

**SOCIAL STRATIFICATION REFLECTED IN FYODOR
DOSTOYEVSKY'S *CRIME AND PUNISHMENT* (1866): MARXIST
APPROACH**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Getting
Bachelor degree in English Education Department**

by:

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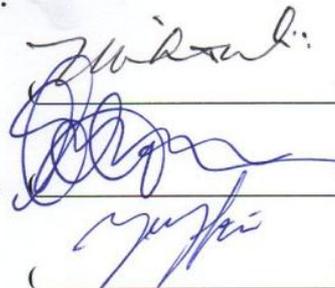
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Abstract

This study aims to investigate social stratification in *Crime and Punishment* novel. The study describes the indicators of social stratification, shows how social stratification depicted in the novel, and reveals the reason of Dostoyevsky why he took social stratification in his novel. This research is qualitative. In analyzing this novel, the researcher uses Marxist approach. The primary data source is taken from *Crime and Punishment* novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. While the secondary data sources are other sources such as journals or articles related to the primary data. The result of the study shows the following conclusions. First, there are three indicators of social stratification such as occupation, property, and authority. Second, social stratification depicted in this novel through characters, setting, events, and diction. Third, the reason why Fyodor Dostoyevsky raises social stratification in his novel is to criticize the reign at that era. He concern with the poor people that oppressed.

Keywords: Crime and Punishment, Marxist, Social Stratification

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan stratifikasi kelas pada novel *Crime and Punishment*. penelitian ini untuk mendeskripsikan indikator dari stratifikasi sosial, untuk menunjukkan bagaimana stratifikasi sosial tergambar pada novel ini, dan untuk menyatakan alasan Fyodor Dostoyevsky mengambil stratifikasi sosial pada novelnya. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Untuk menganalisis novel ini, peneliti menggunakan pendekatan Marxist. Sumber data utama yaitu dari novel *Crime and Punishment* karya Fyodor Dostoyevsky. Sedangkan sumber data kedua yaitu data lain seperti jurnal dan artikel yang terkait data utama. Hasil dari penelitian ini memberikan beberapa kesimpulan. Pertama, terdapat tiga indikator dari stratifikasi kelas seperti pekerjaan, kekayaan, dan kekuasaan. Kedua, stratifikasi sosial tergambar pada novel ini melalui karakter, alur, peristiwa, dan diksi. Ketiga, alasan mengapa Fyodor Dostoyevsky mengangkat stratifikasi sosial pada novelnya yaitu untuk mengkritik pemerintah pada masa itu. Dia peduli terhadap rakyat miskin yang tertindas.

Kata Kunci: Crime and Punishment, Marxist, Stratifikasi Sosial

1. INTRODUCTION

This research is about social stratification in *Crime and Punishment* novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. There are some research that used *Crime and Punishment* novel as a primary source and used different issue and theory to analyze this novel. Such as the research of Revisiting Existentialism through the study of Raskolnikov's Personal Changes (David Bayu, 2007), the research of English-

Indonesian Translation in the Novel *Crime* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky into *Kejahatan dan Hukuman* by Ahmad Faizal (Merlyn, 2004), and Profance Challenge and Orthodox Response in Doeyevsky's *Crime and Punishment* (Tucker, 2008).

Crime and Punishment novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky made in 1866. This novel describes the condition of the characters. Many issue which raised in this novel. One of the issue is social issue, but not many researchers who analyze social issues that contained in the novel.

In this novel, the researcher describes about social stratification. Social stratification refers to the social structure distributed enequally among occupation of different statues which wealth, power, and prestige (Johnson, 1986, p. 314). Social stratification is the condition where people have enequal access to valued resources, services, and positions in the society. It can be judgement of environment based on the level of income, property, occupation and position. Position can be different between one another and yet not ranked relative to each other (Heller, 1969, p. 3).

The definition of social stratification has three aspects, namely stratification is a social process, stratified society rewards are distributed systematically based on social status; and distribution of wealth, power, and prestige as profoundly as aspects of social environment affect the quality of people's lives. (Johnson, 1986, p. 315).

Social ranking based on primarily economic position which achieved characteristic can influence social system. Social differentiation happen quite simply, when we find people with individual qualities and social roles. Positions may be differentiated from one another and ranked relative to each people. While social stratification is the condition where poeple have enequal access to valued resource, services, and positions in the society (Heller, 1969, p. 3).

Accroding to Kerbo (2003), there are four class divisions by authority as well as by occupational and economic standing such as:

The Upper Class is people or families eho have high property ownership and high authority.

The Corporate Class is people or families who have high authority and power in corporations such government.

The Middle Class is people or families who have relatively little property but high to positions in the occupation or government and authority.

The Working Class is people or families who have middle position in occupation or government with little even no property and little or no authority.

Based on Marxism, there are two classes: bourgeoisie controls the capital and means of production, and the proletariat provides the labour. In some history, there has been class struggle happens between two classes. Class struggle happens when the bourgeoisie pays the workers (proletariat) everyday, to make thing for them to sell. The workers cannot do anything because they cannot live without money and job. The workers must get some money to buy food and they do not have other choice beside works to the rich people. (Weber, 1946, p. 280)

2. METHOD

This research is qualitative method. It is using descriptive analysis. The object of this research is *Crime and Punishment* novel by Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1866). This research is about analysis of social stratification in the novel. The type of the study is library research. The type of data and the data source divided into two, primary data source and secondary data source. In conducting the study, the researcher uses the technique of collecting data, as follows: (a) reading the novel repeatedly and understanding the content, (b) Reading some other resources to the novel, (c) giving marks to particular parts in the novel, which are considered important for the analysis, (d) taking notes for essential parts both in primary and secondary data sources, (e) classifying the data into categories and developing them into good unity.

3. THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY AND DISCUSSION

3.1 The Indicators of Social Stratification

There are three indicators of social stratification. The indicators of social stratification are occupation, property, and authority.

There are four class divisions by authority as well as occupational and economic standing such as the upper class, the corporate class, the middle class, the working class, and the last the lower class (Kerbo, 2003, p. 13).

In this novel the researcher found some occupation of the characters. The character of Zossimov as a doctor, Natasya works as a servant, Porfiry Petrovitch as the head of Investigation Department, Zametov as the head clerk in police station, Andrey Semyonovitch as a clerk in the minister, Alyona Ivanovna as a pawnbroker, Amalia Fyodorovna as a landlady, Nikodim Fomitch as a superintendent of police station, Pyotr Petrovitch Luzhin as a counsellor, Kapernaumovs as a a tailor.

Kerbo (2003) describes about property:

Property is accumulated assets from people that they have from their money in the form of various types of valued goods such as estate, bonds, stocks, and many precious things in this life (p. 22).

Income also distributed to get property. Property which the writer found in this novel is house and money. This novel describes the poverty condition, so the house and money are a precious thing. Alyona Ivanovna who a pawnbroker has house and much money, she always gives money to people who pawned things and Amalia, landlady has a house and a boarding house.

The imperative coordination of the action of a considerable number of men requires control of a staff of person, that is divisions formed in relation to bureaucratic authority or formalized and legitimated power (Weber, 1947, p. 325). The character who have authority is Ilya Petrovitch, he is a assistant superintendent. He has a power to interrogate people who have a problem.

3.2 How Social Stratification Depicted in *Crime and Punishment* Novel

Social stratification depicted in this novel through characters, setting, events, and diction. Through characters, social stratification depicted by the property and authority of characters based on their occupation. Through setting, social stratification pictured by the people who identified as working class. Through events, the researcher found the events that showed social stratification such as the

event of murder by the lower class to the upper class, the event of engagement between lower class and middle class, violence by the upper class to working class and the treatment that showed the different class. The diction describe something to shows social stratification.

3.3 The Reason Why the Social Mobility Addressed in *Arms and the Man*

The story and the setting of *Crime and Punishment* novel describe the condition of Petersburg, Russia. From the historical of Russian literature, it can be called The Golden Age, where the social issue raised to overcoming the tragic loneliness of a person in the world. Fyodor Dostoyevsky showed with great artistic power and proud human freedom result in slavery or self-destruction.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky is one of the famous novelists in the Golden Age era. There are some novel work in the Golden Age era such as *Notes from the House of the Dead* and *Crime and Punishment*. The content of the story is based on his novel success to convey the social criticism. In the Golden Age, literary works raised the issue of socialist that care about poor people like the workers class and lower class involved fighting against everything that oppresses. In *Crime and Punishment novel*, Fyodor Dostoevsky also addressed the psychological issue.

Crime and punishment published in 1866 and The Golden Age era starts from 1860 until 1870. The content is social issue. This novel shows the condition of people who live in the poverty, people in the high class can do anything what they want, and this novel tells how someone can kill other people with the motive of social class. In the golden age era, the technology is not sufficiently sophisticated and modern such as newspaper, magazine, and poster.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky was born on October 30, 1821 in Moscow, Russia. He grew up in family that categorized in the middle class. His father is a doctor at the Mariinsky Hospital for the poor people in the Moscow and her mother from the merchant's family. Dostoyevsky's father managed to earn the rank of nobleman in 1828 and his father was murdered by his own serf in 1839. He graduated from engineering school and chose to work of literary. After he published his first novel and success to deliver social message, he joined Belinsky's literary circle. On the other hand, he joined in an illegal group called Petrashevsky's Circle that

discusses literary and political issues and he was arrested with other member. In prison, he wrote other novel until he moved into prison camp. After he was acquitted from the prison, he continued his literary career. His focus is on the social and politic critic and on the psychology and morality.

In 1855-1881 is the reign of Alexander II that matures opposed to change. The reign was remarkable for the freeing of the serf and introduction of many other fundamental reforms. Based on Historical of Russian literature, the population of Russia was rapidly increasing in this reign, in 1860 from about 60 million, 50 million were peasants to 90 million in 1900. Because the communal farming provided little incentive for greater output, the peasants made use of their new freedom by moving to the towns where in common with the industrial workers of many other countries they lived in misery and poverty.

3.4 DISCUSSION

Social stratification based on the characters of *Crime and Punishment* novel can be categorized in the table below:

	Occupation	Property	Authority
Upper Class	Alyona Ivanovna, Amalia Fyodorovna	Alyona Ivanovna, Amalia Fyodorovna	
Corporate Class	Porviry Petrovitch		Ilya Petrovitch
Middle Class	Zossimov, Zamettov, Andrey Semyonovitch, Nikodim Fomitch, Pyotr Petrovitch		
Working Class	Natasya		
Lower Class	Raskolnikov		

Accroding to Kerbo (2003) based on the occupation, the upper class is people who have high property ownership and high authority. In this novel, the

characters who identified as the upper class is Alyona Ivanovna and Amalia Fyodorovna. Alyona is a pawnbroker, she has high property ownership, she has a lot of thing from people who pawned their belongings. Amalia as a landlady, she also has high property, she gets money from the people who stay in he boarding house.

The corporate class is people who have high authority and power in the government. Porfiry Petrovitch as the head of investigation department can be categorized in corporate class because he has high authority in the government.

The middle class is people who have relatively little property but high position in the occupation and authority. There are some characters in the middle class such Zossimov as doxtor, Zametov as the head clerk in the police office, Andrey Semyonovitch as a clerk in the minister, Nikodim Fomitch as superintendent of police station, and Pyotr Petrovitch as a consellor. They have high position in occupation.

The working class is people who have no property and have no authority. The character who is categorized in the working class is Natasya. She works to Amalia as a servant. She must clean Amalia's house and also her boarding house.

The lower class is people who are sometimes get an occupation or people who have no occupation position. In this novel, Raskolnikov's family can be identified as the lower class because his mother works as a beggar and Raskolnikov just a former student.

Based on the property, the researcher found property of Alyona Ivanovna and the property of Amalia. According to Kerbo (2003), the upper class is their ownership of primary assets of production and the researcher identified both of them as the upper class because Alyona has a house which also as a place where she works as a pawnbroker, she has primary assets and high property. Meanwhile Amalia also has a house and a boarding house, she as the owner of boarding house.

Weber (1947) observed, "the imperative coordination of the action of a considerable number of men requires control of a staff of person" (p. 325). The researcher found the authority of middle class. In this novel, the character who

have authority si Ilya Petrovitch. He is assistant superintendent. He has the authority of people who have a problem.

Social stratification depicted in this novel through characters, through setting, through events, and through diction. Through characters, social stratification depicted by the property and authority of characters based on their occupation. Through setting, social stratification pictured place of working class. Through events, the researcher found the events that show social stratification such as the event of murder by the lower class to the upper class, violence by the upper class to working class, the event of engagement between upper class and lower class, and the treatment that showed the different class.

Fyodor Dostoyevsky, the author of this novel addresses social stratification to express his criticism of the government at that time because in 1866 can be categorized as a Golden Age where the writer creates a work of literature to criticize the situation at that time. Fyodor Dostoyevsky wrote *Crime and Punishment* novel because of its concern with the poor people that oppressed. In the other hand, from his journey of life who was born in the middle class family, his father died because killed by his own serf, and his life in the prison because he participated in an illegal organization which makes Fyodor Dostoyevsky raised the social issues in his novel.

4. CONCLUSION

From the analysis and discussion in the previous chapter, the researcher will make conclusions. Firstly, the researcher found the indicators of social stratification. There are three indicators of social stratification namely occupation, property and authority. According to Kerbo (2003), property is accumulated assets from people that they have from their money. Occupation is the place that people work that appropriate with their field and their ability and can make social classes in the society. Authority is the imperative coordination of the action of a considerable number of men requires control of a staff of person (Weber, 1947, p. 325). People who have high authority can control people around them.

Secondly, the social stratification was depicted in this novel with through characters, setting, events, and diction. Through characters, social stratification was illustrated with occupation, property, and authority. The setting showed place of working class. The events pictured murder, engagement, and violence. The diction was used diction to describe something like people.

Thirdly, the social stratification addressed in this novel because at the time the differences of social class are very visible. Fyodor Dostoyevsky raised this issue in the Golden Age era to criticize the reign at that time that low economy and poverty and he concerned with the poor people that oppressed. He wanted to convey conditions based on what he experienced and what he saw at that time.

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