

CHAPTER VI

SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

This chapter deals with the sociological analysis of child abuse in Dave Pelzer's trilogy *A Child Called It, The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*.

Sociological approach analyzes human in society by which the process comes from a society to an individual. The writer analyzes the trilogy through the Sociological approach because she finds that the story in the books has a correlation to the theory of sociology and the social background of American society in the late twentieth century.

This chapter consists of three parts. The first is the historical aspects that include social, economy, politic, religion, culture, and science and technology; the second is child abuse; and the third is discussion. The discussion will correlate the trilogy with the child abuse in American society in the late twentieth century and the correlation between trilogy with sociology of literature.

A. Social Historical Aspects

1. Social Aspect

Dave Pelzer's trilogy *A Child Called It, The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named*

Dave reflect the social aspects of American society in the late twentieth

century. The aspects contain the social structure, the social status and the social relationship.

The social structure of American society consists of three namely higher class, middle class, and lower class. The author doesn't mention the higher, middle, or lower class in the trilogy. There is only one statement that David's family is white. The family is reflected as Brady Bunch of the 1960 whether Brady Bunch is white. The American people judge that white people are higher than the black and the other.

In the years before I was abused, my family was the "Brady Bunch" of the 1960s (ACCI: 15).

David's family is symbolized as the Brady Bunch of the 1960. It was a white family of five, a Mom, Dad, and three sons, whose lives were fulfilled with love and care. In *A Child Called It*, David told that he was happy living with his family before abuse. It was before four years old.

In addition, the society differentiates foster children from common children. Foster children are lower than common children. They are being humiliated because they are being thrown away by their own family. The American society underestimating on foster care is reflected in the statement below:

David, I don't know why it is, but for some reason a great deal of individuals look down on foster care (TLB: 124).

David was forbidden to show his identity as foster child to other people because most of people look down on foster care. It means that foster children are excluded. They are lower than ordinary children.

The social status of society is divided into three: rich, middle and poor. In the side of social status, most of the social status of the characters are middle. It can be seen from the job of the characters, such as secretary, school nurse, the principal Mr Hansen, the teacher Miss Woods, Mr Ziegler and Mrs. Woodworth, police officer Smith, fireman Stephen Joseph, etc.

My father, Stephen Joseph, supported his family as a fireman, working in the heart of San Francisco (ACCI: 15).

The jobs mentioned above are classified into middle class. The majority middle class makes their money by working as a lawyer, doctor, teacher, civil servant, postman, fireman, mentor, social worker, police, musician, and others. They don't get high salary or low wage but they get its average.

In the side of social relationship, the characters have a family relationship because it is mentioned in the trilogy about father, mother, brother, grandmother, aunt and uncle. They live as nuclear family that consists of a married couple with a number of children. They don't stay with extended family like grandmother, uncle and aunt.

My two brothers and I were blessed with the perfect parents (ACCI: 15).

The relationship among family members was good before. They lived happily. Then, the attitude of David's mother changed as she frequently consumed alcohol.

My relationship with Mom drastically changed from discipline that developed into a kind of lifestyle that grew out of control (TLB: 21).

The mother changed from the kind one to the wild one. Mother always got angry because David had a loud voice and he was often caught in the act of doing the wrong thing opposite mother's rules. For example mother forbade her children playing in the grass.

As a small child, I probably had a voice that carried farther than others. I also had the unfortunate luck of getting caught at mischief, even though my brothers and I were often committing the same "crime" (ACCI: 21).

Father formerly helped David from mother's bad treatment. He was a hero for David. Wherever father went, David followed him. It is because mother wouldn't hurt David in the father's appearance.

Father became my protector. Whenever he went to the garage to work on a project, I followed him. If he sat in his favorite chair to read the newspaper, I parked myself at his feet (ACCI: 23).

But later, he behaved as he didn't see anything when he frequently quarrelled with his wife. Moreover, father accused David as the source of the fight between him and mother. David hated father.

I also hated Father. He was fully aware of the hell I lived in, but he lacked the courage to rescue me as he had promised so many times in the past (ACCI 79).

David's relationship with his siblings was not good too. They pretended that they didn't see David there. Moreover, one of them became accomplice of mother so that David could be punished.

The boys who lived upstairs were no longer my brothers. Sometimes in years past, they had managed to encourage me a little. But in the summer of 1972 they took turns hitting me and appeared to enjoy throwing their weight around. It was obvious that they felt superior to the family slave (ACCI 79).

Mother also didn't have any good relationship with grandmother. Grandmother treated mother bad as young. She had ever locked mother in a room without eating. She also underestimated mother that mother couldn't be a nurse as she wished.

As a child, Mother and Grandmother always had an intense love hate relationship, which my brothers and I had seen whenever one of the women had a run in with the other (AMND: 88).

The worst thing was that David had no longer become a part of the family. He was not allowed to have eaten together with family, to have sleep in a nice bed, to have a rest in bathroom, or to have fun in picnic. He was nobody, he was called *it*.

You are a nobody! An It! You are nonexistent! You are a bastard child! I hate you and I wish you were dead! Dead!" (ACCI: 82)

In addition, the relationship between David's family and neighbor was not good. Mother seldom visited neighbor. She and her children spent almost their time at home.

Mother rarely spent much time with neighbors (ACCI: 72)

David also didn't have friends at school. no one wanted to play with him because he was smell and never changed cloth. He was outcast.

At school I was a total outcast. No other kid would have anything to do with me (ACCI: 36).

2. Economic Aspect

The decade of the 1920s that was as the Golden Twenties was characterized by widespread prosperity. During the prosperity of the Golden twenties, many Americans made spent money with ease. After enjoying the Golden Twenties, American had a terrible situation that's called the Great Depression. The Great Depression was a severe worldwide economic depression in the decade preceding World War II and it is started in about 1939 and ended 1945.

The timing of the Great Depression varied across nations, but in most countries it started in 1930 and lasted until the late 1930s or middle 1940s. It was the longest, most widespread, and deepest depression of the 20th century. The start of the Great Depression was reflected to the sudden devastating collapse of US stock market prices on October 29, 1929, known as Black Tuesday. However, the depression originated in the U.S., after the fall in stock prices that began around September 4, 1929.

The Great Depression had devastating effects in countries rich and poor. Personal income, tax revenue, profits and prices dropped, while

international trade plunged by more than 50%. Unemployment in the U.S. rose to 25%.

The book *A Man Named Dave* states about the great depression. David's grandmother rose her children in the great depression without a husband. Her husband passed away. She felt difficult to raise two children. Therefore, the mother was grown by tight way.

Okay, I thought, maybe Grandmother was overbearing. When her husband passed away, leaving her to raise two children in the middle of a depression, Grandmother had to be stern. (AMND: 196-197)

In *A Man Named Dave*, it is also stated that America faced a statewide recession in 1978 and it was difficult to find a job.

Jobs right now are scarce with the recession and all, (AMND: 228)

That time was recession in America. David dropped out from high school and didn't have job. In addition, his saving money remained little. He was in hard condition.

In the summer of 1978, at age eighteen, in order to further my career as top rated car salesman, I decided to drop out of high school. But months later, after a statewide recession, I found myself as a legal adult, with no diploma, no job, and my life savings quickly draining away. (AMND: 34)

Moreover, after joining air forces for years, David was frightened for the news of personnel cutbacks. He was a boom operator. He believed that he would be among the first to be relieved from active duty since the Looking Glass was no longer an operational aircraft and boom operators were not allowed to perform their tasks.

In the spring of 1992, rumors began to float of severe personnel cutbacks (AMND: 226).

Recession is a significant decline in economic activity spread across the economy, lasting more than a few months, normally visible in real gross domestic product (GDP), real income, employment, industrial production, and wholesale-retail sales. There have been as many as 47 recessions in the United States since 1790.

Cycles in agriculture, consumption, and business investment, and the health of the banking industry also contribute to these declines. U.S. recessions have increasingly affected economies on a worldwide scale, especially as countries' economies become more intertwined.

In *A Child Called it*, it seems that the society was a well-to-do people. In the house, David's family had car, telephone, and electronic items like TV, stereo, and radio. It means that David's family was capable in material.

Spring meant picnics. Mom would prepare a feast of fried chicken, salads, sandwiches and lots of desserts the night before (ACCI: 19).

David's family also frequently went for picnic. They used to go for picnic in spring. Mother used to prepare for meal the night before.

Spring meant picnics. Mom would prepare a feast of fried chicken, salads, sandwiches and lots of desserts the night before (ACCI:19).

David's family used to go to Russian River in summer. They went there by car.

That summer, the family vacationed at the Russian River (ACCI: 34).

Although David's parents were prosperous enough, his mother withheld him some food, appropriate clothing and other basic material necessities of life.

Because Mother had me wear the same clothes week after week, by October my clothes had become weathered, torn and smelly (ACCI: 30).

By then, Mother would "forget" to feed me any dinner (ACCI: 30).

In *The Lost Boy*, David's needs were seemed to be fulfilled by his foster parents. He got some money from county that given to foster parents to buy him some needs including cloth. Lilian, his first foster parent, didn't afraid to spend the money costly \$127 for David's needs.

I've got a check here for \$127 from the county to buy you some clothes (TLB: 61).

However, to find foster parents at that time was very difficult. The fate of the foster children was poor because of the lack number of foster parents. There was an organization that helped the needs of children. One of them is The Arrow Project.

Another organization is The Arrow Project, a nonprofit organization that addresses the needs of children and families in several states by providing foster care, diagnostic and educational services and other interventions (TLB: 188).

In addition, foster children who are approaching eighteen should think about their future of how to stand by themselves because they wouldn't be in a ward of the court anymore. This was proved by David's struggle for finding some jobs before eighteen.

I soon added a job at a watch repair shop, where I worked about 20 hours a week for \$10, 25 takehome pay (TLB:159).

It can be concluded that David lived in hard time with difficult economy condition. The time when the books were written was at recession time. The book also mentioned about great depression.

3. Political Aspects

The United States is a federal constitutional republic in which the President, Congress, and judiciary share powers reserved to the national government, and the federal government shares sovereignty with the state governments. Politics can be divided into two namely domestic policy and foreign policy.

Domestically, American policy is broken down into three: legislative, executive, and judiciary. Legislative power is vested in the two chambers of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives. The executive branch is headed by the President and is independent of the legislature. The judiciary branch, composed of the Supreme Court. The judiciary's function is to interpret the United States Constitution and federal laws and regulations. This includes resolving disputes between the executive and legislative branches.

There are major differences between the political system of the United States and that of most other developed democracies. These include

greater power in the upper house of the legislature, a wider scope of power held by the Supreme Court, the separation of powers between the legislature and the executive, and the dominance of only two main parties.

The two political parties, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party, have dominated American politics since the American Civil War. These two parties have won every United States presidential election since 1852 and have controlled the United States Congress since at least 1856. Among the two major parties, the Democratic Party generally positions itself as left-of-center in American politics and supports a modern liberal platform, while the Republican Party generally positions itself as right-of-center and supports a conservative platform.

Ideology held by the U.S. is capitalism and method of the distribution is imperialism, and this is the U.S. foreign policy. In dealing with other countries, the United States use the mission of offering cooperation, friendship and assistance. The cooperation, friendship, and assistance were in a variety aspect such as in education or culture. Otherwise, America will send its troops and intelligence to know how the potential, strength, weakness, and an important part of a country. No doubt, America will also deploy American military reinforcements to destroy anything.

However, American foreign policy is illustrated in the book *A Man Named Dave*. The book *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy* do not mention political aspect. The political aspect mentioned is only foreign policy not domestic policy. It is stated about Saddam Husein's invasion to Kuwait in which America involved in this war. America supposed to help the world to solve the controvercial.

The Invasion of Kuwait was a major conflict between the Republic of Iraq and the State of Kuwait. Kuwait was a close ally of Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war. In 1990, Iraq accused Kuwait of stealing Iraqi petroleum through slant drilling. In addition, the war was caused by Kuwait rejection to get a rid of Iraq's debt. The invasion started on 2 August 1990, and within two days of intense combat.

The invasion of Kuwait was won by Iraq. Kuwait became the 19th province of Iraq by the name of Al-Mitla Saddamiyat on August 28, 1990. Afterwards, Kuwait asked America help and then it lead to Gulf War.

In helping Kuwait, the United States sent troops to Saudi Arabia. David as one of American troops swept away his problems in marriage and concentrated to his task involving into the war. David received countless briefings, varying from chemical warfare defense to his task of refueling the Stealth Fighters.

In August 1990, Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait shifted my priorities. (AMND: 216)

David had important role in flying his plane. The various fighter aircraft could not fly to their targets without David's plane's fuel. David's life was also skate. The possibility to die was big because the Boeing tanker David flied had the makings of a prime target. It contained gas which be easily exploded if it got a hit.

Because it was a flying gas station in the sky, if enemy aircraft hit David's plane, he would be vaporized from the explosion (AMND: 216).

With many problems he facing, David never gave up. He would concentrate to do his task and try his best. He would complete his task and convicing himself to come back home safely. He would gather with his family again.

I had to set aside my mixed emotions about my marriage and focus on doing my part and coming home alive (AMND: 217).

However, David felt difficult to leave his son. He ensured Stephen his son that he would be back. The enemy would not be able to make him die.

They won't shoot us down, Stephen. If they do, we won't blow up. I'll use my parachute. Once on the ground, I'll evade. They'll never take me prisoner. If they do, I'll escape. If I can't escape, I'll be fine. I'll come back. No matter what happens, I'll come back. (AMND: 217)

David sent to Arab Saudi in 1991. America fighted toward Iraq with the coalition had stronger air strength than Iraq's. Therefore, the mission of coalision to attack Iraq became rounite.

As it turned out, though, after the first couple of weeks, the coalition maintained air superiority over Iraq, and the missions became routine (AMND: 218).

David involved into Gulf War is reflected in this book. His mind was full of Stephen. He was afraid of Stephen being hurt. He couldn't sleep soundly during the war.

After that morning, and on others to follow, I never slept as soundly as I did when I served in the gulf war (AMND: 218).

On February 27, 1991, Coalition forces succeeded in liberating Kuwait from Iraq and President Bush declared the war over. David came back from Arab Saudi in March 1991.

I returned from Saudi Arabia in March 1991 (AMND: 218).

The reality between America and its people can be drawn as what David had experienced with the mother who could force David to do everything she ever wanted. The mother is symbolized as America who can force someone and David is as the people who is forced to obey rules.

4. Religious Aspects

The largest religion in the US is Christianity, practiced by the majority of the population. Christianity was introduced during the period of European colonization. Among Christian believers, most of Americans nowadays believe in Protestants then followed by Catholics and the other Christian branch. Previously, there were no distinctions as Catholics or Protestant until by the early 16th century in Germany there was a movement as a reaction against

medieval Roman Catholic doctrines and practices, especially in regard to salvation, justification, and ecclesiology.

The term 'Catholic' was first used to describe the Christian Church in the early 2nd century to emphasize its universal scope. Catholic simply means universal. This church was led by the Pope. It was official form of the early Christian church. However, many other Christians use the term Catholic to refer more broadly to the whole Christian Church or to all believers in Jesus Christ.

Catholicism was by far the largest Christian group. With more than one billion adherents, Catholics constitute about half of the world's Christians. Catholicism is the majority religion of Italy, Spain, and nearly all Latin American countries. One day, some Catholics leave the church and move to Protestant churches. From the survey, it was apparent that most Catholics who leave the Church do so because they aren't getting their needs met and found more appealing or satisfying alternatives in Protestant churches.

Agreed to statements above, the writer found that most of people's religion in America is Christianity. Otherwise, the characters in the book are mostly Catholics not Protestants. Catholics believe that there is only one God and argue that he has revealed himself as the trinity. They hold the Old

Testament as their scripture while Protestant made some changes from the Old Testament to the New Testament. Some Christians believe in the original scripture, the Old Testament. Therefore, the characters in this book believe in Catholic. Catholic is the religion that believed by the characters. It can be seen from how they went to Catholic church.

Four days later, on a foggy Monday morning, I parked Mr Turnbough's car in front of the same Catholic church Ron, Stan, and I had briefly attended with our aunt years ago as preschoolers. (AMND: 97)

A church is a building or structure to facilitate worship and the meeting of Christianity. Traditional church buildings are often in the shape of a cross and frequently have a tower or dome. Other common shapes for churches include a circle, to represent eternity, or an octagon or similar star shape, to represent the church's bringing light to the world. Another common feature is the spire, a tall tower on the 'west' end of the church or over the crossing. More modern church buildings have a variety of architectural styles and layouts.

Christians usually go to church every Sunday for worship. Some of them believe that go to church every Sunday is obligation and some others believe that it is not a must but rather always keep Jesus Christ in the heart. Christians celebrate the Christ's Day, Sunday, the day of His Resurrection. All Catholics must refrain from menial labor on Sunday and worship God by attending Sunday Mass.

Besides, David was religious for having a bible. The bible is mentioned as the place to keep his brother's letter.

For now all I could do was replace my brother's letter in my Bible, and pray for the best. (AMND: 121)

The Bible is a canonical collection of texts considered sacred in Christianity. Different religious groups include different books within their canons. Interesting fact is that the Catholic Bible contains seven books of the Old Testament not contained in the Protestant Bible. These books are: The Wisdom of Solomon, Tobit, Sirach, Judith, 1st Maccabees, 2nd Maccabees, Baruch. Additional parts of Esther and Daniel are also not in the Protestant Bible.

These books are sometimes referred to as the 'Apocrypha' by Protestants or the 'Deuterocanonical' books meaning 'also canonical' by Catholics. These books were not written in Hebrew, but in Greek instead. The Catholic Church, through the intercession of the Holy Spirit, discerned that these books were divinely inspired and included them in the Bible in the year 382 AD. at the Council of Rome, under Pope Damasus I.

Moreover, David's family celebrated Christmas since the Holy days of Christians are Christmas, Easter, New Year, Pentecost, Saints' Feast Days. It is the day when Christians believe of Jesus was born. it is celebrated generally on December 25. Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus to the

Virgin Mary as a fulfillment of the Old Testament's Messianic prophecy. In this day, people will decorate their house with pine trees. The outside of houses may be decorated with lights and sometimes with illuminated sleighs, snowmen, and other Christmas figures. Other traditional decorations include bells, candles, candy canes, stockings, wreaths, and angels.

The children believe that in Christmast eve, Santa will come. Santa Claus, also known as Saint Nicholas, Father Christmas and simply 'Santa', is a figure with legendary and mythical who, in many western cultures, brings gifts to the homes of the good children during the late evening and overnight hours of Christmas Eve, December 24. Santa Claus is generally depicted as a portly, joyous, white-bearded man - sometimes with spectacles - wearing a red coat with white collar and cuffs, white-cuffed red trousers, and black leather belt and boots. Therefore, they will be happy waiting for Santa's arrival.

As Christmas Day came nearer, my brothers and I became more and more excited. (ACCI: 18)

5. Cultural Aspects

In this aspect, the writer will show the world view of American society in the late of twentieth century. The cultural aspect is broken down into three: mental facts, social facts, and physical facts. Mental facts consist of

norms, way of life, and value-system. Social facts include custom and tradition. Physical facts such as fashion, artefact, and literature.

Viewed from mental facts, the writer breaks it into three. First, the society believed that people had to mind their own business. They took care of their own house and other people had not a right to interfere. At that time, what in the house should be closed. The members of the family would not tell what happened in the house or what problem they had faced.

“I have no idea what happened back then. That’s not my affair. What happens in someone’s house stays in their house. It’s no one else’s business. I see no need to open up Pandora’s box.” (AMND: 129)

The second, it is stated that harshness in children at that time was not categorized as an abuse but it was an act to discipline them. Everyone might see the harshness but they could not do anything.

“Anyway, anybody could see what she was doing. Back then there was nothing we could have done, or were allowed to do. Back then it was considered discipline, parental rights, but we had to do something. Any one of us could see what was going on. It’s something you don’t forget. Ever.” (AMND: 233)

The people couldn’t help children who got bad treatment because there weren’t a great Penal Codes to protect kids. Penal Code is a statute which lists and defines prohibited conducts or crimes and the punishments associated with each.

“... but back then in 1973 things were very different; your mother was never brought up on a single charge. We couldn’t get her on assault, willful harm against a minor, failure to provide, or, in my estimation, attempted murder. Understand, there weren’t a great deal of PCs to protect kids back then in ’73. Even now, as we enter the 1980s, there are a majority of folks who are

in total denial or believe parents are doing nothing more than 'disciplining' their children. (AMND: 149)

The third, the society had also seen Foster Child blindly. They looked down to foster children for not having parents.

Other times I'd happily state, "I'm a foster child!" I was proud to be a member of my new family. I began to repeat this saying until one day one of the older foster children pulled me aside at school, warning me not to tell anyone "what" I was because " a lot of folks don't like our kind." (TLB: 50)

In social facts, American used to drink alcohol. People used to keep their problems without sharing and solving them. They always ran away from their problems by drinking alcohol and they didn't try to solve the problems. Therefore, drinking alcohol is a custom and becomes the habit of American society.

"I understand. Don't be too judgmental. Like I said, it was a different era back then; for your parents, and their parents before them. Whatever problems we had were swept under the rug. Family skeletons were kept locked in the closet..." (AMND: 114)

American tradition to celebrate Holy Days is also reflected in the book *A Child Called it*. David's family used to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Halloween.

That year Thanksgiving dinner was a flop. In some kind of gesture of good faith, Mother allowed me to eat at the table with the family (ACCI: 87-88).

Thanksgiving is a holiday celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday in November. It came before Christmas. All members of the family usually eat together when thanksgiving held.

The day after Thanksgiving, Mom would disappear to the basement, then bring up enormous boxes filled with Christmas decorations (ACCI: 17).

Christmas was celebrated on December 25. It was the day when Jesus born. On Christmas, people usually decorate their houses with some Christmas decorations like lights.

Christmas lights were draped around our bedroom windows. Every night I fell asleep while staring at the soft, colorful glow of the Christmas lights (ACCI: 17)

There also was Christmas tree with some decorations such as angel. It was David's family tradition to be honored to place angel at the top of the tree. Father would help the son up with his arms.

Our Christmas tree was never ever an inch under eight feet, and it took the whole family hours to decorate it. Each year one of us was honored by being allowed to place the angel at the top of the tree, while Father held us up in his strong arms (ACCI: 18).

The tradition in playing Christmas song is seemed in *A Child Called it*. David's family played the song by stereo. The song was White Christmas that sang by Bing Crosby.

While she told us stories, Bing Crosby sang "White Christmas" on the stereo. (ACCI: 18)

Children would be happily waiting for Santa's arrival in the night before Christmas. They would get gift delivered by Santa. David and his siblings usually opened the gift after dinner.

On Christmas Eve, after a special dinner and caroling, we were allowed to open one gift. Afterwards, we were sent to bed. I always strained my ears as I laid in bed, waiting for the sound of Santa's sleigh bells. But I always fell asleep before I heard his reindeer land on the roof (ACCI: 18).

Halloween is a tradition of celebration the night of October 31, and is mainly celebrated in the United States. Halloween symbol is carved pumpkin with frightening face called Jack-o'-lantern.

For our family – during those good years – the holidays started with Halloween. One October night, when the huge harvest moon was in full view, Mom hurried the three of us out of our house, to gaze at the “Great Pumpkin” in the sky (ACCI: 17).

Halloween is identical with the devil, witches, ghosts goblins and creepy creatures of Western culture. David’s mother bought Stan Halloween record that contained scary story.

I could hear the sounds of Stan’s Halloween record that Mother had bought for him several years before. Ghosts and ghouls howled, and doors creaked open. After the boys had carved their pumpkins, I could hear Mother in her soothing voice telling them a scary story (ACCI: 70).

Physical fact appears in the book that is literature. David mentions in the third book *A Man Named Dave* that he wrote *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy*.

In the fall of 1992, while doing a series of fact checks for *A Child Called “It”*, I contacted my elementary school to discover that one of the teachers who had notified the authorities, Mr Ziegler, was still teaching. (AMND: 229-230)

David told about his first book *A Child Called It* when he checked for the originality of this book to his teacher at Elementary School. It was informed that *A Child Called It* had been written in 1992. *A Child Called It* is the book that talk about his experience in getting abuse based on the child’s life from ages 4 to 12.

"The Lost Boy, too?" Patsy inquired, my second book, which Jerry had about insisted that I write. (AMND: 250)

The Lost Boy also mentioned in *A Man Named Dave*. It was told that David was taken advantage by Lincoln. His books *A Child Called It* and *The Lost Boy* were never published. They weren't in the stores because it weren't copyrighted.

6. Science and Technology Aspect

Twentieth century was a time that started with horses, simple automobiles, and freighter but ended with luxury sedans, cruise ships, airlines and space shuttle. In addition, mass media, telecommunications and information technology made the world's knowledge more widely available to people. It is shown in Pelzer's trilogy from what the characters had and did in the story of *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*.

In David's house, there were telephone, television, stereo, and radio.

The policeman asks for my address and telephone number (ACCI: 12).

For communication, David's family had telephone. The telephone that connected to cabel from home to home was put at home. It was not handphone or mobile phone that could be brought anywhere.

At times while Father was away at work, she would spend the entire day lying on the couch, dressed only in her bathrobe, watching television (ACCI: 21).

For information, David's family also had television. The television was often watched by his mother while father was at work. She almost spent her time by watching television while drinking alcohol.

While she told us stories, Bing Crosby sang "White Christmas" on the stereo (ACCI: 18).

Besides, David's family also had radio for media of information. It also was used as entertainment. The radio was used to play music.

They often drank from mid afternoon, until my brothers and I climbed into bed. I remember watching them dance around the kitchen to music from the radio (ACCI: 23-24).

There is also stereo in David's house. The stereo played at Christmas. The stereo was also used to play romance song to dance David's father and mother.

While she told us stories, Bing Crosby sang "White Christmas" on the stereo (ACCI: 18).

In transportation, David's mother had her own car. The author mentions the car in the book *A Child Called It* by using the term 'station wagon'. The station wagon used to be driven by mother. She used it to drive and pick children up to and from school. The station wagon was also used to have family picnic.

Minutes later I'm in the old family station wagon (ACCI: 7).

Furthermore, David had a bicycle. He got the bicycle in Cristmast from his grandmother. He rarely used the bicycle when stayed at home. In contrast, he used it often when he stayed in foster home.

The yellow and candyapplered Murray bicycle with its metallicred banana seat was my prized possession. (TLB: 63).

David also had minibike and car. His foster parent John accepted David's wish to buy minibike. The minibike was used for racing in the middle of the lifeless street with his friends. Paul always won. Out of the hundreds of races, David won only one.

When I wanted to buy a minibike, John said yes (TLB: 161).

Becoming car seller, David saved his money and bought a car for him.

He had his own car finally.

My heart seemed to skip a beat when I parked my car at the old Safeway supermarket. (TLB: 178)

There were also planes. David flied planes after joining U.S. airforce. By flying a plane, David's dream in childhood to be superman who can fly is answered.

My body slid from my seat, and I thought for sure I'd fall out of the plane as the Boeing 727 made a sudden sharp roll to the right (AMND: 31).

In addition, there was also found bus station. It means that the transportation had developed well.

At the bus station I waited for Father for over an hour. (TLB: 174)

In addition, David had Daisy BB gun. However, David was surprised for getting a permission from his foster parents to have a gun. It was not safe for a teenage to have a gun. Therefore, his foster parent John had to teach him gun safety. David could only shoot against paper targets under John's supervision.

One day when I timidly asked John if he could drive me to the local sport shop so I could buy a BB gun, he replied, "Let's go." I was stunned (TLB: 161)

Besides, Paul's parents had camera. Paul used it to make a movie.

The movie was like a James Bond with David as the lead actor.

Paul's parents had a 16mm camera, so Paul decided to make a James Bond style movie, casting me as the lead actor. (TLB: 163)

B. Child Abuse

Child abuse is a serious problem in the United States. From the late ninetieth century to now, child abuse has been prevailing. Each year, over three million children are reported to have been abused (Van der Kolk et al, 2001). By 1974, some 60,000 cases were reported (Myers, 2008). In 1980, the number exceeded to one million. By 1990, reports topped two millions, and in 2000, the reports said there were around three millions.

There are some information about child abuse but there are certain people who believe that most abuses are nothing more than parents exerting their right to discipline their children. Some people just get confused in

separating abusing and disciplining child. This happens because the old people taught their children through harshness. In addition, there were no enough Penal Code (PC) to protect children. However, a movement to protect children grows rapidly nowadays.

Child abuse is defined as any recent act or even the failure to act in order to keep a child safe. A child may be defined as a person under the age of 18. These acts may be committed by parent or caretaker who is responsible for the child's welfare. Abuse is one reason why children are placed in foster care. The cases of child abuse are handled by a multidisciplinary team which includes medical personnel, law enforcement officers, the schools, social workers, and the courts. School personnel may be the first to notice and report the signs of abuses.

There are four kinds of abuse: physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect abuse, and emotional abuse. Physical abuse is characterized by physical injury, usually inflicted as the result of a beating or inappropriately harsh disciplining. Sexual abuse includes molestation, incest, rape, prostitution, or child's pornography. Neglect abuse can be physical, educational, or emotional. Inappropriate punishment and verbal abuse are also forms of emotional or psychological child abuse.

Abuse is usually done by the person who has close relation with the abused like father or mother. In some cases, abusers do not have the education and skills needed to raise a child, thus which increase the likelihood of abuse,

and provide inadequate parental role models for future generations. In addition, abusers are usually the people who had ever been abused.

Children who suffer from abuse often continue to be affected till adults. Anxiety and depression can result in poor academic, work performance and in failed adult's relationship. Abusive behavior can be passed down, with abused children growing to become abusive parents. Therefore through his trilogy *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave*, Pelzer tries to warn and break the abuse circle. He also encourage the abused children to survive and the people around to be aware of children abuse.

In *A Child Called it*, Pelzer tells some kinds of abuse he had ever experienced. The abuses included physical abuse, emotional abuse and neglect abuse. Physically, David was beaten, broken his arm and punctured onto his stomach and burned on the stove. He got many bruises on his body. It was discovered as the school's nurse investigated and took a note about David's body.

She counts the slashlike marks on my face, looking for any she might have missed in the past. She is very thorough. Next, the nurse opens my mouth to look at my teeth that are chipped from having been slammed against the kitchen tile counter top. She jots a few more notes on the paper. As she continues to look me over, she stops at the old scar on my stomach (ACCI: 9).

David often got beating from mother. The more David did mistake, the more he got beating.

When I came to school the next day, he saw the results of Mother's beatings (ACCI: 10).

Accidentally, mother had ever broken Davids arm. One day, mother grabbed David's arm then she lost her balance and break David's arm.

As Mother grabbed my arm, she lost her balance and staggered back a step. As she jerked violently to regain her stability, I heard something pop, and felt an intense pain in my shoulder and arm. The startled look on Mother's face told me that she had heard the sound too, but she released her grip on my arm, and turned and walked away as if nothing had happened. I cradled my arm as it began to throb with pain (ACCI:24)

Mother also had ever punctured onto David's stomach. She pointed a knife to David's stomach and supposed to kill him.

Out of the corner of my eye I saw a blurred object fly from her hand. A sharp pain erupted from just above my stomach. I tried to remain standing, but my legs gave out, and my world turned black. (ACCI: 52).

Mother tried to burn David on the stove. She wanted david to feel how hot the hell was because she felt like living in the hell because of David.

"You've made my life a living hell!" she sneered. "Now it's time I showed you what hell is like!" Gripping my arm, Mother held it in the orangeblue flame. My skin seemed to explode from the heat. I could smell the scorched hairs from my burnt arm. (ACCI: 28)

Emotionally, David's mother mocked him as a bastard child, little son of a bitch, and was considered as nobody. He was called 'it'.

"Get one thing straight, you little son of a bitch! There is nothing you can do to impress me! Do you understand me? You are a nobody! An It! You are nonexistent! You are a bastard child! I hate you and I wish you were dead! Dead! Do you hear me? Dead!" (ACCI: 82)

In addition, he got emotional abuse from his school friends. He was called 'David the Food Thief' or 'Pelzer-Smellzer'.

His mother neglected David for not giving meal and fine clothes. His mother also didn't pay attention to David's health.

Because Mother had me wear the same clothes week after week, by October my clothes had become weathered, torn and smelly. She hardly bothered to cover my bruises on my face and arms. (AACI: 30)

By then, Mother would "forget" to feed me any dinner. (ACCI: 30)

In March 5, 1973, school personnel reported the abuse to police. Afterwards, David was brought to foster home by Aunt Mary as the mother. This story was told in *The Lost Boy*. After the trial, he moved to five different homes. His foster parents were: Lilian - Rudy Catanze, Alice - Harold Turnbough, Joanne - Michael Nulls, Vera - Jody, and Linda - Jody Walsh. David was in ward of the court until eighteen. Then, he searched for job and finally joined U.S. Air Force.

However, in *A Man Named Dave*, Pelzer tries to reveal the cause why David got the abuse. In that book, it is stated that his mother abused him because she had experienced harshness from her mother too.

From what I had learned, people like Mother abused their children in the same manner they were abused; thus becoming a product of their environment. (AMND: 196)

Besides, the mother felt oppressed to look after children alone while her husband went for work all day long and she suspected her husband to have an affair with some other woman. She admitted that she drank because of the loneliness.

Digging further through the file, reading a rare interview Mother had given before my court hearing, I came across an official form stating one of the reasons she “may have” been distraught was she suspected her husband was having an affair with a woman who was one of Mother’s closest friends. Her defense also included how difficult it was for her to keep up with the housework while being left alone to raise four boys – the report corrected that it was five – while she worried sick when her husband was either at work or “God knows where”, whenever Father disappeared for days at a time drinking with buddies from work. Being alone with no one to console her might have, Mother claimed in the report, made her tip the bottle and fly off the handle a little more than she normally would. (AMND: 195)

Pelzer also wants to say why the mother hated David. Then, David knew that the mother hated him because he had a loud voice. The writer analyzes that the mother hated David because David was the weakest and he wouldn’t be brave to oppose mother.

With my hands slid under my legs, I wanted to jump up and scream into Mother’s repulsive face, “You twisted, sick bitch! I was a toy for you to play with! A slave at your command! You humiliated me, took away my name, and tortured me to the brink of death, because ... because my voice was too loud?” (AMND: 190)

Fortunately, David did not follow his mother’s footsteps. He tried to break the circle of abuse by forgiving mother. Unlike his mother, David treated his son very well.

C. Discussion

The social aspect reflected in *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy*, and *A Man Named Dave* can be seen from the social status of the characters who work as teachers, headmaster, nurse, police, and fireman. These professions belong to middle class. The trilogy also tells that they live adequately and do not look rich. The social class is shown only about white family without comparing with blacks

or the other class. The only difference that stands out is the foster children look inferior to the common children. Beside from the characters, the social class can be seen from the characterization. The mother has a bad character like mad and lazy, screaming, drinking alcohol, and cussing. The person who has that character is uneducated. In addition, it can be seen from the ungrammatical structure used by mother in speaking such as 'em'. Since educated person will speak the standard language, it means that the mother is uneducated because she uses slang.

The problem reflected in this book is bad social relation among family members and their relationship with the neighbors. The father spends his days for working and rarely being at home, while the mother and children mostly stay at home and not mingle with neighbors. The disappearance of father in the middle of family makes the mother feels heavy in parenting. The mother is so irritable when she sees her children doing a small mistake. Even mother will give punishment both physical and psychological punishment to the children. This condition causes child abuse. Moreover, the American society have individual characteristic. They mind their own home without interfering others. In this case, the neighbors see the abuse in David's home but they do nothing. Because of this, the issue of child abuse reminds high from year to year.

In economic aspect, the setting of time in the trilogy is American society faced recession. In recession, it was difficult to find job and the people lived in poverty. The difficulty in economic aspect can cause child abuse. Parents can ignore children's needs such as food, cloth, medicine or education because they don't have money. The trilogy tell about father's job as a fireman who spends almost his time for working; while mother is a housewife who almost stays at home without earning money. In this case, mother forgets David's needs on food and cloth. She also ignore about David's heath. Beside that, the depression of the lack of money can encourage the parents' emotional and they will be easy to get angry and hit the children. Similarly, mother almost hits David because of the depression.

The politic applied by goverment also contributes to child abuse. The goverment decides to create war which causes the recession and great depression so the society gets difficulty in economic and increases stress and emotionally hit children to pour out anger. From the setting of time, it was invasion to Kuwait in August 1990. American goverment forced the people to get involved in the war to help Kuwait.

However, religion prevents abuse. It can be seen from the setting of place that is church. When David's family routinely went to church, the family lived happily. By going to church, people will get religious knowledge and

warning to avoid bad attitude. On the contrary, when David's family rarely went to church, the family became tenuous. There no intimacy occurs. The husband rarely stayed home while the wife often spent time by drinking and watching TV. Moreover the mother even torture children because she forgot the religion knowledge.

The cultural aspect of American society at that time contributes to child abuse too. American perspective that considers violence as a way to discipline children makes child abuse as a common. In addition, American society have individualistic personality that makes child abuse case increasing from year to year. The child abuse down from generation to generation and will continue because the habit of American society that harbored problems and runs on alcohol. From the plot, it can be seen that David's mother was abusive because she was abused by her mother. She ran to drink and applied her burden to David by abusing him.

The contribution of science and technology to child abuse can be seen from what the characters had and did in the story of Dave Pelzer's trilogy *A Child Called It*, *The Lost Boy* and *A Man Named Dave*. American technology at the end of twentieth century was developed in some aspects. Because of the appearing of tv, mother often spend her time to watch tv. Therefore, she forgot even ignored the children's needs. The worst thing is that the mother was

inspired by an article telling a mother who abused her child. She imitated the way to abuse the child.

The above description shows that the trilogy reflects the social reality that surrounds the author at the time the author wrote his works. Various social aspects can be traced through the elements of the work in the character and characterization, setting of place and time, plot, style, and theme.

The social reality strongly reflected in the trilogy is social aspect and culture aspect. Social aspect that clearly reflected is social relation in which among family members has a bad relation and the neighbors don't pay attention to the abuse; whereas cultural aspect includes the individualism of American society, violence against children that is not regarded as abuse, and public disdain for American foster child. Those aspects give a big contribution to child abuse.

Besides reflecting social reality, the trilogy can also be an expression of the author's criticism of certain issues on the environment. Through the trilogy, Dave Pelzer criticizes parents and society. Parents are expected to educate their children properly without violence and society are required to be more concerned with the phenomenon of child abuse so that they can prevent it. In addition, Dave Pelzer also encourages the victims of abuse to survive by delivering speech in the program dealing with youth at risk.