

**RESPECT FOR OTHERS' RIGHTS**  
**IN NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE'S *HOUSE OF SEVEN GABLES*:**  
**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by:

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*The House of the Seven Gables*, a novel written by Nathaniel Hawthorne is one of the novels which an appearance can not be separated from the real life of its author and his social life. By reading *The House of the Seven Gables*, the researcher has a deep impression because its story reflects an epoch of the author family and also it gives a picture of great history which happened in American society. *The House of the Seven Gables* (THOSG) was published in 1851 and THOSG was publisher Wildside Press in English language. It is divided of 21 chapters and consists of 288 pages. Then, the setting of time is 19<sup>th</sup> century; the setting of place is New England. In this case, sociology of the novel is based on his live experience of his own age, the 18<sup>th</sup> century in which an 'enlightenment' era develops in America. Nathaniel Hawthorne is a famous American writer, one of the most important nineteenth century writers who cannot be separated from his society of creating his works.

The story of *The House of the Seven Gables* starts when Colonel Pyncheon, the founder father of the house of the seven gables, builds the mansion upon property usurped from the original owner, Matthew Maule. Matthew Maule is a plain person who has an acre of a strategic land. This strategic land make Colonel Pyncheon, a hard and stern Puritan of Massachusetts who is very prominent in his city, has a strong desire to

posses it. The original owner of that land is very stubborn in the defense of what he considers his right. It makes Colonel Pyncheon try to find a way to achieve his intention. On other side, Matthew Maule accused by the prominent Puritans of having something to do with witchcraft. A person who has witchcraft is hunted by the Puritans, because according to the Puritans that person gets a supernatural power from Satan. As accused of being a witch, Matthew Maule hanged by the Puritans. Colonel Pyncheon joins in that persecution; even he is one of the Puritans who are very enthusiastic in seeking the condemnation of Matthew Maule. By persecuting Matthew Maule, Colonel Pyncheon can get what he wants, that is Matthew Maule's land. Before being persecuted, Matthew Maule curses Colonel Pyncheon by saying "God will give him blood to drink". The impact of this land usurpation, the persecution, and the curse griped the next Pyncheon generation. The next inhabitants of that house are always overshadowed by the gloom and dark life.

Based on the action of his past ancestor, Hawthorne wrote *THOSG* with a portrayal of hidden sin and the individual's confrontation with evil, as its theme. (Michael, 1985:527) Its issues are from the crime of the original Pyncheon against the original Maule. The time in that novel is Hawthorne's day overshadowed by the past and the story, in the words of the preface, "is a legend prolonging itself, from an epoch now gray in the distance, down into our own broad daylight, and bringing along with it some of its legendary mist". (Hawthorne, 1990: viii). Here, the author tries

to connect his ancestor past time with his present day, “The point of view in which this tale comes under the romantic definition lies in the attempt to connect a bygone time with the very present that is flitting away from us”. (Hawthorne, 1990: vii).

Public response of this work is pro; we know that *The House of the Seven Gables* is one of the great literary work. Nathaniel Hawthorne as one of the creative, innovative and talented American writer knows such as the condition and the situation perfectly. He is a prominent early American author, who contributes greatly to the evolution of modern American literature, he is known as a novelist and critic who an appearance in writing cannot be separated from his real experience and his social life. The reader thinks this novel is absolutely terrific. It does take some thinking. They love this book and they are going to read more of his books. The reader also states that they have a really hard time to maintain a constant mental state of sanity while reading the piece. Because it is a literary masterpiece with so many multidimensional characters, and so good described by the author. It is a unique story. The reader would to visits the actual house. They say; it is a mental story as well as straight narrative, and it is also poetry that is, employing poetic imagery and imagination. This book is a good book with a lot of its meaning under the surface. It is interesting as the author gave all these human qualities to a house. Although many people say that this novel is a good work, in spite of several people dislikes this book. They say the book as it took so long to

say so little. Some of the plot twists are good but other than that it was, they think this book un-interesting.

The success of his novels and short stories establish Hawthorne's reputation in America. He is admired by his friends for his ability in creating the literary work. Another friend of him is Herman Melville an author of a novel *Moby Dick*. To show his admiration for Hawthorne, he dedicates his novel *Moby Dick* for him. "In taken of my admiration for his genius, this book is inscribed to Nathaniel Hawthorne" ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Nathaniel Hawthorne's \*The House of the Seven Gables\*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathaniel_Hawthorne's_The_House_of_the_Seven_Gables)).

*The House of the Seven Gables* is Hawthorne's follow up to his highly successful novel *The Scarlet Letter*. It took him five months to write it, completing it in early 1851. This work sold finely and seems to have pleased a good many people. Genre of this novel is gothic fiction; the novel is an inspiration for horror fiction written by H.P Lovecraft, who calls it "New England's greatest contribution to weird literature" in his essay "*The Picture in the House*", "*The Shunned House*" and *The Case of Charles Dexter Ward* novel. He created a lot of works on a wide range of subjects; his works include *Twice-Told Tales*, *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Blithedale Romance*, *The Marble Faun*, and *The House of the Seven Gables*. He got the reputation on his success at writing *The Scarlet Letter*. This novel becomes a masterpiece and has been filmed in 1955. *The Scarlet Letter* is one of the most read classics of American Literature.

Hawthorne's works reflect his dark vision of human nature. His strange, story of haunted and guilt, isolation, and betrayal of his fascination with terrific of human psychological and moral responsibility.

Naturally, a literary work mostly certain the nature of life and human experience of life. The author of a literary work always tries to make the reader understand and feel, as they are involved on those experiences. As the background of a literary work, the mass hanging in Salem as the past wrongdoing is used as the major influence of the nature and human experience of life that will make the story up. The past wrongdoing, the sin, and the human nature can be a great inspiration for some literary works and literary writers in all over the world.

His works often picture phenomena in the past at a certain time and at certain place, moral and religious concerns are central to his literary art. He writes about a supernatural, a guilt heart, a haunted soul and set his dark tales in the mysterious manner. Moral implications of sin and guilt are expressed in many his works. He is the descendant of Puritan line and his literary imagination is strongly shaped by the early life of his forefather in Salem, Massachusetts. The history of Salem and American Puritanism provides background age which he later presents his ideas about human nature, sin, moral, and the pleasure of heart. He is an author who has a great contribution in manifesting the idea of Puritanism; his writings are mostly based on the historical fact combined with the reality of his society. The author expressing the social life where the author lives when the

authors are making their literary work. To some authors, problems includes of many social aspect such as social, economic, culture, religion, and also politic.

In *THOSG* there is Hawthorne family history as well as the story of the Pyncheon family over some two hundred years before, in Salem (Cohen, 1970:125). In its setting of time and place, the characters of the novel are recognizable as social, historical and moral types. The judge is the modern reincarnation of the original Puritan and he is the modern financial magnate, town father and politician.

The colonel is the founder father of the house. Hepzibah Pyncheon is the aristocratic spinster who is also strongly materialistic. Clifford Pyncheon is the paradoxical but inevitable product of material success; and the refined dilettante. Phoebe Pyncheon is the flower of New England provincial democracy, a new and hopeful type for the American future. *THOSG* has an autobiographical significance, for the Pyncheon forebears, whose history opens the plot and is resumed at several points, are unmistakable representative of John Hathorne, Nathaniel Hawthorne's great-great grandfather, an important community figure who was involved in judging and condemning men for being accused of the crime of witchcraft.

The researcher chooses this novel to be her object of research with an expectation that this research can be a description of literary work which is not only viewed as an aesthetic art, but primarily as an evidence

of history which happened in American society. Major theme in the novel is respect for other's which give the moral message. Hawthorne, always is haunted by the sins of his ancestors in the Salem witch trials, examines guilt, retribution, and atonement of a result of the dishonest.

## **B. Previous Study**

The research of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* is not a new thing. There is a research on this novel. The certain research that relates to the writer's study has been done by Icuk Salabiyati (UNS, 2001). In her research entitled "Nathaniel Hawthorne's View about Puritanism as Reflected in The House of the Seven Gables". In her research paper, she elaborates the author's view about Puritan and the author's biography. The research will be centered on observing Nathaniel Hawthorne's idea about the American Puritan life dealing with their religious spirit.

Another research of the House of the Seven Gables is conducted by Alex Arsyad (UMS, 2007). In his research entitled: "Symbolism in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables*". His research paper focuses analyzing the novel by using symbolism that reflects an epoch of the author family and it gives a picture of a great history, which happened in American society.

From the literary reviews above, the researcher wants to conduct a research on Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The House of the Seven Gables* based



on the sociological perspective, entitled “Respect For Others’ Rights in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *House of Seven Gables: A Sociological Approach*. The writer focuses on social background of respect for others’ rights in the *House of the Seven Gables* novel. Of course, this research is different from previous researches and not done yet at least in Surakarta Muhammadiyah University.

### **C. Problem of the Study**

Problem of the study is essential for the research, because it makes the study more clear and more focus. Based on the background of the study the researcher formulates the main problem that emerges in this study is how respect for others’ rights is reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne’s *House of Seven Gables* based on a sociological approach that includes its moral message.

### **D. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research problem, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural element of the novel entitled *The House of the Seven Gables*.
2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological approach by identifying the relationship between the novel and the social background of the American society when the novel was written.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

The problem of the study is limited on the Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel entitled *The House of the Seven Gables*.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The writer hopes that the research will have some benefit. Two kinds of the benefit can be gained from the study are as follows:

#### 1. Theoretical Benefit

Hopefully the result of the research can be used as addition information to the reader in the future time, especially to the further studies Nathaniel Hawthorne's *House of Seven Gables*.

#### 2. Practical Benefit

The study is expected to enrich the knowledge of the researcher and the readers and also to give deeper understandings in literary field as the reference to the other researcher about Nathaniel Hawthorne's *House of the Seven Gables* based on the sociological approach.

### **G. Research Method**

Research method is one of extremely important things of the research because it can be defined as a procedure or a way to do the research. The research method will be broken down in to five aspects: (1) Type of the research, (2) Object of the Study, (3) Type of data and the

Data Source, (4) Method of collecting Data, and (5) Technique of Analyzing Data.

1. Type of the research

The writer uses a descriptive qualitative method besides books and other related references to support to subject matter. Descriptive research is a type of a research, which does or includes of any calculation or statistic but it includes sentence or description of the subject as a result. While Qualitative research is a research of which data in the form of written and oral words are descriptively analyzed.

2. Object of the study

The object of the research is respect for other's rights reflected in Nathaniel Hawthorne's *House of Seven Gables*.

3. Type of data and the data source

The data in this research is taken from the novel that consists of words, phrases and sentences.

The data sources in this research are literary data, which are divided into two categories:

a. Primary data, the data are taken from the novel of *The House of the Seven Gables by Nathaniel Hawthorne*, that published by Wildside Press, 1851, United States.

b. Secondary data, the data are taken from some references related to the research by picking up either from book or internet.

#### 4. Method of Collecting Data

In collecting data the method used is library research. The data from primary and secondary sources are collecting and recording in a short document as evidence. The method of collecting data is as follows:

- a. Reading the novel.
- b. Browsing the internet to get several information relating with the research.
- c. Taking note for important data from both primary and secondary data.
- d. Arranging the data into several parts according to the classification.
- e. Selecting particular points that are considered important and relevant for the analysis.

#### 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer uses descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the novel and the sociological theory to show Nathaniel Hawthorne respect for others rights that includes of morality message in his novel *The House of the Seven Gables*.

### **H. Research Paper Organization**

Chapter 1 is Introduction. It consist Background of the Study, Previous study, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Problem, Objective of the study, and Benefit of the Study. Chapter 2 is Theoretical Background. It consist Notion of Sociology of Literature, Principle of

Sociology of Literature, and Structural element of the Novel. Chapter 3 is Historical Background of American Society in the middle of nineteenth century. Chapter 4 is structural analysis of the novel, which involves the structural elements of character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, theme and discussion. Chapter 5 constitutes sociological analysis of the novel. The last is Chapter 6 contains conclusion and suggestion.