXIST PERSPECTIVE.**

## **B. Literature Review**

There are some literature reviews dealing with this research. The first is Ken'ichi Yamazaki entitled "*Cymbeline* as a Tragicomedy of Britain". It discusses the background of the age of Roman Britain, the appearance and

direct influence of divine power, and the reference to contemporary affairs. It seems that Shakespeare, courting King James I, intends to present his viewpoint concerning the history of Britain, and the viewpoint is that Britain conquered all difficulties with the aid of divine power, and that her prosperity is ensured by the power.

The second is Tstruck (2010) entitled “Cymbeline”. It discusses one technical element and one non-technical element; the technical element he chooses to discuss is the costumes and the non-technical element is the acting.

Different from the previous study, the writer has a different aspect of analyzing the data. The Writer Analyzes Social Stratification In William Shakespeare’s *Cymbeline* (1623): Marxist Perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of this study is how social stratification is reflected in *Cymbeline*.

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing social stratification in *Cymbeline* based on Marxist perspective.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze *Cymbeline* based on the structural elements of the drama.
2. To analyze *Cymbeline* drama using Marxist Perspective.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is expected to give a new contribution of knowledge, particularly the literary study on *Cymbeline* drama.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer study on the drama from Marxist perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

In this study, the writer uses qualitative research:

### **1. Object of the Study**

Object of this study is *Cymbeline* written by William Shakespeare.

### **2. Type of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is library research while data sources are using literary data. It purposes to analyze the drama using Marxist perspective. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of the study, (2) determining the object of the study, (3) determining data and data source, (4) determining technique of data collection, and (5) determining technique of data analysis.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Date Source**

There are two sources that are needed to do this research:

#### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is the data taken from the text *Cymbeline*. It covers such thing as words, phrase, sentence and dialogue in the drama.

#### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The second data source is the data taken from some materials selected in the relation with the problem exposed such as biography of William Shakespeare.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The technique of data collection is library research, the steps are:

- a. Reading the drama script.
- b. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- c. Taking note of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the drama.

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It focuses with the structural elements of the drama and Marxist perspective.

#### **H. Paper Organization**

The research paper consists of six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, theoretical approach and paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. Chapter three is historical background of English society in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. Chapter four is structural analysis elements of drama which includes character and characterization, plot, setting,



style, theme and discussion. Chapter five is Marxism Analysis related to the problem and discussion. Chapter six is conclusion and Suggestion for this paper also the synopsis of drama.