

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents five subchapters of introduction such as background of the study, statement of research question, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of the Study

In human life, people live socially. They do some social interactions like their duties as a social creature. Although people live together in the same environment, they have a different status and position in a society. The status in a society is based on the economic base and power. The people who have high economy and power are categorized as higher class. Meanwhile the people who do not have a power and low economy are categorized as the lower class. Commonly, the people of higher class are more respected because of their power and their authority. Unfortunately, because of their power, they often abuse their authority. Thus, it makes the people of lower class are oppressed and gained an injustice. It certainly creates a conflict between higher and lower class. Thus, in a society there is a social stratification that lead to the class conflict.

This case occurs not only in real life, but also in literary work such as novel, short story, prose and etc. It is because literary work is a reflection of society. It contains philosophy of life, concern on moral value and delivers a message. According to Massari and Sidek (2014:12)“literature consists of a vast

repertoire of human expressions carried out through the medium of language both in oral or written form. It is a study that concerns people; the life and activities connected to it". Hence, it is not impossible if literary works create some issues related with human life.

In this study, the topic is about social stratification leading to the class conflict. This topic is interesting to be analyzed because it allows us to learn what kinds of social class in a society and how it can create class conflict. Furthermore, it allows us to know the relationship exist between people in one class to other classes. In this study, the writer uses a novel *The Selection* by Kiera Cass as source of data. This novel is the first book in the selection series, followed by *The one*, *The Elite*, *The Heir* and *The Crown*. This novel is chosen as the source of data because it is included to the best seller *The New York Times* version. Besides, it tells a story that is related with the human issue of social class and conflict of class. Thus we can take the moral issue of this story for better social life.

In analyzing data, the writer uses theory of Marxism particularly social class and social class conflict. This theory is used by the writer because it is related with the topic that is social stratification leading to the class conflict. This study focuses on social class and class conflict that proposed by Karl Marx. According to Habib (2011: 208) Karl Marx is a German political, economic, and philosophical theorist and revolutionist. He attempted to understand the structural causes behind what he saw as a system of capitalist exploitation, and to offer solution in the spheres of economic and politic.

One of the ideas of Marxist criticism is about social class or strata in society. There are two strata in a society. It represents that individual status and position in the social structure. They are the higher class and the lower class. The members of higher class live better than lower class. The people can be known their status in society through their economic power and their lifestyle. People who have a higher economic and have power are categorized as the higher class. Meanwhile people who are poor in economic and hard to live are categorized as the lower class in society. The class differences in society lead to the several conflict of society because there is an injustice and imbalance power in social life.

To prove the originality of this study, the writer presents previous studies. The first previous study is from Kurnia Angger EkaPratita : 2015, University of Trunojoyo Madura, who uses the same theory, that is Marxism theory, entitled *Afghan's Class Stratification in KhaledHosseini's and The Mountains Echoed*. The second previous study is from Sudianto : 2017, University of Trunojoyo Madura, who uses the same source of data, entitled *Intertextuality in Twenty-First Century Dystopian Fiction: The Hunger Games and The Selection*. This study is different with the two focus studies above. This study focuses on social class stratification that lead to the conflict. Thus this study is more emphasize to the social classes that create a conflict.

1.2 Statement of Research Problem

Regarding the focus of sthe study, the main questions will be foregrounded as follows:

1. What the characteristics of social classes are portrayed in the novel Kiera Cass' *The Selection* ?
2. How are the conflicts between classes portrayed in the novel Kiera Cass' *The Selection* ?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Based on the research question above, the writer has several objectives to describe:

1. The characteristics of social classes in the novel Kiera Cass' *The Selection*
2. How the conflicts between classes are portrayed in the novel Kiera Cass' *The Selection*

1.4 Significances of the Study

The significance of this study is divided in two significances. The first is theoretical significances and the second is practical significances.

Theoretically, the result of this study is expected to contribute several advantages, better understanding and development of literary theory especially Marxism theory to be added as one of the literary field studies which focus on social class and the class conflict.

Practically, the result of this study can be worthy contribution as references for further study and enhance the knowledge of the reader especially for the student. In addition, the writer hopes this study will be beneficial for society to have a better comprehending about social class stratification.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

As the scope of the study, this study uses theory Marxism especially social classes and conflict theory as the approach of the analysis. To make the discussion in this study more focuses on the problem, this study will be limited on analysis data which answer research questions about characteristic of social classes and conflict of classes in the novel *The Selection* by Kiera Cass.