

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

This chapter concerning previous studies and the theory that will be used by the researcher. Those previous studies are related to the topic that will be analyzed by the researcher. There are five previous studies from different writer as the guideline for the researcher. Sociological approach will be used as the whole concept of the theory.

First previous study by Arifah Ulfa Nasution (2019) conducted research entitled *An Analysis of Social Classes and its Conflict in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asian Novel*. In this research, the researcher focused on the social criticism in the class and also the social conflict inside the novel. Her specific aim was to find out the classes and the conflict that appear among those social class. The method that is used in this thesis is a qualitative descriptive method. The findings and analysis that can be found in the novel about social class differences

The first previous study gives contribution for the researcher to know about the novel like the conflict of people who comes from different classes and the finding are shows that the conflict appears because it measured by the power and the wealth, privileges and prestige that affect the position of each person.

So, from that previous study, the researcher knows that *Crazy Rich Asian* novel also talks about social stratification through the characters. The researcher will know what characters that are categorized between rich people or high class and poor

people or lower class. It helps the researcher to get easy in choosing the characters between rich or poor people.

Second previous study entitled *Social Stratification Reflected at Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice Novel (1813): A Sociological Approach* was written by Mei Hariyanti (2014). The object of this research is to analyze the social stratification of English society reflected in *Pride and Prejudice* novel (1813) on a sociological approach. This research used qualitative method in analyzing the novel. The researcher uses two data sources, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data source of the study is the novel *Pride and Prejudice* written by Jane Austen. The secondary data source from many sources as references, for example the author's biography, the website from the internet about the novel and other resources that support the analysis. The result of this analysis is to show that *Pride and Prejudice* novel tells about social stratification appears in three bases of social stratification that determine the characters strata.

Further, this research is based on sociological analysis, it can be concluded that *Pride and Prejudice* novel by Jane Austen is reflected the social realities of the England societies. There are social, economic, political, science, and technology, cultural and religious aspect at the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. This research gives contribution to this research in the form of the way to analyze social status by using Alex Thio's theory and also information about the approach that was used by the researcher.

The third previous study entitled *Social Relation and Stratification Reflected in Anton Checkov's Uncle Vanya Drama: A Marxist Perspective* by Yholanda

Anggraini (2013). The focus of this research is to analyze the social relation and stratification reflected in Anton Checkov's *Uncle Vanya* Drama by using library method. This research used Marxist theory and sociological approach. The result of this analysis showed that Anton Checkov in *Uncle Vanya* Drama. The gap between the land owner and the worker at the last of nineteenth century in Russia influences the social relation each other. This research gives knowledge about the sociological approach that applied in the research.

The fourth previous study is coming from Nyoman Lusiana (2016) entitled *An Analysis of Social Stratification as Reflected in Twain's The Prince and The Pauper*. This research is using Social stratification theory by Gilbert and designing into qualitative method. The aim of this study is to explain the portrayal of social stratification as reflected in Twains' *The Prince and The Pauper* novel specifically. The result of this research, the researcher found that there are two main characters that represent the social stratification. They are Edward Tudor and Tom Canty.

In addition, the character of Edward Tudor is rich people. It can be seen from three bases of social stratification by Gilbert. First, Edward has wealth economic condition. Second, Edward has power, it can be seen from his power to give command. Third, he has prestige. It appears in respecting and honor that given by the whipping boy and Hertford.

Further, the result of this research shows that Tom Canty is poor people. It also appears from the three bases of social stratification, wealth, power, and prestige. First the wealth bases, economic condition of Tom Canty can be seen when Tom character was described about the poor of building life and education. Second, the

power as bases of stratification shows Tom Canty strata as part of poor strata. Powerless of Tom Canty was shown when Edward (as Tom) gives a command to the soldier to open gate but the soldier has rejected. Third, the prestige of Tom Canty character, it appears when Tom gets respect very low from other people. From the last previous study, the researcher gets comprehension about the sociological approach. It also helps the researcher how to correlate the approach and the theory itself.

The last previous study entitled *The Representation of Chinese Character in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians* from Journal UPI was conducted by Antonio Winatian, Nia Nafisah and Nita Novianti on 2019. This study aims to analyze how Chinese characters are represented in the novel and the meaning behind those representation. This study focusses on the character's thought, behavior and language that being used in this novel.

The result of this study is very helpful for the researcher in order to know the characteristic of each character that involves in this novel. It can help the researcher to know more about the thought, behavior and language used by the Chinese characters in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* novel.

2.2 Sociological Approach

Since this research discuss about the society especially social stratification, so the sociological approach is needed in order to know more about society. According to Laurensen and Swingewood (1971:11), "Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social

processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists”.

Based on that statement, sociology deals with the process between one society to others like the way they communicate, the way they live, and others. In addition, sociology sets how someone adapts to the environment and accepts the social rules that exist in the society. The sociological aspects cannot be separated from the concept of social stability, continuity between social groups and how one recognizes the social institution of both the benefits and right because sociology is study about the society.

On the other hand, human can express their emotion trough the literary work. Sociology and literary work in the fact as the complement each other even they are different but cannot be separated each other because sociology only as the link which is connected to the social environment of the human culture and the nature. According to Endraswara in Amelia (2018), sociology of literature is a study that focuses on the problems of mankind. Therefore, the literature often express human’s struggle in determining their future based on imagination, feeling, and institution. Thus, the opinion that appears the long struggle of human life will always be coloring text literature (Laurenson and Swingewood in Amelia and Dintasi, 2019).

The sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses its attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created (Endraswara in Amelia, 2018). It reveals that the existence of a literary creation has the determined social situations. As there is a reciprocal relationship

between a literary phenomenon and social structure, sociological study of literature proves very useful to understand the socioeconomic situations, political issues, the world view and creativity of the writers, the system of the social and political organizations, the relations between certain thoughts and cultural configurations in which they occur and determinants of a literary work.

According to Gilbert (2002), sociology can show how people act and react, what the characteristics of groups and societies are, and how these social units affect people. It means that by sociology it will see how people interact with others, how groups or societies differ and how these societies units affect the behavior. So, sociology gives understanding why people diverse group behavior differently. By using sociological approach, it will help the research to analyze the class profiles based on Gilbert, particularly in analyzing social class of Chinese society as reflected in Kevin Kwan *Crazy Rich Asian* Novel.

2.3 Class Profiles

Thio is a Professor of Sociology at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. He was born Bremerton, Washington. He grew up in a multicultural environment. He studied sociology at the State Cornell University in Lima, Peru. In addition, he does not only become a teacher, but also he is a writer. He is the author of the *Sociology: The American Class Structure in an Age of Growing Inequality, 2002 (6th), ISBN 0534541100* Gilbert believes that in every society, social rewards such as wealth, power, and prestige are distributed unequally. Having a particular position in this pattern of inequality, called as social class. It affects how people live. The rich

people will have better life, like education, housing, food, and clothing than the poor people.

2.3.1 The Upper Class

In the book *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*, Alex Thio stated that, “this class has two segments: upper-upper and lower-upper. Basically, the upper-upper class is the “old rich” families that have been wealthy for several generations-an aristocracy of birth and wealth. The lower-upper class is the “new rich” including Bill Gates of Microsoft, Ted turner of CNN, and Michael Eisner of Disney (Thio, 1986:187).

From the statement, it can be concluded that in the upper class, there are two categories of the upper class. They are upper-upper class and lower-upper class. The upper-upper class is class of someone who is rich since he or she was born. It means the wealth that she or he has been coming from his or her ancestor. It’s been a turn of generation of his or her family.

Further, the second category of upper class is the lower-upper class. It is the class of someone who has wealth that can be gotten because she or he works in the company and gain the wealthy because of their struggle. For example, Bill Gates, he works 72 hours of work in a week and become the richest man. It can be concluded that Bill Gates as the lower upper class according class profiles by Alex Thio.

Alex Thio believed that the wealth is acquired; the upper class is very rich. Its members have enough money to cultivate an interest in the arts and to collect rare books, paintings, and sculpture. They generally live in exclusive areas, belong to exclusive social clubs. But their life styles, such as wearing expensive clothes in

affluent settings, are so often portrayed on TV that the masses try to emulate the rich by spending more than they can afford. More than any other class, the rich tend to be conscious of being members of class. They also command an enormous amount of power and influence in government and business, affecting the lives of millions.

2.3.2 The Middle Class

One of classes in class profiles by Alex Thio is middle class. Alex Thio in his book stated that, “This class can be differentiated into two strata by occupational prestige, income, and education. The upper-middle class consists mostly of professional and business people with high income and education, such as doctors, lawyers, and corporate executives. The lower middle class is far larger in size and much more diverse in occupation, such as small business owners, store, and travelling salesperson, managers, technicians, teachers, and secretaries” (Thio, 1986:187).

Based on the statement above, there are two kinds of classes. It can be seen from the occupational prestige, income, and education. The middle class is not as tightly knit as the upper class. Middle class people are distinguished wealth and power, and from those below them by their white-collar, non manual jobs. The first class is upper-middle class. People can be called as upper middle class because they have high income and good education background. They are also professional and business people of their job like doctor, lawyer, and others.

Moreover, in the middle class, there is one type of it which is lower middle class. Most people can be categorized as the lower middle class by their jobs. It does not focus on professional and business people, but it can include the diverse occupation.

Since, they have a job to continue and survive their life. It can be the owner online shop, technician, teacher, and others.

2.3.3 The Working Class

This class is describing about people who have little education and whose jobs are manual and carry little. It is stated by Heath in Alex Thio (1986:188) “The working class is also distinguishable for having more part-time workers and union members than other classes. Some working class people, such as construction workers, carpenters, and plumbers, are skilled workers and may make more money than those in the lower reaches of the middle class, such as secretaries and teachers. But their jobs are more physically demanding and, especially in the case of factory workers, more dangerous”.

Based on that statement, it means those working classes are filled with individuals who work as labor. They have a little skill in their jobs and have more places to work, so this class makes these individuals could have more income than those who are classified as middle class that only works in one company. However, there is another type of working class society as stated by Alex Thio (1986), “Other working class people are unskilled, such as migrant workers, janitors, and dishwashers. There are also many women in this class working as domestics, cleaners, and waitresses, and they are often the sole bread winners in their households. Because they are generally underpaid, they are often called the working poor”.

This type of working class is individuals who do not have any skills and have less education background. Most of the time, these people are categorized as blue collar worker which the jobs do not require any specific skills and education background

as other jobs, like doctors, teachers, and lawyers. Therefore, in the working class, there are two types. The first one is the working class who has skill and the second one is the working class who do not have skill.

2.3.4 The Lower Class

The last type of class profiles is the lower class as stated by Alex Thio that this class is characterized by joblessness and poverty. It includes the chronically unemployed. These people suffer the indignity of living in rundown houses, wearing old clothes, eating cheap food, and lacking proper medical care. Very few have finished high school. They may have started out in their youth with poorly paying jobs that required little or no skill, and their earning power began to drop when they reach their late 20s.

Based on that statement, it means the people of lower class live in a miserable life where everything is hard to find. Since they have bad education background, it leads them hard to find a job for continuing their life. They have little income and they cannot afford proper things for their life as the basic needs like clothes, foods, and medical care.