

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Casual Vacancy is a tragicomedy novel written by British author J.K. Rowling. The book was published worldwide by the Little, Brown Book Group on 27 September 2012. It was Rowling's first publication since the *Harry Potter* series, her first apart from that series, and her first novel for adult readership. This novel has seven chapters and 503 pages.

The Casual Vacancy was written by J.K. Rowling. Born as Joanne Rowling, in July, 31st 1965 at Yate General Hospital in England and grew up in Chepstow, Gwent where she went to Wyedean Comprehensive. Jo left Chepstow for Exeter University, where she earned a French and Classics degree, her course including one year in Paris. She well-known as the author of *Harry Potter Series* (*Harry Potter & the Sorcerer's Stone*, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, *Harry Potter and the Orde Phoenix*, *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*, and *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*) all of her novels was adopted into movie and get awards in some categories. Her first novel for adult, *The Casual Vacancy*, will be adopted into television drama in BBC Channel.

The Casual Vacancy tells about a battle for power in Pagford City, England. The conflict began when Barry Fairbrother, a member of the Pagford Council suddenly died. A casual vacancy makes the members of council set eye Barry's position.

In the Pagford council system, there are two groups have different view in governing Pagford. Barry Fairbrother, Parminder Jawanda, and Collin Walls, are the councilor who support integration between Pagford and Fields. They assume that the Fields that deemed to be non-Pagford have the same right to use facilities available in Pagfod. Parminder Jawanda is an ambitious woman that gives welfare to The Fields that has many problems, like the heroin addict searching free rehabilitation from heroin addict clinic, Bellchapell. Beside that, children from Fields wants to study in St. Thomas or Winterdown in Pagford get free of charge, the immigrants or descendants also have desire to build their own worship place in Pagford should be given a permission. Fields is a part of Pagford, so there is no excuse to abandon it.

The second group is Howard Mollison, Miles Mollison and Aubrey Fawley. Howard is the number one against integration between Pagford and Fields. He wants to be exclusive. Pagford is well known as beautiful and civilized city that wants be free from Fields town, known as slum area, place for criminals, and trouble makers. Fields should be Yarvil part, not Pagford. Howard is the one that support the purification movement of

Pagford. The Fields should be banned to enter Pagford, the children of Pagford should not be student in St. Thomas and Winterdown. The migrants should not build their own praying place; it can be a rival for St. Michael and All Saints Church. Howard hates Barry so much for his movement supporting the children of Fields to be student in St. Thomas and Winterdown. Besides Barry, Howard also hates Parminder Jawanda. According to his opinion, Jawanda is the quasi-social woman because she build addict clinic, Bellchapell, which all of its patient are the Fields. Parminder also build Sikh temple which give worries for Howard because it will destruct the beautiful scenery of Pagford which is known with it's icon St. Michael and All Saints Church. According to Howard, rather than building Bellchapell Clinic and Sikh temple, it is better to build shop, café or something that produce money. So, the Fields is allowed to enter Pagford if they work in Pagford, as a shopkeeper for example, not more than it.

With the death of Barry, the group of Parminder become weak, she will lose her support in carrying out her mission. Parminder become more active to get support from the marginals in Field and the sympathizers of Barry Fairbrother. Collin Walls nominated as the substituter of Barry Fairbrother. His power as vice principal of Winterdown High School expected to attract simphaty of people in Pagford and Fields. Howard Mollison was very pleased with the news of the death of Barry

Fairbrother. It will be an empty seat can be used, he nominated his son, Miles Mollison to be a substituter of Barry Fairbrother. He uses many ways to win this election, including attracting the sympathizers from The pro-Pagford.

Finally, the election was won by Milles Mollison. Parminder Jawanda was very furious, her mission in holding clinic and other social program were threatened. On the other hand, Howard was very happy because his first mission has been achieved. He had arranged his planning to purify Pagford and “kick” Parminder Jawanda, waiting for the execution.

The Casual Vacancy is a novel that has many public responses. The responses come from readers, critics, market, and book industries. This novel has been reviewed by some book reviewer in some mass media. Kakutani writes her review in *New York Times*, September, 27th, 2012. She said that the novel has many conflicts and there is no central figure. For the *Harry Potter* freaks, *The Casual Vacancy* is not a good book because it makes the reader difficult to understand what the novel about. She suggests the reader to throw away Harry Potter from their mind, because *The Casual Vacancy* is very different from *Harry Potter*. The review also delivered by Aitkenhead in *The Guardian* website, September, 28th, 2012. According to her, J.K. Rowling’s first novel for adults represents a decisive break from her back catalogue. But if *The Casual Vacancy* is ambitious in its scope and themes, it is determinedly

unadventurous in its style and mode. It's a book that wrestles honorably and intelligently with big moral and political questions, but does so in a slightly clunky and convention-bound way.

There are pros and contras about the novel. The pros, said that *The Casual Vacancy* is a good novel because it tells the real story in social life. There is no magic to help someone to solve the complex problems. Kakutani, in his essay in *Washington Post* on September, 28th 2012, states that "This book represents a truckload of shrewdness. There were sentences I underlined for the sheer purpose of figuring out how English words could be combined so delightfully, genuinely moving." Other response delivered by *The Daily Beast* on September, 30th 2012. According to them, *The Casual Vacancy* is a comedy, but a comedy of the blackest sort, etched with acid and drawn with pitch. Rowling proves ever dexterous at launching multiple plot lines that roar along simultaneously, never entangling them except when she means to. She did not become the world's bestselling author by accident. She knows down in her bones how to make you keep turning the pages. However, the novel also gets criticism in its publication. In India, the novel gets hard criticism, especially for the Sikh believers. J.K Rowling assumed mocking the Sikh women in the world. The Sikh girl character in the novel is Sukhvinder, the daughter of a Surgeon and the member of council. She was mocked because she has dense skin hair and it refers to a human that has double

sex (hermaphrodite). As written in *The Telegraph* on October, 21st 2012, The Sikh leader said they were investigating complaints about the provocative language in the novel, and will ask to ban this book circulating around the world if it had insulted the belief. Also criticism was delivered by the children practitioner. They claim that Rowling give wrong description of social life in England and it can gives bad opinion in the world about the social life in England.

The Casual Vacancy does not follow the novel before, *Harry Potter Series*. It can be said that this two novels are like sky and earth. It is so different. The novel was the fastest-selling in the United Kingdom in three years and had the second best-selling opening week there since Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*. It became the 15th best-selling book of 2012 during its first week of release. Within the first three weeks the book's total sales have topped one million copies in English in all formats across all territories, including the U.S. and the U.K. The book also set a Goodreads record for the all-time biggest "started reading" day later winning the Best Fiction category in the Goodreads Choice Awards 2012.

According to the researcher there are five interesting points of the novel to be researched. First, the characters in the novel has strong characteristic. There is no central character in the novel. Barry Fairbrother, although he dies, he still contributes conflict to other characters. Parminder Jawanda, a Sikh migrant woman, is an interesting character

because she is a portrait of struggling woman among the dominance of man. Howard Mollison, the antagonist character in the novel has strong principle to blame other group and claim that his group is the best of all. It is interesting case to be researched.

Second, the novel is set in a suburban West Country town called Pagford. Pagford is a beautiful small city but has many social problems. The interesting side of the setting in the novel is that it portrays a real life, not imaginary like *Harry Potter Series*. Because of that, it can be imagined and described easily by the readers.

Third, the novel has unique plot. Rowling use jumping plot to tell the story in the novel. Although rather confusing to understand the plot, the conflict can be caught and has strong monumental scene to memorize. Each characters has big portion in each chapters. The hanged-ending give own interesting perception for the readers, because the readers can conclude the story by their own opinion.

Fourth, the language of the novel can be understood easily. *The Casual Vacancy* is a new novel published in 2012, so the language used is modern English. Rowling uses pop-language in delivering her story although in some part she uses literary language. The description of characterization of the characters can be shown in their conversation and narration that delivered by the author.

The last points, the novel has crucial theme to be discussed. The theme of the story in the novel is Exclusivism can lead to exploitation and oppression. In the novel, Howard Mollison is a figure that has principle to abolish the other group. He dislikes Fields and wants to separate it from Pagford. The discrimination between the rich and poor, Christian and Sikh is really shown here. In some part of the story, many people of Pagford mock the Fields, the Sikh and something correlation with the area and belief. Rowling try to deliver something important in the story, which is the practical of exclusivism in England as the example in the world. She wants the reader to open their eyes and mind that exclusivism in the world is not good action to be done in society.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as follows, “EXCLUSIVISM REFLECTED IN J.K. ROWLING’S *THE CASUAL VACANCY* NOVEL (2012): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE”.

B. Literature Review

The Casual Vacancy novel (2012) by J.K. Rowling is an interesting novel. As far as the researcher concerns, in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and some universities in Central Java, there is no one that analyzed it before. Based on the reason above, the researcher tries to analyze implication of exclusivism in *The Casual Vacancy* novel by sociological perspective.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “How is exclusivism reflected in J.K. Rowling’s *The Casual Vacancy* Novel (2012) using a sociological perspective?”.

Based on the major question, the research questions can be broken down as follows:

1. What is the characteristic of exclusivism in *The Casual Vacancy* novel?
2. How is exclusivism expressed in the *The Casual Vacancy* novel?
3. Why is it necessary for J.K. Rowling to address exclusivism?

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing exclusivism reflected in *The Casual Vacancy* Novel (2012) based on a sociological perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following

1. To identify the characteristic of Exclusivism in *The Casual Vacancy* Novel.
2. To describe Exclusivism in *The Casual Vacancy* Novel.
3. To reveal the necessity for J.K. Rowling to address exclusivism.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this study is as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is projected to give novel contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly in literary devices and to enrich the knowledge and experience of the researcher and other students at UMS or other universities interested in literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to fulfill the final project of the researcher for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department of UMS.

G. Research Method**1. Type of the Study**

In this study, the researcher applies qualitative research. The data sources are library and literary data. Its purpose is to analyze the novel using sociological approach. The steps to conduct the research are as follows:

- a. Determining the type of the study
- b. Determining the object of the study
- c. Determining data and data source
- d. Determining technique of data collection
- e. Determining technique of data analysis.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Casual Vacancy* by J.K. Rowling published in 2012 by Little Brown, U.S.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *The Casual Vacancy Novel* (2012) by J.K. Rowling.

b. Type of the Data Source

There are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data as follows:

1) Primary Data

The primary data source is the novel of *The Casual Vacancy* published by Little Brown, U.S.

2) Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of exclusivism that supports the sociological perspective.

4. Technique of The Data Collection

The techniques of data collection is note-taking, and the steps are as follows

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data
- c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category

- d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
- e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive approach. The steps taken by the researcher in analyzing the data are as follows:

- a. The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel.
- b. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of exclusivism.

H. Research Paper Organization

The researcher organizes this research paper in order to make it easier to understand. The research paper is divided into six chapters.

Chapter I is Introduction which consists of the Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, The Objectives of the Study, The Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Paper Organization. Chapter II deals with Underlying Theory, it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Perspective of Sociology of Literature, Notion of Exclusivism, The Types of Exclusivism, Effect of Prejudice, Structural Element of the Novel, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Historical Background of English Society in the Late Twentieth Century and

the Beginning of Twenty First Century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect and religious aspect. Chapter IV is structural analysis of *The Casual Vacancy* novel. It covers (1) The structural elements of *The Casual Vacancy* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; (2) Discussion. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *The Casual Vacancy* novel. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion. In the last chapter, the researcher draws Conclusion Suggestion, and Pedagogical Implication.