

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

There are many conflict in society, one of them is social class problem. This phenomenon happens in every society around the world. It becomes the great problem which has to be faced by all the countries. In every country, social class has different structure, it is based on the society life background. The phenomenon of social class is always interesting to be discussed because it has different cases in every society. Social class is also one of the important problems which have a great impact to the social life.

Social class implies that money separates people into different groupings (Horton313). It means that social class make different level of class in society based on money. Acording to Dwipayana in his book *Kelas&Kasta* (p.30) that class is a group of people in the same social class and economical factor ies one of dimensions that determine the social class of people in the society. From the explanation above the writer can conclude that social class happens when a society classifies people into a poor and the rich. It can creat a big gap in both. The big gap itself is about economic aspect. It shows that the economic system in the real process that created human's effort and behavior that structure human society.

There are many aspects in the society which are influenced by social class such as the way of speaking, dressing, and thinking. The people which are known as upper class people wear beautiful and branded clothes. In the other hand, the

people who are known as lower class people wear standard clothes or even worse. The social class also reflects someone's behavior and attitude. The variations of their behaviors are caused by some cases such as family, environment, and education. The way they behave in the society shows the way of their life in their environment. By looking at their behavior, someone can conclude whether they have high education or not. Not only that, the other life's aspect that also influenced by social class are education, law and also workplace.

In education, the people which are known as upper class people send their children to the good school such as international school. They get good education with the good facilities. It make them will be admitted in a good university. It is different with people which is known as lower class, they just can send their children in a standard school or sometimes they cannot send their children to the school because they do not have enough money. Those conditions will give impact to the work place. For those which is graduated from the good university, they will be easy to get a good job with the high salary. But for those whom have not gotten good education, they will difficult to get a good job.

Such kind of this topic can be found in literary works. According to Van Doren that literature is a highly valued writing. It is considered as an imitation of the world (p.587). From those opinions, it can be said that all the things that are happened in the world can be seen in literary work. There are many literary works such as novel, drama, poem and many others. One of the literary works that contains this topic is drama *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. The drama *Pygmalion* tells about the struggle of flower girl, named Eliza that is known as

lower class people. She struggles to change her social class status by learning to speak as a lady to Mr. Henry Higgins. Eliza wants to prove that she can change her social class status if she speaks as a lady. So that everybody around her will recognize her and not underestimate her anymore.

In their life, people try to do anything to reach their goals. No matter how he or she is, they can become success in their life if they want to hard work. It can be seen in Eliza's struggle to get the higher social class status. Even from other people it seems impossible, but Eliza believes that she also has the same right with another lady from upper class people. No matter how another people try to underestimate her because of her social class status, she does not want to give up until she can be looked as any lady.

Based on the explanation above, the writer intends to make study about the class struggle in the society where the social class becomes a measure to determine whether people are in the upper or lower class. The writer is interested in discussing this topic because the writer wants to know how people in different class status interact. The struggle of Eliza as the lower class people to get the equality with any other ladies from upper class people is also interested to be discussed. To analyze different social class in the drama *Pygmalion*, the writer uses Marxist Feminism theory. Marxist Feminism theory is a theory which is believed that the oppression over women comes from class divisions rather than sexism (Tong96). In additional, the writer writes this thesis because the thesis is never done before.

B. Statement of the Problems

The writer formulates the Statement of the problems as follows:

1. How do the characters from different classes in the selected text interact?
2. How is the struggle of Eliza to change her social class status?

C. Objective of the study

The writer conducts this study with two purposes:

1. Showing the way of upper class and middle class people in interact lower class people.
2. Reveal the action of Eliza to change her social class status.

D. Significance of conducting the study

There must be such important thing in every analysis. It contains purpose which gives benefit things to the writer and also to the reader. In this study, the writer intends to give spirit to people which is included in lower class especially to never give up to reach their dreams. This study is also expected to make people more care with the other even they are in different level of social class status. The most important thing of conducting this study is for the last academic assignment of the writer as the student of English Department in State Islamic University Sunan Ampel Surabaya. In addition, this study is also expected to be a reference or a source of information for the next student of English department related with the theme of this thesis.

E. Scope and Limitation

Drama *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw is a drama rich in themes to explore. To avoid a broader analysis, this study is focused on the depiction of Eliza's struggle to get the higher social class status that also supported by other characters whom has direct relation to the main character in *Pygmalion*. How people from different class interact is also analyzed through main character that also supported by others in direct corelation. The writer uses Marxist feminism theory to analyze the subject and also the concept of Marxist by Karl Marx.

F. Research Method

In conducting this research, the writer applies the qualitative method. In the book entitle *Qualitative Research Methods: A Data Collector's Field Guide*, it is said that Qualitative research is a type of scientific research. In general terms, scientific research consists of an investigation that:

- seeks answers to a question
- Systematically uses a predefined set of procedures to answer the question
- collects evidence
- produces findings that were not determined in advance
- produces findings that are applicable beyond the immediate boundaries of the study.

Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinions, behaviors, and social contexts of particular populations. In addition, Ratna (p.53) identifies the descriptive analysis

model as an analysis which gives the description the facts and then analyzes it.

According to Ratna (p.47-48) there are some important characteristics of a qualitative method:

- a. It gives the main attention toward meaning, and message based on the essence of the object as a cultural study.
- b. Its priority the process rather than the goal.
- c. There is no distance between the researcher and the object of research.
- d. The design and framework of the research is temporary because it is opened research.
- e. The research is natural. It happens in social context each culture.

1. Approach

This study uses a sociological approach to literature. To answer the first statement of problems, that is the interaction between upper class people and lower class people, will be approached with the concept of social class in Marxist theory. Then, to answer the second statement of problems, that is the struggle of Eliza to change her social class status is approached with the concept of feminism which later will be connected to the Marxist feminism theory.

2. Data Sources

The main source of the data are taken from the drama *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. The other sources that the writer used are from library research and also online sources to give better understanding.

3. Data

This study uses drama entitled *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw. The first production was in German at the Hofburg Theatre in Vienna. From the main data, this study gathers the data in the form dialogues in Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*. This data are used as a main data to analyze the research.

4. Data Collection

The data are collected by closed-reading the drama *Pygmalion*. In analyzing the subject materials, this research uses literary research. Moreover, the procedure of data collecting can be described as follows:

- a. Searching data source. The main data source of this research is *Pygmalion*.
- b. Reading the whole script of the drama in order to accomplish a complete understanding.

After deciding the data source, the writer reads the whole script of the drama tries to find the correlation of the story and social class problem.

- c. Choosing the data which have relation to the Marxist feminism theory.

The writer chooses the data that show the relation to the Marxist feminism theory that describe the cause of woman's oppression.

d. Classifying the selected data

Last, the writer analyzes the Marxist feminism conception based on the indicators of Marxist feminism conception.

e. Draw interpretation, conclusion and suggestion.

5. Data Analysis

Data are analyzed by using theory or concept of social stratification that is Marxist Feminist Theory. First step of analyzing will be revealing the interaction between upper class people and the lower class people in the drama *Pygmalion*. Secondly, to answer the second statement of problems, that is to reveal the struggle of Eliza in changing her social class status is analyzed by the theory of marxist feminism.

G. The Organization of the Study

The result of this study is presented in four chapters. Chapter one is introduction. It consists of background of the study, statement of the problems, purpose of the study, significance of conducting the study, scope and limitation, research method, organization of the study, and definition of key terms.

Chapter two deals with review of related literature, it contains the theory of Marxist Feminism that could be applied to reveal the social class problem which exists in the drama *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw.

Chapter three is analysis, it is focused on the analysis of “Eliza’s struggle to achieve the higher social class in *Pygmalion* by George Bernard Shaw”. Finally, conclusion is in chapter four. After the last chapter, this thesis is also completed

with biographical sketch of George Bernard Shaw and synopsis of the drama *Pygmalion*.

H. Definition of key terms

- Class

Class is a group of people in the same social class and economical factor is one of dimensions that determine the social class of people in the society (Dwipayana30)

- Upper class

Upper class people is group of people that have good job with big salary, high in property ownership with high authority flowing from such ownership (Kerbo13).

- Middle class

It consists of group of people with relative little poverty, but high to middle position in occupation (non-manual labor) and authority (Kerbo13).

- Lower class people

This class is class where the group of people that have no property, who are often unemployed and have no authority (Kerbo14).

- Cockney

The cockney dialect is an English dialect spoken in the East End of London. It is typically associated with working class citizens of London, who were called cockneys (Wright18).

- Squashed cabbage leaf

An insult back in old English with the equivalence to what we call a bitch (in an English accent) You stupid (“Urban Dictionary”)