

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of Study

Social stratification means that there is inequality in the society and differences exist between people who are high and low (Gilbert, 2002). Social stratification is a particular form of social inequality. All societies arrange their members in terms of superiority, inferiority and equality. Stratification is a process of interaction or differentiation whereby some people come to rank higher than others and those who fall under the same position think in a similar way, same lifestyle and create a pattern of social class (Gilbert in Lina and Setiawan, 2017). It is difficult to understand the behavior of people without knowing the social stratification because; the class where they are determines their clothes, what they watch in the television, names of the pets and how the homes are painted. The level, which people are, affects the number of years they live, happiness as well as health. Social class describes how people group themselves according to prestige and the influence they have in the society. The status in the society can be inherited if someone is born in a family of wealthy individuals. According to Gilbert in Lina and Setiawan (2017), some households earn more income than others can if they increase number of those who are capable of earning income. The size of household is very important because if they combine their income, it becomes higher. The focus of Kohl is income where people are classified according to the economic system. When a person gets quality education, the occupation is better and the level of class rises.

Gilbert Kohl model of social class uses the system of economy in development of structure of classes. Capitalist class consists of people who relate with people whom they belong to the same class and avoid the inferior class. The upper middle class is made up of professionals as well as managers who have formal education and they succeed from the type of jobs that they do. The middle class are semi professionals who receive training after college education. Working class are operators of machines who are semi skilled and includes sales people as well as clerks. The classes of working poor are unskilled laborers and their payment is very low, they do not have savings and depend on pensions after retirement. The underclass suffers from unemployment, they lack self-esteem and their level of education is very low.

As Kubota in Setri and Setiawan (2020) mentioned, class is often a shifting rather than fixed identity. Further, social class, like any identity, seldom operates in a vacuum. Kubota in Setri and Setiawan (2020) also stated that class differences need to be unpacked in relation to power and discourse. 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 of *Crazy Rich Asians*.

*Crazy Rich Asians* was written by John M Chu was published in 2013. This novel tells a story about very rich Chinese family who life in Singapore. In this place, the rich people cannot get married with poor people. It can be seen from the characters namely Rachel Chushe is high class. She cannot get married with Nick Young who is middle class. They survive to keep their relationship. In the end of the story, Rachel and Nick get married.

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. The important thing of why the researcher chooses *Crazy Rich Asian* novel to be analyzed, because there is social stratification appears in the story that can be seen from the characters written by the author. The importance of learning about social stratification is to determining life opportunities in the future, so the reader can start thinking about the great education that can affected their class and position. In addition, this novel has moral values that the readers will get after reading this novel.

## **1.2 Research Question**

What are the types of social class in Chinese societies as reflected in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asian*?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

Considering the research question above, the objective of this research is to find out the type of social class in Chinese societies as reflected in Kevin Kwan *Crazy Rich Asian* novel.

### **1.4 Uses of the Study**

By doing this analysis, the researcher hopes that this research can reach some benefits like theoretically 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 Gilbert 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 class stratification that exists in *Crazy Rich Asian* novel by Kevin Kwan. Moreover, the researcher also hopes this research will be able to provide some academics 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 Chinese as reflected in *Crazy Rich Asian* novel by Kevin Kwan. The researcher applies class profiles theory from Thio (1986) of social stratification.