

**THE SOCIAL STRATIFICATION OF BRITISH
SOCIETY IN 19TH CENTURY AS REFLECTED IN
“MANSFIELD PARK” BY JANE AUSTEN;
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

THESIS



**BY
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**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
PUTERA BATAM UNIVERSITY
2017**

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
Sarjana Sastra**



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DECLARATION OF THE THESIS ORIGINALITY

I, Donna Dwifalyani, NPM No. 131210170

Here declare that the thesis entitled:

THE SOCIAL STRATIFICATION OF BRITISH SOCIETY IN 19TH CENTURY AS REFLECTED IN “MANSFIELD PARK” BY JANE AUSTEN; A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

Is the real work of myself and I realize that thesis has never been published in other media before, partially or entirely, in the name of mine or others.

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Donna Dwifalyani

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This thesis has been examined on the date as indicated below

Batam, 22nd March 2017

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(Donna Dwifalyani)

131210170

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO

Do what you can do by yourself, because no one is ever kind or generous without expecting something in return!

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to:

- 1. My mother, Suhermita, and my father, Maifal, that always give me strength, because of their supports; I could finish this thesis on time.*
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ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa kelas sosial seperti yang dicerminkan di Mansfield Park oleh Jane Austen. Penelitian ini menganalisa tentang kelas sosial di masyarakat Inggris yang ada pada saat itu. Penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mengetahui pandangan masyarakat Inggris yang kaya terhadap kelas bawah. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori stratifikasi sosial oleh Max Weber. Max Weber membagi teori stratifikasi ke dalam tiga komponen; yaitu kelas, status, dan kekuatan politik. Metode pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini adalah metode observasi. Dalam menganalisa data, penulis menganalisa unsur intinsik dan ekstrinsik novel. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan adanya tiga kelas pada masyarakat Inggris pada waktu itu, yaitu kelas atas, kelas menengah dan kelas bawah. Pandangan masyarakat Inggris yang kaya terhadap kelas bawah dapat dikelompokkan menjadi tiga kelompok; mereka berpikir mereka yang paling unggul dibandingkan dengan kelas bawah, mereka tidak ingin menikah dengan yang berbeda kelas, dan mereka berpendapat bahwa kelas bawah tidak dapat berperilaku sebaik mereka.

Kata kunci: kelas, status, kekuasaan politik.

ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the social class as reflected in Mansfield Park by Jane Austen. This research analyzes about social class in British society which exist at that time. This research also aims to figure out the British rich people point of view toward the lower class. The theory used in this research is the theory of social stratification by Max Weber. Max Weber divides theory of stratification into three components; class, status, and political power. The method of collecting data in this research is observation method. In analyzing data, the writer analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic element of the novel. The result of this research shows that there are three classes of British society in that era; they are upper class, middle class, and lower class. The British rich people point of view can be classified into three parts: they think they are superior, they do not want to marry different class, and they think that the lower class cannot behave as well as them.

Keywords: class, status, political power

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the research

The word 'literature' is derived from the word 'littera' in Latin which means letter. It refers to the written or printed words. Klarer (2004 :1) says that in most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. The quotation above describes that literature is a work of art that comes from human thoughts as outlined in written form. Literature has major influences for its readers. Literature can bring readers to feel and carried over into the post or the work created by the author. By reading literature, readers will gain a lot of knowledge and insights that cannot be obtained from other sources, because literature has implicit knowledge in it.

One of literary works is novel. In this research, the writer discusses about novel. Novel developed in England and America. Novel was originally developed in the region from other forms of narrative nonfiction, such as letters, biographies, and history. In a shift of society and development time, the novel is not only based on data nonfiction, author of novel can change according to the desire imagination.

A novel is a long narrative, normally in prose, which describes fictional characters and events, usually in the form of a sequential story. Novel is a story which has a specific timeline and there are characters that play roles there. Novel usually tells about a person's life, anything that happens in his life and so on.

Some novels also reflect the lives of the people at that time. The content of a novel is long enough that cannot be finished in a single read. The kinds of novel

are romance, classic story, comedy, tragedy, and horror. One of novels that tells about romance and has a close relationship with the social reality in British society is “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen.

“Mansfield Park” is one of the famous novels by Jane Austen. It is the third novel by Jane Austen, written at Chawton Cottage between February 1811 and 1813. It was published in May 1814 by Thomas Egerton. The story tells about the romance between a woman from a poor family who fell in love with her cousin who reached the high class because his father is a Baronet. Unfortunately, the man fell in love with someone else, the high class woman.

“Mansfield Park” was written and was published in the 19th century. At that time, British society divided into social classes that can be seen from the economy and prosperity of its people. The writer would like to analyze the social classes of British society because the novel reflects about the life of British society in that era.

In 19th century, there was a social disparity in British society, the different lifestyle because of social classes. The lives of the upper class were filled with luxurious and stand in sharp contrast with the lives of the lower class are shabby and uneducated.

The activities of British society in 19th century can also be identified in “Mansfield Park” because it reflects about the social lives of British society in that

era. For instance, the upper classes usually held a party in their great house and invite all their relatives.

In addition, the writer will also analyze about how the British rich people point of view toward lower or working class as seen in “Mansfield Park”. The writer would like to know how they see and think about the lower class. In analyzing the social classes, the writer uses the Sociological approach, as “Mansfield Park” consists some problems that related to social class, materialism, and the life of society. Therefore, the writer uses the Sociological approach as the approach discusses about social matter. Related to the issues to be discussed in this thesis, the writer entitles this thesis with The Social Stratification of British Society in 19th Century as Reflected in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen; A Sociological Approach.

1.2 Identification of the problem

Related to the background of the research above, the writer determines the identification of the problem which are going to be investigated as follow :

1. The social classes of British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen
2. The activities of British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen
3. How the British rich people think about the lower or working class in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen

4. Social disparity of British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen.

1.3 Limitation of the problem

Based on the identification above, the writer limits the problems that found in the novel and focuses to find the main points to be researched as follows:

1. The social classes of British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen
2. How the British rich people think about the lower or working class in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen

1.4 Formulation of the problem

The formulation of the problem that can be identified in this study are:

1. What are the social classes found in British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen?
2. How the British rich people think about the lower or working class in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen?

1.5 Objective of the research

There are certain objectives that are important to achieve. The objectives of this research are:

1. To figure out the social classes found in British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen
2. To find out how the British rich people think about the lower or working class in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen

1.6 Significance of the research

1.6.1 Theoretically

This research is expected to provide further explanation of social classes in British society by using sociological approach and becomes a study of literature, especially about sociological approach related to social classes of British society in 19th century as seen in “Mansfield Park” novel by Jane Austen.

1.6.2 Practically

Practical benefits of this research are firstly for the writer, the result of this study is able to deepen her knowledge and this research is also the requirement that the writer makes to get the Bachelor degree. For the academic, the result of this study can be used as a reference to the possibility of doing research on the same issue in the future.

1.7 Definition of key terms

Social stratification: Social stratification refers to a system by which a society ranks categories of people in a hierarchy. It is perfectly clear that some groups have greater status, power, and wealth than other groups. These differences are what led to social stratification. Weber (1978) portrays social stratification as a multidimensional ranking rather than a

hierarchy defined classes. Weber saw three dimensions of social stratification in terms of a continuum. Social class in for Weber included power and prestige in addition to property or wealth.

Society: Linton (1955) states that society is an organized group of people who interact with one another and form a cohesive unit. This definition would include not only human but also animals. The definition of society does not include culture. It is only when we speak of human societies that we refer to the concept of culture.

Sociological approach: The sociological approach is an approach to understanding human behavior by placing in a broader social context. This perspective has to consider how people are influenced by society, which can be defined by a group of people who share the same culture and territory. The sociological perspective also includes study of people's social location, such as group membership's people have because of where they are in society and history. According to Mills (1959) the sociological perspective enables us to grasp the connection between history and biography. By history, Mills meant the characteristic of society; by biography Mills meant people's experiences in society.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Approach Used

In this research, the researcher applies sociological approach. The researcher uses the social theory from Max Weber. Weber presents sociology as the science of human social action. According to Max Weber (1978) sociology is a science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social action to arrive at a casual explanation of the course and effects. Sociology seeks to formulate type concepts and generalized uniformities of empirical processes.

2.2 Theoretical Background

Max Weber, a German sociologist, develops The Three-component theory of stratification, more widely known as Weberian Stratification or Three Class Systems; they are class, status, and political power (party) as distinct ideal types. Weber develops a multidimensional approach to Social Stratification that reflects the interplay among wealth, prestige and power. Weber argues that power can take a variety of forms. A person's power can be shown in the social order through their status, in the economic order through their class, and in the political order through their party. Thus, class, status, and party have a great deal of effect in their individual areas and a great deal of influence over the other areas.

Max Weber provides a more flexible view of the details of social differences, and their implications for the life experience of social actors. Max Weber develops various ways that societies are organized in hierarchical systems of power, class, status, and political power (party).

2.2.1 Class

Class of person means a person's economic position in society. Weber notes how managers of corporations or industries control firms they do not own. "Class, as its core, is an economic concept; it is the position of individuals in the market that determines their class position. It is how one is situated in the marketplace that directly affects one's life chances." (Hurst 2007: 203) This was theorized by Weber on the basis of "unequal access to material resources."

Weber identified three aspects of class: a specific causal component of actors' life chances, which rests exclusively on economic interests and wealth, and of material resources, accumulated by advantage in the marketplace, results in distinctive in terms of the standard of living.

According to Weber (2005) the possession of property defines the main class difference, the owner of property have a definite advantage, and in some cases a monopoly on, action in the market of commodities and, especially labor. They have privileged access to the sources of wealth creation, by virtue of ownership and control of the markets. Weber identified a subdivision among property owners based on the means of their wealth creation. Entrepreneurs use wealth in commercial ventures. Rentiers profit by interest on their property, through investments or rent of land. Both form of ownership yield advantages resulting from the ability to convert property to money.

Weber did not believe that class interests necessarily led to uniformity in social action. Neither communal nor societal action is the inexorable result of

class interest. Communal or societal action may develop from a common class situation in certain conditions. Weber believes that the general cultural conditions played a large role in this determination. Intellectuals occupy a key position in this regard. Weber argued that the extent of the contrasts between the property owners and the property less workers must become transparent to the workers in order for collective action around the issue of class to occur. Intellectuals function either to call attention or explain these contrasts, or, to obscure them.

2.2.1.1 Upper Class

In social science, the “upper class” is the group of people at the top of a social hierarchy. Members of an upper class may have great power over the allocation of resources and government policy in their area.

Historically in some cultures, members of an upper class often did not have to work for a living, as they were supported by earned or inherited investments, although members of the upper class may have had less actual money than merchants. Upper-class status commonly derived from the social position of one’s family and not from one’s own achievements or wealth. Much of the population that composed the upper class consisted of aristocrats, ruling families, titled people, and religious hierarchs. These people were usually born into their status and historically there was not much movement across class boundaries.

2.2.1.2 Middle Class

The middle class is any class of people in the middle of a societal hierarchy. In Weberian socio-economic terms, the middle class is the broad group of people in contemporary society who fall socio-economically between the working class and upper class. The term middle class implies those people who typically have had a good education, own a family house, and hold a managerial or professional post.

2.2.1.3 Lower or Working Class

Working class (or lower class, laboring class), is a term used in the social sciences and in ordinary conversation to describe those employed in lower tier jobs (as measured by skill, education and lower incomes), often extending to those in unemployment or otherwise possessing below-average incomes. Working classes are mainly found in industrialized economies and in urban areas of non-industrialized economies.

The term is usually contrasted with the upper class and middle class, in general terms of access to economic resources, education, and cultural interests. The cut-off between working class and middle class is more specifically where a population spends money primarily as a lifestyle rather than for sustenance. Problematically, relying on this method of distinction would rule out many of the people who are often identified as working class.

2.2.2 Status

Status is the honor or prestige attached to one's position in society. It may also refer to a rank or position that one holds in a group. According to Weber, status groups normally are communities. Status is defined as the likelihood that life chances are determined by social honor, or, prestige. Status groups are linked by a common style of life, and the attendant social restrictions.

Wealth is not necessarily the primary cause of status, though it is generally associated with it. Some forms of property ownership are connected with prestige, others are not. Retires usually hold greater status than entrepreneurs, because their wealth is less visibly connected to labor. Wealth is a key determinant of the lifestyle differences upon which status depends. Weber notes that "material monopolies are the most effective motives for the exclusiveness of a status group." Social restriction, such as marriage patterns, residence, and so forth, follow from differences in wealth reflected in prestige.

Status distinctions are usually not ethnic. When carried to their fullest element, as a caste system, perceived ethnicity is sometimes involved. In the case of caste, social distinctions are reinforced by legal and ritual restriction. Caste usually develops into a functional system, by virtue of occupational differences.

The dignity of high status group is always worldly. It involves their distinctive life style, as manifest in patterns of association and consumption. Low status group, on the other hand, project their sense of worth on salvation hopes. Their due, they believe, is guaranteed in the life to come. It is common for low status groups to believe they enjoy a special relationship with their god.

Status divisions tend to be structured on the basis of the table distribution of economic power. When economic stratification is relatively invariant, status differences tend to increase.

2.2.3 Political Power (Party)

Political power means a person's ability to get their way despite the resistance of others. As Weber stated that "In principle, parties may exist in a social club as well as in a state, as over against the actions of classes and status group" (Readings and Commentary on Modernity, 2005, p: 195).

Parties are associations that aim at securing "power within an organization or the state for its leaders in order to attain ideal or material advantages for its active members" (Hurst, 2007). This form of power can be related to the way in which the state is organized in modern social system. Political parties are the organizational means to process power through the mechanism of the state and they include not just formally organized parties, but any group that is organized to influence the way in which power is exercised legitimately through the machinery of the state. Since parties aim at such goals as getting their programs developed or accepted and getting positions of influence within organizations, it is clear that they operate only within a rational order in which these goals are possible to attain and only when there is a struggle for power.

Class and Status interests interact in the realm of the legal order, the arena of politics. Political power is often based on class and status interests. Parties are the organizations of power. Their purpose is the struggle for domination. Parties

commonly operate in the political or legal domain, but as an ideal type, parties are not restricted to this field.

Although parties are based on class and status, they are usually organized across these distinctions. That is, it is rare for parties to be based solely on class or status interests, such that a party of entrepreneurial class interest would be in competition with one based on high status. Since economic power binds class status together in some way, it is no surprise that parties reflect these complex patterns of interest.

2.3 Review of Previous Study

In conducting the research, the researcher also does the review of previous researchers. There are several relevant studies that related to the analysis of sociological approach.

The first research is from Ika Widya S (2013), from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in her thesis entitled Social Disparity Reflected in Jane Austen's Mansfield Park (1814): A Sociological Perspective. The research is aimed to know the social disparity in Jane Austen's "Mansfield Park" by using Sociological Perspective. Therefore, the study analyzes the novel in terms of its structural elements and based on the sociological perspective. The research belongs to descriptive qualitative study. In this method, she used two data sources; they are primary data and secondary data source. The primary data source and the object of this study is the "Mansfield Park", meanwhile the secondary data sources are any books of literature and sociology and websites related to this

study. She collected the data from both primary and secondary data sources in a short of document evidence.

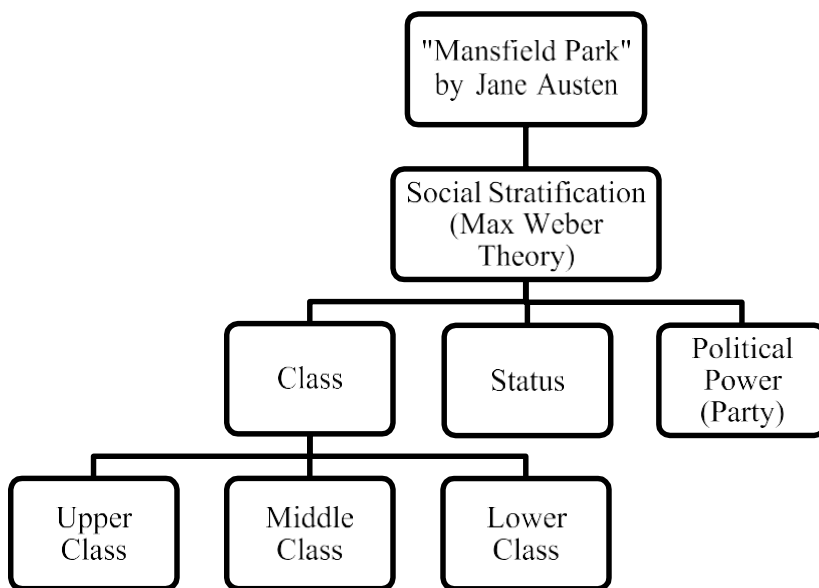
The study comes to the following conclusion. First, based on structural analysis, it is apparent that in “Mansfield Park”, Jane Austen conveys message that British societies have different lifestyle because of social classes. Second, it is clear that there is a close relation between this novel and the social reality of England in the early nineteenth century. “Mansfield Park” shows that the lives of the upper class were filled with luxurious, stands in sharp contrast with the lives of the lower class are shabby and uneducated.

The second analysis is from Khusnus Syafa'ah (2007), from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in his thesis entitled *Class Struggle as Reflected in Jane Austen's Persuasion: Marxism Perspective.*” In his thesis, he analyzed the class struggle at Jane Austen's period; the condition of the upper class and the lower class of England in the early 19th centuries based on its structural elements and Marxism perspective.

The third analysis is from Prasetyo Dwi Martanto (2008), from Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta in his thesis entitled *Hypocrisy in Dan Brown's Angel and Demon Novel: A Sociological Approach*, is also analyzed about sociological approach. The object of the research is the novel entitled *Angel and Demon* written by Dan Brown. The study focuses on the sociological aspect of the novel. The major problem of the study is how the hypocrisy is reflected in Dan Brown's *Angel and Demon* based on sociological approach. The approach is aimed at analyzing hypocrisy in the story. The research is qualitative

research. The primary data source is “Angel and Demon” novel itself and secondary data source are the other sources related to the analysis like theory of sociology of literature by Swingewood. The method of the data collection is descriptive analysis. The result of the study reveals the relationship between the novel and the social reality. In “Angel and Demon”, Dan Brown depicts hypocrisy in the character through social, economic, religious and science and technology aspects.

The previews studies that the writer found show the similarity in using the sociological approach in their thesis, and the researches also use the qualitative method. The difference is the theory used by the writer, one of them uses the theory from Swingewood, and another uses the Marxism perspective.



“Mansfield Park” is one of the famous novels by Jane Austen. It reflects about the life of British society in that era. The social stratification of British society when Austen wrote the novel can be analyzed by using the theory from Max Weber. Weber divides the theory of social stratification into three components; they are class, status, and political power. Class divided into three parts, they are upper class, middle class, and lower class.

CHAPTER III
RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Research Design

In general, research can be classified into two models, qualitative and quantitative study. In doing this research related to social stratification, the writer uses qualitative method. According to Vanderstoep and Jhonston (2009: 7), qualitative research produces narrative or textual description of the phenomena under study. This research focused on the detailed explanation and aimed to present in-depth information related to social stratification as the result. In this way, it is considered as qualitative research.

3.2 Object of the Research

According to Sugiyono (2012), object of the research is an attribute, character or the value of someone, something or activity which has a certain variation that divided by the researcher to analyze it. The object of this research is Mansfield Park novel by Jane Austen. Mansfield Park novel is one of the famous novels by Jane Austen. It is the third novel by Jane Austen, written at Chawton Cottage between February 1811 and 1813. It was published in May 1814 by Thomas Egerton. Mansfield Park novel consists of 412 pages. The story tells about the romance between women from a poor family who fell in love with her cousin who reached the high class because his father is a Baronet. Unfortunately, the man fell in love with someone else, the high class woman.

3.3 Method of Collecting Data

The method of collecting data used by the writer is observation method as the research discusses about social stratification. Kothari (2004: 95) states that

there are two types of data sources; primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the primary data source used by the writer in writing this thesis.

The primary data source of this thesis is a novel entitled “Mansfield Park” that the writer uses to find the information related to social stratification of British society in 19th century. Secondary data source is usually used to provide materials such as the theory related to the issues and any relevant information to be attached in this thesis. To strengthen the data, the writer uses some books and articles from internet which relevant and supported this research. In collecting the data, the writer does some steps or techniques to collect the data. The steps of collecting data are as follows:

1. Reading the novel several times until the writer gets the information or the data to be analyzed.
2. Reading some related books to find out the theory data and information required.
3. Browsing to the internet to get several information and articles related to the research.
4. Taking notes the data of important parts related to the topic of the research.
5. Applying the sociological approach to the data found.
6. Arranging the important data that related to the study and develop them to be a good unity.
7. Drawing conclusion based on the data analysis.

3.4 Method of Analyzing Data

In analyzing data, the researcher analyzes the Intrinsic element and the Extrinsic element of the novel.

3.4.1 Intrinsic Element

In analyzing the intrinsic element, the writer analyzes the element of fiction. Element of fiction is a set of aspect in fiction which builds the strength of the story itself (Aminuddin, 2013: 66). Element of fiction consist of: plot, character, theme, point of view, setting, style, and tone. By analyzing about the element of fiction, the readers will be able to know about what the story tells about, when and where the story takes place, what is the author point of view when telling the story and what is the main point of the story. It can help the readers to fully understand and easier in understanding the story.

3.4.2 Extrinsic Element

The extrinsic element is involving the other disciplines outside of literature that help to build the fiction. In this research, the writer uses the theory of social stratification by a German sociologist Max Weber to be applied in “Mansfield Park” by Jane Austen by using the sociological approach. According to Max Weber, sociology is a science which attempts the interpretive understanding of social action to arrive at a casual explanation of the course and effects. Sociology seeks to formulate type concepts and generalized uniformities of empirical processes. In the extrinsic element the researcher uses some sources such as books, internet that related to the research.

3.5 Method of Presenting Result Analysis

According to Sudaryanto (2015: 241), informal method is the method of presenting data which uses a natural language, even though with some technical terminology. In presenting the data, the researcher applied the informal method as the researcher described the analysis result by using words and does not use any symbols.

