

**THE DEFINITION OF FAMILY IN JOHANNA SPYRI'S *HEIDI*
(1880): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirement
For Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
In English Department**

by:

RINI CHRISTIANA

A320060060

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
SCHOOL OF TEACHING AND TRAINING EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

2010

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Family is the main building block of a community, family structure and upbringing determines the social character and personality of any given society. Family is where people all learn: love, caring, compassion, ethics, honesty, fairness, common sense, reason, peaceful conflict resolution and respect for our selves and others, which are the vital fundamental skills and family values, necessary to live an honorable and prosper life in harmony, in the world community. To have a sense of family values is to have good thoughts, good intentions and good deeds, to love and to care for those whom people are close to and are part of our primary social group, our community, such as children, parents, other family members and friends, and to treat others with the same set of values, the same way people wish to be treated.

Family is important because people need a group of loyal supporters. It matters what people think and feel and nobody cares more about us than the members of our families - at least, that how it should be and it starts from family. The more binding in the family, the better the family will be. When people can count on each other and learn on each other then family works. As the member of family, individual will be taken care and helped by the family. The member of family will not be assisted by anyone but family indeed. Family

is not only gives pleasure or entertainment but also for all reality in life; for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health, till death do people apart, people need a family and family needs too.

Literature in its many manifestations or arrangements reproduces and articulates the social condition of the society and life of the author. An author is a member of a society that he or she is influenced by his or her society. Literature is an expression of society (Wellek, 1956:83). A writer of a literary work produces an artwork via occurrence and taking apart in a social circumstance that he or she will use as the foundation of the work material or inspiration of the work he or she creates. For this reason, the work he or she made is the work that is the result of the interaction between the writer and the life of the writer.

An artwork is shaped by the writer as the means and resources of his or her idea to articulate the response to the circumstance where he or she lives. It is obviously understood that the writer cannot be estranged from his or her surroundings or society. For this reason, every person acts or behaves as a member of society in the form of persevering or disposing the cultural manner as well as tradition is the writer intended issues and inspiration in creating a work of art. A writer will responsively send and bring the issues of support or reject the upcoming phenomena in the coverage of everyday situation in the society. The responses will be an effort in searching or finding the designation of the phenomena in society. A writer attempts to figure out the development occurred in society in which he or she experiences in real life into his or her

literary work. In other words, a literary work reflectively brings and provides issues and cultural manner of member of the society which happen in the writer's life. A writer is not only influenced by society: he or she influences it. Art does not merely reproduce life but also shapes it (Wellek, 1956:90).

A work of art replicates the life of the writer, since work of art is like a mirror that reveals the writer's civilization that provides a response toward the social change in the society. Hence, doing a research on work of art is an important thing to do, for literary work is the reflection and answer of the writer to the personal manner as an associate of the society that accordingly carries an explanation to the social occurrence in personal manner happen in the society.

The social life in the society is the real source of an author in making his or her art work to be reflective to the condition he or she feels in the real life. Hence, explanation or conclusion or to the culture and phenomena happened in the society will be articulated within the artwork of the author. For this reason, the responses he or she undergoes in the society will be reflected well in the artwork of the author as responses of the author. Therefore, the society will recognize and aware of the things happened in the society where they live within.

For this reason, the society will be more conscious of their social happening. Each author can purposely articulate his or her response by setting up the message through his or her literary work. Johanna Spyri is one of them. Johanna Spyri is a famous Germany novelist. One of her well known novels

that reflects how the phenomena in the society is defined and concluded as a wrapping up the relatives definition of the social condition in the society which socially reflected in the novel.

Related to the function of literature as the media of criticism of social life, and searching for the explanation in social phenomena, the researcher tries to analyze the novel of Johanna Spyri *Heidi*.

The novel *Heidi* is written by Swiss author Johanna Spyri in 1880. Heidi novel has two sequels *Heidi Grows Up* and *Heidi's Children*. *Heidi* is a novel about the events in the life of a young girl in her father's care, in the Swiss Alps. The novel *Heidi* also the inspiration for about 20 film or television productions in 1937 until 2005. A 1999 BBC Radio 4 play of *Heidi*, with Hollyoaks actress Ciara Jason in the title role, is available as an audio book. *Heidi* is by far the most popular work of Swiss literature and has been translated from German into 50 languages, been filmed more than a dozen times, and more than 50 million copies of Heidi books have been sold world-wide.

Johanna Spyri was born on June 12, 1827 in southeast of Zurich. She died in Zurich on July 7, 1901. Her father Johann Jacob Heusser was a country doctor coming from a rural background. Her mother Meta Heusser-Schweizer, daughter of a pastor and descendant from a family closely related to the 18th century literary circles in Zurich (Gessner, Lavater), wrote pietist religious poetry and hymns. Johanna Heusser had three brothers and three sisters. At the age of 16 she was sent to a residential school in the French-speaking city of

Yverdon, western Switzerland. In 1852, at the age of 25, Johanna married Johann Bernhard Spiri, a lawyer and journalist and moved to the pulsating city of Zurich. From 1879 to 1895 Johanna Spiry wrote 16 volumes of stories for children in a series entitled *Geschichten für Kinder und auch für solche, welche die Kinder liebhaben*, *Heimatlos (homeless, 1879)*, *Aus nah und fern (1879)*, *Heidi's Lehr- und Wanderjahre (1880)*, *Heidi kann brauchen was es gelernt hat (1881)*, for 1871 to 1901, Johanna Spiri published 27 books and 4 booklets containing a total of 48 novels.

Heidi is an orphaned girl initially raised by her aunt Dete in Maienfeld, Switzerland. In order to get a job in Frankfurt, Dete brings 5-year-old Heidi to her grandfather, who has been at odds with the villagers for years and lives in seclusion on the [alm](#). This has earned him the nickname *Alp-Öhi* ("[Alp-grandfather](#)" in the [Graubünden](#) dialect). He at first resents Heidi's arrival, but the girl manages to penetrate his harsh exterior and subsequently has a delightful stay with him and her best friend, young Peter the [goat-herd](#).

Dete returns three years later to bring Heidi to [Frankfurt](#) as a companion of a 12-year-old disabled girl named Clara Sesemann. Heidi spends a year with Clara, clashing repeatedly with the Sesemanns' strict housekeeper Miss Rottenmeier and becoming more and more homesick. Her one diversion is learning to read and write, motivated by her desire to go home and read to Peter's blind grandmother. Heidi's increasingly failing health and several instances of [sleepwalking](#) (it is implied that she has inherited a propensity to [epilepsy](#) from her mother) prompt Clara's doctor to send her

home to her grandfather. Her return prompts the grandfather to descend to the village for the first time in years, marking an end to his seclusion.

Heidi and Clara continue to write to each other. A visit by the doctor to Heidi and her grandfather convinces him to recommend that Clara journey to visit Heidi. Meanwhile, Heidi teaches Peter to read and write. Clara makes the journey the next season and spends a wonderful summer with Heidi. Clara becomes stronger on goat's milk and fresh mountain air, but Peter is jealous of Clara and pushes her wheelchair down the mountain to its destruction. Without her wheelchair, Clara attempts to walk and is gradually successful. Clara's Grandmother and Father are amazed and overcame with joy to see Clara walking. Clara's wealthy family promises to provide a shelter for Heidi, in case her grandfather will no longer be able to do so.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses this novel. The first is the novel has a first-rate social story; it is about the events in the life of a young girl in her father's care, in the Swiss Alps. It also tells about her journey to find the meaning of family. The second reason is about value of family. To have a sense of family values is to have good thoughts, good intentions and good deeds, to love and to care for those whom people are close to and are part of our primary social group, our community, such as children, parents, other family members and friends. And to treat others with the same set of values, the same way people wish to be treated. The third is this novel has a character feel, demonstrates a wonderful sense of setting, plot and occasion but what makes this novel so absorbing, and so masterful, is her

sense of character. In some magical way, Johanna Spyri manages to make reader feel what it is like to be both a parent and a child, both old and young, both bitter and hopeful. The fourth reason is this novel is easy to understand for reader. When people read this novel, people are not difficult to know the meaning from this novel, the story about it also can understand and this novel uses simple words into writing the story. So, people can be enjoyable when reading this novel and can take many messages since this novel also presents the social conflict that must be done.

It is beneficially matched to analyze the novel by using the sociological approach to comprehend the social phenomena of social and cultural pattern of family of a member of society. Accordingly, the researcher conducts a research entitled *“The Definition of Family in Johanna Sypris’s Heidi (1880) a Sociological Approach”*.

B. Literature Review

Having searched and observed through the library as well as the catalogue of the research conducted, the writer finds a researcher who is conducted on Johanna Spyris’s *Heidi*. The researcher is Rizal IndarWiyanto (NIM 02026007) English Letters Department, Faculty of Letters Ahmad Dahlan University Yogyakarta 2007. It entitles *The Author World View in Johnna Spyri’s Heidi a Sociological Approach*. The result of this research is concerns with the author’s world view reflected in the novel *Heidi*, from the deep characters in the novel, the setting, the theme and the plot, the author can

describe the real life on the year like setting in the novel. And also with the sociological approach can conclusion the real life can reflected in the novel *Heidi*.

The second researcher is Mary Shelley (2007). The research entitled *Back to the Heidi*. It focused on the strength of the novel. For example about the different place for setting, about the theme, about the plot, the point of view, about the characters in novel, Heidi is a young orphan living with her hermit-like grandfather in an Alpine hut. The result of this research is talk about the novel can categorize in the children literature and the function of children literature in learns process.

From the studies above, the writer has differences issue in researches. The first research focuses on the author's world view reflected in the novel *Heidi*. While the second research focuses on the strength of the novel, whether about place for setting, about the theme, about the plot, the point of view, and about the characters in novel. Based on the researches above, the writer has different focus on the research that aims at analyze how the definition of family is reflected in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the research is “How the definition of family is reflected in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*?”

D. Limitation Of the Study

The research focuses on analyzing the definition of family in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*, viewed from sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the structural element of the novel by finding character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style and theme.
2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological perspective by identifying the relationship between the novel and the social background of time in the late nineteenth century Germany Society.

F. Benefits of the Study

1. Theoretical benefits

It gives contribution to the large body of knowledge particularly literary studies in Johanna Spyri's *Heidi*.

2. Practical benefit

To give deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher and enriches the literary study, particularly among the students, especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. And for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Type of research

The type of research is qualitative research that does not need statistic to collect, to analyze, and to interpret.

2. Type of data and data source

a. Primary source

The primary source of this research the novel is *Heidi* by Johanna Spyri.

b. Secondary source

In this research the writer take the secondary source pro the difference of some book or unlimited.

3. Research object

The object of this research is the novel Johanna Spyri's *Heidi* consist of 320 pages.

4. Method of the data collection

The method of collecting data in this research is library research.

The techniques are as follows.

- a. Reading the novel repeatedly.
- b. Taking note of the comports in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Classifying the data that sense categories.
- d. Developing the data provided.

5. Technique of data analysis

The technique that is used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis in which the writer identifies the relationship between the novel and the social background of the late of nineteenth century Germany society in the psychological perspective.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into six chapters. Chapter I introduction, which contains the background of the study, literature reviews, problem statement, objectives of the study, limitation of to study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II presents underlying theory. It deals with the notion of sociology, the principles of sociology, and theoretical application and structural element of the novel. Chapter III shows the historical background with all aspect of social reality of Germany in the late of nineteenth century. Chapter IV discusses the structural analysis of the novel chapter is sociological analysis. Chapter VI delivers conclusion and suggestion.