

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of study, statement of research problem, objective of study, significance of study, and scope and limitation of study.

1.1 Background of Study

Joying, worrying, fearing, and wondering appear suddenly because of condition of life. Each people has different background of life, and also has difference class in the society.

Class has traditionally been defined by occupation, wealth, and education. But this research argue that this is too simplistic. Suggesting that class has three dimensions economic, social, and cultural (BBC News: 2013).

From the explanation above, differences of three dimensions are the problem that create the space between lower class or poor people with the upper class or rich people. Both of the classes have different level of economic, social, and cultural.

The differentiation of social class established the lower class get worse treatment from the upper class. Each people was treated based on each class. In Britain at the beginning of nineteenth century was being industrial revolution. This condition made rich people who were from upper class got better occupation than the lower class. One of poet who alive in this era was William Butler Yeats. Yeats was a famous poet who wrote several poems in nineteenth century. That era had the same time with industrial revolution era. Some of Yeats' poems that

were written in that era such as “Beggar to Beggar Cried”, and “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven”.

According to Koot (2006:1) wrote that Many of the artists, poets, essayists, and novelists of early nineteenth century Britain, lamented the momentous changes which the coming of modern industry brought to the landscape, social relations, and the very souls of England's people caught up in its impersonal power.

William Butler Yeats (1865-1939) was an Irish poet. Actually he was born in Dublin, but he spent his summer in west of Ireland. Yeats chose his carrier became a poet in nineteenth century era. As the writer told before that in nineteenth century was beginning of industrial revolution, therefore Yeats wrote some of poems that related with the condition.

Yeats took the contrast of art and life, masks, cyclical theories of life (the symbol of the winding stairs), and the ideal of beauty and ceremony contrasting with the hubbub of modern life as the theme of his poet. William Butler Yeats was an important poet in nineteenth-century era and received a Nobel Prize for Literature in 1923 (PoemHunter.com:2013).

William Butler Yeats was very famous and got a Nobel Prize because his literary works were appreciated, and it was written based on his own experience that he ever gotten. The poems that he wrote and published, aimed to tell the reader what he thought about the condition in his society. Actually Yeats' poems were very simple, but the content of the poems concerned on the problem that he wanted to criticize. He criticized the condition based on his model of thinking about society and the citizen.

There are some example of lyrics that he was written in his poems to depict the condition of society at nineteenth century. “Beggar to Beggar Cried” (“Time to put off the world and go somewhere / And find my health again in the sea air / Beggar to beggar cried, being frenzy-stuck”). When Yeats wrote the poems, he told about the sufferance of lower class that caused by industrial revolution. Actually material was very important, while beggar was from lower class, therefore beggar should survive the life. Industrial revolution at nineteenth century forced the lower class to be the worker for the upper class. One of the causes of this condition was the upper class bought a farm of lower class for making home industry, then the lower class were forced to be their labors. Lower class people was paid by a minimum of salary, but the working time was very long.

The industrial revolution gave or caused a lot of effects. Such as; the migration of the society to the city, a lot of worker, and social jealousy. In this case lower class or proletarian as a worker got suffering from bourgeoisie. The upper class people were dominant in Britain at nineteenth century because the upper class had material that used to pay the salary of lower class people. Therefore the lower class people were oppressed by the upper class. This condition was also told by Yeats in the other poems “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven” (“But I, being poor, have only a dream / I have spread my dreams under your feet”). In that poem I lyric criticized the condition that I lyric as lower class people was oppressed by the upper class people.

Yeats against social class condition, therefore the words that he choose in his poem is used to criticize the differentiation of equality toward the social class that happened in his country at nineteenth century. He thought, by using some literary work like poems can criticize the condition that lower class become an oppressed class. Those poems also tell about the sufferance of lower class in industrial revolution era, and the effects of industrial revolution era for the society in around Britain at nineteenth century.

“Beggar to Beggar Cried”, and “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven” are appropriate to be analyzed by Marxism theory. Specifically using Marxism literary Criticism: general that focus on class conflict. This theory is had by Karl Marx (1818-1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820-1895). He was the father of critical criminology and German philosopher. Actually he called his economic theory as communism, but Marx commonly called his theory as “Marxism”.

Marx was writing against a backdrop of great industrial change. Overcrowded, newly industrialised cities were expanding, and much of the working class lived in great poverty. Marx saw history as the story of class struggles, in which the oppressed fight against their oppressors. According to Marx, as history unfolded, the victory of one class would pave the way for the future freedom of the rest of society (British Library Board: 1886).

According to the statement above, Marxism is one of theory that against the industrial revolution, and Marx analyze the condition at the time when industrial revolution era was beginning. Marx said that the oppressed person should fight the oppression from the oppressor in order get freedom in future. According to this theory, therefore “Beggar to Beggar Cried”, and “He Wish For the Cloth of Heaven” are analyzed using Marxism theory.

According to the explanation above that some contents of Marxism theory analyzed about economic and class conflict, so that the writer choose Marxism theory to analyze two poems that she takes as her study. Both of the poems tell about sufferance of lower class in industrial revolution era that happened in Britain at the beginning of nineteen century. It means that between literary work and the theory is coherent to be used in the writer's study.

Marxist literary criticism is the theory that appropriate to analyze class conflict that appear in "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven" that told about social live in Yeats' country at the time. Class conflict is a part of Marxism theory that can be used to analyze these poems, because this theory is about conflicts of social classes that appear in society, and it happened in this poem.

Sufferance of lower class in Yeats' poems showed the condition of industrial revolution, and also the effects that had been gotten by people that era. At the beginning of nineteenth century era became industrial revolution in Britain. Friedrich Engels and Lousi Auguste are the prominent figure that support the industrial revolution. Industrial revolution was dominated by industry and machines which used as the tool for manufacturing some product. Therefore the upper class needed more worker. The workers were selected from lower class people. They got a minimum of salary from the upper class. It means that the bourgeoisie stronger, richer, and more power full than the proletarian people. This condition that showed the sufferance of lower class people.

The writer chooses William Butler Yeats in her thesis because Yeats' poems were very simple. Both of the poems were about the phenomena of life, and also he gave some critic used his poem. Yeats was a poet who belong to the nineteenth century era. He knew well about the industrial revolution era. Therefore his poems criticized this condition that happened in nineteenth century. He wrote poems based on his own experience, and based on the reality of the society. According to Yeats, lower class became an oppressed people, and lower class should work hard to get the salary from the upper class then the salary was used to hold out their life.

"Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven" are two poems that is chosen by the writer for her study. The writer choose two poems because those poems are very interesting to be analyzed. In both of poems, Yeats wrote the effect of industrial revolution era, and those poems tell about sufferance of lower class in that era, it was about the beginning of nineteen-century era.

Some of Yeats' poems about economic condition, so that the writer thinks that those poems are appropriate to be analyzed by Marxist theory. This theory is chosen by the writer because she wants to analyze the sufferance of lower class people who alive in industrial revolution era. Therefore the writer will describe sufferance of lower class people in William Butler Yeats' poems on the four chapter.

This study has relation to some studies that had been conducted before. The first study entitled "*Four Lyric Books of William Butler Yeats*" by Mora

Maclean (1961). This thesis discuss about William Butler Yeats' poems. While the other thesis "*The Class Conflict in Gorge Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion*" by Bagus Indiarito (2011), and "*Class System in England in Mark Twain's The Prince and The Pauper*" by Emy Munawarah (2012) were thesis that discussed about Marxist theory.

From the previous studies above, the writer finds a gap that makes this study is original than before. This study discuss about the sufferance of lower class in industrial revolution era, and how the lower class people defend the life from the sufferance. This study is being analyzed using Marxist theory that focus on class conflict, and the data focus on per line in William Butler Yeats' "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven". Therefore this study is different with the previous studies mentioned above. It can be concluded that the data and the theory used in this study originally.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

1. What are the sufferance of lower class people in "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven"?
2. How does the lower class people defend the life from the sufferance in "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven"?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1. To describe the sufferance of lower class people in "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven".
2. To describe how the lower class people defend the life from the sufferance in "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven".

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significance of this thesis is divided into two significance. The first is theoretical significance, and the second is practical significance. The theoretical significance of this study, the writer hope that this thesis helps the readers to understand about the application of Marxist criticism theory especially about social class in some literary work.

The practical significance of this study, the writer hopes that this thesis give reflection to the reader that in this society class conflict appear when lower class people want to get their dream through the upper class people. While the reader who want to analyze and understand about class conflict in society, the reader should study about Marxist theory.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The scope of this study is about Marxist criticism that was had by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, this theory especially class conflict is reflected in William Butler Yeats' "Beggar to Beggar Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven". Then the limitation of study are words, and line which are relevant with the data. So the discussion of the study is focused to the sufferance of lower class, and effort of lower class to defend the life from the sufferance in "Beggar and Beggar to Cried" and "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven".