

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

As literature has a close relation to any society, it would be able to function as the means in understanding the society. Any work of literature can be used to study a social class and reflects their ideology. Ideology is a system of ideas. Some works are written only for giving pleasure, while the others are written to convey many aspects and motives including human life, political, economic system, and culture. On the other hand, if we relate to social function of literature, we would see that any literary text has moral value for readers. By reading or watching literary work we can understand lives better.

Lucien Goldmann explains that in every literary work there is a collective consciousness, which is aspirations of social consciousness from a society and is stated and revealed in a literary work by an author. The consciousness of a society is not only belonging to the author, because the author is a part of society. The social consciousness here is called worldview. Goldmann states:

“Literature cannot be separated from author’s view of the world that causes the work to be created, because a literary work is the representative of the author. If the literary work created in a conflict period, the author would communicate the situation and condition of the conflict in his work.” (Faruk, 2017 : 66).

There are some authors, who write their works by portraying human life based on their perspectives, one of them is Emile Zola on his work entitled *Germinal*. *Germinal* is the thirteenth novel by French novelist Emile Zola, published by G.

Charpentier in 1885. The story of this novel is about classic fight between workers (proletariat) and company (bourgeoise), it is also about the agony¹ of poor working class in French in 1860s especially. *Germinal* is written from Emile Zola's point of view through Étienne Lantier character. Etienne Lantier is the main character of this novel. He is described as an engine man with no money, no job, no food, and inadequate clothing comes upon the coal mines at Montsou, by chance gets a job, meets various people, ends up leading a strike, finds himself in a novelty triangle with violent undertones, and ultimately moves on. In some ways, the novel is the story of his growth as a human being. However, in the course of this plot line, Zola paints an all-encompassing picture of life in a coal-mining town in the early 1860s.

Zola tries to put his view in economic system and industrialization field in the story of this novel. In the 19th century, which becomes setting of time of this novel is the era of industrial revolution. Industrial Revolution is the process of change from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing. This process begins in Britain in the 18th century until 19th century, and from there spread to other parts of the world include French. The impact of industrialization on French society is strong. Industrialization leads to the formation of a French working class. Many people work under dangerous conditions, live in overcrowded housing, and have little employment security. The living standards of most workers do not begin to rise substantially.

¹ The sorrows of coal miners who worked hard under poor conditions for very small wages which could hardly support their poor lives. (*Germinal* : 1894)

From his view, Zola takes us to feel the sorrows of coal miners who work hard under poor conditions for very small wages, which could hardly support their poor lives by reading *Germinal*. Moreover, for generations this condition has never changed, and they seemed to just accept it. To be overpowered by the bourgeoisie and the industrial machines called capitalism. From the description, the writer is interested to analyze about the author's perspective of French society in 19th century especially in 1860s that portrayed in Etienne as the main character.

The writer wants to discuss a literary work that is more about reality and the view of the author. Zola's view in economic system and industrialization on French society in this novel pointed out about class conflict issue as the result. This research is to give insights to the readers and the writer about French society in 19th century, because the author of the story is a part of that society. Therefore, this novel contains his idea as a reflection of his society and condition of the people in that particular time. In this research, the writer brings another issue that has not been discussed by other researchers. The writer wants to elaborate the author's worldview toward French society in 1860s written by Emile Zola in 1885 by using theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann. Goldmann states, "genetic structuralism is a method of criticism and tries to explain the structure between the literary work and the worldview resulting from the social-historical structure." (Faruk, 2017 : 56)

This research analyzes both of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the novel using Genetic Structuralism Theory. It shows the connection among the structure in the

novel and the structure in the real society in 19th century especially in 1860s, when and where the novel is created. Goldmann's theory assists the writer in finding the worldview. Therefore, later the writer and the readers know the worldview and structure of literary work that portrayed in *Germinal* novel by Emile Zola.

1.2. Research Question

Referring to the background of the study that has been explained above, the writer has formulated the problem that would be discussed in this as follow :

How is the author's worldview towards French Society in 19th century as portrayed in Emile Zola's *Germinal*?

1.3. Research Objective

Dealing with problem, which has been formulated, the writer states the objective of the study in this paper:

To elaborate the author's worldview towards French Society in 19th century as portrayed in Emile Zola's *Germinal*.

1.4. Uses of the study

Every study has its own function. By conducting this analysis, it is expected to give some advantages.

1.4.1 Theoretical Uses

From this research, the writer wants to provide the deeper knowledge for people who will analyze author's worldview. The aim of the research also is not only for the researcher in English Literature major but also for the reader who gets interested in *Germinal* by Emile Zola.

1.4.2 Practical Uses

Practically, the analysis gives contribution of knowledge for the writer and for the readers to explain and understand about author's worldview. The writer expects that this analysis will give the description for other writer where *Germinal* can describe about author's worldview and become one of the references for the one who wants to conduct an analysis about author's worldview by using Genetic Structuralism study in certain literary work.

1.5. Scope of the Study

The scope of this study focuses on literary research of *Germinal*, a novel by Emile Zola by using approach and theory of genetic structuralism. By analyzing the extrinsic and intrinsic elements of this novel, this study focuses on the analysis about how the author's worldview towards French society in 19th century especially in 1860's.

