

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of study

The appeal is one of John Grisham fiction novels releasing January 26, 2008 publish in the United States by Doubleday and continues Grisham's trademark skill of dramatizing moral issues. This novel serves a story about political trick in judicial election. The story is commonly found in our social community, inaccurateness prediction will put you in a cruel plot. It is divided in three main captures, thirty-nine sub captures and 358 pages.

Since publishing his first novel *A Time to Kill* in 1988, John Grisham has written one novel per year. All of his titles have become bestsellers. John Grisham was born in February 8, 1955 in Jonesboro, Arkansas. After graduating from law school at Ole Miss in 1981, he went on to practice law for nearly a decade in Southaven, specializing in criminal defense and personal injury litigation. In 1983, he was elected to the state House of Representatives and served until 1990. Grisham lives with his wife Renee and their two children Ty and Shea. The family splits their time between their Victorian home on a farm in Mississippi and a plantation near Charlottesville, VA.

The appeal starts when Mississippi attorneys Wes and Mary Grace Payton have battled New York City-based Krane Chemical in an effort to seek justice for their client Jeannette Baker, who lost her husband and young son to cancer likely caused by carcinogenic pollutants the company knowingly and negligently

allowed to seep into the town of Bowmore's water supply. When the jury awards the plaintiff \$3 million in wrongful death damages and \$38 million in punitive damages, billionaire stockholder Carl Trudeau vows to do whatever is necessary to overturn their decision and save the company's stocks.

Since Mississippi Supreme Court justices are elected rather than appointed, Trudeau plots with Barry Rinehart of Troy-Hogan, a Boca Raton firm that deals only in judicial elections and does secret deals off shore, to select a candidate who can defeat Sheila McCarthy, known for her tendency to side with the underdog. Their choice is Ron Fisk, a lawyer with no prior political experience or ambitions. He is naive enough to be impressed by all the attention shown him by his backers and not question the source of the considerable funds pouring into his coffers or the underhanded tactics used by his campaign team. Also thrown into the ring by Rinehart is heavy-drinking gambler Clete Coley, a clownish rogue third candidate designed to make McCarthy think her campaign will be easy, draw support away from her, and then cede it to Fisk when he eventually withdraws from the race.

Fisk defeats McCarthy and immediately adopts the position expected of him. He votes against upholding several large settlements in cases brought before the court on appeal, and the Paytons expect he will do the same when their case comes up for review. What they don't anticipate is Fisk unexpectedly being forced to rethink his stand when his son is seriously injured by the impact of a defective product and left permanently impaired by a medical error. The issue of corporate

responsibility affects him and his family on a personal level. However, even though Fisk feels that he has been used and tricked, he makes no move to do what is right, and has come to relish his new-found wealth and power. He sides with the big corporation and does not take any action for what happened to his son because he would "look silly."

The way politics influence the process of judicial election, and show how they have-on dirty trick to win it. This novel tells how unfair the judicial process in the country. Grisham is clearly fed up with how big money tends to control political races. The long campaign so engagingly describes is a mixture of character assassination, breathtaking hypocrisy, mudslinging ads, and backroom fraudulence. In other words, Grisham offers a sadly familiar picture of today's political scene.

They hide much of vested interest in judicial elections; Yet Grisham's message isn't that money always prevails over justice that big corporations will inevitably and continually squash the little guy by whatever immoral means necessary. Politics has always been a dirty game. Now justice is too.

As we know in the society money is the important thing to survive in this world. The reality of society is the living organization of men, women and children, in many ways materialized, in many ways constantly changing (Raymond 1961). Marx and Engels in Sapardi said that literature reflected the reality of the society (1979: 27). In the reality we are know that much situation caused by money such as happiness, sadness, hopeless, etc.

John Grisham's novel has received mostly positive reviews with the Boston Globe saying, "*The Appeal* is an entertaining page-turner that, by showing readers a perversion of the system, yearns for justice. Who knew that the mega-best-selling Grisham wanted to be a moralist, a sort of Old Testament prophet fulminating against our sins? In *The Appeal*, he pulls that off beautifully."

Good response from the reader was stated to this novel, *Blow by blow*, this not-very-fictitious-sounding novel depicts the tactics by which political candidates either can be propelled or ambushed and their campaigns can be subverted. Since so much of what happens here involves legal maneuvering in Mississippi, as have many of his other books, Mr. Grisham knows just how these games are played. He has sadly little trouble making such dirty tricks sound real.

The reader also stated a little bad response for this novel according the characterized of this story they said that Grisham in their view has always had the ability to develop believable characters who were interesting. All the leading characters in this book were boring and too much of a stereotype.

This book is a classic case of a famous person (Grisham) using their fame for a political platform. It just doesn't work, whether it is an actor or an author. This story is based on the author's hostility towards certain groups and, unlike earlier novels of his, has little passion. He stereotypes and caricatures Christians and other groups, portraying them in the most simplistic, black and white way. The publishers have obviously indulged their famous client, the way the king with no clothes was fawned over.

This novel is not adopted as a film yet, despite that *The Appeal* become best seller in 2008, but it also resembles a real dispute between West Virginia coal mining rivals that now is before the U.S. Supreme Court. The decade-long dispute, a reflection of the growing questions surrounding judicial elections, tests whether an elected judge's refusal to take himself off a case involving a chief financial backer is unconstitutional.

In *The Appeal* novels researcher can find such absolutely reflection of our society. This show a powerful, timely, and shocking story of political and legal intrigue, a story that will leave readers unable to think about our electoral process or judicial system in quite the same way ever again.

Vested interest is a communication theory that seeks to explain how influences impact behaviors. As defined by William Crano, *vested interest* refers to the amount that an attitude object is deemed hedonically relevant by the attitude holder (Crano, 1995). In Crano's idea of vested interest, if the attitude object is subjectively important and the perceived personal consequences are significant, there will be a greater chance the individual's attitude will be expressed behaviorally. This example illustrates the point that highly vested attitudes concerning issues are related to an individual's situational point of view.

There are four points of literature reasons why the writers is interested in studying this novel; first is because the characters and characterization in this novel is interesting to be established. The plot twists and interesting characters are no longer required in this genre. A cliché plot, an evil company, some innocent

victims, an oppressed do-gooder lawyer or two and some legalese put them all together, shake, stir and pour are interested me.

Second is the setting of this novel, the author set it in Mississippi because it is the story of a campaign for a seat on the state's Supreme Court. Grisham visualize possible local settings, he created his own fiction village in the lips of town. The writer want to know is there any relation between setting and character such setting builds what kind of story and the character that will shown during the story.

Third is the way Grisham wrote this novel using his diction of politics. The realistic novel is based on the influence of politic in justice. The writers think that it is important to describe the relation between politics and the author style in write this novels.

The last one is the writer want to describe the way justice have-on dirty trick in getting a judgments. According this novel, the writers find out many of dirty way to reach private interest even in Supreme Court. The issue of money always prevails over justice. The role of money also take a big part from this story, it is too familiar to known. So the writer thinks it is need to establish more.

The writer uses the sociological theory as an approach to analyze this novel, because the story of the novel about the dirty trick and vested interest in judicial election is relates to the reality in society problems. By so doing, the writer gives the title: **VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION REFLECTED IN JHON GRISHAM'S *THE APPEAL* (2008) A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature review

There is literature review related to *The Appeal* (2008) novel by John Grisham at University of Texas, Austin, School of Law Publications. This is a book review titled “THE APEAL: Texas Review of Law & Politic” this study was conducted by Leslie H Southwick. The aim of this study is to discuss the thriller, plaintiff’s brief , and the election of the judges from the object *The Appeal* novel by John Grisham.

While the writers analyze VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION REFLECTED IN JHON GRISHAM’S *THE APPEAL* (2008) A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH. The writer uses Sociological Approach to analyze the data and using *The Appeal* novel as an object.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the previous background of study, the writers proposed the problem “how is vested interest reflected in *The Appeal* novel (2008) by Jhon Grisham” ?

D. Limitation of Study

The writer focuses this researcher on analyzing Vested interest in judicial election reflected in John Grisham *The Appeal* (2008) based on sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the study

In carrying this research the writer formulated the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To analyze Jhon Grisham's *The Appeal* novel (2008) based on the structural elements of the novel.
2. To describe Vested interest in Jhon Grisham's *The Appeal* novel (2008) based on a sociological approach.

F. The benefit of study

The writer really hopes that her research on *The Appeal* (2008) has a several benefits. The benefits of his study will be distinguished into two benefits:

1. Theoretical benefits

The result of her study is expected to be able to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, an academic reference by other research to conduct further research and particularly the literary studies on *The Appeal* novel.

2. Practical benefits

The study is expected to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and another student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another university who have interest with literary study on the novel from a sociological approach.

G. Research method

1. Type of study

In this research, the writers use a qualitative research in which the writer does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret data. It is library research while data sources are using

literary data. It purposes to analyze novel using sociological approach. The steps to conduct this research are (1) determining the type of 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.

2. Object of the study

The object of the study is Vested Interest reflected in *The Appeal* (2008) by Jhon Grisham.

3. Type of data and data source

Type of data or simply type is a classification identifying one of various types of data. That determines the possible values for that type; the operations that can be done on values of that type; the meaning of the data; and the way values of that type can be stored. There are two data source that are needed to do this research, namely: primary data sources and secondary data sources. The type of data are classified into two kind, those are :

a. Text

Text can be divided as all of written work. Here, the researcher uses text as the most one of the type of data in this researcher. Text can be all of information in written form such as a novel script, books, or other certain written information from internet.

b. Image

Images mean that the researcher imagination of the plot, scenes, setting, in *The Appeal* novels related to the main issue of the researcher that can be the data for this researcher. While, source of data can be divided into two parts as follows:

a. Primary data sources

The primary data sources is *The Appeal* novel (2008).

b. Secondary data sources

The secondary data sources from other sources related the study, such as: website, literary books, criticism, and some article related to the novel.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the methods for collecting data are library research and documentation. There are six techniques of data collecting.

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly
- b. Reading the synopsis to get more understanding
- c. Reading more related references to observe the theory, data and information
- d. Taking notes of important thing both of primary and secondary data source,

- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data,
- f. Browsing on the internet to search information that relates with the novel.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The Technique of the data analysis is a descriptive one in which the researcher uses a sociological approach and adds structure analysis of this data work at *The Appeal* novel and draws a conclusion.

H. Paper organization

The research paper organization of “Vested interest Reflected in *The Appeal* (2008) by Jhon Grisham” is as follows. In chapter I the writers start to introduce which covers background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory. In studying literary work, writers need theory as a basic theoretical framework for the analysis of the problem that interested to analyze. This part presents the underlying theory which is engaged in the study, which is sociological approach. It is divided into two points. The first is explained about the notion of sociological, the basic concept of vested interest, and the last point discusses the structural element of the novels. While in Chapter III the researcher discusses about the social background of American society in the twenty first century. The writer starts with establish the aspect of economy, social, politic, an culture. Chapter IV is structural analysis. This chapter is deals with structural analysis of

The Appeal novel. Chapter V presents the sociological analysis. In research this novel, the writer need to applied a sociological analysis to find the subject matter of this story. The last one is Chapter VI, the writes closed this research with conclusion and suggestion which is probably useful for the reader.