

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Sociology of literature, in general terms, refers to the branch of sociology that studies the interaction between literature (literary works) and society or culture. It involves analyzing how literature influences and is influenced by social factors such as values, norms, social structure, and cultural change. Sociology of literature also examines how literature represents social reality and how it can serve as a reflection of social conditions at a given time.

One of the literary sociology theories that researchers use is the theory of Karl Marx. According to Marx, society is divided into two main classes: labourers (proletariat) and capital owners (bourgeoisie). Capital owners have control over the means of production and the economy, while labourers work for them and earn relatively low wages. Marx also stated that in a capitalist society, labourers become alienated or feel separated from the product of their labour, the production process, each other, and even from themselves. This is due to the economic domination and alienation produced by social relations called "commodification" under capitalism. In the novel, there is a division between two different groups of youth, namely the wealthy Socs and the underprivileged Greasers. This analogy can be seen as a reflection of the class structure in society, where the

Socs represent the bourgeoisie or capital owners who have economic power, while the Greasers represent the proletariat or labourers. Although not explicitly discussed in the novel, there are elements of exploitation and alienation that can be seen in the lives of the characters. Greasers often feel alienated from the wider society and the system that they perceive as unfair. They often feel marginalised and ignored by the richer society. The conflict between the Socs and the Greasers in the novel reflects the class conflict that occurs in Marxist theory. Both groups have tensions and confrontations rooted in economic and power inequalities.

The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis, a young Greaser who lives with his brothers, Sodapop and Darry, after the death of their parents in a car accident. Ponyboy feels alienated and struggles with his identity as a Greaser. Relations between Greasers and Socs become increasingly strained when Ponyboy meets Cherry Valance, a Soc, at the cinema. They begin to understand that not all members of their group have to be enemies of each other.

The conflict escalates when Ponyboy and his friend, Johnny, are attacked by a group of Socs. In the series of events that follow, Johnny kills a Soc in defence of Ponyboy, and they both have to go into hiding. They both eventually meet a loner named Dally, an older Greaser, who helps them hide out of town.

Under increasingly tense circumstances, Ponyboy and Johnny are caught in a fire in a building, and Johnny is seriously injured.

They manage to be rescued, but Johnny eventually dies from his injuries. Ponyboy is involved in a final confrontation with Socs in a deadly street fight. In the fight, Dally was seriously injured and eventually killed by the police. Ponyboy later recovers from his injuries and realises the importance of friendship, family and understanding that social stereotypes are not always accurate.

The novel highlights social conflict, teenage identity, and the importance of friendship. Although coloured by violence, the story also offers messages about empathy and understanding between people.

What is analysed from the novel "The Outsiders" is the impact of the social conflict between the 2 groups in the novel, namely the soch group and the greasers group and also how the social conflict between the 2 groups of teenagers occurs.

The sociology of literature approach allows researchers to read the symbolism in the text more deeply and interpret it in a broader social context. In "The Outsiders", the researcher will analyse symbols such as the division between Socs and Greasers, or the themes of alienation and friendship, and understand how they reflect social dynamics in society. Using a sociology of literature approach, we will analyse the social structure depicted in the novel and examine the conflicts arising from economic inequality and class differences. We will explore how these social structures influence the characters in the story and trigger conflicts between them.

1.2 Statements of Problem

Based on the above background, this research has two statements of problem :

1. How does the author present the social conflict that occurs in the two groups of teenagers in the novel "The Outsiders"?
2. What the impacts of the two groups of teenagers from the social conflict in the novel "The Outsiders"?

1.3 Scope of The Research

This research aims to analyze and document the complex dynamics between social conflict, friendship, and identity in the novel "The Outsiders" by S.E. Hinton. The main focus of the research is to explore how tensions between teenage groups, namely the Greasers and the Socs, affect the formation of friendships, as well as the development and search for identity of the main characters. The research will include an in-depth analysis of social interactions, value conflicts, and how friendship can be a catalyst or counterweight in teenagers' self-discovery amidst stressful environments and social inequalities. By approaching the work holistically, this research aims to provide a better understanding of how these elements interact with each other and influence the plot and character development in a broader context.

1.4 Objectives of The Research

Relating to the statement of problem mentioned above, the objective of this study are:

1. Identify the social conflicts depicted in the novel "The Outsiders" by S.E.Hinton.
2. To describe the impact of social conflict in the novel "The Outsiders" by S.E.Hinton.

1.5 Significances of The Research

Hopefully the results of this research are expected to provide benefits to readers, both theoretically and practically.

1.5.1 Theoretical Significances

This research can contribute to the theoretical understanding of literature and the social environment, especially in groups. This research can also enrich the literary analysis approach with sociological concepts, expanding literary study methods for a deeper understanding of the interaction between social environments.

1.5.2 Practical Significances

The researcher hopes that the results of this study can be useful reading material for reference for further researchers, especially in analyze novels and can contribute both directly and indirectly to readers so that they can benefit from this research. Researchers also hope that readers can better understand what social conflicts exist in the novel "The Outsiders".

1.6 Riview of Related Study

In supporting this research, researchers refer to several other studies related to this research. Some of the previous studies in question.

The first, from Nugraha Hery Setiawan (2020), "Questioning Morality Through Absurdity In S.E Hinton's The Outsiders". In this study, the researcher has two main objectives. They are; (1) to explain how morality is depicted in the novel and (2) to explain how morality is questioned through absurdity. This research is a qualitative analysis by applying Derrida's deconstruction theory. Data is collected by reading, identifying, and classifying excerpts from the novel and analyzed by interpreting the process of explaining binary oppositions which are then reversed (hierarchy).

The second, The research from Luthfiana Izzaturromah (2015), "Understanding Johnny Cade's Life In Hinton's The Outsiders". Then Alfred Alder's Individual Psychology is applied to understand the factors that influence Johnny's feelings of inferiority, his superiority goals and the way he strives for superiority. It was found that a neglected lifestyle with the bad influence of the family and the terror of the enemy were the factors affecting Johnny's feelings of inferiority, Dallas Winston was the role model of the goal of superiority, and the effort to protect society was the way Johnny struggled to achieve superiority.

The there, From AAyu Alimiah (2016), About Johnny Cade's Plot-Twist Character Development As Seen in S.E. Hinton's The Outsiders Novel. This research analyses the book of Susan Elois Hinton entitled The Outsiders. One of the main characters in the book, Johnny Cade, becomes the analysis object of this research. The objective of this research is firstly to analyze the characteristics or the traits Johnny possesses. Throughout the improvement and development of the plot, the chronological order of Johnnys characteristics changing will be found. This research employs Abrams objective theory.

The fourth, the research from Sandra Beals (2018), "Modeling Liberation : Audience, Ideology, and Critical Consciousness In S.E.Hinton's The Outsiders". Analysing the narrative structure of S. E. Hinton's novel The Outsiders reveals previously unexplored reasons for its continued popularity. Through the layering of three implied audiences - young people like the protagonist, the English teacher, and the novel's reader - Hinton constructs a 'space' beyond the conceptual boundaries of class ideology. In this way, the novel goes beyond social commentary to model the development of critical consciousness in ways that embody Paulo Freire's pedagogy of the oppressed, showing how class ideology works to limit members of the upper and lower classes and inviting readers to participate in the protagonist's liberation.

The last, from Z.Ying (2005), “ On the Romantic Color In Hinton’s New Realist Works”. In 1967, *The Outsiders*, a groundbreaking work in American young adult literature, celebrated its 30th anniversary of publication. Its author, S. E. Hinton, is considered a representative writer of the new realist young adult literature. In her new realist novels, we can find one important feature, which is the romantic colour shown in the following aspects. Firstly, her themes are the embodiment of her and young adults' pursuit of idealism. Secondly, he creates characters who are actually idealistic heroes. Thirdly, in style and structure, he uses interesting symbols and devices to add a romantic colour to his work.

The selection of these works as comparative material in this study, the researcher considers that there is a relationship between his research and this study, namely, the five studies above both use the same novel material, namely ‘*The Outsiders*’ by S.E. Hinton. Hinton, but there are differences from the five studies, namely in the first research from Nugraha Hery Setiawan (2020), using Derrida's Deconstruction theory, while researchers use Karl Marx's social conflict theory, another difference is in Luthfiana Izzaturromah's research (2015), using the Close Reading approach, while researchers use the Sociology of Literature approach, then another difference is in AAyu Alimiah (2016), focusing on analysing the characteristics or traits of Jhonny Cade's character, while the researcher focuses on analyzing the social conflict experienced by

the two teenage gangs, namely Greaser and Socs in the novel, then in Sandra Beals' research (2018), analysing the oppressed in a way that embodies the oppressed, and the last is in Z Ying's research (2005), analysing romantic colors in several aspects, namely idealistic themes, characters, idealistic heroes and interesting symbol structure styles in the novel "The Outsiders".

1.7 Theoretical Base

1.7.1 Literary Sociology

The reason the researcher use a literary sociological approach as an approach in this study is because this novel has a social criticism theme, which means evaluating and criticising various aspects of society including social inequality, justice, and public policy. Therefore, the sociological approach is very appropriate to use in this research.

Sociology is a social science whose object is society. Sociology is a science that stands alone because it has fulfilled all the elements of science. The elements of science from sociology are logical, objective, systematic, reliable, designed, accumulative, and empirical, theoretical, cumulative, non-ethical. Sociological is logical means that sociology is arranged in a reasonable manner, not contrary to the laws of logic as a pattern of thought to draw conclusions. Sociology is objective means that sociology is always based on facts and data that exist without any manipulation of the

data. Sociology is systematic means that sociology is arranged neatly, in accordance with scientific rules. Sociology is reliable means that sociology can be proven again, and for a controlled situation must produce the same results. Sociology is designed or planned means that sociology is designed in advance before carrying out investigative activities. Sociology is accumulative means that sociology is a science that will always increase and develop along with the development of human desires and desires to meet their needs. The discovery (conclusion, truth) then aborted the previous discovery. Sociology is empirical, meaning that sociology is based on observations of reality and common sense and the results are not speculative. Sociology is theoretical, meaning that sociology always tries to compile abstractions from the results of research. Sociology is cumulative, meaning that sociology is formed on the basis of existing theories in the sense of improving, expanding, and refining old theories. Sociology is non-ethnic, meaning that sociology is discussed and questioned is not bad good certain facts, but the goal is to explain the fact analytically. (Tjipto Subadi, 2009: 1-2)

From some of the definitions of sociology mentioned above, there are two things that are important in understanding sociology. First, society as a whole. Second, society as a network of social relationships. The task of sociology is to explore, analyze and understand the networks between these relationships. Application of sociological theory. The application of sociological theory in the

community environment is shown to be the relationship and mutual influence between social symptoms with non-social symptoms, such as geographical symptoms, biological and so on. And a common feature of all types of social symptoms. Roucek and Warren (free translation of Roucek and Werren, *Sociology an Introduction*, 1962: 3) that sociology is a science that studies the relationship between humans in groups.

1.7.1.1 Carl Marx's Conflict Theory

Karl Marx was the most important figure in 19th century socialist thought. He was a philosopher, social scientist, historian, and revolutionary activist. Although many academics did not pay attention to his work while he was alive, after his death in 1883, many socialist movements began to adopt his social, economic, and political theories.

Karl Heinrich Marx was born in Trier, Germany, near the Moselle river, into a well-established middle-class family. He continued his education at the University of Berlin with a focus on philosophy and law. There, he joined a student group known as the Hegelites, who were highly critical of the political and cultural elite of the time. After becoming a journalist, the German, French and Belgian governments eventually expelled him for his radical writings. Together with Friedrich Engels, Marx developed a theory of socialism that they considered to be the result of conflict within the capitalist

system, which was presented in the "Communist Manifesto" published in 1848. Afterward, he moved to London and settled there.

One of the most complex theories in sociology is the *Conflict Theory* of Marxism. Conflict theory (in contrast to consensus theory) states that society is built on conflicts of interest. According to Karl Marx, the founder of Marxism, this conflict is between the rich and the poor. He did not believe that the shape of society reflected the interests of an agreed community, but rather the power and privilege of a small group of wealthy people. In his early works, Marx focused on *humanist philosophy* and the potential of humans if they were freed from restrictions. The central idea in Marx's thought is that humans need to be freed from restrictions (similar to Jean-Jacques Rousseau's philosophy that "man in his natural state" is a "noble man"), not controlled "for their own good" as Durkheim put it. In other works, he emphasized the structure of society, economics, and politics.

Marx theorized that the work of producing consensus is done in the "superstructure" of society, which consists of social institutions, political structures, and culture, and what produces consensus is the "base," the economic relations of production. Marx reasoned that as socio-economic conditions worsened for the proletariat, they would develop a class consciousness that revealed their exploitation at the hands of the wealthy bourgeois class capitalists, and then they would

revolt, demanding changes to defuse the conflict (Dr. Priya Saroj, 2019).

In his work, Marx argued that society is full of conflict and will eventually lead to 'revolution'. His work appeared before Durkheim, and although he never referred to himself as a 'sociologist', his work is recognized as the foundation of the sociological perspective Marxis. Marxist theories can be found in various fields of science, such as politics, philosophy, economics, and also sociology. Unfortunately, Marx's name is often associated with the communist regimes known in the Soviet Union and China under Mao. However, as we will see later, these regimes did not always follow Marxist principles.

Marx was a humanist philosopher who believed in equality and freedom. The leaders of the Russian Revolution (such as Lenin and Trotsky) tried to implement his ideas, but global political and economic practices at the time made it very difficult to achieve this. The situation changed again under the dictatorship of Stalin, who manipulated the Soviet regime and ruled by force, including killing millions of people.

Social phenomena closer to the early ideals of Marxism include workers' strikes, trade unions, and access to comprehensive health and education. In contrast to the positivist ideal of Functionalism, Marx argued that a value-free (objective and scientific) social science

is impossible. He firmly stated that a person's views will always be influenced by differences in education related to culture and material conditions. For example, someone born in a palace will inevitably have different views compared to someone born in council land. Marx called this an 'ideology' (a set of ideas largely shaped by the material conditions of one's upbringing). He argued that instead of trying to be objective and neutral, a researcher should realize that their biased perceptions will always influence their work. (Damian E M Milton, 2024).

Marxism is an ideology that follows the views of Karl Marx. Karl Marx was a Prussian philosopher, political economist, and theorist of society. Although Marx wrote about many things during his lifetime, he is best known for his analysis of history, especially class conflict. He stated that the history of various societies to date is essentially the history of class conflict, as written in the opening sentence of the "Communist Manifesto". The ideology of Marxism emerged from the creative thinking of Karl Marx, who became the bridge to the theory of dialectical materialism. Marxism was Marx's form of protest against capitalism, as he believed that accumulated wealth was detrimental to the proletariat or workers.

According to Karl Marx, society is divided into classes. These classes consist of the bourgeoisie, who are the owners of land and the means of production, and the proletariat, who are the workers.

The bourgeoisie is the small group that owns the wealth, while the proletariat is the large group that works for them. Wood (2004)

Notes that Marx explained the characteristics of each class in many of his works. For example, the bourgeoisie own factories and machinery because of the large investments they make. Landowners get their main income from land rent. Meanwhile, the proletariat offer their labor in exchange for wages that are used to meet their basic needs. Investments made by the bourgeoisie gave them a lot of profits. Marx saw the structure of society based on two main classes and focused on the struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie as driving social change through revolutionary movements. In the Marxist view, class is determined by how much wealth and power a person has (Wood, 2004). This power is used to exclude other classes from ownership and positions of power. The bourgeoisie use their power for personal gain and accumulate more wealth at the expense of the proletariat. These two classes have different interests, so there is often conflict between them (Wood, 2004).

For example, the bourgeoisie tried to maintain their investment in industry by maximizing profits and minimizing costs, which led them to employ proletarians at low wages. On the other hand, proletarians try to organize themselves to fight for better wages and better working conditions, and against the oppression of their employers in industry. They fought together to overthrow the

bourgeoisie and control industry (Wood, 2004). It is this conflict between classes that characterizes society according to Marx, who envisioned society as built on constant conflict. The conflict between owners and workers is at the core of Marx's thought. He questioned how in a rich society there were still so many people living in poverty. At the core of Marx's thinking is social conflict, the struggle between groups in society for limited resources. Marx's main focus was class conflict, which arises from the way society produces material goods.

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Marx believed that this was unavoidable, and could actually guide research, as he believed that societies were inherently unequal (due to the wealth gap between rich and poor) and therefore research into society was political.

'Philosophy only interprets the world in various ways, the point is to change it!' - Karl Marx.

The following are some of Karl Marx's concepts regarding the definition of social class:

1. Division of Labour

Marx argued that in every historical era or 'age', there is a different 'mode of production'. Mode of production refers to the way a society organises the production process as a whole. Marx argued that human societies have moved from one to another throughout history, due to conflicts and struggles between groups that lead to revolutions and new forms of society. It is said that Marx saw two main classes (e.g. the Upper Class) in early capitalist society in a sense this is true as we will see. However, the biggest inequality in early capitalist society identified by Marx was the ownership and non-ownership of the means of production (the means used to produce products, e.g. equipment, factories, land, etc.) and this created two 'major' classes in the early capitalist mode of production.(Damian E M Milton,2014).

2. Social Class

Marx coined the term social class, and described it as the relationship one has with the means of production. The 'bourgeoisie' owned the means of production. This gives them enormous power over the rest of society, as they have the power to hire and fire workers. The petty bourgeoisie are small business owners, such as shopkeepers and the like, who must sell their labour to capitalist

owners for wages in order to survive. This means they are dependent on the bourgeoisie, who exploit their 'surplus value'. Marx coined the term

This surplus value is then taken as profit by the owners of capital. This situation between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat creates a contradictory tension in the 'dialectical relationship' between the two groups. Hence, this contradiction inherent in the 'economic infrastructure' is played out as a struggle between classes in the cultural sphere - strikes, trade unions, etc

3. Dialectics

For dialectical thinkers, social influences never simply flow in one direction as they do for causal thinkers. For the dialectical thinker, one factor may have an effect on another, but it is just as likely that the latter will have a simultaneous effect on the former. Marx went further and tried to embed this logic in man's relationship with the environment or the 'material' world. There are a number of repercussions of this which will be discussed further as we go through his concepts

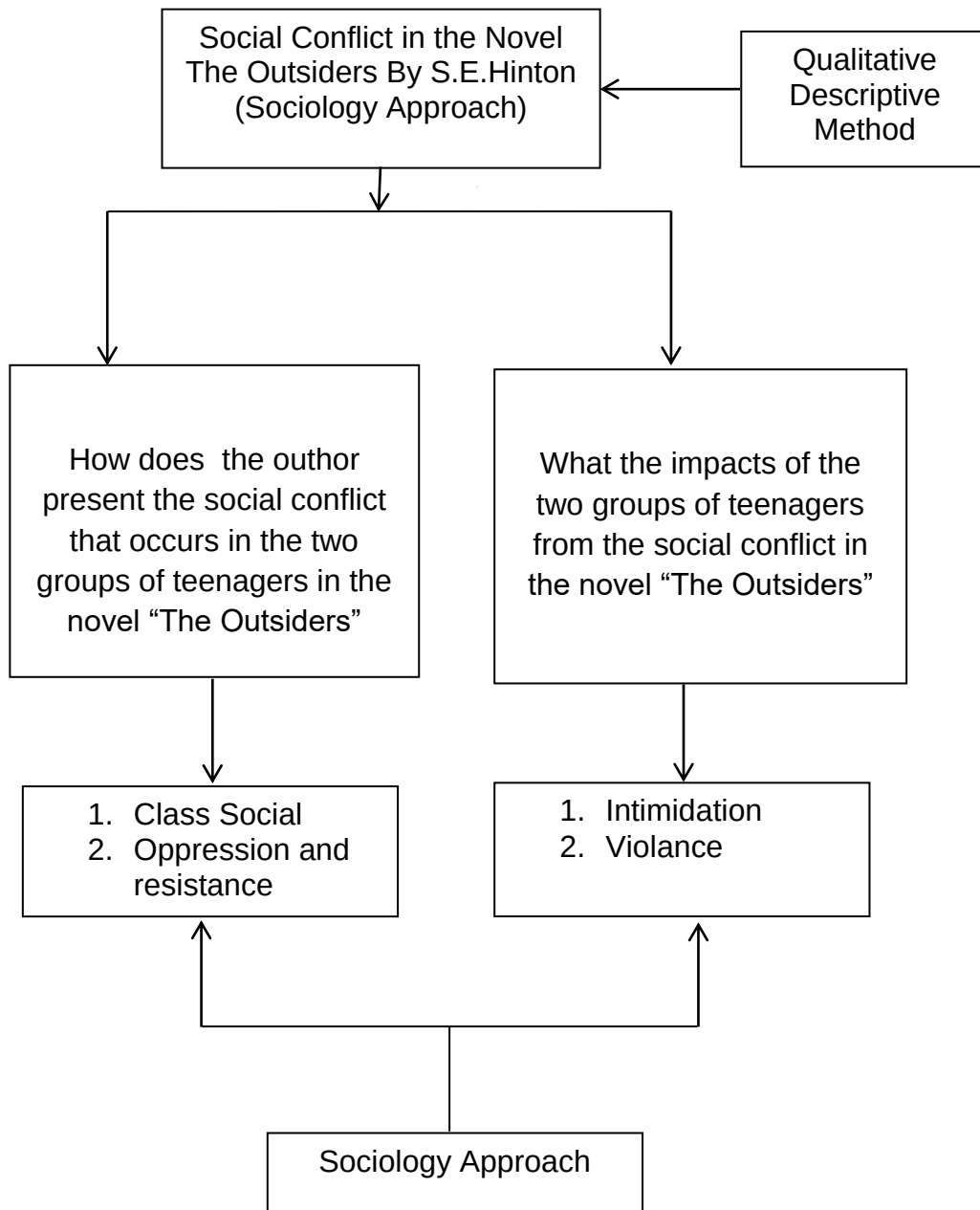
4. Dialectical or historical - materialism

Changes to the economic base (infrastructure) will eventually lead to major transformations in the entire superstructure. When studying these changes, it is important to distinguish between material changes in the conditions of economic production, which

can be measured with the precision of natural science, and ideological forms such as law, politics, religion, art, or philosophy-in short, the way humans realise and deal with the conflict. Just as we do not judge a person by his view of himself, we cannot judge a period of change by the consciousness that exists at the time. Rather, that consciousness must be explained from the contradictions in material life.

1.8 Conceptual Scheme

In conceptual scheme, the researcher placed the conceptual scheme of the proposal. The purpose of conceptual scheme is so clarified the aim, scope and limits of the research.



1.9 Method of Research

1.9.1 Qualitative Descriptive Method

The descriptive method is done by describing the facts followed by analysis. This method not only describes but also provides understanding and explanation. Researchers use descriptive analysis method because it is in accordance with the purpose of this research. This method is a method used to obtain in-depth data by looking for meaningful and significant data that can have an impact in a study. In other words, this method can simply be interpreted by directly focusing on the problem under study, then the results of the research are processed and analyzed to obtain conclusions.

1.9.2 Data Sources

In the research, the researcher uses two types of data sources, which are primary data and secondary data

1.9.2.1 Primary Data

Primary data or main data is the novel "The Outsiders" by S.E.Hinton. There are several works by S.E.Hinton that describe Growth and the Search for Identity, but the researcher chose this novel.

1.9.2.2 Secondary Data

The literature method, which is commonly used in literature studies, is employed by the researcher in this study.

This method involves collecting data from various sources, such as books, articles, journals, and theses. The researcher obtains these sources from libraries, and internet media that related to the topik of the study.

1.9.3 Techniques of Collecting Data

The researcher first read the novel 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton to understand the storyline and then looked for data relevant to the topic. Then the researcher collected supporting data from the novel itself, as well from internet sources. Then filtered the data according to its relationship to the analysis, because not all data is relevant to the topic. Finally, selecting data specifically related to the social conflict depicted in the novel 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton.

1.9.3.1 Library Research

The researcher conducted library research to obtain information and data related to the specific subject of this research, namely social conflict in the novel. The researcher spent time in the library to collect books that support the analysis of this research.

1.9.3.2 Reading Comprehension

The researcher tries to understand the entire content of the novel by reading, understanding, and interpreting the text in depth. The researcher pays attention to aspects such as themes,

motifs, symbols, characters, conflicts related to the research problem. The researcher also noted interesting, important, or meaningful things from the novel 'The Outsiders'.

1.9.3.3 Internet Research

In analysing the chosen novel, namely the novel 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton. The researcher also used the internet to find several journals and articles related to this research as a reference source.

1.9.4 Techniques of Analyzing Data

1.9.4.1 Classification

The researcher sorted out the data that included the main data in accordance with the problem statement, namely about social conflict and its causes for the teenage members Gersers and Soch in the novel 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton.

1.9.4.2 Interpretation

In this section, the researcher interprets each statement in the novel 'The Outsiders' by S.E.Hinton with several concepts from experts and the concept of social conflict.

1.9.4.3 Explanation

The researcher sorts the data to provide a clear and selected analysis explanation. The researcher uses methods and techniques and the method is the descriptive analysis method to analyze this research.

1.9.4.4 Conclusion

Conclusion drawing is the last procedure of analyzing data of the research. There are two kinds of conclusion. Those are temporary conclusion which is made in the beginning of the research and final conclusion which is made in the last of research. The temporary conclusion was analyzed continuously and then verified to bring it to the final conclusion.

1.10 Systematic Writing.

First, in chapter one, the researcher introduces the Background, Problem Formulation, Scope of Research, Research Objectives, Significance of Research, Literature Review, Theoretical Foundation, Conceptual Scheme, Research Methods, Data Sources, Data Collection Techniques, Data Analysis Techniques, and the last is Systematic Writing.

Then, in chapter two is the Author's Background. The researcher describes the author of *The Outsiders*, based on his experience as a volunteer and research subject, literary career and about the novel 'The Outsiders' as supporting information for the analysis of this novel.

Third, chapter three is about data and analysis. In this chapter the researcher discusses the research that the researcher has found the problem. This research has two statements, therefore, the researcher only consists of two parts. First, What cases are social

conflicts and What are the impacts of social conflicts between two groups of teenagers.

Fourth, in chapter four, contains conclusions and suggestions. In this chapter, researchers provide conclusions and suggestions according to the final results of the study.

At the end, researchers attach data and references that help researchers in completing this thesis in the form of a Bibliography and Synopsis of the novel 'The Outsiders'.