

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

There are five sub chapters to discuss in this chapter. Those are background of the study, statement of the research problems, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and scope and limitations of the study. Those are important to be explained because they describe this study generally.

1.1 Background of the Study

At the beginning, people were born with full of desires to know about everything. Then they grow to learn, start understanding, and finally share what they know through writing. It makes literature became a special product of human.

“to claim that literature as a mirror or expression of life which is even more ambiguous. A writer inevitably expresses his experience and total conception of life; but it would be manifestly untrue to say that he expresses the whole of life-or even the whole life of given time-completely and exhaustively.”
(Wellek and Warren, 1949)

The quotation above describes that the author as a part of society creates a literary work based on what he or she sees, feels, and hears from society where he or she lives. Literary work cannot be separated from author real world. Even though, the author's imagination adds as a flavor and became an artistic whole in the work.

There is always a deep meaning in the relation between society and the work. Romanticism was born to against the domination of Rationalism (Enlightment). Historicism came to reacts Formalist criticism, and Marxism come to criticize capitalism.

The capitalistic system is characterized by the freedom to the individual in managing their economic activities where the owner of the capital, of course, freely is allowed to make their own decision to determine what will be produced and how the method of production (Romano, 1975). This kind of production system creates a view point that regards money or capital as the measure of wealth. The capital owner will take the dominant social position which also leads into the development of certain relation of production that is class structure, the bourgeoisie and proletariat. It is become the main point that rejected by Marxist. The aim of them is to bring about a classless society (Barry: 1995).

Among literary works is showed the relation between work itself and the real condition when and where the work created. As the result, literary works are seen as a social document or artifact that record phenomenon in the real world, also as a comment to the condition of the real world. Marx was argued that the literary world has long given birth to works that give their own commentaries on the way society is built. They break down the superstructures of society and give it characters to play along with, unconsciously teaching us the ways of the world (Selden, Widdowson, & Brooker, 2005).

Marxist theme captured through Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed* that take place in Afghanistan, as the setting. Afghanistan, the Graveyard of Empires, is a country with a lot of kind of conflict, the invasion of Uni Soviet until many several of civil war, also the oppression of Mujahidin. It brings Afghanistan to become the country with a lot of problem, such as; poverty, poor medical care, lack of education and infrastructures, and the flourishing opium

industry. The Afghanistan weather also became a serious problem. The brutal winter visit the country, routinely takes the lives of the baby, the young, the elderly, the sick, and the disabled. The cold season became a horror for the poor family and they have to survive in their bad luck, without good shelter, foods, and coat. To handle it, they must take difficult choices to protect their families. That problem is written by Khaled Hosseini in *And The Mountains Echoed* through Sabor's family (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=useqwpkN18E>, 2014).

And The Mountains Echoed is the third work of Khaled Hosseini, an Afghanistan's writer. His first and second work, *The Kite Runner* (published in 2003) and *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (released in 2006) sold more than ten million copies in United States, and more than thirty-eight million copies sold worldwide in more than seventy countries. He was born in Kabul, Afghanistan in 1965. His father was a diplomat in the Afghan-foreign ministry and his mother was a teacher in one of the high school in Kabul. In 1976, the Afghan-foreign ministry relocated he and his family to Paris. In 1980, when they were ready to come back to Afghanistan, his country was in conflict with Uni Soviet. By then their sight and were granted political asylum in the United State to avoid war (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oWstZMSMV0>, 2014).

Hosseini, as Afghan, always writes his true story or what he sees in his novel. Like his main character in *The Kite Runner*, Amir, Khaled Hosseini enjoyed Western film and kite fighting. In an interview with Newsline in 2013, Khaled Hosseini said the passages in the book most resembling his life are those of Amir and Baba as immigrants in the United States. When his family arrived in

California, they had difficulty understanding to the new culture, and then his family lived on welfare, just as Amir and Baba condition in the novel (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M6Wz33eaTI4>, 2011). In his second book, *A Thousand Splendid Suns* he depicts the real condition of women in Afghanistan under Taliban's oppression, they were denied education, the right to work, the right to move freely, and, access to adequate healthcare, as Laila's condition in the book (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ez9GhYm080>, 2010).

And The Mountains Echoed, published in 2013, is definitely his most different book of the three. It has a complicated plot. It is more like a collection of short stories that all center on an event in the life of brother and sister, namely Abdullah and Pari, which ripped them apart by their father to save their family's conditions. There is a central conflict but this conflict does not always "control" the narrative. All of the short stories explore the life of someone who is connected in some ways, shapes, or form to the central conflict. The central conflict was being the sundering of a brother from his beloved sister. Many of these branching stories wander around the characters life describing different scenes, events, and people in the character's life that are important to understanding the character (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EKyM6B2GrA>, 2014).

Based on the explanation above, in order to get deep understanding on Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountain Echoed*, Marxism is a suitable method to employ. The use of Marxist approach will be suited to the quest to know the classification of social status and the dominated class to struggle in Afghanistan.

Since Marxist criticism learns about social class in the society, so there are many researches of literary work that related to the theory. The writer found four researches that in line with her research. The previous analysis used Marxist theory was written by Fresty Boesya Layonda (2009) from Universitas Sumatera Utara entitled *The Marxism as Reflected in Arthur Miller's The Death of A Salesman*. Besides, there are other researches by Rahat Ullah, Kifayatullah Khan, and Tammanna Salih Shah (2012) from International Journal of Humanities and Social Science entitled *Steinback's The Pearl as Marxist critique of Capitalism*. The third research entitled *Class System in England in Mark Twain's The Prince and The Pauper* by Emmy Munawarah (2012). The last research was Hafifah's work (2014) which is under the title *The Impact of The Gaps Between Upper Class and Lower Class in Aravind Adiga's The White Tiger*.

Different from the previous researches, this research attempts to analyze the social classification focusing on Afghan social classes and the class struggle in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountain Echoed* by using Marxist theory. Therefore, this research title is *Afghan's Class Stratification in Khaled Hosseini's And The Mountain Echoed*.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The questions of the research are:

1. How are the stratification of Afghan's social class portrayed in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*?

2. How are the responses of some characters towards the class stratification reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the stratification of social class in Afghanistan society portrayed in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*.
2. To describe the response of some characters' towards the class stratification reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The significances of the study are:

1. Theoretical Uses

The writer hopes this analysis will enrich the knowledge of reader to more understand the truth hidden in the novel, especially in reading *And The Mountain's Echoed*. The writer hopes this research become one of the references for those who are attracted to analyze novel especially for Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed* using Marxist Approach. Specifically, this analysis will give more information about the social stratification and the response of some characters towards the class stratification reflected in Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed*.

2. Practical Uses

The writer expects that this analysis will make society, especially the student, aware that all humans are the same and equal. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat are just 'terms' in the past. There is no class stratification again in society as the Marxist hopes.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

The writer studied Khaled Hosseini's *And The Mountains Echoed* by using Karl Marx's Marxism theory, in order to find the class stratification in Afghan's society. The study only focused on the utterances that are relevant to the study.

