

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Problems of human being are essential sources to an author in creating a literary work. Those problems can be in social, political, economic, religious and cultural aspects of life. The author's inspiration often comes when he or she catches the one or more aspects. It is truly based on how the author sees and relates the problems to social condition of the author's background. Novel as one of literary work is a means of an author to reveal the problems of the society through a medium of language. In this case the author expresses his or her feeling, thinking, ideas and experiences in the form of novel. Here, the author gives his or her view to the problems of the society. Thus, it is natural if the author is influenced by the social condition of the society where he or she stands.

William Makepeace Thackeray is one of the authors in the nineteenth era. He was born into a comfortably secure upper-middle-class family, and reared to expect the leisured life of a gentleman. Thackeray had to create the taste by which his work could be appreciated. *Vanity Fair* was Thackeray's masterpiece. It is the work of an intellectual athlete at the height of his powers. It was the important novel he had been promising himself for years to write; he poured into it both the accumulated experiences of his life, and the proficiency of a miscellaneous writer, who had practice in many genres, and

was skilled in the use of varied literary masks and voices. Catherine Peters tells that Thackeray teaches us how to read by the extraordinary gymnastic performances of the narrative. The characters and their story are surrounded by a complex structure or narrative commentary, which deconstructs the familiar process of story-telling, puts in question the reliability of the narrator, and replaces absolute truths by relative ones. Instead of a single narrative voice which can be relied on to tell us the tale and mediate our responses to it, we are presented with a bewildering array of possible narrators, who, we come to realize, are as self-contradictory and unreliable as the characters they describe. Thackeray concentrated on complexity of character and narrative rather than plot.

Vanity Fair is a researching and pitiless investigation of lives balanced on the edge of moral, society and financial disaster. It tells the story of two girls from the time they leave school to their middle age. They are Amelia Sedley, girl of good family and Rebecca Sharp, an orphan, leave Miss Pinkerton's academy on Chiswick Mall to live out their lives in *Vanity Fair* - the world of social climbing and search for wealth. Amelia does not esteem the values of *Vanity Fair*; Rebecca cares for nothing else. This novel also tells about Rebecca (working class) who struggles to get a good strata position in society and wealth life.

Marxist approach is suitable method to analyze this novel. In Marxist, we can know the class stratification in society, the proletariat or working class who sold its labor power and the capitalists who owned the means of

production that enabled it to purchase and exploit the labor of the working class. The changes from one social formation to another occurred as a result of revolutionary convulsions that would shake society to its foundations. Moreover, each social formation contained within itself the seeds of its own destruction. The capitalist social formation would become a socialist one through class struggle initiated by proletariat who would ultimately create the classless communist society. Thus, the writer is stated the title “STRUGGLE OF CLASSES IN THACKERAY’S *VANITY FAIR*: A MARXIST APPROACH”.

B. Literature Review

There are some reports on the study of *Vanity Fair* conducted by some students in their thesis. Abdul Rozaq Budiarto gives focus on the ambition of Becky to get higher strata position in society by using individual psychology. Wiryawan Eko Adi emphasizes on Becky’s relationship by using sociological study of literature. Another researcher is Ariviani Dewi. She focuses on the motive to reach the goal to the member of society in *Vanity Fair* by using psychological approach.

In her study, the present writer emphasizes on class struggle to get higher strata position in early nineteenth era by using Marxist analysis.

C. Problem Statement

The problem of this research is how the struggle of classes is reflected in Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair*.

D. Limitation of the Problem

In conducting this study, the writer makes a limitation. The research only analyzes on the struggle of major character in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair* by using Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the work.
2. To analyze the work based on the Marxist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefit of the study deals with:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Vanity Fair*.

2. Practical Benefit

To fulfill requirement for getting bachelor of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

The researcher uses qualitative method. The type of data of this study is text. The primary source of data is the novel it self, where as other resources are secondary data.

1. Object of the Study

The writer uses *Vanity Fair* as the object of the study. It was written by William Makepeace Thackeray and published in serial form in 1847-1848.

2. Technique of Data Collection

In collecting the data, the writer uses the library research. To make the data more complete, the writer is doing some steps as follows:

- a. Reading the novel several times, until the gets adequate data to analyze.
- b. Reading some other resources related to the novel.
- c. Underlying particular parts that are considered important for the analysis.
- d. Classifying the data into groups/categories.

H. Research Paper Organization

In this research, the writer divides the research paper into six chapters. The first chapter is the introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the problem, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Second chapter is the underlying theory namely the Marxist theory. The third chapter deals with the social background of the English society in the early nineteenth century. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The fifth chapter is the Marxist analysis. And the last chapter, chapter six is the conclusion and suggestion.