**CHAPTER ONE**

**INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Background of Study

Class is a complex term, there are various ways in which it can be defined (Cody, 2002). It can be defined as a broad group in society having common economic, cultural, or 14 political status. A social class also refers to one unit of different society that possess certain value, prestige, activity, property and their ethics of social intercourse (Cohen, 1983). In other words, social class is a group of people whom share some characteristics like life style, education, or position. Different social classes can be distinguished by inequalities like power, authority, wealth, living conditions, religion, education, language, work, and culture (Cody, 2002). A social class is a group of people of similar status, commonly sharing comparable levels of power and wealth. In sociology, social classes describe one form of social stratification. When a society is organized by social classes, as opposed to by castes, it is theoretically possible for people to attain a higher status than the status with which they started. This movement is possible because social classes are not based on birth but on factors such as education and professional success. For example, someone born into a low-income family can achieve a higher status through education, talent, and work, or perhaps through social connections. A society organized according to social classes, then, allows for some social mobility. Social class is an amorphous term, but can generally be defined as an unofficial hierarchical stratification of people in a given society, who are ranked according to their social, economic, occupational, and educational statuses. The systems of categorization vary, from Marx‟s bourgeoisie versus proletariat (e.g., Marx & Engels, 2002) to the classic much-discussed three levels of upper, middle, andlower class, to more elaborate schemes such as variations on a six-level division into upper, upper-middle, middle, and lower-middle class; working poor; and the under-class (e.g., Gilbert, 2002). These categories, like most categories referring to social structures and/or identities, lack distinct boundaries and are contingent on many factors.

As Kubota (2003) and others have cautioned, class is often a shifting rather than fixed identity. Further,social class, like any identity, seldom operates in a vacuum. Kubota (2003) states that class differences “need to be unpacked in relation to power and discourse” (p. 38). Class intersects and interacts with other identities, such as race, gender, ethnicity, religion, and sexual identity, as Luke (2010) and others have reminded us. The positive or negative effects of one‟s social class status may be partially counterbalanced by another identity; for example, a working-class White male may sometimes experience prejudice because of his class identity but may at other times experience racial and gender privilege.

The case of social class has relation with social inequality like these arise in the first place, how they are maintained or changed over time, and the impact which they have on other aspects of social life. The social class does not only happen in the real life but also exist in literary work, such as novel, drama, sort story, and others. Through literary work, the author wants to share or describe the social phenomenon that happen during her or his life time like culture, tradition, psychological, even the sociological issue. In this research, the researcher wants to discuss the sociological issue especially social class that describes in the novel

The Holy Woman.

The Holy Woman novel was written by British-Pakistani author Qaisra Shahraz. It was published in 2001. This novel tells a story about society in Pakistan exactly in Karachi city. In this place, the rich people cannot get married with poor people. It can be seen from the characters namely Khawar, he is high class. He cannot get married with Firdaus who is low class. They survive to keep their relationship. In the end of the story, Khawar and Firdaus get married.

In the other hand, Habib, Siraj Din, Shahzada, and Zarri Bano are coming from a rich family. They have a lot of wealth and they get respect and privilege from the society there. Besides that, they have a servant that works with them in many years. They treat her well and consider her like her family. Shazada always tells to her about her problem to her servant. Furthermore, in this novel tells about one family from high class namely Kaniz, she treats her servants badly. She believed from her ancestor that servant is working with them and as a boss must treat like boss, because there is a difference social status between servant and boss. The important thing why the researcher chooses The Holy Woman novel to be analyzed, because there is social stratification appears in the story. It can be seen from the characters that were written by the author. In addition, this novel has moral values that the readers will get after reading this novel. The Holy Woman novel tells how woman can survive in strict condition like patriarchal system. Further, this novel also gives support to the readers who do not come from rich family; they can get well education if they can trust themselves and having strong intention to get what they want. It can be seen through Fatima‟s family in the novel. Fatima has a husband who cannot work because he got accident that he must do amputation but Fatima determined herself to work for her life, her husband, and especially for her children. Her first child becomes head master in one of school in Karachi.

1.2 Research Question

Due to the background study above, the researcher formulates the problem as follow: What are the classes of Pakistan societies as reflected in Shahraz‟s The Holy Woman novel?

1.3 Research Objective

Considering the research question above, the objective of this research is to find out the classes of Pakistan societies as reflected in Shahraz‟s The Holy Woman novel.

1.4 Uses of the Study

By doing this analysis, the researcher hopes that this research can reach some benefits like theoritically or practically used by people who need this research. Here are the benefits:

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

The researcher hopes that this research can give new knowledge for the readers, especially in analyzing a literary work. Therefore, it will help the readers who has interested in the same research and become one of references of their research. In addition, it can expectedly give more understanding about class profiles theory by Alex Thio that applied in this research. This research also will be useful for other researchers who want to do in the similar research.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

The researcher expects that this research will give more information about the social stratification that exists in The Holy Woman novel by Qaisra Shahraz. Moreover, the researcher also hopes this research will be able to provide some academicals contribution for other researchers who are interested in the same topics in further research.

1.5 Scope of Study

To make the study enables to answer the research question appropriately, the researcher needs to emphasize the limitation of the scope of study. The focuses of this research will be on the class profiles of Pakistan as reflected in The Holy Woman novel by Qaisra Shahraz. The researcher applies class profiles theory from Alex Thio and sociological approach.