A CLASS STRUGGLE REFLECTED IN SIR WALTER SCOTT’S *IVANHOE*: A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE

RESEARCH PAPER
Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department

by

DESI WULANDARI
A 320 030 321

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA
2008
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Life is not easy; it is a battle field of all God’s creatures in order to survive. People often say, one who is strong becomes the winner. Although this quotation often refers to the process of animal evolution, it is possible for human kind. For some reasons, people always want to live better. Then people struggle in their life. Struggle is the effort or active expression to solve the problem. People struggle in their life not always because they want higher position, bigger income, or higher class status, but the fundamental of all struggle is in order to survive, whether they realize it or not.

Marx in Ritzer and Goodman (2004: 28) states that actually human is productive that is in order to survive people need to work in and with nature. He also states that human is social creature. There are always relationships between people and those relationships become social structure of their life. The structure of human social is complex, because there are so many groups of different background of people. Every group has its structure of life. Therefore when two or more groups make some relationships to each other their structure is also related one to another. Then people either realize it or not will make some structure as a consequence of the connection. Ritzer and Goodman (2004: 31) state that through the journey of history natural process of human productivity will be damaged by firstly the condition of
infrastructure of primitive society and then by some of structural rules that are created by society during the journey of history. Those structural rules disturb the process of natural production by some many ways, such as feudalism, capitalism, etc.

The disturbances of natural production of society make it get some consequences. One of those is social stratification. Social stratification makes the group of society apart into some smaller unit of ranked group. This stratification occurs because there are two or more ranked groups in society and the differences of their prestige. The society is divided into some classes based on the rank or prestige of the group. The relationships of each group not always give advantage to each other. Just like symbiosis, sometimes there are some people that get disadvantages.

The disadvantages make some people of certain social class take some actions to change their luck. They demand an equal advantage or profit. Therefore they struggle for better condition. It is called class struggle that is the active expression of class conflict looked at from any kind of socialist perspective (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/class_struggle).

People were born in different background. There are so many different backgrounds of life, such as race, religion, states, and prosperity. Those differences stimulate people act differently to each other. They want to keep their personalities based on their background. Realize it or not people will be separated by invisible wall from other groups of society; they make their own group with the same background and call it their class. Just the same as the
conflict of class caused by the disadvantages, those classes cannot avoid from another conflict caused by differences.

Prosperity also influences the class conflict. No one can ignore the prosperity of their life. With prosperity, people will feel safe, therefore rather far from social conflict. But to have prosperity people have to fight for it, to struggle it, then when they have it, they struggle to keep it.

There are some ways of fighting of something, not only actively but also passively. Some active ways can be seen by the struggle movement; on the other hand passives ways can be seen by the opinion or criticism. People make some opinions and criticism by using written media. Literary work is one of written media. It is used to reflect the real life.

Literary work is a product of human soul and reflection of human experience and knowledge. Something the author thinks as reality and also imagination of his thought. The creation of literary work is often related to social condition, either nowadays condition that is when the author is alive or past and future condition based on the author’s knowledge and imagination or prediction.

Literary works, such as novel are written to bring us a sense and perception of life, to sharpen and widen awareness of life, and to see the change of behaviour that human get through in their struggles of life. Novel can also become a medium to tell about history. People especially author can combine history and fiction in novel. It has purpose to bring the history alive and make it interesting.
Class struggle is one of inspiration for author in writing some literary works, including novel. Class struggle of medieval England is one of the aspects of Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*. It is based on the history background of medieval England that was social conflict between Anglo-Saxon, Norman, and Jew.

Sir Walter Scott was born on August 15, 1771, in Old Town, Edinburgh. He was Scottish historical novelist and poet. In early of the time he became a writer he wrote his novels anonymously. His nickname The Wizard of the North was popularly applied to the mysterious best-selling writer. His identity as the author of the novels was widely rumored and in 1815 he was given the honor of dining with George, Prince Regent, who wanted to meet “The Author of Waverley”.

During 1810’s and 1820’s he wrote so many famous novels, such as *Waverley* (1814), *Guy Mannering* (1815), *The Antiquary* (1816), *Rob Roy* (1818), *Ivanhoe* (1819), *Kenilworth* (1821), *The Pirate* (1822), *The Fortune of Nigel* (1822), *Tales of Crusaders* (1825), and many more.

Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe* is his breakthrough from writing about Scotland. It was published in 1819, consisting of 44 chapters and 497 pages. Many critics considered that *Ivanhoe* is one of forms of emancipation to Jews in England, which it’s a very sympathetic Jewish major character, Rebecca, considered by many critics to be the book’s real heroine, relevant to the fact that the book was published at a time when the struggle for the emancipation of the Jews in England was gathering momentum.
Ivanhoe is a historical novel with some adventures in it. Ivanhoe is a story about England in around 1189, which tells about the life after the conquest of Normandy. The king Richard I, Norman left the country to take a trip to Holly land. The prince John his cousin then takes the control of the government. His behavior of Norman tradition and the self awareness of upper class make him in trouble with Cedric the Saxon who still keep steady his Saxon tradition. Prince John takes a bad treatment toward Saxon and Jew who is always a lower even worse class of society. Ivanhoe as a loyal knight to King Richard came back from the journey, without notifying to see the situation of the country. Prince John and his people try to replace the king, to authorize the kingdom. The feudalism system of the country makes the effort of Prince John running well until the part of his people do fatal mistakes. The mistakes make the people commanded by King Richard in disguising and Locksley the Robin Hood attack the Castile where Rowena, injure Ivanhoe, and Rebecca the Jewish are trapped. The problem does not end yet after the Locksley’s people win. One of the Prince John’s people, Brian de Bois-Gilbert, Templar Knight, brings Rebecca away. Then Ivanhoe, who has been already healthy come to save her from the slander by the Head of the Templar Order.

This story is complex of life struggle in order to survive. Norman had to struggle for their high position, and try to keep it, Anglo-Saxon have to struggle to keep their identity of noble in their own country, and to keep the
tradition which seems to be faded slowly by Norman, and the struggle of Jewess to survive from the worse perspective by the other community.

From the background above, the writer is interested in analyzing the novel about the class struggle between Norman, Anglo-Saxon, and Jew, and the process of the struggle to survive. The writer uses Marxist perspective to analyze the novel. Although the story is not during capitalist economy era, the relation between Marxism and feudalism as the root of history of economy makes the approach truly make sense.

Based on the reason above, the researcher intends to conduct a study on Marxist perspective with the title: **A CLASS STRUGGLE REFLECTED IN SIR WALTER SCOTT’S IVANHOE: A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE**

**B. Literary Review**

The Previous study of Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe* was done by Fitriana (UMS, 2004) entitled “Struggle Against Social Injustice in Sir Walter Scott’s Ivanhoe: Sociological Approach”. The present writer wants to focus on analyzing the class struggle reflected in the novel, by using Marxist perspective.

**C. Problem Statement**

The main problem of the study is how the class struggle in England during Middle Ages is reflected in Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*.

**D. Limitation of the Study**
The writer will focus on analyzing the class struggle between Anglo-Saxon, Jewish, and Norman in Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe* using Marxist approach.

E. **Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the novel, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style and tone, and theme.
2. To analyze the novel based on Marxist perspective.

F. **Benefit of the Study**

By analyzing Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*, there are two benefits can be gained as follow:

1. **Theoretical Benefit**
   
   It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*. It is expected to give useful information about the novel analyzed by Marxist perspective.

2. **Practical Benefit**

   This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the novel and how to use literary theory in analyzing the novel.

G. **Research Method**

The methods that will be used in the research are:

1. **Type of the Research**
In this research, the researcher will use the qualitative research in the form of literary work. Statistic is not necessary in examining and exploring the facts in qualitative research. Therefore it will not require any calculation and enumeration.

2. **Type of the Data and the Data Source**

   a. **Type of the Data**

      Type of the data in this research paper is text, which consists of words, phrases and sentences.

   b. **The Data Source**

      In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data; there are Primary Data, which will be taken from Sir Walter Scott’s *Ivanhoe*, and Secondary Data, which are taken from other sources, related to the primary data, such as author’s biography, website related to class struggle and many other data related to this research.

3. **Technique of the Data Collection**

   The data collection will be in form of library research. There will be some techniques of data collection as follows:

   a. Reading and learning the novel repeatedly and carefully.

   b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.

   c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.

   d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.
e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis data.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis in this study is using the descriptive analysis, in which the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the novel, social historical background of nineteenth century Great Britain, and Marxist analysis of the novel.

H. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, research limitation, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist perspective. The third chapter consists of the social background of English society in medieval ages. The fourth chapter consists of structural analysis of the novel and discussion. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on Marxist perspective. And the last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.