

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of The Research

Literature is a source for social science that utilizes distinguishing values originating from historical matters in providing a real-life perspective, and it presents a type of culture in both situational and human, where characters can resonate in various unpredictable ways (Mizruchi, 1998). The affirmation of the importance of science as part of liberal education provides criticism of humanist pretensions, especially classicists, giving the meaning of literature as an absolute path to culture (Cartwright & Baker, 1998). The culture of literature is created from the written text of works by authors who influence deep and broad knowledge. The creation of literature has practical value as it can help humans think about issues that affect life, sharing various perspectives, either challenging or completely overturning views. The enlargement of perspectives of knowledge from literary works develops critical thinking, thoughts, and opinions about things that are even unconscionable (Arendt, 2007). Literature is an implied thing in the particular understanding of ideas that portrays distinctness and naturalism, as well as representation in the literary texts that reflect on facing nature. The way of thinking about literature originated from the assumption of the separation of the literary works and text, implying the understanding of literature and texts can unite literary works and reality each other (Bennett & Royle, 2023).

Novel is one of the literary works, that in general it is part of the literary works in the form of prose and has elements, such as intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic element is the main element contained in the novel because this element builds a written work appropriately according to the context adjustment by providing elements that complement each other to the integrity of a story. Intrinsic elements include theme, plot, setting, characters, characterization, point of view, story style, and moral message. Extrinsic element is the element that influences the course of the story from an external perspective and can be said to be complementary and additional elements that support the story of the novel, such as culture, religion, society, and economics (Sulistyowati, 2022). Novel refers to fiction that contains stories about the life experiences of humans and the people around them, which undergo part of events that have an interrelated relationship involving the grouping of members of the characters in a certain set, and it takes complete understanding in the form of a combination of intelligence to depict real life in the form of imagination (Mogea, 2023).

A Tale of Two Cities is one of the classical novel has been made and published in 1859 by the author named Charles Dickens. Charles Dickens himself is one of the authors of a historical novel. "A Tale of Cities" novel took the main background of two cities, namely London and Paris in the 17th century before and during the French Revolution. Dickens in the novel told about a highly tense situation as many terrible things happened such as, the worst punishments, like death and prison torture given to the proletariat who were considered guilty, even though their mistakes were not fatal and light. In the novel, there told the social

inequality and arbitrariness of the bourgeois towards the proletariat. The bourgeois conducted a land and landed lease system which given by rent for the residents of the proletariat, this confirmed their leadership and power as the people who controlled the region. Mastery of the throne with the abundance made the lifestyle of the bourgeois more luxurious with spree, holding a party every two weeks, and wearing luxurious clothes and jewelry. On the other hand, there were proletariat in poverty, exposed to the hunger outbreak that claimed their souls, and not to mention the oppression and other violence received by them cruelly. The novel concentrates on the crisis of social stratification and it encompasses bourgeoisie exploitation with the neglect of poor, private vengeance, and public bloodshed.

Social stratification goes into the classification of sociology terms, where sociological studies study the arrangement of processes in human social life as a whole system. The study of sociology provides practitioners with a historical discipline, which is oriented towards neat construction, as well as theoretical explanations that are useful for understanding the complexity of sociological life (Rose, 1988). Sociology explicates the existence of the relationship between literature and history that is seen from an aesthetic sensitivity perspective, which both of them can not separate from life experiences and events. The aesthetic validity contained in literary works such as novels is closely related to historical activities and events without ignoring the characteristics of the existence of the people in the literary texts, resulting in sociology being a place of scope in literature (Orr, 1977). The novel as one literary work brings all the patterns of

human characteristics in the social life experiences with the existence itself giving a complex understanding of how sociological life influences literature. "A Tale of Two Cities" novel is one of the literary works that arise the existences of human characteristics and social events, which is being included in the study of sociological studies with the complexity of sociological life in ways of a hierarchical class system. This turns into "A Tale of Two Cities" novel as literary works and social stratification as a form of human agglomeration in the population into a hierarchical class system based on the differences that occur in society that result in a natural layer of many or some, in higher or lower differentiation occurs. The existence of differentiation causes inequity in the category of social classes and different social statuses that then form stratification in society (Sumardi & Hanum, 2019).

Social stratification maintains its integrity through harmony in two main things that are coherent and closely synchronized, that are economy and social. The categorization of each status has an economic dimension and social processes are arranged based on the stage of development of social evaluation, resulting in the economy becoming increasingly dominant in stratification. The categorization factors of each individual insertion from the influence of social stratification could have been getting inequality without concerning the placement in the hierarchical class. Taking the step from the hierarchical system to get a comprehension of the social and economic terms gave a new understanding of how individuals have money and privilege with such a higher education surprisingly get inequality in particular. By examining this particular thing, the events occurred towards social

stratification in Russia during the Putin regime. This issue that were occurred in Gerber & Gimpelson (2024) shows the hierarchy through capitalism with the act of elimination of civil freedom, press freedom, and democratic reform by changing positions and guaranteeing the results of elections through fraud and manipulation of information. Furthermore, the existence of government actions on favorable state assets control so that it can be controlled by regime loyalists, as well as controlling the income of oil and natural gas exports. The social process of stratification that occurred in Russia also made the interest of science in the labor market. This shows that power, position, wealth, prestige, and resources have audacity to access the authority on capitalism in which there are dimensions of social stratification. Marx in Bottero (2005) gave the ideological system of how the capitalism opportunistically exploits status differences as class theory cannot by itself, and it explains how these differences arise. Through the social system, capitalism produces a prolific surplus that can be achieved by individuals, but it remains in the control of capitalist productivity such as exploitation of labor wages and property ownership.

The factors influenced in the social class system get clear and reflected influence on a person's social status in society. Baier & Lang (2019) emphasized that observing the individual's educational system and background can provide the position of someone regarding IQ correlates with social stratification. The education system makes it possible to combine an academically oriented education system, job training, and a production system based on radical innovation so that this provides a way to represent oneself in forming a strata

image. This way of coordination provides intensive mobility to invest in skills significantly and makes it easy to get privileged opportunities, such as being easily offered by companies to join (Grotti & Passaretta, 2023). From the observation through individuals' education, factors from other roles that correlate with social stratification, there are gene-environmental interplay and the role of a family environment. Through these factors that give the influence of each individual for getting into the placement in hierarchical class. Concerning the placement in the hierarchical class, there are types consist of each social class where the placement of individuals would belong into. The classification of social class, according to Weber in Allen (2004) is class and status getting to which class is not a community, but is the idea of classes divided by divisions created by the labor. The perspective of classes is seen as the only collection of individual life chances in the labor place and in terms of its meaning, the explication provides an understanding of the social class which means social stratification that is related to the relationship of production and control of wealth. There are others perspective coming from Marx (1995) by expressing knowledge about the idea of class, that classes are divided into three parts, there are upper class, middle class, and lower class. The division of the two classes lies in the focus of each class in providing a view of the division, which refers to values that are only produced by the capitalist system, then where the distribution groups of working classes organized in each distribution of workers, in each department working in the industrial sector concentration.

Social stratification that occurs in "A Tale of Two Cities" novel provides a depiction of social life filled with conflicts between capitalism and class systems. The classes included include upper, middle, and lower classes. Variance concepts of expectancy and desperation are being reflected in the circumstances of social distinction. The uncontrolled inflation in France resulted in brutal and extreme actions toward the lower classes. Freedom of rights couldn't be achieved due to the coercion imposed on the proletariat to pay bigger taxes, expensive food, and limited freedoms. The French aristocrat underwent complete training to persecute and confiscate property belonging to the lower classes. As one of the events occurred in the novel when Marquis St. Evremonde used his power to put Doctor Manette in prison on unidentified charges of raping young women so that Doctor Manette was made a prisoner and treated roughly like an animal. This summed up to the bourgeoisie behavior that no one can stop them even the one whom as part of them from the higher class. The exploitation that created cruelty from the aristocrat was staged and the oppression carried out had the full aim of the dominance by the upper class in having the power to control and influence society. The bourgeoisie lived in prosperity and luxury by carrying out cruelty and inequity in all aspects of humanity, such as very high tax rates and education costs that had to be paid by the lower classes. Meanwhile, the lower classes live in misery and despair and cannot be allowed to represent their group as one of the people who can make policies to resolve problems, because lower-class people are considered useless and uninformed.

In analyzing this literary work written by Charles Dickens, "A Tale of Two Cities" novel is specifically brought into the use of sociological approach related to the social phenomenon. Related to the approach, sociological approach is the approach in the use of this research analysis with the theoretical science by using the theory of Max Weber. According to Weber (1978), sociology is directions on empirical regularities observed in social actions utilize the regularities in proffering causal explanations of significant events against ideal concepts that refer to the collectivity of times or forms of society which can be lessened, to an action that is understood and seen to be related to some form of rule. It is a definition that no one can and should be induced to accept based on a methodological point of view in the different scopes of meaningful action referring to conditions, stimuli, obstacles, and drivers of action. Sociology provides greater conceptual clarity with increased clarity achieved by ensuring a large degree of adequacy at the level of meaning in the formation of concepts and rational matters that take the form of the pursuit of absolute values or the choice of means of achieving goals. The researcher found some of the social phenomenon related to the sociological view as social stratification occurred in "A Tale of Two Cities" novel. The phenomena came from the conversation between the guard and the porter.

**"Keep where you are,"** the guard called to the voice in the mist, **"because, if I should make a mistake, it could never be set right in your lifetime.** Gentleman of the name of Lorry answers straight." (Dickens, p.9)



The quotation above shows that social stratification occurred towards the ultimate order implied the threat from the guard that could harm the life of the porter who was squiring out his labor to lead a message directly to Mr. Lorry. This found of social activities put pressure on people as someone who came from the working class as the porter to not have excessive capacity with Mr. Lorry and follow the instructions of the guard if they didn't want to experience something beyond the limits that could end the porter's life. It hooks up with Weber (1978) theoretical view that expressed sociological interpretation as direction to the empirical regularities observed in the social action, that character of the guard here provides direction to empirical regularities that allow explanation if the porter did not follow directions and the porter here was with his limit. The circumstances referred to the porters' ideal thought that gathered in an action that realized as related to the form of regulation.

There are some researches that have been analyzed with different studies, there are several researches use the novel as the object that has been given by the contribution in developing this research. The first research was analyzed by Abbar (2024) entitled "Examining the Impact of Social Classism and Sacrifice in Dickens's a Tale of Two Cities". Gaining an understanding of aspects of social stratification, this research examines social stratification in analyzing conflicts between various societies. The research focuses on analyzing the core ideas that shape the gap that exists between the working class and bourgeois. The research refers to the use of Marx's theory in the form of social construction which depends on class relationships and divisions (Marx, 2010). This research reveals how

individuals compete with each other to achieve social power. The second research comes from Syawal et al. (2022) entitled "Social Condition of French Society pre-revolution in A Tale of Two Cities Novel by Charles Dickens". In this analysis, the research focuses on analyzing the problems of the social conditions of French society before the revolution. The research shows its focuses on the results of an analysis of the social conditions of French society, where the people lived on the verge of poverty and the proletariat were exploited by the nobility, resulting in mass starvation that hit every corner of the city, the rigidity of the legal system during the monarchy, and the abuse of power by the bourgeois to the people, so it becomes triggers revolutionary change driven by the lower class people. The research uses qualitative method and its collected data were analyzed by using the theory of sociology by Goldmann (1981) to describe the social stratification of the society portrait in the novel.

Based on all the explanation above, the researcher is interested to analyze "A Tale of Two Cities" novel by Charles Dickens through the social class system and the stratification that occurred in the novel. All the events that occurred for being expressed and getting related to the field of how the social structure system works before and during the war between the two cities. Sociological approach is the relation between society and its aspects that can be viewed from both side, in that means not only about the good ones but also the issue, problem, or conflict. Thus, based on the focus, this research sums up to the final entitled "Social Stratification During French Revolution Era Reflected In "A Tale of Two Cities" By Charles Dickens: Sociological Approach".

## **1.2. Identification of The Problem**

Based on the background above, there are some problems regarding to the social stratification that can be found in the data source. The problems are as follows.

1. The social stratification reflected in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.
2. The factors that influence social stratification in society found in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.
3. The representation of social stratification through the social class reflected in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.
4. The conflicts caused by both social classes between the lower class against the upper class in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.
5. The resistance of the lower class against the upper class represented in “A Tale of Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.

## **1.3. Limitation of The Problem**

The research problem should be limited in order to focus on the main problems only and to have deeper analysis. Based on the problems identified above, the research problem is limited as follows.

1. The social stratification reflected in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.

2. The conflicts caused by both social classes between the lower class against the upper class in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.

#### **1.4. Formulation of The Problem**

A research is done to find the answer of the research problem. In order to make the problem researchable, the problem should be formulated into research questions. Based on the limitation above, the research questions that will be answered in this research are formulated as follows.

1. What are the types of social stratification reflected in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens?
2. What are the conflicts caused by both social classes between the lower class against the upper class in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens?

#### **1.5. Objectives of The Research**

The objectives of the research are the purpose of conducting the research. Based on the formulation above, the objectives of this research are as follows.

1. To explain the social stratification reflected in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.
2. To figure out the conflicts caused by both social classes between the lower class against the upper class in “A Tale of Two Cities” novel by Charles Dickens.

## **1.6. Significance of The Research**

The goal of making this research is to improve the significance of the finding. This task has been divided into two parts. They have theoretical and practical significance.

### **1. Theoretically**

This research will be valuable for readers based on the researchers' objectives, such as:

1. This research will provide more knowledge and information for future research, particularly on the literary
2. This study will assist readers gain information, concepts, and experience, in the application of material science research. Particularly in language classes.

### **2. Practically**

Even practically this research will be useful for the following section. First, this research can be implemented in the study of English in Literature. Second, this study aims to increase knowledge as well as research practice by explaining the phenomenon of social stratification, capitalism, and social inequality based on class in a novel entitled "A Tale of Two Cities". The researcher hopes that this research can be used and applied to inform and guide the other sociological topics.

## 1.7. Definition of Key Terms

- Sociological Approach** : A literary approach based on the field of sociology that studies directions on empirical regularities observed in social actions utilize the regularities in proffering causal explanations of significant events against ideal concepts that refer to the collectivity of times or forms of society which can be lessened, to an action that is understood and seen to be related to some form of rule (Weber, 1978)
- Social Stratification** : A form of categorization that continues to operate in a social structure system where it joint into the layers based on criteria to limit each individual's access to the access of wealth, power, and opportunities, as well as the placement of the person and groups into hierarchical layers (Weber, 1978)
- Class** : The idea of classes divided by divisions created by labor, and is seen as the only collection of individual life chances in the labor place, where it belongs to the

particular social system into layers (Weber  
in Allen, 2004)