

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter explains Background of Research, Statement of Problem, Research Purpose, Research Significance and Definition of Key Terms.

A. Background of Research

Literature is an imaginative work of author's creativity that includes not only the string of beautiful sentences and expressions of sentiment but also the lives of the people in which the literature was created. Literature is also a reflection of society at a certain time and is regarded as one of the social cultural phenomena. In creating a work of literature, the author who is a member of the community does not regardless of the social environment in which he lives, so that things depicted in literature are often representative of the realities of society. In a sense, too, literature is a matter of society written for the public to read. The study of various social aspects in society is called sociology.

Sociology is an objective and scientific study of humans in society. Literature, on the other hand, also deals with human beings in society concerning their undertaking to adapt to society (Syofyan, 2018). Therefore, sociology and literature have the same issue. The novel is a book-length fictitious prose narrative that depicts character and action with some realism. The novel as a literary genre can be seen as an attempt to recreate the social world; human relations with their family, environment, politics, state, and others. Their difference is that, whereas sociology analyzes society objectively, literature penetrates the surface of the social structure and reveals how humans understand their society through their emotions. We can see, thanks to the sociological approach, that literature is a reflection of society — social structures, kinship, or class struggles.

as an art, literary works are considered to go beyond mere objective scientific descriptions and analysis, penetrate the social surface, and explain human feelings towards what they have experienced (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972).

This confirms that literary works are capable of summarizing events that can be explained systematically and in detail using the sociological method, which is then referred to as literature sociology. In general, the sociology of literature is a study of the connection between literary works and society. This connection can be two-way, in terms of how the author's imagination is influenced by the social context and the implications of the literature for social life extensively. The sociological approach indicates that literature is no longer autonomous as an imaginary product of a writer, but there is a close relationship of mutual influence and reciprocity between literature and society.

As explained previously by Swingewood, sociology of literature research is a study of literary works as socio-cultural documents that reflect an era. This concept indicates that the sociology of literature will examine literature as a historical expression, an expression of a time and as a mirror and literary works contain social and cultural aspects, which have valuable social functions. Aspects of the social function of literature are related to the way humans live in society (Wahyudi, SOSIOLOGI SASTRA ALAN SWINGEWOOD, 2013). Apart from Swingewood, there are Karl Marx and Frederick Engels who have reviewed human life from a material basis. They describe human history and class struggle that begins with the class division of society due to differences in capital (Karl Marx, 1848). Capitalism is considered to be the main factor causing labor and slavery between the capitalist and proletarian classes. In this case capitalism is the opposite of literary works; while capitalism creates class and class conflict, the existence of literary works actually transcends the existence of class, religion, state, and is able to dialogue with humans everywhere.

Literary work always reflects the consciousness and unconsciousness of class psychology which is expressed through the author. Alan Swingewood, as a character who emerged after the era of Marx and Engels, argues that literary works are a link between imaginary characters in a novel to a situation created by the author based on the origin of their creation. This is due to the movements that encourage the emergence of literary works, the process of accepting literary works in society, and the selected cultural patterns that influence people's interest in reading these literary works (Swingewood & Laurensen, 1972). With regard to literature and society, Swingewood presents three concepts in his literary approach, that is; literature as a reflection of the era, literature seen from the production process of its authorship, and literature in its historical relationship.

The relationship between humans in social life is inseparable from several social problems, one of which is materialism that often appears in society. Many people are trying to live a better life to make ends meet. Matter as a necessity for human life turns into human authority itself. This shifting process certainly brings many changes to human nature, material which was originally considered a necessity of life has turned into a human obsession to achieve happiness. The researcher found that materialism appears in society like in novel *The Great Gatsby* by American writer F.Scott Fitzgerald and novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijk* by Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah or commonly known as Hamka, one of the famous writers in Indonesia.

Novel *The Great Gatsby* tells the story of a Western American, Nick Carraway, who moves to New York to work in stocks and amass wealth for his various dreams. During the summer, his wealthy and flamboyant neighbor, Jay Gatsby throws a banquet party. Carraway, who had just become a bourgeois man, was invited to the party. Jay Gatsby's loyalty was merely a way for him to cover up his past because Gatsby was actually a young man born to a poor family, young Gatsby at that time he had a relationship with Daisy (Nick's cousin) who came from high society,

unfortunately when Gatsby leaving for war, Daisy married Tom Buchanan, a rich man from Chicago. Even though Daisy is married, Gatsby still loves her, after the war he tried to achieve success and become rich so that he could get her back.

The novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* was written by Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah or commonly called Hamka. This novel tells about Zainuddin's love for Hayati which is hindered by lineage and poverty. Zainuddin is a descendant of two different tribes, Minang and Bugis. This affected Zainuddin, whose intention was to propose to Hayati but was rejected because Zainuddin was considered a foreigner from the Bugis tribe, because Zainuddin's mother was not from Minangkabau, even though Zainuddin's father was originally from Minangkabau, of course this was a problem because of the customary system that occurred in Minangkabau that time. The Minangkabau people in the past were very strict with existing customs. In a marriage, they are not only based on love, but also pay attention to the social status of the family, education, and their assets. This is because society considers marriage as a union of two family forces to maintain the family's social position in society. Their love was hindered until finally Hayati married Aziz, a native and rich Minang.

Based on the stories of the two novels, can be found that there are similarities in the storyline that occurs in the main character, the two main characters cannot be with their loved ones because they are hindered by wealth and social status, they (Gatsby and Zainuddin) are from ordinary people those who are not rich, while their loved (Daisy and Hayati) come from wealthy families. The materialism that appears in society in the two novels is of course inseparable from the social and cultural conditions that occurred at that time. In the novel *The Great Gatsby*, the attitude of materialism arises because of the encouragement of the social conditions of American society which have just experienced a lot of progress due to the rapid economic development that occurred in the 1920s so they are accustomed to living in luxury. Meanwhile, in the novel *Tenggelamnya*

Kapal Van Der Wijck, the materialism arises because of the Minangkabau culture which requires that social status in the family is very influential in a marriage. The social status of both parties in the family must be the same, if one party is not equal or is under the other party it is considered that it will destroy the Minangkabau cultural customs. Based on the two novels, it is undeniable that the relationship between the time and culture background when the two novels were written affects the content and storyline of the two works, and this can be evidence that there were social problems that occurred at that time.

This study will discuss and compare two objects that come from two different cultural backgrounds and different times. Comparative literature is one of the many approaches that exist in literature. Comparative literature in literary studies falls between appreciation and criticism which is now not only centered on literary texts (Suyadi, 2013).

comparative literature is a study of cross-cultural texts, has interdisciplinary characteristics and is related to patterns of relationships in literature across space and time (Bassnett, 1993).

In accordance with Bassnett's opinion, comparative literary studies must at least be compared with two literary objects. The two objects of literary works are literary works with different cultural backgrounds. The differences in cultural backgrounds also differ in space and time. As mentioned by (Remak H. H., 1971), comparative literature is the study of literature outside the boundaries of a country and the study of the connection between literature and other fields of science and beliefs, such as art (painting, sculpture, and music), philosophy, history, and social sciences (politics, economics, sociology), science, religion, and so on. In short, comparative literature compares literature from one country with literature from another country and compares literature with other fields as a whole expression of life.

Literary studies carried out in comparative literature generally originate from the similarities contained in a literary work originating from a different culture. In comparative literature, differences and similarities that exist in a literary work are objects to be compared. (Remak H. H., 1971) explains that in comparative literature that is compared is historical events, literary linkages, similarities and differences, themes, genres, styles, cultural evolution tools, and so on. One of the similarities and differences that are studied in the literary works being compared is to study or look for similarities and differences in story structure and social aspects in the work. The story structure includes the theme, mandate, plot, characters, settings, and point of view. Social aspects include cultural aspects, value systems in society, patterns of thought and so on.

To support the problem of the discussion, the researcher found various previous studies that are still relevant to the problem that is the object of current research. Based on the results of exploration of previous studies, the researcher found several previous studies that were relevant to this study. Although there is a linkage in the discussion, this study is still different from previous research.

First, a research which is titled *Social Class and Status in Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby* by Sebastian Fälth. It was published by Halmstad University in 2013. This study explores the differences in class and social status in the novel *The Great Gatsby*. The result of this research is to tell Fitzgerald's view of American society in the 1920s, he shows that there is an imbalance between various socioeconomic classes. An example of the existence of social inequality is the character of Gatsby, He is not wealthy, but he tries to make do with what he does not have because it conforms to the social standards of the time. Fitzgerald believes that the American Dream exists and is exemplified by the character Gatsby, who came from nothing and managed to obtain almost everything. This novel, however, emphasizes the significance of social class and how difficult it is to ignore one's social background. Even though Gatsby had enormous wealth, he did

not have the same status as Buchanan and was not regarded as an equal in their eyes. It is clear that background is as important as money in determining social status, or was in America's high-end 1920s world. With his class journey from a farm boy to a rich man living in luxury, Gatsby personifies Fitzgerald's American Dream. However, Gatsby's dream is incomplete without Daisy and his dream of winning would not be possible due to the social class system. In the end, Fitzgerald admits that a person's background also affects human relationships.

Second, an article entitled *The American Dream as a Means of Social Criticism in The Great Gatsby* by Lovisa Lindberg. It was published in 2015 by Gothenburg University Publications Electronic Archive. In this paper, the author aims to show how Fitzgerald uses the American Dream in the novel as a means to criticize the state of American society through the depiction of Tom, Daisy, Gatsby and Myrtle. Possibilities and aspirations are the most common themes of the American Dream found in literature, and in this interpretation, Daisy and Tom are not legitimate representatives of the Dream in the same way that Gatsby and Myrtle Wilson are, but rather emphasize the value of dreams through their depiction as opposed to American Dreams. Thus, Fitzgerald's use of the character in *The Great Gatsby* and his association with the American Dream provided an effective means of criticizing American society.

Third, a journal entitled *Motivasi Mobilitas Sosial Tokoh Jay Gatsby di Era Jazz Age Dalam Novel The Great Gatsby karya F.Scott Fitzgerald* which is written by Dwi Ario Fajar. It is published in 2015 by Pena Jurnal Ilmu Pengetahuan Dan Teknologi, Pekalongan University. In this research discusses the mobility that occurs in the main character in *The Great Gatsby* novel. The results of this study are about the complex social conditions at that time, such as the economic revival which influenced a person's character and behavior. The social mobility that occurs in the novel *The Great Gatsby* is the author's idea in reflecting the author's social conditions and the background of the place where the novel was published. Through

his ideas, the author intends to criticize how important social class and social conditions in America in the 1920s which are experiencing economic growth can have an impact on a hedonistic, consumerist society. So that they carry out social mobility in increasing their economic status in any way.

Fourth, an undergraduated thesis entitled *Kontradiksi Sosial Budaya Dalam Novel Tenggelanya Kapal Van Der Wijck Karya Hamka* by Quintana Balqis Kapindho. It is proposed as final assignment in Universitas Negeri Semarang in 2019. This research discusses the existence of socio-cultural contradictions in Minangkabau which are described by the author through the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*. The result of this research is a form of contradiction or socio-cultural conflict that occurs in the characters in the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* including differences in lineage, determination of life partners and economic problems. The impact of lineage differences in socio-cultural contradictions or conflicts was when Zainuddin came to his father's birthplace, Minangkabau. However, when he arrived at his destination, he was treated as a stranger. Because only the father of Zainuddin has Minangkabau descent, while his mother is a Buginese. Whereas the Minangkabau tradition uses matrilineal lineage, which means the lineage from the mother. The next impact of lineage differences is that of the main character in the novel who feels expelled. This was because Zainuddin was considered to have no tribe and no customs.

Fifth, a journal entitled *The Cultural Hegemony in Hamka's Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* which is written by Anajilan Maulida, Novi Anoegrajekti, and Sri Mariati. It was published in 2016 in SRA-Humanities, Repository Universitas Jember. In this study, the author explains that the elements that build the existence of cultural hegemony in novel *Tengglamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* by Hamka are influenced by the background and worldview of the author who comes from Minangkabau descent and knows clearly all Minangkabau traditional systems. and institutions. This is a sign of a literary work that has a relationship with

society. Hamka also has a fairly dominant influence on the cultural hegemony contained in the novel depicted in the figure of Zainuddin, this is inseparable from the local wisdom and tradition factors in Minangkabau. The existence of this relationship affects the class position in Minangkabau society as described in the novel, namely the class position between customs, religion, and formal education brought by the Dutch who at that time were in power over the country. The existence of class differences caused by the system at that time also influenced the Minangkabau community's view of Zainuddin who was considered a foreigner because he had a mother who was not from Minangkabau.

B. Statement of Problem

The condition of society in an area is influenced by the condition of a certain time as the materialist society in the novel *The Great Gatsby* and the novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*. Based on the explanation background of research above, the researcher concludes that there are two questions that will be the main focuses on this study, they are:

1. How is materialism society portrayed in *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*?
2. What caused of materialism society in *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*?

C. Research Purposes

Based on the research question above, the researcher is intended:

1. To analyzed the portrayal of materialis society in *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*.
2. To find out what caused of materialism society in *The Great Gatsby* and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck*.

D. Research Significance

The *The Great Gatsby* by Fitzgerald and *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* by Hamka are two phenomenal novels that are able to tell about the social conditions of the community in which the two novels were written. The background of the place and time when the two novels were written can't be separated from the impact of World War I and the cultural customs of the society. These two novels contain interesting plots and have their own uniqueness in depicting socio-cultural conditions as reflected in the sociology of literature that has been previously described. In addition, there are research meanings that contribute to the development of research based on theoretical and practical aspects :

a. Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, this study discusses the sociological theory of literature according to Alan Swigewood and which focuses on the materialistic attitudes of society that emerged at that time. These two novels tell the social conditions of people who are in different areas, in novel *The Great Gatsby* which is set in America, the attitude of materialism itself arises because of the impact of World War I, while novel *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* which is set in Indonesia, the attitude of materialism appears because of the culture of the Minangkabau society.

b. Practical Significance

This study is expected to be a competent and useful source for English Literature students in understanding the sociological theory of literature and its application to literary works, especially novels. Thus, practical significance is expected for those who will study and analyze the literature or those related to it. For lectures in the field of literature study, it is hoped that it can add literature references to be useful in the teaching

process. For readers of this study, it is hoped that they can increase their knowledge about literature, especially novels and how to analyze them. And for future researchers, this study can be a reference and help to understand the focus of studies on social criticism.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Sociology of Literature : According to (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972), the sociology of literature is a specialized field of study that focuses its attention on the relationship between literary works and the social structures in which they are created.
2. Comparative Literature : According to (Bassnett, 1993), comparative literature is a study of cross-cultural texts, has interdisciplinary characteristics and is related to patterns of relationships in literature across space and time.
3. Materialism : Materialism is the philosophical belief that the world is made of material, and that there are no other types of entity (things). Everything is composed of material. In other words, matter is the only real substance.
4. The Great Gatsby : The Great Gatsby is a 1925 novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age on Long Island, the novel depicts narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan.
5. *Tenggelamnya Kapal Van Der Wijck* : Is a 1938 novel by Haji Abdul Malik Karim Amrullah or commonly called Hamka. This novel tells the story of the customary issues prevailing in Minangkabau and the differences in social backgrounds that prevent the love relationship between lovers until it ends in death.