CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

_The Old Neighborhood_ is a novel written by American author Avery Corman. The book was published by Bantam Books, The Linden Press on September 1980. It was success in 80’s and got an Academy Award Winning motion picture. This novel has nineteen chapters and 212 pages.

_The Old Neighborhood_ was written by Avery Corman. He was born on November 28 1935 in Bronx New York. He is author of the novel _Kramer vs Kramer_ (1977) which created a sea of change in attitudes toward child custody with the public and in the courts in the United States and internationally. He is also the author of articles and essays in a large number of publications, including _The New York Times_ for which he has written for various section of the newspaper. He was married for thirty seven years to Judy Corman. She was Senior Vice President, Director of Corporate Communications and Media Relations at Scholastic. She was masterminded the publicity for the launch and subsequent publications of the _Harry Potter_ books in the United States. They have two children, Matthew, a screenwriter and Nicholas who work in business development in Silicon Valley.
The Old Neighborhood tells about life. He is Steve Robbin. As a young man, he left his neighborhood in Bronx to be a success. He has become typewriter in New York. But his parents not agree because it far from his house. They want their son replace his father jobs as a manager in Department Store, but he refuse it. He was optimist to be a success man. Finally, his parents agree release his son to achieve his dreams.

In 1958 he was married with Beverly Hilman and have two children, Sarah and Amy. She is a beautiful and successful wife. They live hapily in New York. The conflict began when his wife decided to establish a nursery play group in their house, because she was homesick stay in her house. She is become success in a career. She was not care with her children and her husband. They busy with among career so, nothing a chance to gather together. His children are independent and growing away from them. Their married become bad. Her husband never in the house, because her jobs also his wife. Steve missed to gather with his family. He want to back like his live before. He felt unhappy and unsatisfied.

When summer came, Beverly permitted to Steve that she went to follow a summer camp with their children without him. He was become alone, so he embarks on a personal journey that has relevance for us all and his past, he learns about life as it should be. He decides to look for the meaningful life. So, he visited in his old neighborhood in Bronx. In there, he was finding a peace and more understanding what should he was life. He wants to persuade his family to
stay in Bronx and leaves his career in New York, but his family refused it. They didn’t become poor. But Steve still stayed in Bronx. Finally, he divorced with his wife. She wants to develop her career without her husband. Although they were divorce, but relation between among them very kinds and supported.

*The Old Neighborhood* is a novel that has many public responses. The responses come from reader, critics, market and book industry. This novel has been reviewed by some book reviewer in some mass media. Erica Jong wrote her review in *New York Times*, January, 27th, 1981. She said that the novel has many conflicts and delightfully. The review also delivered by Pamela S Clark in *Guardian* website, January, 28th, 1981. She said that “I’ve also re-read this book over and over, always enjoying the brisk dialogue and dry humor”. She was very enjoying read this novel, because the story is good, so she read over and over.

There are pros and contras about the novel. The pros, said that *The Old Neighborhood* is a good novel because it tells the real story in social life. Bob in his essay in *Los Angeles Times*, February, 02nd 1981, states that “This book has been around something. It is great insight into growing up and struggle of a man to find himself, and enjoyable something”. Other the contras responses delivered by Lars Christensen in October, 30th 1980, said that, “The novel is not to be categorized as a masterpiece”. Also critical was delivered by Stefan Kanfer. He said that the author should have a literary gift for dialogue and predicament. This novel is success in the 80’s and got an Academy Award Winning Motion Picture.
According to the writer 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. Steve Robbin, he is an interesting character because he was optimist person to be a success man, educated, ambitious, love his family. Eventually he feels unhappy. He still contributes conflict to other characters. Beverly Hilman is a wife’s steve. She is an interesting character because she is an American modern woman, educated, ambitious, successful career. It is interesting case to be researched.

Second, the novel is set in a Kingsbridge Road–Grand Bronx. Bronx is a place in the war effort, to collect scrap paper for the scrap paper drive and has many social problems. The interesting of the setting in the novel is that the setting of the novel is a real life. Because of that, it can be imagined and described easily by the readers.

Third, the novel has interesting plot. Corman use traditional plot to tell the story in the novel, which contain beginnings, middles and ends. So, the conflict can be caught and easily to understand.

Fourth, the language of the novel can be understood easily. Corman uses pop-language in delivering her story although in some part he 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 Harmony in society is an action to be happier.
Everything with harmonic is better and more appropriate. Moreover, the harmony in life will make someone be more tranquil in running their life because he or she will concern toward worldly enjoyment and divine transcendence in the same proportion. Krishnananda states that, “Harmony implies an adjustment of oneself with an environment that is external to oneself”. When there is no proper adjustment of one thing with another thing, we call it disharmony. When there a proper adjustment, a smooth working of one principle, one fact, one object, one person with another, we regard it as harmony” (2003:3). Its means that there are two aspects in seeking harmony where is the two aspects must be balanced in giving treatment such as career and family.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as follows, “THE NEED FOR HARMONY BETWEEN ONE’S CAREER AND FAMILY REFLECTED IN AVERY CORMAN THE OLD NEIGHBORHOOD NOVEL (1980): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE”

B. Literature Review

The study on The Old Neighborhood novel (1980) is first being conducted in the thesis due its latest publication that is in 1980. The writer has researched through local and digital libraries and found none of it. library of UMS, UNS, UNDIP, UNNES until international libraries have reported zero call on the research on The Old Neighborhood. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in UMS. The Old Neighborhood novel of Avery Corman’s as long as researchers
know there is no research that has been conducted to study in the Muhammadiyah’s University of Surakarta, the researcher tries to analyze *The Need for Harmony Between One's Career and Family reflected in *The Old Neighborhood* (1980): a Sociological perspective.*

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “How is the need for harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman *The Old Neighborhood* novel (1980) using a sociological perspective”?

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

1. What factors affecting the harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman’s *The Old Neighborhood* novel (1980): a sociological perspective?
2. How to keep the harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman’s *The Old Neighborhood* novel?
3. Why did Avery Corman address the issue of harmony in the novel?

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the need harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman’s *The Old Neighborhood* Novel (1980) based on a sociological perspective.
E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following

1. To identify factors of harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman’s *The Old Neighborhood* novel (1980) based on structural elements.

2. To describe the need for keeping the harmony between one’s career and family reflected in Avery Corman’s *The Old Neighborhood* novel (1980) based on sociological perspective.

3. To reveal the underlying reason of the author to address the issue in the novel.

F. The 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 writer 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 writer for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department of UMS.
G. Research Method

a. Type of the Study

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

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
5.) Determining technique of data analysis.

b. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Old Neighborhood* novel by Avery Corman and was published in September 1980 by Bantam Books.

c. Type of Data and Data Source

1.) The type of data

The type of data is the words, phrases, and sentences in *The Old Neighborhood Novel* (1980) by Avery Corman.

2.) The type of data source

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

a.) Primary data
The primary data source is the novel of *The Old Neighborhood* published by Bantam Books.

b.) Secondary data

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to the practice of social effect between career and family that supports the sociological perspective.

d. Technique of Collecting data

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

1.) Read the novel repeatedly
2.) Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data
3.) Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category
4.) Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis
5.) Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

e. Technique of Analyzing data

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

The first is analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the novel. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological perspective. Focus will be paid on the meaning of relation the need for harmony between one’s career and family.
H. Research Paper Organization

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


Chapter II deals with Theoretical Approach, it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Perspective of Sociology of Literature, Notion of Harmony, Concept of Harmony, Structural Elements of the Novel, and Theoretical Application.

Chapter III is Social Historical Background of American Society in the twentieth Century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect and religious aspect.

Chapter IV is structural analysis of *The Old Neighborhood* novel. It covers (1) The structural elements of *The Old Neighborhood* novel; it consists of Character and Characterization, Setting, Plot, Point of View, Style and Theme; (2) Discussion.

Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *The Old Neighborhood* novel. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion. This last chapter draws Conclusion and Suggestion.