

UNRAVELING SOCIAL CLASS IN SALLY ROONEY'S

NOVEL *NORMAL PEOPLE*

(A Thesis)



By

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ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

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BANDAR LAMPUNG

2023

DECLARATION OF FREE PLAGIARISM

This is to certify that to the best of my knowledge; the content of this thesis is my own work. This thesis has not been submitted for any degree of other purpose.

I certify that the intellectual content of this thesis is the product of my own work and that all the assistance received in preparing this thesis and sources have been acknowledged.

Bandar Lampung, December 15th, 2022

The writer,

A handwritten signature in black ink is written over a pink official stamp. The stamp features the Garuda Pancasila emblem and the text 'PERAI TEMPEL' and '17000403208436671'.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, I would like to thank Allah SWT for blessing and the guidance so that I could finish this thesis which is written to fulfil the requirement to achieve bachelor's degree at Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia. The accomplishment of this thesis could not be achieved without the contribution of some great people. Therefore, in this opportunity, I would like to deliver my sincere gratitude to:

1. Dr. H.M. Nasrullah Yusuf, S.E., M.B.AS., Rector of Universitas Teknokrat Indonesia.
2. Dr. Heri Kuswoyo, S.S., M.Hum., Dean of Faculty of Arts and Education.
3. Suprayogi, S.S., M.Hum., Head of English Literature Faculty of Arts and Education.
4. Budi Eko Pranoto, S.S., M.Hum. as my advisor. High appreciation and gratitude for your guidance, suggestion, and motivation during the advisory process.
5. Ely Nurmaily, S.S., M.Hum. as my examiner.
6. The batchmates, the lecturers and staffs Faculty Arts and Education.
7. All people who have been influential in the accomplishment of this thesis.

Bandar Lampung, December 15th, 2022

The writer,

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MOTTO

“Never compare yourself to the others, because that will make you less grateful for the process you have gone through.”

-Een Sholawiah-

“Don't be afraid with the result but you just need do what you must do. If you keep thinking you'll fail, you won't be brave to try it.”

-Budi Eko Pranoto-

DEDICATION

I dedicated this thesis to both my parents, my brothers, my sisters, and my beloved friends who always give the support to me, especially my mother thank you for being my best motivator and supporter under any circumstances. I also dedicate this thesis to my advisor and my examiner who always gives a lot of advice and knowledge and helps me correct every mistake I made in writing in this thesis. And to all my friends, thank you verry much for the directions. You are also a part of my journey to make this thesis.

ABSTRACT

Unraveling Social Class in Sally Rooney's Novel *Normal People*

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This study investigates social class issues that are discussed in a novel entitled Normal People by Sally Rooney. This novel tells the story between Connel and Marianne. Both are teenagers looked for their identity and try to have friendship and love relationship in their life. However, it becomes complicated since social class becomes the main and common issue in their environment that can harm specific individual or group of society. Since it is the main and common issue that we can find in our society, the writer took this topic to reveal the classifications of social class among one character to another.

This study used Sociological Approach by Burke (1971) and Wellek & Warren (1956) as the theoretical frameworks and Class Profile Theory by Alex Thio (1994) as the conceptual framework. In this study, descriptive qualitative methods were used by the writer to describe and explain the data. The writer collected the data in the form of dialogue, words, and sentences from the data resource, the novel Normal People by Sally Rooney. The data were analyzed by 3 stages such as interpreting stage, analyzing stage, and concluding stage.

The result revealed that there were four social classes in Normal People novels such as upper class, middle class, working class, and lower class. In conclusion, social class became the common social issue that we need to know how it determines our life. The differences among that social class could make the impact between friendship, love relationship even in the social relationship especially accessing to school and adequating hospital treatment.

Keyword: *class profile, social class, sociology approach*

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

In this society, there are several social classes defined as the concept of social stratification in which people are gathered into group as the set of hierarchical social categories (Kartika et al., 2021). Social class is defined as the social identities given to certain group or people or it can explain social class as the crucial issue that exists in societies and affects or harms individual or group of people (Manza & Crowley, 2019). Social class has been found for a long time or it can be called the common culture that humans have. It is stated that social class inevitably exists among society and becomes the aspect of human existence, and it becomes the common social class that we can find in our society even in the country that is considered as the friendly country (Manza & Crowley, 2018; Boland, 2020). Social class has the concept where the group of people can share similar economic situation, attitude, and their own interest in which the other groups are not able to join their group (Wright, 1986). Due to that system and concept, there are several intrinsic conflicts such as prejudice and discrimination among the society (Meiliana, 2019).

After knowing the meaning and the situation of social class, the writer desires to analyze that topic through literature. Literature is defined as a human work in which contains an author's imagination that discusses certain issues based on the reality of life such as society, culture, experience, and tragedy in the form of

written and oral (Adam & Ali, 2023; Ally & Kasih, 2021). Through the literary works, readers can derive how society can shape the rules of life (Kiranamita & Samanik, 2021; Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021). The discussion of social class in literary work becomes more crucial, especially during 1600 to 1800 in which the author describes how social class shaped, what the types of classification in social class are and how the characters face those certain issues (Anthias, 2001).

It has explained previously, literature consists of written and oral form such as novel, film, and poetry. However, the writer is interested in analyzing novels for this social class issue. Novel is one of literary works that can be clearly described the character, characterization, plot, and character development than film and poetry (Natasha et al., 2020; Adepati & Samanik, 2018). It makes the writer decide to analyze the novel since through the characterization, plot and character development of the characters reflect the issue that can be discussed (Amelia & Dintasi, 2017; Kasih, 2018). The writer took a novel entitled *Normal People*. *Normal people* are a novel that was published in 2018. The novel was written by an Irish author, namely Sally Rooney. The novel became the best-selling book in the U.S. It told about the complex friendship and relationship of the teenagers who attended the secondary school in County Sligo, Ireland. Hence, the researcher can see that the novel took the set during the post-2008 Irish economic downturn, which is from 2011 through 2015. The assumption of the researcher since the novel was written by the Irish, took place in Ireland, and had a set during Irish economic downturn.

Moreover, the researcher sees that in *Normal People*, humans have several specific groups of friends, and nobody likes demanding humans. As an Irish writer, Sally Rooney explores and reveals the issue of social class in the complexity of the main character's friendship and family. The story of Connell and Marianne is taken in the story using the set during the post-2008 Irish economic downturn. Considering that, the researcher believes that the novel portrays the issue of social class through the teenager story of Connell and Marianne. In the novel, Connell is portrayed as the working guy who lives in a council house, while his lover, Marianne, is portrayed as a girl who lives in the big mansion. The perfect point of view social class of Irish people delivered by Sally Rooney in *Normal People* made the novel becomes the 2018 Waterstones' Book of the Year.

Considering that, this study aims to see how social is portrayed in the novel *Normal People*. The discussion is brought because of the unsettling cases of social class itself. It is believed that the concept of social class keeps developing and continuously implement worldwide as the social stratification system. The continuous implementation of the social class system makes novels, as a part of literature, play a role in portraying the issue in its work. It is because the novel is considered as a reflection of the real-life issue (Ahmed, 2017).

In this study, the writer mainly focuses on social class theory by Alex Thio (1994). According to Alex Thio, social class is divided into four classes such as upper class, middle class, working class and lower class. Those different social classes affect how people live in society.

It is usual for people who make effort and struggle in aiming for their achievements and get the social rewards for their effort. In the other hand, social rewards are received by the one who are in the higher class than the lower class. Besides social rewards, we can find other inequalities in several ways in our society. Then, the writer decides to use this theory so that the writer can reflect how the types of social class occur in the novel related to theory.

1.2 Research Question

Considering the background of the study that was written above, the researcher formulates the research question into: What are the social classes delineated in Sally Rooney's "Normal People"?

1.3 Research Objective

This research aims to reveal the social classes in a novel by Sally Rooney entitled Normal People.

1.4 Use of Study

This study will be beneficial both for society and future researchers. Here, the researcher divides the use of the study into two, which are practical use and theoretical use, as written below.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, the theory that is used in this study can be used by other future researchers to conduct a deeper and further analysis about social class. Moreover, this research can also be guided to future researchers who want to conduct research under the same topic or issue.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically this research can increase public knowledge and awareness towards the existence of social class. This research focuses on the social class, so the researcher hopes that it can increase the insight of society towards the existence of social class worldwide. This research also provides deeper insight and knowledge about how the system of social class is portrayed in literary work, especially novels. The information that is written in this research also can be used by future researchers who want to conduct a further study about social class or the Normal People novel.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The researcher sets the limit of the research in the part of the scope of the study to avoid broader discussion. This research focuses on the portrayal of social class as portrayed by Sally Rooney's Normal People through the main character story, who is Marianne and Connell. To analyze it, the researcher will specify it by using the sociological approach and class profile theory.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

The researcher believes that previous studies are needed for the researcher to gain additional knowledge related to the topic or issue. Thus, in this research, the researcher has chosen five previous studies that can guide and give the researcher additional knowledge. The previous studies that were chosen are the studies under the same topic or issue. Further explanation of each previous study is written below.

Table 1. Previous Study

No	Writer	Title	Objective	Finding
1.	Nasution, Nasution & Pohan (2021)	An Analysis of Social Classes and its Impact in Crazy Rich Asian Novel by Kevin Kwan.	To discuss how social class influence family life in Crazy Rich Asian novel by using sociological approach.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The novel discussed about social class differences such as middle class and upper class. 2. There are many reasons that cause the social classes existed such as wealth, privileges, and prestige.
2.	Darussalam (2016)	Social Classification Reflected in Anne Bronte's Agnes Grey (1847): Marxist Theory.	To reveal the social classification in Agnes Grey (1847) novel by using Marxist approach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The novel The Agnes Grey (1847) portrayed the marginalization throughout the story. 2. Through the main character, Agnes Grey, showed her survival against the employers oppression she faced. 3. The story contained the

				revolution and social description as suffered by Agnes Grey.
3.	Wardana & Roy (2019)	Ideology and Class Division in Veronica Roth's Divergent.	To overview the ideology and class division amongst the five factions in the novel Divergent by exposing the core or base of cultural ideology among classes or factions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The novel divided the class of society through factions that were divided into five factions. 2. The novel presented the class division through five factions aimed to divide people based on the strata social or ranking within society. 3. Every human has a dominant trait that is believed responsible in establishing human's relation with others.
4.	O'Byrne (2008)	One of Themselves: Class Divisions in Eilis Dillon's Blood Relations and The Bitter Glass Deirdre O'Byrne.	To examine the way Eilis Dillon portrayed the social class divisions in both her novel, entitled Blood Relations and The Bitter Glass.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The social class division is portrayed in both novel. 2. The class is shown through the young upper-class women, working class, and business people. 3. It showed and reveal the social class with its disadvantage and privilege.

The first previous study is research conducted by Nasution, Nasution and Pohan in 2021 entitled *An Analysis of Social Classes and its Impact in Crazy Rich Asian Novel* by Kevin Kwan. This research discussed the social classes between the upper class and middle class. It showed how wealth, privileges, and prestige took apart in social classes. By using qualitative research and sociological approach, this research does not only discuss about the social classes but also the social classes related to Chinese culture itself in which the gap of that social classes made the difficulties for the one who was in the middle class especially in society and education.

The next study that is used came from Darussalam in 2016 entitled *Social Classification Reflected in Anne Bronte's Agnes Grey (1847): Marxist Theory*. In that study, Darussalam aimed to reveal how the classification or division of classes is portrayed in an 1847 novel by Anne Bronte entitled *Agnes Grey*. By using the approach of Marxist theory, the study analyzed the problem by seeing the structural elements and analyzing the problem using Marxist. The data was presented by the descriptive qualitative method. From the findings, it could be seen that the novel portrayed social class or classification in the major character. The researcher of this current research believes that the study by Darussalam is significant considering the method, theory, and approach that was used by Darussalam. An insight into how to analyze research to reveal the class classification or division can be gotten from that study.

As this research focuses on the portrayal of social class in the novel, a study entitled *Ideology and Class Division in Veronica Roth's Divergent* by Wardana and Roy is used as the fourth previous study of this research. That study aims to see and

overview the ideology of class division that is portrayed in literary work, which is novel. The researchers of that study see how class division affected the social classification that runs the society (Wardana & Roy, 2019). By using the descriptive qualitative method, the study used the theory and ideology of classes. The findings of that study found that every faction, in the novel, has its ideology that impacts the occurrence of social division or social class. The class division also affected the existence of class domination in all aspects of life (Wardana & Roy, 2019).

The last previous study is by Byrne in 2008 entitled *One of Themselves: Class Divisions in Eilín Dillon's Blood Relations and The Bitter Glass*. In that research, Byrne focuses on the portrayal of Ireland social class portrayed in both novel by Eilín Dillon, who is an Irish. Byrne tried to reveal the social class system culture shown through the main character. The findings of the research found that at least there are three categories of the Ireland social class found in the novel, which are the businesspeople class, working class, and upper class. That research focused on the privileges, portrayal, as well as disadvantage of the social class, especially in Ireland. The perspective provided in that research gave the researcher of this current research insight into how to reveal the social class in a novel. Thus, the researcher feels that the study is significant in giving insight on the portrayal of social class in literary work.

2.2 Sociological Approach

This study focuses on social issue; thus the approach of sociology is used in this research. The approach is introduced by literary and critical theory. In the approach, Burke explained that to understand literary works in a broader social context, a sociological approach is needed (Burke, 1971). Thus, the approach allows.

the researcher to examine the representation of social elements in the literature (Burke, 1971). This theory is about an interdisciplinary science between sociology and Literature (Burke, 1971).

Sociological approach is thought to help us to understand human life. Furthermore, Sociology is the study of the human inside of society (Burke, 1971). Even sociology of art and literature is formless, not well-defined, consists of empirical studies and various experiments (Burke, 1971). Sociology of art is a tool for researchers to analyze society within literary work. Each of the sociology of art and literature has similarity in all matters dealing with art or literature and society. There are two foundations to build up human social life which are (i) by marking or symbolic system and practice, and (ii) by a series of fictional actions and interaction (Burke, 1971). This theory will be the foundation for the researcher as this research will reveal the existence of social issues in literary work, which is novel.

The sociological approach is related to sociology and literature that has been known widely. According to Wellek and Warren 1956, literature has the representation of life and life represents as social, reality, and nature. It can be said that literature can describe society well (Wellek & Warren, 1956). From the perspectives of literature, society has good and bad values that readers can find in their own lives. When the human understands which one good and bad values, human can take the issues as the reflection to aware of their own mistakes and make a better chance than before.

The common issue that human can find is social class where there is inequality for several classes in society. As humans reflect social class has bad values where social

class is shaped by the social status based on their family line. It affects them in having sociological relationships, education, work and even love relationship. From the social class, there is a straight line and rules that manage their lives in society.

2.3 Class Profile Theory

As this research discussed about the social class in a novel, the researcher decided to use the theory of class profile by Alex Thio. The theory is used because it is in line and suitable with the discussion of this current research. Alex Thio is known as a Professor of Sociology at Hamilton College, who studied sociology. As this research focuses on the issue of social class, the theory of class profile is used in this research. According to Alex Thio, in the book *Sociology: A Brief Introduction*, social class generally divided into four, which are upper class, middle class, working class, and lower class (Thio, 1994).

2.3.1 Upper Class

The first class according to Alex Thio is the upper class, which then divided into two segments, namely upper-upper and lower-upper (Thio, 1994). The upper-upper class has several characteristics, such as:

1. Came from the old-rich family
2. Have been wealthy for several generations
3. An aristocracy of birth and wealth
4. Has been rich since born and the wealth came from the ancestor (Thio, 1994)

Meanwhile, the lower-upper class has several characteristics, which are:

1. Consider as the new rich, and not the old rich
2. The wealth is gotten because of hard work and struggle (Thio, 1994).

Even so, according to Alex Thio there are similarities between the upper-upper and lower-upper. The similarities of both classes are wealth is acquired and both are very rich (Thio, 1994). The upper-class society are those who are very rich, have enough money to cultivate an interest in the arts and collect rare items (Thio, 1994). Another characteristic of upper-class society is that they often live in exclusive areas and are usually a member of exclusive social clubs (Thio, 1994). The upper-class society also can be characterized by the way the spending money on expensive stuff and things (Thio, 1994). In other words, the upper class is considered as the highest and richest social class among the other three social classes.

2.3.2 Middle Class

The second class according to Alex Thio is the middle class. The middle class is the second social class after the upper class. The same with the upper class, the middle class is also divided into two, which are the upper-middle and the lower-middle.

There are several characteristics of the upper-middle class, which are:

1. Usually consists of professionals and businesspeople.
2. Have high income and education.

Meanwhile, the lower-middle class can be characterized by:

1. More diverse in occupation, including travelling salesperson, teachers, and secretaries.
2. Far larger in size (Thio, 1994).

Even so, there are similarities of both types of middle class and differentiate it with the upper class. The middle class are not as rich and powerful as the upper class in

wealth and power (Thio, 1994). Even though they are also rich, usually they come from professionals and businesspeople, not an aristocrat like the upper class (Thio, 1994). Even the lower-middle class has more diverse jobs, where not only businesspeople and professionals who can include in the middle-class society (Thio, 1994). Simply, the people in the middle class are those who have a job and can survive their life well.

2.3.3 Working Class

The next class according to Alex Thio is the working class (Thio, 1994). The working class refers to the people who do not have high and proper education and job. The characteristic that differs working class with middle class is the working class get little from their jobs and they do not have settle and high jobs (Thio, 1994). Furthermore, the working class usually came from the part-time workers and have more union members compared to the other 2 classes before (Thio, 1994). There are several characteristics of this class.

1. Came from not-a-high education and job
2. Usually a part-time worker
3. Make more money than the lower class but less money than the middle class
4. Usually have a physical-demanding and/or dangerous job
5. Have a little skill in the job, but more places to work

2.3.4 Lower Class

The last class is the lower class. Alex Thio explained that lower class is the last class in his theory as it is the lowest of all (Thio, 1994). There are several characteristics of this class such as:

1. Usually jobless and/or unemployed
2. Related to poverty
3. Suffer in living and house
4. Lacking proper medical care, cloth, and food
5. Mostly do not finish high school, which means has a lack of education
6. If the person has a job, the person has little income and still cannot afford proper things

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting research, the researcher also sets the method of the research. The research method is helpful and important in guiding the researcher to conduct well-arranged research (Afif & Amelia, 2021). Thus, in this chapter, the researcher presents the method of the research which contains four points, which are 1) research design; 2) data and data source; 3) data collecting technique; 4) data analyzing technique (Heaverly & Kasih, 2020).

3.1 Research Design

This research used descriptive qualitative study as the method of the research. The descriptive qualitative method is used because the researcher considered this research as textual analysis. It means that the data will be fully present textually (Fitratullah & Kasih, 2018). Descriptive qualitative method can be defined as a method used to analyze non-numerical data (Rido, *The Use of Discourse Markers as an Interactive Feature in Science Lecture Discourse in L2 Setting*, 2015). Thus, the analysis using qualitative method will be different from quantitative, as the result does not focus on number (Rido, 2020). Instead, the data focused on the object of research analysis (Aryangga & Nurmaily, 2017). That method is used because it allows the researcher to analyze the real phenomenon in society (Heri & Siregar, 2019). In this case, the phenomenon is social class.

Moreover, the researcher will present the non-numerical data, which means the data will be in the form of data's, words, phrases, and sentences. The actions that are done by the characters and narrations that are written in the novel will be the focus of the researcher to reveal the issue.

3.2 Data and Data Source

Data are the information be collected by the writer to examine the data with the certain issue. The data are collected in the form of words, phrases, and sentences from the novel entitled *Normal People* by Sally Rooney.

Data source is the source or location where the writer takes the data to be analyzed. According to research in 2018, books, chapters, essays, interviews, talks, newspaper headlines and articles, historical documents, and conversations are considered as texts and can be used as data sources (Afrianto, 2018). In this study, the data source is taken from the novel entitled *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. The novel was written by Sally Rooney and published in 2018. It was published by the publisher named Faber & Faber.

3.3 Data Collecting Technique

To collect the data of the research, the researcher set two steps, as written below:

1. Read Sally Rooney's novel *Normal People* to gain a deeper understanding of the context of the story.
2. read Sally Rooney's novel *Normal People* to find, classify, and highlight the data that contains the social class portrayal materials.
3. Select the data that can contain the social class material.

3.4 Data Analyzing Technique

After collecting the data, the data will be analyzed to fulfill the purpose of this research that has been written in chapter one. Here, the researcher formulated three steps to analyze the data, as written below.

1. Interpreting Stage

In this part, the researcher tries to show and interpret the data analysis from the data that have been collected. The researcher also sees the relevancy of the data by matching it with the Marxist theory.

2. Analyzing Stage

In this part, the researcher analyzes, describes, and synchronizes the data to see whether or not it fulfills the purpose of the research.

3. Concluding Stage

In this part, the researcher evaluates and concludes the data that have been collected and elaborates it to be written in chapter four.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer focuses on explaining the social class of the main characters in the novel, “Normal People” by Sally Rooney. The setting of this novel is County Sligo, Ireland, the analysis of social class is based on the four social stages: Upper class, Middle class, Working class, and Lower class (Thio, 1994). The writer focuses on every detail of the word and sentences as the primary data representing the social profile inside the Normal People to conduct the case of the social profile that the main characters face. The author of this study backed the sociology of literature approach to examine the state of the class profile in Sally Rooney's novel Normal People, such as upper class, middle class, working class, and lower class.

4.1 Upper Class

Datum 1

People know that Marianne lives in the white mansion with the driveway and that Connell’s mother is a cleaner, but no one knows of the special relationship between these facts. (Rooney, Page 2, 2018)

According to datum 1, the main character Marianne comes from the upper class, while Connell is from a different social class. The phrase white mansion clearly shows that Marianne is identified as belonging to the upper-class person. Those identified as the upper class should be from an old rich family. They have been wealthy for several generations (Thio, 1994). Since according to BBC, the white mansion is the Big House set apart from the village, surrounded by its high stone

walls, leading to its own entirely separate life (Crooke, 2014). It also represents the house's name for the noble Irish class. At that time, the noble Irish who had the driveway were considered the upper class. It is the symbol of the rich. Meanwhile, the story of the *Normal People* novel has a time set during the economic downturn in Ireland, namely after 2008 from 2011 to 2015 (Rooney, 2018), in which Marianne's family remained living in the white mansion when there was an economic downturn that clearly illustrates that Marianne is a family who comes from upper-class. Besides the Datum above, the writer also find the other word and sentences as the 2nd data of the upper class in the *Normal People* novel, and the data is presented below.

Datum 2

Everyone knows that Rachel is the most popular girl in school, but no one is allowed to say this. Instead, everyone has to pretend not to notice that their social lives are arranged **hierarchically** (Rooney, Page 22, 2018)

Datum 2 reinforces the statement that Marianne belongs to the Upper-class group. From the sentences above, Rooney explains the form of Marianne's friendship environment, which is described through the character Rachel, Marianne's school friend. It is emphasized by the word "Hierarchically" which can also be known by the word hierarchy; a pyramid-shaped system that regulates relationships between entities in an organization in a top-down manner based on power, responsibility, and authority (Baum & Rowley, 2002). Because of Marianne's social status, she associates with and can be reached by only well-known people at her school from the upper classes, who feel they are in equal social status with Marianne. One is Rachel, who comes from a wealthy family like Marianne. Therefore, Those words

represent the condition in the novel that people have to pay attention to and care about their social status when socializing with people. Based on the theory of Class profile, those identified as the upper class usually come from the old wealthy family and have a special privilege in society. This condition happened to the main character Marianne since she was associated with the school's famous girls from the upper class. (Thio, 2005).

Besides the data above, the writer also found the other words and sentences as the 3rd data. The data below shows the existence of an upper class in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney.

Datum 3

Rich people look out for each other and being Marianne's best friend and suspected sexual partner has elevated Connell to the status of rich adjacent: someone for whom surprise birthday parties are thrown and cushy jobs are procured out of nowhere. (Rooney, Page 73, 2018)

In datum 3, Rooney further emphasizes the scope of an upper-class friendship. According to the word "hierarchy" (datum 2), each entity will gather and attract other entities according to their group (Baum & Rowley, 2002). It can be seen in how the rich people, Marianne's friends, befriend her because they think they are equal in social status. Then reinforced by the word that states that Cornell's status as a neighbor of the rich further reinforces that there are indeed differences in social status between one character and another, which are based on wealth, money, and power (Thio, 1994).

To analyze the novel deeper, the writer found the sentences that show the existence of the upper class in the novel *Normal People*. The data below is the follow-up data from the existence of the upper class in the *Normal People* novel.

Datum 4

Within a couple of weeks, she was going out with someone else, a friend of hers called Jamie. **Jamie’s dad was one of the people who had caused the financial crisis. (Rooney, Page 107, 2018)**

From datum 4, it happened when Connell and Marianne separated from each other. Moreover, they have a problem with each other. Connell learns that Marianne is going out with another guy, Jamie. In the book, Jamie has the same social class as Marianne, who is upper class or from a noble family. The words show it, “Jamie’s dad was one of the people who had caused the financial crisis.” This novel explains that there is a sovereign debt crisis in Europe, even if the job of Jamie’s dad is not revealed. Jamie’s family comes from an influential family in Irish in the novel. It proves that Jamie’s dad is powerful enough to add to the cause of the European economic crisis. This condition represents the social class that the person who has relations with Marianne is primarily from the upper class. The theory supported by (Thio, 1994) states that the class profile will be shown by the types of someone’s social course. Those categorized as part of the upper class must be coming from an old wealthy family, and it happens to the person going out with Marianne that makes Connell insecure because of his social course from the novel.

To analyze the *Normal People* novel more deeply, the writer found other sentences that also support the existence of the upper class in the *Normal People* novel in Datum 5.

Datum 5

She would like her superior intellect to be affirmed in public by the transfer of **large amounts of money**. (Rooney, Page 103, 2018)

In datum 5, it was explained that Marianne did not care when her friend took the scholarship. In Marianne's thoughts, she only needed to spend her money to get what she wanted. This condition represents the high life that happens to the main character Marianne. Supported by the Class Profile theory by Thio because, based on this theory, people who are identified as an upper class should have been rich since birth and usually come from wealthy old families. It happens to the main character Marianne, who does not have to think hard about paying for anything in her life and can use money as a powerful thing to get anything in her life quickly. (Thio, 1994). The statements from datum 1 to datum 5 can directly represent how the upper class is described in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. It is described through family status, where the upper class has a family that is weatherly for several generations and can be said to be old-rich, which happens to the character Marianne. Secondly, how each character socializes is obtained through the characters from Marianne's friends, who only associate with their group. The last one is inseparable from how the concept of a character's thinking, Marianne herself, thinks that money will make her life easier. These three things conclude that upper-class characteristics are based on Alex Thio's theory (2002).

4.2 Middle Class

Since this research is focused on the social profile from the novel *Normal People* by Salley Rooney, the writer focuses on the Middle class too. In this part, the writer

discusses the middle-class social profile to identify the social profile's condition. The people involved in this part are mostly not the main character; they are the people from teachers and professionals mentioned in the novel. There are Mr. Kerrigan, guidance counsellor, boss, professors, and mental healthcare professionals, those jobs are part of middle-class society. Several words and sentences describe the middle class's condition in the novel *Normal People* by Salley Rooney.

Datum 6

Marianne had a row with the **History teacher**, Mr. Kerrigan, last year because he caught her looking out a window during class, and no one in the class took her side. (Rooney, Page 10, 2018)

According to (Thio, 2005), one of the social profiles is middle class. The middle class is divided into two types: upper and lower. People categorized as upper middle class are professionals, and businesspeople, with high incomes and education. However, the lower middle class is for those with high education and income who are not considered professionals or businesspeople. Furthermore, in this data from datum 6, the person who identified as the middle class in the lower middle class in this novel is Mr. Kerrigan. The phrase "History teacher" proves that Mr. Kerrigan is the teacher in Marianne's school.

Mr. Kerrigan is the teacher in that novel; the writer could assume that he is the representative of the person from the middle-lower class. The middle-lower class has a role in higher education and secure economic mobility because of their jobs (Milenkova, 2018). Since it is clear from the data above, Mr. Kerrigan is the teacher

and based on the theory, those who are categorized as the middle class have a high education level. Moreover, Mr. Kerrigan, as the teacher, must have a high level of education because he worked in the education field as a teacher. To support the existence of the middle class in this research, the writer provides other words and sentences to make this research strong; the data is presented below in Datum 7.

Datum 7

After Marianne left school in April, Connell entered a period of low spirits. Teachers spoke to him about it. The **guidance counsellor** told Lorraine she was 'concerned'. (Rooney, Page 54, 2018)

Datum 7 explains that middle-class people have a role in the novel. There is the role of a teacher and guidance counselor in the novel. In this datum, the investigator concludes that the role called "guidance counselor" also belongs to the lower-middle class. The person who is known to the lower middle class is the person who has a high level of education but is not part of a professional or businessperson (Thio, Sociology: A Brief Introduction, 2005). From those words, the role of the teacher and the counselor in the novel is the middle-lower class group. Since they fulfilled the lower middle class's characteristics, they have a high education and income; however, they are not part of businesspeople.

Besides Datum 7, other data support this research to know the existence of the middle class in the Normal People in this research. Further data is presented below in Datum 8.

Datum 8

“But a week before the exams his **boss** told him they were cutting back his hours. He could just about make rent that way, but he’d have nothing left to live on”
(Rooney, page 91, 2018)

According to Datum 8, the role of the businessman in the novel can be seen through the word “boss”. It is proof of a businessman inside the novel, the boss of Connel’s workplace. The writer could assume that Niall, as the boss, is categorized as the person who is identified as the upper middle class. It is supported by the theory of Class profile (Thio, 2005), in which the middle class is categorized as the stage of the class profile. It is based on the definition of the person who is categorized as the middle class and is divided into two types: upper middle class and lower middle class. Both of them have characteristics such as having a high level of education and income. However, those in the upper middle are bosses or businesspeople, while the lower middle class is only for those who have the worker as the teacher, and vice versa. From the data above, Nial is categorized as the upper middle class. In that novel, the author represents him as the boss from Connel’s workplace, making the writer believe that Niall is upper middle class in the novel.

In this research, besides the job of a businessman in 8, the Novel Normal People also have other jobs that show the existence of the middle class. The job that explained in Datum 9.

Datum 9

My stats **professor** was on at me to sit them, says Jamie. But I just couldn't be fucked studying over Christmas. (Rooney, Page 103, 2018)

The word “professor” is described in Datum 9, which the researcher finds to prove further the existence of a middle class in the novel, is the word “professor” It is proven that the word "professor" is to establish that there is a professional inside the novel. This person comes from Connell and Marianne's school. The professor in the book is an experienced teacher, which means the character has the highest level of teaching in the school described in the novel. The middle-class representatives have completed and successful career realization. They are significantly more influential from a social point of view compared to other individuals who are less integrated and less prosperous following the public indicators of personal success. In this case, “professor” falls into the upper-middle class category due to his higher position and being a professional in his field. As Wicklud and Pantaleo said, “the definition and the roles of Professors, are they educators, facilitators, researchers, authors, thinkers” (Wicklud & Pantaleo, 2012). therefore, “professor” in sentence datum 9 represents the middle-class social class in the upper-middle class.

Besides the data above, the writer also found the other kind of jobs that appear in the Normal People Novel that categorized the characters as part of the middle class in the novel. It is explained by the writer in the datum below.

Datum 10

Mental healthcare professionals are always using this hygienic vocabulary, words wiped clean as whiteboards, free of connotation, sexless. She asked about his sense of ‘belonging’. You used to say you felt trapped between two places, she said, not really belonging at home but not fitting in here either. Do you still feel that way? He just shrugged. **(Rooney, Page 175, 2018)**

In datum 10, the author, Rooney, put the word “Mental Healthcare Professional” in his writing. This datum further strengthens the researcher's statement that there is a social class in Rooney's literary works. In this case, a Mental Healthcare Professional falls into the Middle-Class category. On the other hand, the middle class has the potential to develop socially, and they express their particularities and characteristics in the national context. Because the middle class is seen as a current issue that includes a theoretical and practical understanding of contemporary social differentiation to create closeness and structural mobility in society (Milenkova, 2018), it can be seen in the sentence “always use this hygienic vocabulary, and words wiped clean as whiteboards, free of connotation, sexless,” where the statement reflects how the middle class behaves according to what Milenkova said. Furthermore, in this datum 10, the researcher found evidence of a middle class; in this case, mental healthcare professionals fall into the upper-middle class category, with the reason that the upper middle class is only for those who have professional or business jobs.

As a result, datums 6 through 10 represent the middle-class society focused on their working fields. Moreover, it reveals more about the novel's portrayal of the field, namely that the middle class frequently chooses it. The following section discusses

working-class society, which is lower than the middle and upper classes but manages to survive in the end.

4.3 Working Class

In this part, the writer focuses on the working class in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. In a working-class society, people have a better situation than the lower class, but no matter what their work, they still cannot reach a standard of living. In this case, the character from the novel mainly talks about Connell, Connell's family, and the people working for Marianne's family. These are several pieces of data as proof of the existence of the working class in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney.

Datum 11

It looks like I **won't be able to pay rent** up here this summer. Marianne looked up from her coffee and said flatly: What? Yeah, he said. I'm going to have to move out of Niall's place. (Rooney, Page 123, 2018)

It emerges in datum number 11, during the conversation with Marianne, the highlight of the sentence "will not be able to pay the rent" which can be concluded by the researcher later that Connell is the working class in the social class. The researcher interprets that the statement about his inability to pay rent is that he has income but not enough to rent a place to live. As Thio (1994) said, "the working class is defined as having less money than the middle class and under more pressure to work to survive" (Thio, Sociology, 1994). It illustrates how difficult it was for working-class members to fit in among upper-class members, despite being on the same scholarship and attending the same school. That happens to Connell, who worked much harder

than Marianne, who was classified as the upper class but experienced more financial difficulties. Furthermore, datum 11 can prove that Connell is a working-class member, and he struggles with covering up his true self to continue being held at high social status.

From the condition above, it is known that Connell is from the working class. However, not only from the data above, but the author also find other data as evidencethat Connell is part of the working class in the novel, the data written below in Datum12.

Datum 12

Until April, Connell had been planning to work in Dublin for the summer and **cover the rent with his wages**, but a week before the exams his boss told him they were **cutting back his hours (Rooney, Page 105, 2018)**

In datum 12, there was a story where Connell needed the money from his wages to cover the rent. Working-class society usually has many places to work, and it even takes hours to hide their condition. Moreover, they are also trying to get as much money as possible by working as part-timers. Based on the data, “the rent with his wages” Connell is trying to get the work done to cover his rent. Meanwhile, summer is usually the day when there is a holiday, but not for Connell in the book. It is supported by Thio (1994), according to the fact that the working class usually focuses on howthey get money by using a part-time job. Moreover, “cutting back his hours” as a working-class society, taking back the hours is crucial for them to survive, and theycannot even afford a place to stay. They need those extra hours to survive.

Besides the Datum above, the writer also found the other condition of the working class in the novel *Normal People*. The data are shown by the sentences below.

Datum 13

it is not like English is a real degree you can get a job out of, it's just a joke, and then he thinks **he probably should have applied for Law after all. (Rooney, Page 62, 2018)**

Datum 13 portrays Connell as a working class. When Connell experiences frustration and suffers from a lack of prospects, as seen in the line, “he probably should have applied for Law after all” from the start, he is too aware of his humble background. While there, his colleague’s appearance, behavior, and conversation revolved around wealth and appearances. He resented his inability to belong to that world and felt alien to their universe. It made Connell harder than his peers to achieve his dreams for the future. This situation occurs when the novel discusses the breakdown of the social contract in Ireland, which is experiencing a recession. In earlier generations, a bachelor's degree implied employment and subsequent independence. However, this sequence was broken in Ireland's post-financial crisis, and the younger generation was left with a void ahead. It is what makes Connell feel anxious about the future of his life. When he has tried his best to equalize social class with his environment, he meets a dead end when the crisis occurs. As Thio (1994) states, the working class struggles more in managing its life and will still not have a better fate than the upper class.

The previous Datum is proof of the condition of the Connell family’s life; another condition is the data of Connell’s condition from the working class in the novel. The data is written below.

Datum 14

He and Marianne never talked about money. They had never talked, for example, about the fact that her mother paid his mother money to **scrub their floors and hang their laundry**, or about the fact that this money circulated indirectly to Connell, who spent it, as often as not, on Marianne. (Rooney, Page 106, 2018)

As in Datum 14, working-class society is indicated, emphasized by a physically demanding or dangerous job. The phrase “scrub their floors and hang their laundry” shows that Connell needed to do physically demanding jobs such as scrubbing and hanging the laundry. Furthermore, this job does not require a high level of thinking. This data is in line with Thio (1994), who stated that in a working-class society, people often take jobs that require little skill and are physically demanding as long as he is physically capable of doing so. This is what Connell should do to get the money. The story also demonstrates the disparity in life between the working class and the middle class. Marianne, as previously stated, is from a middle-class family. That is why they never talked about money because of their differences in life.

The condition above proves that the main character, Connell, has struggled in the working class. Besides that, the writer also found other sentences that are categorized as proof of the main character Connell, who comes from the working class.

Datum 15

Marianne had just wanted to see someone else all along, he thought. She was probably glad he'd had to leave Dublin because **he was broke**. She wanted a boyfriend whose family could take her on skiing holidays. And now that she had one, she wouldn't even answer Connell's emails anymore. (Rooney, Page 107, 2018)

Datum 15 refers to the condition where Marrienne and Connell cannot be together because of their economic status. Marrienne wants a boyfriend from upper-class society, whether lower or upper class. Marianne wants her boyfriend to have the mansion and go skiing for a holiday. Connell's unable to do it because he comes from a working-class society proven in data 11 until data 14. The words "he was broke" from these words as a part started a working-class society, considered a broken society. Even to the extent that Connell lost his love life due to the economic situation.

Moreover, this condition shows how Connell has less money than Marrienne. This also stated that working class society makes more money than the lower class but less money than the middle class. In Connell's position, in the end, Connell might be working for the rest of his life and cannot even buy something outside the primary thing for survival.

Therefore, datums 11 through 15 represent a working-class society where jobs require more physical strength than intellectual capabilities. Additionally, it reveals more about the working-class economic situation, which is considered poor. The discussion of lower-class society in the following section shows the worst state of society according to the class profile theory.

4.4 Lower Class

In this part, the writer focuses on the lower class in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney. This data mostly talks about Connell and his family. The lower class is considered the people on the lowest hierarchy because they cannot get proper education, proper needs, or even proper jobs. It will be explained by the data that the researcher found. Several data prove the existence of the lower class in the novel *Normal People* by Sally Rooney.

Datum 16

At lunchtime on Tuesday, Rob started asking questions about **Connell's mother working in Marianne's house**, and Connell just ate his lunch and tried not to make any facial expressions. (Rooney, Page 18, 2018)

Datum 16 describes an example of a lower-class society, shown through the character of Connell's mother, who works at Marianne's family home. The statement "Connell's mother working in Marianne's house" emphasizes the social status or gap between the Connell and Marianne families. It was a class of people below the middle class with the lowest social rank or standing due to low income and lack of skills or education (Nichol, 2011). Here, the two of them are why Connell's mother is in the lower-class category first, which makes the Connell family in the lowest class because of the lack of skills to rise in life. Second, his family's low income forced him to work as a maid at the Marianne family's house. Third, his lack of education skills made Connell's mother rely only on her body, which made the Connell family the lowest class. A statement by Rooney also supports it, "Connell just ate his lunch and tried not to make any facial expressions" which supports how the atmosphere

makes Connell feel he knows how to act as a lower-class family when in an upper-class environment.

The datum above is proof of the condition of Connell's mother, that comes from the lower class. Besides the data above, the writer also found other data that proves his condition as the lower-class society in the novel. The data is written below in Datum 17.

Datum 17

He didn't know why he was saying he would support her, since he had virtually **no spare income** and **no prospect of having any**. It felt like the thing to say, that was all. (Rooney, Page 70, 2018)

One of the most common things about lower-class society is how even if they are already working, they have nothing to save. It is supported by Thio (1994). If the person has a job, the person has little income and still cannot afford good things. "He had virtually no spare income and no prospect of having any" In this part explains how the condition of Connell is challenging. Something that is commonplace or characteristic that occurs in the lower class, that is, they don't have any income that can be saved. The data indicates he does not have spare money because of all the money he uses to survive. Moreover, no prospect there means, even in the future, in a lower-class society, Connell will never have spare cash, nor that he has a plan about how to get it because, in the end, it is tough for lower-class society even to hold money.

Besides the condition above, the writer also finds the other words and sentences inside the novel as proof of the main character Connell categorized as the lower-class society in the *Normal People* Novel.

Datum 18

Of course, it is. The whole idea of ‘**meritocracy**’ or whatever, it’s evil, you know I think that. But what are we supposed to do, give back the scholarship money? I don’t see what that achieves. **(Rooney, Page 128, 2018)**

Datum 18 depicts that there is true social inequality. In this case, it emphasized the lower class through the word “meritocracy” This class is known as a lack of education due to poverty. The word meritocracy is a social system, society, or organization in which people get success or power because of their abilities, not because of money or social position (Kim, 2017). Here the highlight of meritocracy is that the researcher can conclude that according to the conditions, it is the lower classes of society who most need proper education. However, only a few can obtain a proper education.

Therefore, the system is evil toward the lower classes, even to the extent that it is said to be corrupt, because even when they get scholarships, it is more of a burden. After all, the lower class is seen as people who cannot get the proper education. Of all the things mentioned, the statement illustrates a social gap regarding education for people in the lower class between wealthy and poor students.

This research is to know more about the condition of lower-class society in the novel. The writer found that there is other data that shows the condition of the main character Connell as part of lower-class society in datum 19 below.

Datum 19

Or are they **exploiting him** for the convenient location of his working space while **making fun** of him behind his back? (**Rooney, Page 139, 2018**)

In lower-class society, one analysis of suffering is related to poverty. As the community grows, the lower-class society plays a role in poverty. (Thio, 1994) In that analysis, the data above related to Connell's feeling that he is being exploited in a lower-class society. A lower-class society is being manipulated by how people push them to work for hours with minimum wages as possible. Moreover, the constant feeling of not enough creates thoughts in his head by thinking that people will talk about his poverty condition. The term “exploiting him and making fun” usually the lower class that becomes the subject of discussion and also usually lower-class people are made as material for exploitation and also related to the portrayal of poverty at the societal level. This indicates that Connell is overthinking and describes his reality as a lower-class society.

To identify the condition of the main character as part of lower-class society, the writer has found the last data believed by the writer as the condition of the character as part of Lower-class society, the data written below.

Datum 20

Connell looked at Sadie across the table, **her bangles knocking together on her wrist. It's a bit hard to fit in**, to be honest, Connell said. (Rooney, Page 159, 2018)

In Datum 20, Connell looks at Sadie's wrist using a bracelet. Not just an ordinary bracelet; it is an expensive one. It shows that Connell is from a lower-class society, and he realizes that the upper-class lives in a different world from theirs. As supported by Thio (1994) says, the lower-class society lacks proper medical care, food, and clothing.

“It is a bit hard to fit in, to be honest, Connell said.” In this part, Connell feels insecure. This insecurity leads to Connell's inability to fit into upper-class society. The difference in lifestyle and even just clothing creates a social level gap that makes Connell think he cannot fit into upper-class society.

Lastly, dates 16 through 20 shows precisely a lower-class society, where it is evident that these people struggle to raise their social status, find it challenging to acquire necessary necessities, and have little opportunity to build a better future. The difference between working-class and lower-class society is that the former at least has a job, whereas the latter does not have the proper job to survive.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

From the analysis of this study, it revealed that there were 4 social classes in this novel. The first is the main character, Marianne who was in upper class and got the privilege by living in white mansion as the representative of noble Irish class. Besides that, Marianne was surrounded by people, friends and relatives who had social status as the upper class. The things that represented them were wealth, power, money, and high status in society. In this analysis, the writer revealed the character named Mr. Kerrigan as the middle class. He worked as guidance counsellor, boss, professors, and mental healthcare professional in which those jobs represented the middle-class jobs. Middle class was in the middle position where society focused on their incomes and education that they got.

The third is working class as the social class of the main character in this novel named Connel. Working class had a better situation than lower class. However, no matter they worked hard, they still cannot get the privileges and prestige in the society. Working class might work harder than middle class and upper class, they needed to work for several places so that they could earn much money for their life. In this point, two main characters such as Marianne and Connel had different class and it was difficult for them to have the relationship. Although the classes were not the written regulation and everyone might obey that regulation, however classes became the common and tradition that people might obey, especially Marianne was in upper class and she was noble Irish class. In the other hand, Connel was in working class in which Connel might work harder and could not protect Marianne

since he did not have high status. The last is lower class. Lower class was defined as the people who did not get proper education, needs and proper jobs. In this novel, Connel's mother was described as the low class since she was working in Marianne's house. From this situation, Connel's family was categorized as the lower class since Connel still lived with his mother in Marianne's house.

From conducting this study, the writer could give and explain the differences and the similarity among this study and other previous studies. Basically, this study and previous study discussed the social class in our society, however there were several previous studies that compared two types of social class for instance between upper class and middle class, upper class and working class and upper class with lower class. Beside of that, several previous studies had different case in which the social class was settled in different situation. For instance, in the first, second, and fourth previous study told the two main character who were in the different class, and they faced the problem by falling in love each other and having the relationship even they knew that it was not allowed since they had different social classes. In other hand, the third previous study only focused on telling the social classes without telling the love relationship in the literary work.

So far, the researcher can conclude that there is a case of social class distinction in the novel. It can be seen from the data obtained, supported by the theory used by researchers. First, Marianne is included in the Upper-class category, which can be seen from her all-around life and the scope of her friendship. Second, the characters of the teacher and professor describe the middle-class social class, which is based on how the standard of living of the middle class is stable due to their work. Third, in comparison, Connell belongs to the Working class, where he is seen trying very

hard to elevate his degree, even though, in the end, he is still below the income of the middle class. Coupled with his behavior and anxiety, which kept him thinking about his future after the crisis period, further strengthened the researcher's statement that Connell was an individual who fell into the working-class category. Fourth, the lower class is represented by the Connell family, which is represented by Connell's mother, who works for the upper class. At the end of this research, the writer firmly believes that in the novel *Normal People*, there is a case of differentiation of social classes. So, it can be used to describe the characteristics of each social class through their work, environment, and way of thinking. Hopefully, this study could be useful for the next researcher who wants to conduct the same case about social class with different styles and a deeper discussion.

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