

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings basically are social creatures, a group of people who live in society. Societal interactions can give rise to conflicts stemming from diverse perspectives and experiences. Social class differences, like those between the rich and the poor, often contribute to such tensions in society.

Literature is a rich source of information that can contribute to various sciences, including sociology. Novel as literary works, requires both intrinsic elements such as themes, plots, characters, setting, language style, point of view, and mandates. As well as extrinsic aspects such as author and reader psychology, social class, socio-culture, politics, and author biography. This interplay adds depth and complexity to the understanding of literary works.

According to Coser (in Sills, 1968: 232), social conflict may be defined as a struggle over values and claim to status, power and rare resource in which the aims of conflicting parties are not only to gain the desires values but also to neutralize, injure, or eliminate their rivals. Socially, there is always a conflict because conflict is common in social

interactions and it is a way of understanding society. A social conflict that happens in society is usually caused by many factors such as wealth, status, power and authority which may influence the social class.

Social class involves the hierarchical differentiation of a society based on economic factors, education, occupation, and the interplay of family members' statuses. The elevation of the head of the family often corresponds to an increase in the status of the other family members, reflecting the intricate dynamics that contribute to class distinctions in society. According to Weber (1922), social class can be divided into three parts, they are the upper, middle, and lower class and it is affecting the way a person or group of people perceives others. The differences like this that often lead to conflict between fellow humans. The conflict that is caused by social class still happens in this modern era.

In a novel, the author always tells various conflicts experienced by the main characters. Conflict makes the story not bland and the readers feel the emotion of the conflict between the characters. Social conflicts that occur within human and society are divided into various kinds, forms, and types, one of which is conflict between classes. Social class conflict can occur at different statuses, which can be caused by differences in interests or differences in views.

In this research, the researcher chooses a novel by Emily Giffin, Giffin is an author of New York Times bestsellers, she graduated from

Wake Forest University and University of Virginia School of Law. Despite having her first book rejected, Giffin persisted and eventually gave up her job as a lawyer to go to London so she could devote her time to her writing.

All We Ever Wanted was published in 2018. This novel revolves around a contemporary and thought-provoking story, which explores the issues of privilege, social class, and the impact of technology. The narrative unfolds through the perspectives of the three main characters, providing a view at how a single incident can have extensive consequences for individuals and families. The novel digs into theme of morality, family dynamics, and the complexities of modern life.

The reason of the researcher choose this topic is because the illustration of social class conflict in this novel can provide insight into the relevance of social issues that exist in the contemporary society, such as economic inequality, social injustice, or the challenges faced by groups with different social status.

Through analysis of social class conflicts in the novel, this research can provide a deeper understanding of social dynamics, inequality, and the complexity of human relationships in the context of social class differences.

Based on the explanation above, this research aimed to analyze the social class and the conflict reflected in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin, using a sociological approach.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Based on the explanation from the background, the researcher found the state of problem as follows:

1.2.1 What are the types of social classes was found in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin?

1.2.2 How is the social conflict reflected in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin?

1.3 Scope of the Study

In this study, the researcher focuses on using sociological approach to analyzing about the social class conflict that reflected in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

1.4 Objective of the Study

1.4.1 To find out the types of social classes in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

1.4.2 To identify the social conflict reflected in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The researcher expected to provide significances of this research to the readers as follows:

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

Theoretically, the researcher hopes that this study will give new information to other researchers, particularly to the literary study of the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin, examining social class conflict using sociological approach.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This research is expected to enrich knowledge and experience information for writing in many aspects. This research also provides information for students of English Literature who have the same interest in literary studies of sociological approach.

1.6 Review of Related Studies

To accomplish the research and reference data, researcher found some review of related study literature which is the same focus, those are elaborated below:

First, *Social Class Conflict Presented in "The Kite Runner" Novel Based on Marxism Theory* was written by Rubiyanto (2016). This study uses descriptive qualitative method to analyze the conflicts that happen in Afghan society which is mainly caused by difference of social class. The result of the study is that the society in the twentieth is fundamentally

separated by two large groups. They are Pashtuns, as the act of the dominant upper class, and the Hazaras, which fill the society of the lower class.

Second, *Social Class Conflict Reflected in "Far From The Madding Crowd" Novel by Thomas Hardy* by Siahaan and Arianto (2020). This study uses a sociological approach and analyzes the distribution of social classes and the social class conflict in the novel. The results featured three male characters who became the main characters that coming from three different classes of lower class, middle class and upper class. And there are also three conflicts coming in between each classes.

Third, *An Analysis of Social Classes and Conflicts in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asian Novel* by Dewi and Fitriannah (2021). This study uses the theory of social class and social conflict to analyze how the social class contained in the novel and its conflict on family life. The method used is a qualitative descriptive method. The results showed that class difference is created because of the existence of social class, which is classified as upper class and middle class. As for the conflict is the gap in social status in a family life or relationship, this gap affects the thinking of the upper class families who cannot accept any lower class people to enter their family.

Forth, *Giffin's New Novel Embraces Negative Stereotypes* written by Biar (2018). This last study is an article by a fan of Emily Giffin. The reviewer expresses disappointment with the novel, criticizing its handling of social justice issues, portrayal of male characters, and treatment of conservative and Christian characters. She argues that the book unfairly stereotypes boys as perpetrators and portrays girls as victims, neglecting instances where boys are victimized by girls. She feels the focus on negative male behavior and vilification of certain groups detracts from the overall strength of society.

Based on the previous studies above, there is the difference with this research, which is the object and topic. The article discuss about the portrayals of male characters in the novel. Meanwhile, this research aims to discuss or find the types of social class and the conflict reflected in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

1.7 Theoretical Basis

1.7.1 Social Class

Social class refers to the stratification or hierarchical division of people or groups in a society. It is undeniable that in this increasingly advanced era, social class differences are increasingly prominent. Weber (in Jones, 1975), states that "social class makes up the totality of those class situations within which individual and generational mobility is easy and typical."

In the book “Class, Status, Party” (in Mujiono, 2023), Weber wrote: “A social class is a social category consisting of individuals who have similar position in the structure of economic production.” Max Weber’s theory of social class explains that social class is determined by a person’s economic position, ownership of resources, and access to resources needed to influence production.

According to Max Weber (in Mujiono, 2023), social class is a combination of two things: economic position and social status. Social class also influences how individuals interact with others, understand the world, and make choices in life. Weber also distinguishes between economic class and social status. Economic class refers to a person’s position in the economic system, meanwhile social status refers to a person’s position in society based on factors such as inheritance, education, and prestige.

1.7.2 Classification of Social Class

Max Weber (1922) applies the term “class” to all social layers that form the economic foundation of society. Weber has been categorized the social class into three groups: The Upper, Middle, and Lower class.

1.7.2.1 The Upper Class

The upper class is a social class consisting of people who are born rich, have economic and political power, and a large number of property. In a modern capitalist society, the upper classes are distinguished by the

ownership of wealth by inheritance. Wright (2003), identified “Upper Class” as people whose have wealth, high income, social connections, and valuable talents that enable them to live their lives apart from “ordinary” people. They are able to develop distinctive style of life based on extensive cultural pursuits, and recreational activities, to exert a lot influence on economic policies and political decisions, and to obtain an excellent education for their children and economic opportunities that help maintain family wealth.

1.7.2.2 The Middle Class

According to Holton et al. (2009), the middle class is often coupled with notions of ‘upper class’ and ‘working class’ in a three-class schema. The middle class is a class of people who are in the middle of a social hierarchy in between the upper class and lower class, people with ordinary daily jobs that pays much more than the poverty line. The “middle class” is said to be the class below the ruling class and above the proletariat in the Marxist social schema. In modern developed country, Marxist writers define the middle class as primarily comprising owners of small to medium-sized businesses, as well as the highly educated professional class such as doctors, engineers, architects, lawyers, university professors, salaried middle-management of capitalist of all sizes, as the “middle class” which stands between the ruling capitalist “owners of the means of production” and the working class.

1.7.2.3 The Lower Class

Lower class (occasionally described as working class), are those employed in low-paying wage jobs with very little economic security. The term of low class also refers to the persons with low income. Bourdieu noted (in Hoover & Kim, 2016) that the upper and lower classes, and the manufacturing and working classes, are clearly distinct because they are “situated at extreme ends of distributions,” such distinctions become “evidently less effective in the intermediate zones.” There are considerable differences within the working class, however, and a useful distinction exists between skilled, semiskilled, and unskilled workers that broadly correspond to differences in income level. What characterizes the working class as a whole is a lack of property and dependence on wages. Associated with this condition are relatively low living standards, restricted access to higher education, and exclusion to a large extent, from the spheres important decision making.

1.7.3 Conflicts of Social Classes

Max Weber was a German philosopher and sociologist, lived in 1864-1920. Max Weber is claimed to be one of the important persons in establishing sociology and state administration in the modern era. The concept of rationality and the discourse of religious sociology are the most dominant terms in various writings of his work (Adnan, 2021).

Weber states that social class can cause conflict because there are inequalities in wealth, power, and status distribution. In a society, based on a social class, individuals or groups with higher wealth, power, and status have more significant advantage over those in the lower social classes. Higher social groups can use their power and economic resources to maintain their position, resulting in conflict with lower social groups who feel dissatisfied with their position in an unequal social class system. Therefore, social and economic inequality of the social class system can lead to inter-class conflict in society.

Regarding conflict, Weber stated that when power, domination, and discipline are violated or misused by someone who creates false legitimacy, resistance that gives rise to conflict arises. As Morton Deutsch stated, conflict is a struggle for power over differences: different information or beliefs, different interests, desires or values, and different abilities in obtaining need resources. Weber views that social class conflict occurs because of society's unfair distribution of power, wealth, and status. Lower social classes tend to feel excluded and don't have equal access to resources, meanwhile higher social classes tend to have more access (Mujiono, 2023).

1.7.4 The Concept of Character and Characterization

Character is the most significant component of the intrinsic element in literary works. According to Kenney (1966), a character is a fictional figure who contributes to the plot. It is evident that a character matters to us. The main character and supporting characters are the two categories of characters. The primary character, who draws the audience's attention to himself, dominates the literary work. Although they don't appear as frequently as the lead character, supporting characters are what the audience has been waiting for because they typically get in the way of the main character. Three categories are used to classify characters: protagonist, antagonist, and tritagonist.

According to Aminuddin (in Amidong, 2018), A character is an actor who carries out the events in the story. Meanwhile, characterization is the way the author presents the characters in the story and how these characters are. This means that there are two important things, the first is closely related, the appearance and depiction of the character must support the character's character. Naturally, if the depiction of the character is not in harmony with his character or even does not support the character described, it will clearly reduce the weight of the story.

There are two types of characterization (Amidong, 2018), they are:

- a) Direct or descriptive/analytic. Where the author directly describes or mentions in detail how the character is, how physical characteristics, what they do, and so on.
- b) Indirectly/dramatically, where the author describes the character's nature and physical characteristics through the reactions of other characters to the central character, through descriptions of the environment around the central character, and can be revealed through conversations between characters in the story.

1.7.5 Sociology of Literature

According to Damono (1978), sociology is the objective and scientific study of humans in society; the study of social institutions and processes. Sociology tries to find out how society is possible, how it takes place, and how it remains. By studying social institutions and all economic, religious, political, and other issues –which constitute the social structure– we get the picture of the way which human beings adapt to their environment, about the mechanism of socialization, the process of acculturation that places members of society in their respective places.

Like sociology, literature deals with human in society; human's attempts to fit in and its attempts to change to society. In the terms of content, sociology and literature share the same problems. Thus in the novel, the main genre of literature in this industrial age, can be considered

as an attempt to recreate this social world: human's relationship with its family, its neighborhood, politics, the state, and so on. In a purely documentary sense, it is clear that the novel deals with social, economic, and political textures –which are also the matters of sociology (Damono, 1978: 7).

According to Wellek (1988), there are three main ways to approach the sociology of literature: the sociology of the author (what the literary work implies and its purpose); and the sociology of literature (reader response and the social influence of literature). The second concept of the literary sociology approach is applied in this research. Literary sociology is the sociological analysis of text while maintaining an awareness of the fundamental elements of literary works.

1.8 Conceptual Scheme

In order to clarify this research, the researcher makes the conceptual scheme to make it easier for readers to understand the topic of this research as follow:

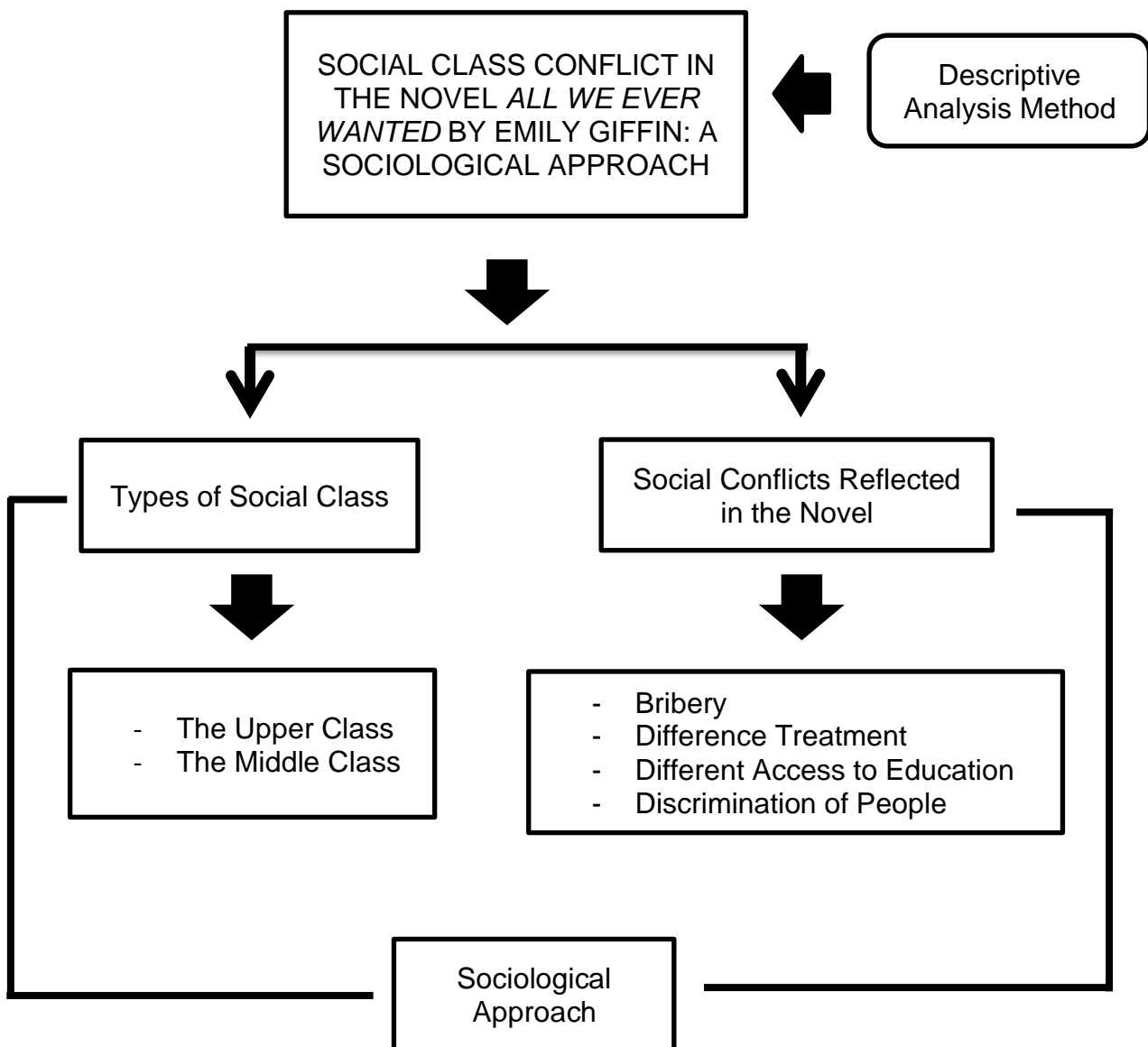


Figure 1: Conceptual Scheme of Classification of Social Class and Social Conflict in the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin.

Based on the conceptual scheme above, the researcher will analyze the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin. This research used qualitative method, and will focus on analyzing the conflicts of social classes which reflected in the novel. The researcher divided the object into two parts, those are: the types of social class, and the social conflicts reflected in the novel. Those objects would be explained by Sociological approach.

1.9 Method of Research

This research used the descriptive analysis method which would be explained as follows:

1.9.1 Descriptive Analysis Method

In this study, the descriptive analysis method of the data is in the form of description and notes from the source in the form of writing that can be used as a reference in relationship with the object to be studied. According to Kutha Ratna (2004: 53), "descriptive analysis method is aimed to describe the characteristic of current research and investigate the causes of particular phenomenon." Therefore, this research would be clearly explained by the descriptive analysis.

1.10 Data Resources

The researcher uses some data sources, as follows:

1.10.1 Primary Data

The primary data of this research is the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin, printed in the United States of America. There are thirty-one chapters which consist of 384 pages.

1.10.2 Secondary Data

The researcher also take references from various sources to complete this research besides the primary data, which was taken from books, journals, theses and internet media that related to the topic.

1.11 Technique of Collecting Data

The researcher has done three techniques of collecting data in this research. There are the three techniques as follows:

1.11.1 Reading Comprehension

Reading comprehension is used to understand the main concept of the novel *All We Ever Wanted* by Emily Giffin, which also allows the researcher to find the data than can be analyzed.

1.11.2 Library Research

The researcher uses the library research to collect primary and secondary data, using the data from the previous study in the form of bachelor's and master's theses, related reviews, and literary works, as well as references to make sure that arguments and data are supported properly.

1.11.3 Internet Research

The internet research is used to complete the library research in term of the limitation of the data in the library. The researcher collected data from online sources, including bachelor's and master's theses, related reviews, literary works, as well as references containing author information and expert definitions that were not available in library research.

1.12 Technique of Analyzing Data

The researcher uses four techniques to analyzing data. There are as follows:

1.12.1 Classification

The data collected from the novel is categorized by the researcher into various classifications, which including statements, dialogues, and other types of quotations that are significant and support the research problem.

1.12.2 Interpretation

The researcher continues with the interpretation process after the data has been classified. This method requires carefully and intently reading the story in order to arrive at a reasonable interpretation that is relevant to the problem at hand. This makes it possible for the writer to understand the main ideas and meaning of the story in order to successfully address the problem.

1.12.3 Explanation

The researcher categorized the data in order to provide an explanation for the chosen analysis. Initially, the researcher used the qualitative method, systematically progressing through each step. After that, data analysis techniques comprising classification, interpretation, explanation, and conclusion are used. Data gathering techniques used include reading comprehension, internet research, and library research.

1.1.1 Conclusion

After completing every phase of the data analysis process, the researcher came to the conclusion that pop culture had an impact on Lyla, a character in Emily Giffin's novel *All We Ever Wanted*.