VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION
REFLECTED IN JOHN GRISHAM’S THE APPEAL (2008):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

JOURNAL PUBLICATION
Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for getting Bachelor
Degree of Education in English Department

BRIGHTITTA DIAN PRIsti PANGESTIANI
A 320 100 239

SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2014
APPROVAL

VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION REFLECTED IN JOHN GRISHAM'S THE APPEAL (2008):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

JOURNAL PUBLICATION

By
BRIGHITTA DIAN PRISTI P
A 320 100 239

Approved to be examined by:

Consultant I

(Dr. M. Thoyibi, M.S)

Consultant II

(Siti Fatimah, S.Pd, M.Hum)
VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION REFLECTED IN JOHN
GRISHAM’S THE APPEAL (2008):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

Brighitta Dian Pristi Pangestiani
A320100239
Email: brighitz_07@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT
This research aims at analyzing vested interest in judicial election in John Girsham’s The Appeal by using Sociological Approach. The major problem in this research is how democracy as a way to reach vested interest is reflected in John Girsham’s The Appeal. The research consists of two objectives: analyzing the novel based on structural elements and analyzing the novel based on Sociological Approach. This study uses qualitative research. The object of the study is The Appeal novel written by John Girsham. The method of collecting data in the research is library research by summarizing, paraphrasing, and documenting the data. The results of the research are as follows. First, based on structural analysis, it is apparent that this novel contains a moral message that actually there are vested interests in all aspect of life. Second, based on Sociological analysis, this novel describes the way justice has-on dirty trick in a judgment.

Keywords: vested interest, supreme court, judicial election, lawsuit, cancer, campaign
A. Introduction

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. Adler (98:2006) This problem is commonly found in our social community, inaccurateness prediction will put the reader in a cruel plot. It is divided in three main captures, thirty-nine sub captures and 358 pages.

The Appeal novel delivered theme of vested interest in judicial election. According Crano (46:1995), “vested interest is a communication theory that seeks to explain how influence affect behavior.” William Crano also argue that vested interest refers to the amount that an attitude object is deemed hedonically relevant by attitude holder (46:1995). Simply put, when people have more at stake with the result of an object (like a law or policy) that will greatly affect them, they will behave in a way that will directly support or defy the object for the sake of their own self-interest.

The researcher summarizes relevant literature review to prove the originality of this study. The previous study is a commentary conducted by Jennifer Rubin entitled Grisham’s Law (2009). That commentary is an analysis of the influence of Grisham’s novel to political and judicial aspect. In this commentary he explores the reflection of issue in the novel to the real life especially in America society. Second literature review entitled “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. The similarity of this research with the literature review is analyzing the same literary work by John Grisham. The differentiation between the literature reviews with this research is the researcher before focuses on the analysis of Grisham’s
law and review of politic. While in this research, researcher focuses on vested interest in judicial election reflected in John Grisham by using sociological approach.

By so doing, the writer gives the title: VESTED INTEREST IN JUDICIAL ELECTION REFLECTED IN JHON GRISHAM’S THE APPEAL (2008) A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

Swingewood in his book entitled “the sociology of literature” defined that sociology is essential the scientific, object the study of man in society, the study of social institution and social process. Sociology and literature has the exactly same position to grow, increase, developed, and influence each other. They have the same focus of human’s social world.

In this research the writer uses sociological analysis. According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 17-21), there are three types of sociology of literature: sociology of the writer, sociology of the society, and sociology of the reader. Swingewood and Laurenson(1972:21) states that sociology of the writer is closely related to the social situation of the writer. It is a study of literature in term of the social content authorship. According to Swingewood and Laureson (1972:13), literature as a mirror to age. It is indicates that literary work can explain to the audience the civilization of certain place in a certain time. Swingewood and Laurenson (1972:21) states that sociology of the reader is the study of the reader response to the literary work and how the values in its influence the reader.

B. Research Method

In this study, the writer applies qualitative research. Cleaveland, states that qualitative research is a research which the result is in the form of descriptive data that observed people or behaviors (67:1986). Kiecolt and laura argue if the secondary data sources are library and literary data (5:1985) . The purpose is to analyze sociological perspective. The steps to conduct the research
are: (1) determining the type of the study (2) determining the object of the study (3) determining data and data sources (4) determining technique of data collection (5) determining technique of data analysis.

The object of the study is *The Appeal* by John Grisham and was published in 2008 by Doubleday Broadway by using a sociological approach. In this publication article, the writer uses two data sources in analyzes this study. There are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data as follows: Primary data is the main data source in the novel of *The Appeal* published by Doubleday Broadway. Secondary data is the secondary data sources which can be obtained from internet, books or any information related to the practice of vested interest that support the sociological approach. The technique which is used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis, the step of descriptive analysis are: (1) reading the novel carefully and repeatedly, (2) finding out and 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, suggestion and formulate its pedagogical implication.

C. Research Findings and Discussion

The researcher found some research findings after analyzing *The Appeal*. The research findings of vested interest in judicial election will be discussed below.

1. Findings
   a. Notion of Vested Interest

   According Crano (46:1995), “vested interest is a communication theory that seeks to explain how influence affect behavior.” William Crano also argue that vested interest refers to
the amount that an attitude object is deemed hedonically relevant by attitude holder (46:1995). Simply put, when people have more at stake with the result of an object (like a law or policy) that will greatly affect them, they will behave in a way that will directly support or defy the object for the sake of their own self-interest.

b. Three Key Factor on Vested Interest

1) Involvement

A key factor to consider with vested interest is the level or type of involvement the individual has with a particular attitude object. He establishes that “Value-relevant involvement concerns behaviors which support/reinforce values of the individual. Impression-relevant involvement relates to those behaviors which serve to create or maintain a specific image of the individual.” (Crano, 51:1995).

In The Appeal this factor is described with Carl Trudeau who creates and maintains a person as a current image to reach his purpose, named Ron Fisk. Ron Fisk as his doll to wins his appeal with all their dirty trick in judicial election.

The track record of the entrepreneur is impressive. He is perfect, physically attractive, articulate, apparently has the correct attitude. National organization who are not shown to be aware of Trudeau’s manipulation who just want to beat McCharty crusade.

2) Ego Involvement

In their book, Sherif and Hovland stated that “Ego-involvement’s main focus points are on individual’s
psychological attitudes that are experienced as being a part of “me”. The more emotionally connected people are to an idea, concept, or value, minor differences in beliefs can be viewed as significantly large and perhaps make harsh judgments or have stronger reactions”. (Sherif & Hovland, 1961). For example, religious or political ideals with little or no hedonic value may still be ego-involved because individuals view those types of beliefs as part of who they are.

In *The Appeal* this ego-involved is reflected when the opposite community make a harsh judgment to Sheila McCarty who are confusing some parties enough, both liberal and conservative. Sheila is quite moderate, so the opposite group needs to put her out as their threat and change a new judge in supreme court so they can maintain the judgment in their appeal.

Justice McCharty expected an unopposed re-election. The challenger, who appeared with little warning and immediately goes on the attack, leaves her off-balance and frustrated. She is confused as any good public servant would be who is blind-sided with such unfair attacks.

3) Attitude importance

According Crano, “The factor to consider with vested interest and its application towards attitude-consistent actions is attitude importance. Attitude (or issue) importance concerns not only matters of personal consequence, but also matters of national or international interest” (Crano, 1995).

He also makes a simple example that the differences geographic distance and cultural are also as the factor in
attitude importance. The physical distance or cultural
difference of an occurrence directly correlates to the vested
interest of the perceiver. Things too far away or customs
perceived to be too strange will almost never trigger a vested
interest (Crano, 1995).

In *The Appeal*, Grisham’s show the mechanics of
Mississippi judicial election accurately. The state is divided
into three geographic districts: a northern, a central, and a
southern district. Three justices are elected from each to eight-
year terms. In the fictional election, four justices have their
positions up for renewal. McCarthy is the only justice of keen
interest to Trudeau. The other reasonable justice is opposed,
but not vigorous. Perhaps, he is politically stronger.

Trudeau learns of an expensive, extremely discrete, and
amazingly effective operative who, for much less than the cost
of the jury’s verdict, will be guarantee a reliable candidate will
be found and elected.

This novel clearly include the idea that election of judges
has become so intertwined with longer political battles that no
longer responsible to choose judges in this way.

c. Discussion

Story is the reflection of what occurred in that time. Wellek
and Warren (1962: 94) state that literature is “social institution
using as its medium language, a social creation”. According to
Swingewood and Laurenson (1972: 120) literature is “a work of
art, which expresses the human life and the problem of society,
particularly concerns with law, religion and norms, and value of
society, economics and politics with qualities of the relationship
among them”. The researcher criticizes some aspects in the story such as social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, judicial aspect, religious aspect, science and technology aspect. The social aspect contains the class social in American society. John Grisham shows it by create the relation between the character, the habitation and their own life style based on their class social. The economic aspect in *The Appeal* shows the economic condition in American society in the early twentieth century. It is shown by the character in this novel. Grisham detailed make a gap between the character as the owner of evil company and the innocent victim. This novel clearly shown how the rich and the poor represent their job, property, and activity represent economy aspect. The political aspects show by by illustrated the election campaign of the Constitutional Court judges in Mississippi. As a political process of benefit that is complete of manipulation, conspiracy and agitation, as well as going on in this story. The cultural aspect shown when Mississippi was portrays as a farm region, thus some people tend to eat the farm product. On their supper, Grisham has portrays one of the examples of American table through the scene when Mary Grace served salad, macaroni, and cheese for her children. Religion aspect is shown with protestant as the most dominant religion in American society in the late twentieth century, event any group believed in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. The judicial aspect from the novel shows the accuracy in describing aspects of the law. Legal necessary instruments, legal process that must be done, and the time that must be taken are detail described. Science and technology aspect contributes to the novel. It is shown by
telephone, modern transportation, internet, mass media, television, and cellular phone.

The sociological analysis above based on The *Appeal* novel, the researcher concludes that Grisham as the writer of this novel try to show the social condition in America at the time. He shows the social reality in early twentieth century. There are so much injustice in judicial aspect especially in America. John Grisham criticizes the social reality in America through the theme, story and characterization in *The Appeal*. The theme of the story is “democracy is a tool and the way people or group to reach their own interest”. It is reflected in the major characters of the novel. Carl Trudeau who tries to uses every way in winning his case. He create a new person so he can maintain him and promote him as a delegation to a new Supreme Court judge. In this planning Carl Trudeau is not alone, he is helped by a big corporation and a rich and smart people behind him to reach their own interest. Although has to spent a lot of money to campaign it is not fair if he has to lose in the appeal. So by using democratic way Carl Trudeau wins this case. Finally, based on all aspects that are reflected in *The Appeal*, there is a firm relation between this novel and the American life in early twentieth century. Grisham shows that the rich people have their authority. Based on analysis above, it is clear to the researcher to state the social conditions which are suitable with the main idea of John Grisham viewed by sociological Approach.

D. Conclusion

After analyzing *The Appeal* using Sociological Approach, the researcher comes to the following conclusion: Firstly, based on structural analysis, it is apparent that this novel convoys moral message that sometimes
the judicial institution contaminated with dirty conspiracy, the upper class can set the law because the law can be purchased. Secondly, John Grisham tells the story to the reader by combining all elements into a single unit. He emphasizes the story conflict by creating complex plot story. Each cause of story line has a distinct effect in the end. The complex relationships of the characters closely affect the storyline nets. The author makes the story become interesting with colored diction. The structural elements of this novel are related one to another and build a good unity. Thirdly, based on sociological analysis it can be concluded that in this novel the author reflect the social reality of American society. The author gives emphasis on differences social class. Different social class makes bad influence if used for negative things. Grisham needs to critics the social problem based on his own thinking use this novel as the object. *The Appeal* novel is a real picture transformed into a literary work.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


K. Jill Kiecolt, Laura E. Nathan. (1985). Secondary analysis of survey data (Note: Published in 1985, outdated but some issues are still relevant)


VIRTUAL REFERENCES


http://www.reviews-of-books.com/appeal/