

**STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY'S  
*VANITY FAIR*: A MARXIST APPROACH**



**Research Paper**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements  
For Getting Bachelor Degree in English Department**

**by :**

**Name : Sri Hartatik**

**NIM : A 320 980 109**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

**2004**

**APPROVAL**

**STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY'S *VANITY FAIR*:  
A MARXIST APPROACH**

Written by:

SRI HARTATIK  
A 320 010 109  
98.6.106.13031.5.0109

Approved to be Examined by Consultants:

Consultant I

Consultant II

(Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S)

(Maully H., S.Pd.)

ACCEPTANCE

**STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY'S *VANITY FAIR*:  
A MARXIST APPROACH**

On: November 2004

Team Examiners:

1. Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S ( )  
Main consultant
2. Mauly H, S.Pd. ( )  
Second consultant
3. Drs. Abdillah Nugroho, M.Hum. ( )  
Member

Dean

(Drs. Bambang Sumardjoko, M.Pd.)  
NIP. 131 470 269

## MOTTO

“You’ll never know till you have tried”

(Wise words).

“Success is not a destination but it is a journey”

(Reza M. Syarif)

“To every body who penetrate a way to find the knowledge. Allah will make them easier to go heaven”.

(HR. Muslim)

## DEDICATION

It is affectionately dedicated to

- My beloved Father and Mother
- My dearest sister
- My beloved husband and daughter

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillahirabil'alamin, praise be to Allah, the Merciful and compassionate for his guidance and strength so that I finally complete this research. Peace be upon prophet Muhammad, the messenger sent by Allah for this world.

I realize that without support and guidance from many people, I cannot finish this research paper. In this occasion, I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to:

1. Drs. Bambang Sumardjoko, M.Pd as the Dean of school of Teacher Training and Education.
2. Koesoemo Ratih, S.Pd. the head of English Department of FKIP UMS.
3. Drs. M. Thoyibi, M. S. as the first consultant, for his kindness, suggestion, and guidance in accomplishing this research paper.
4. Dra. Mauliyah H. as the second consultant, for her kindness, suggestion, and guidance in accomplishing this research.
5. Librarian in UMS and UNS who helped me in finishing the research paper.
6. My beloved parents and my beloved sister for the support, advice, and affection given to me that never measured.
7. My little family (Mas Muqlish and Iga) for being light of my life.
8. Family in Solo for support and advice given to me.
9. Dearest friends 'Mbuthuls' (Dhea, Mety, Nunyx, and Dwy) for the understanding friendship.

10. My old friends: Tutyx, Yanti, Ratna, Ima, Noerma, Patris, Mien, Puput, Wulan, Dhik Ita for wonderful days.
11. The nice friendship of English Department students '98 especially C class.
12. Mas Pram (Patazzz) for his patience in typing my thesis.
13. Those who cannot be mentioned one by one for their support in completing this study.

Nevertheless, I realize that this research paper is far from being perfect. I invite some suggestions, comments, and criticisms to make this research better. Finally I hope that this research paper will be useful for the readers.

Surakarta, Oktober 2004

**SH**

## SUMMARY

SRI HARTATIK. A 320 980 109/98.6.106.13013.5.0109. STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY'S *VANITY FAIR*: A MARXIST APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2004.

The object of the research is the novel entitled *Vanity Fair* (1848) by William Makepeace Thackeray. The study gives focus on Thackeray's view on the struggle of major character, Rebecca (lower class) to get high strata position. The study aims at studying Thackeray's view on Rebecca's struggle.

The writer uses qualitative method in conducting the study. The primary data is the novel itself. The secondary data are the references, such as: the author's biography, essays, comments, and other relevant information which support the subject matter. The data collecting technique is documentation and library research, while the data analyzing technique is descriptive and hermeneutics. The witer uses Marxist theory as a means of analysis.

The outcome of this study shows that: firstly, the structural elements of this novel present a unity. William Makepeace Thackeray employs the traditional plot that represents exposition, complication, climax and resolution. He takes the gap between upper and lower class which must be ended as his theme. The characters in *Vanity Fair* consist of two opposing characters that are represented by the upper class and the lower class. Secondly, Thackeray's view that the lower class struggle like Becky's struggle is needed. When the lower class feel injustice or unequal they have to struggle in order to get equal moreover if the struggle uses right way, so it will be more valuable.



## TABLE OF CONTENT

TITLE .....	i
APPROVAL .....	ii
ACCEPTANCE .....	iii
MOTTO .....	iv
DEDICATION .....	v
ACKNOWLEDGMENT.....	vii
ABSTRACT .....	vi
TABLE OF CONTENT .....	ix
Chapter I : INTRODUCTION	
A. Background of the Study .....	1
B. Literature Review.....	3
C. Problem Statement .....	3
D. Limitation of the Study .....	4
E. Objective of the Study .....	4
F. Benefit of the Study .....	4
G. Research Method .....	4
H. Thesis Organization .....	5
Chapter II : THE UNDERLYING THEORY	
A. Notion of Marxism.....	6
B. Major Principles of Marxism .....	7
C. Theory Application .....	10

Chapter III : SOCIAL BACKGROUND OF ENGLISH SOCIETY IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY	
A. Society Condition and England .....	11
B. Politic .....	12
C. Economic .....	13
D. Technology and Industrialization .....	14
E. Religion .....	14
F. Philosophy .....	14
Chapter IV : THE STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF THE NOVEL	
A. Structural Elements .....	16
B. Discussion .....	32
Chapter V : MARXIST ANALYSIS	
A. Dialectical Materialism .....	35
B. Historical Materialism .....	36
C. Alienation .....	37
D. Class Struggle .....	38
Chapter VI : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	
A. Conclusion .....	45
B. Suggestion .....	45

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX

## SUMMARY

SRI HARTATIK. A 320 980 109/98.6.106.13013.5.0109. STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY'S *VANITY FAIR*: A MARXIST APPROACH. RESEARCH PAPER. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. 2004.

The object of the research is the novel entitled *Vanity Fair* (1848) by William Makepeace Thackeray. The study gives focus on Thackeray's vies on the struggle of major character, Rebecca (lower class) to get high strata position. The study aims at studying Thackeray's view on Rebecca's struggle.

The writer uses qualitative method in conducting the study. The primary data is the novel itself. The secondary data are the references, such as: the author's biography, essays, comments, and other relevant information which support the subject matter. The data collecting technique is documentation and library research, while the data analyzing technique is descriptive and hermeneutics. The witer uses Marxist theory as a means of analysis.

The outcome of this study shows that: firstly, the structural elements of this novel present a unity. William Makepeace Thackeray employs the traditional plot that represents exposition, complication and resolution. He takes the gap between upper and lower class which must to end as his theme. The characters in *Vanity Fair* consist of two opposing characters that are represented by the upper class and the lower class. Secondly, Thackeray's view on the lower struggle like Becky's struggle is needed. When the lower class feel injustice or unequal they have to struggle in order to get equal moreover if the struggle uses right way, so it will be more valuable.

Surakarta, 22 November 2004

Consultant I

Consultant II

Drs. M. Thoyibi, M.S

Maully H. S.Pd

Dean

(Drs. Bambang Sumardjoko, M.Pd.)

NIP. 131 470 269