

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Social stratification or social pyramid is happen in long time since now. Stratification came from Latin word “*Strata*” it is mean as layer. Stratification can be interpreted as society distinction into some class in storey. Every community in this world has some precious things like wealth, authority or dignity, that aspect as benchmark of social stratification. Stratification is happen because the role of each individual. Individual as social human they cannot avoid each other when there is social interaction between of them. The person who has nature of human social is the key how individual can adapt with their environment where they live. It is the one aspect that influent how the society is build.

Social aspect in the community will create some dynamic. Some community ignoring some different level in their environment in the one place where they live together and became united, but there is some precious thing in community that sometimes isn’t realize its existence, dividing or coating in community itself. In the community there are some individuals who have dignity because of their influence. That situation can be fact when some community is more complex accordingly social stratification became more complex too. Purwanto (2007: 94) social stratification is something functional in community growth and the later on will be mark by more complexes of the social stratification. Stratification in the community is exist by itself or accidently is exist because the community itself who made the stratification in their environment base on some individual who have different level each other and be sort from low level until high level. Seokanto (1982: 221) said that social stratification that happen itself have basic coating base on intelligent, seniority, the nature of the authenticity of the head of a kindred society membership, and may also be based upon the treasure (wealth and specific reasons.

The community will make social stratification into social classes. Social class can be identification as strata (layer) peoples who have same position in continuum of social status, Horton, Paul B., Chester L. Hunt (1999: 5). Social class is the important reality that really happen in the community, not just a concept but the people itself who make some classification others for their community into some organization or the same position or layer into some layers likes same position, people who has high position or more lowest.

The issue of social stratification has been discussed in the several sciences. Social stratification is not only became the attention of scientists in the field, but also becomes the attention of the authors in the literary world. One of them is Kiera Cass. She is novel writer with genre young adult and has been write many works. The novels that she writes, like *The Selection*, *The Elite*, *The One*, *The Heir*, *The Crown*, *The Prince*, *The Siren*, *The Guard*, and many more. *The Selection*, Cass is an author who has an idea in their literary works about strata at her novel with background of world war four. Kiera Cass also get nomine of Good reads Choice Awards Best Young adult Fantasy and Science Fiction.

The Selection novel is a literary work that tells about America Singer is a girl form caste number five who lived with her family whose profession as entertainer. As someone who came from caste number five, exactly his life is so simple. To the extent she and her family must share food each others. One day, come up a contest looking for a best princess in the country to become a wife of Maxon prince. Every girl is so excited with the competition and wants it to be one of thirty five contestants. How not, if they are qualify and become a contestant, so their caste will climb up from lower caste to caste number three. The Queen's of Illea country is too, at the past Queen Amberly is one from caste number four and became a labor in the farm before became a Queen. The family kingdom has a goal why they choose Queen from caste number three below to growing patriotism the society who in caste number three until eight.

Illea is a country based absolute monarch and Illea has eight castes. In Illea, the castes has divided depend on what kinds of their occupation. The First caste, fill high caste and own by membership of family kingdom and aristocrat. Second caste, fill by artist and civil servants, military, fireman, and guard. Third caste, are thinker, invention, teacher, philosopher, doctor, architect, librarian, therapist, film director, music producer, prosecutor, and writer. Fourth caste, is businessman likes; chef, contractor, factory worker, and farmer. Fifth caste is artist, but the fee is not comparable with second caste. This caste fills by performing artist, music classic, singer, dancer, photographer, and circus performer. Six caste, are secretary, maid, and driver. Seventh caste is blue-collar workers; gardener, labor, rubbish gatherers, beggar, and something like. And the last caste, eight castes is the lower caste, like drug addict, someone who sick in mental and physic, outcast (prisoner), and betrayer country. If the civil of Illea want to raise their caste, so they must have a lot of money to redeem it. In the other way is, the Illea girl married with a man above her caste and if they married a man bottom her caste, they will get the lower caste too. So the Illea's government gives time in a month to seriously think about it toward a girl who will married with a man in the bottom of her caste. And that condition has think by America itself, she will be ready if married with Aspen, her lovers. If America get an agreement from his parents and became fifth caste, if the parents not agree and they (America and Aspen) still married, so America and Aspen will down the caste become eight caste (eloped).

This competition is not the first time has declared in that country. This event also be appointed as reality show for commercial in television. America not interest to joint it who is known entitled "The Selection". Because the selection of Illea princess fills with thirty six women who chase Prince Maxon became dissolved heart and chooses them. But what can make, America's mother quietly registered his name as one of the candidate to follow the completion with tens another women from

different castes. Her families believe that America will become third caste, but if she chooses to become Princess of Illea, she and his family became first caste.

At the moment of departure day to join “The Selection”, a bad event befalls in America. Aspen encountered while-doing having an affair. The Aspen’s cause why he having an affair when he get relationship with America; America itself who give anything to him, and that is make self-esteem of Aspen hurt. Because Aspen having a affair from America, that condition who make her more to race to join “The Selection”, for forgetting Aspen.

Maxon is the crown prince and now he became an idol prince by women. In America minds is not reliable with her expectation. Everything about Maxon is cannot match Aspen. “The Selection” serves competition that oppressive and make America want to quickly to elimination. But, in the time, there is something that makes her to choose stay, maintain her position and herself in Maxon’s heart.

There are some reasons why the researcher is interested in studying this novel. The first is about in that era, after the end of world wars four between American States of China (ASC) between New Asia. The winner is ASC and change became country with name Illea as Monarchy country. At the time, every children especially for woman gender attain the age of sixteen years old until twenty years old can be register to follow the selection of fiancé of crown prince Maxon Calix Schreave, nineteen years old.

The second reason is the researcher interested with the stratification class that be organize by characteristic each caste, because Illea or ASC (American States of China) that embrace monarchy system (which means the system of government was a kingdom) also wear the caste system in that subjects.

The third reason is the researcher interested with the America Singer, the main character of this novel, because her mother is very

interested about the event of became candidate of fiancé of crown prince of Ille, actually America is not interested and not agree about it, but because there is some support and push form Aspen, America join it and she became struggle to became fiancé of Crown Prince Maxon.

Based on the illustration above, the researcher interested to analyze this novel by using Marxist Theory entitled **SOCIAL STRATIFICATION REFLECTED IN KIERA CASS'S *THESELECTION* NOVEL (2012): A MARXIS THEORY.**

B. Problem Statement

Considering the background above, the problem in this research is how social stratification is exist in the Illea through *The Selection* novel. Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the researcher questions are as follows:

1. How social stratification is classified based on specific caste and criteria of each in *The Selection* novel?
2. How much the social stratification classified in *The Selection* novel?

C. Objectives of the Study

Dealing with the problem statement above, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To explain the social stratification is classified based on specific caste and criteria of each in *The Selection* novel.
2. To describe the kinds of social stratification classified in *The Selection* novel.

D. Limitation of the Study

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing social stratification in Kiera Cass's *The Selection* novel (2012) on Marxist theory.

E. Benefits of the Study

The benefit of the research consists of theoretical benefit and practical benefit as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of this study will give contribution in the information, and will give benefits to the larger of knowledge particularly the literary study in Kiera Cass's *The Selection* novel (2012).

2. Practical Benefit

The researcher expects that this research will give the significant benefits in the form of information, especially for students of English Department who manage themselves to increase their knowledge in analyzing *The Selection* novel by using Marxist theory.