

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Marxism is an understanding outlined by Karl Marx's view of the existence of economic systems, social systems, and political systems. Karl Marx is one of the most influential people in the history of mankind because of its longitudinal influence from the end of World War II to the present. Its influence was not only the end of World War II but also during the Cold War, allegedly his name was always mentioned by many people from the middle class throughout the world. In the Marxist theory of Karl Marx, there is a theory called a class theory. According to Marx, in class, there are three main aspects, namely objective factors or conditions of social and material structure, subjective factors or a condition in which organizations are created with class awareness, and relational reproduction between classes or classes that are used as a set of social relations and are always produced by various generation. In a class theory usually has a classification of the social class that refers to a hierarchical difference between an individual or a group in a society or culture. However, making community groupings is not only based on class but also based on gender, race, nationality, occupation, and so on. Classification based on race usually arises with social practices by capitalism which focuses on a physical difference in humans or what often happens is the

difference in skin color that is often assumed by people that a high and low social value comes from physical differences.

Actually, In this world, there are classifications of such social classes that make individuals or groups feel alien to each other. For example in racial differences, black people are included in the community group of white people who do not rule out the possibility that black people will feel alienated. In classification, there are two types of social classes, namely the upper classes and lower classes, as well as according to Marx, the classification of social classes are divided into two types; the first is the upper class or often referred to as the bourgeoisie, which is defined as a social class that has the means of production in capitalist society. Marxism views this group as emerging from classes of rich people in urban areas in the pre-(before) and early capitalist societies. Meanwhile, the lower class or the proletarian class is the second class of society after the capitalist class who lives off its salary. Many people see the proletariat as a class restricted to a lower class society. Their work cannot be separated from room workers, farmers, anglers, or people who struggle with manual labor to get wages.

In society itself, there are many impacts of classification and which makes the writer very interested in learning more about Marxism, especially theories about class, for example in cases of classification of the social class that are often found in the writer's area, namely the existence of arbitrary action on workers carried out by the boss in

power/bourgeoisie. Examples of these cases occur in almost all regions, the reason being that class classification in marxism has not disappeared from the lives of the people. In addition, the lower classes will not dare to oppose the policies made by the upper class because they (lower class) need jobs and wages to support their families. Suppose the lower class dares to oppose the upper class, the impact of the problem will go into legal channels. Even though the lower classes tell the truth, the upper classes may not be subject to sanctions because the upper classes can bribe workers who take care of the problem. Classification of the social class does not always have a negative impact on society, there are also positive impacts such as providing motivation to the lower classes to work hard so that they are able to move from the lower classes to the upper classes.

Classification of social classes in Marxism itself in addition to happening in the real world was also applied in a film work such as *The Hunger Games* (2012) and literary works such as novels, drama, and short stories. *The Hunger Games* (2012) is a sequel film adapted from a series of books written by Suzanne Collins. *The Hunger Games* genre is teen fiction with a romantic point of view followed by a typical teenage rebellion with some fighting action in the story. However, one characteristic that is only owned by the film *The Hunger Games* and not owned by similar films is social commentary whose content is about a segmentation of society based on income. In the story depicted from stratification of the social class in the real world. The division of classes can be interpreted with

wealth that is evident in the difference between the bourgeois class and the lower classes around it.

While examples of literary works that apply social class classifications in short stories is *A Rose for Emily*. *A Rose for Emily* is a short story written by William Faulkner and was first published on 30 April 1930 in the edition of *The Forum*. This short story takes place in the fictional city that Faulkner created, Jefferson, Mississippi, in the southern part of Yoknapatawpha. *A Rose for Emily* is the first short story from Faulkner published in a national magazine. The short story will be analyzed by the author using the theory of sociology, namely Marxism, especially the theory of Karl Marx.

The story was began with the funeral of town recluse and eccentric, Emily Grierson. The town was viewing her funeral as an obligation and a bit of chore. From there, the story was told in an anon-linear fashion based on the narrator's memories of Emily's increasingly unpredictable behavior. Emily's family was once Southern aristocracy, and after the Civil War, they fell on hard times. Although the war was over, Emily and her father continued to live as they did before, and her father refused to allow her to marry. When he died and left her alone at age 30, she was shocked and devastated. When she refused to bury him, the citizen wrote it off as an eccentric grieving process. Emily recovered eventually, and she became friendly with a man named Homer Barron, a Northerner who came to town shortly after her father's death. The citizen were pleased but surprised.

However, Homer claimed that he was not the marrying kind and intended to stay a bachelor forever. When Emily was seen buying arsenic from the local store, the citizen were convinced that Homer's declaration had driven her to suicide.

The town was arranged for Emily's distant cousins to come into town to watch over her, and Homer leaved. After a brief return to town three days later, he disappeared and was never seen again. Despite all these events, Emily continued with her haughty, eccentric ways as if nothing had happened. The town was soon plagued by a ghastly smell coming from Emily's house, but as always, they dealt with the problem in around about way. Late at night, men sprinkled lime around her house, and the smell soon dissipated. The mayor decided to waive Emily's taxes under the pretense of paying back her father after his death, and Emily was left alone in her house.

Years later, with a new generation of leaders in office, Emily insisted on the same arrangement. At this point, the town had begun to think of her as a "hereditary obligation" and they politely tolerate her erratic behavior. Emily funeral at the end of the short story was a large affair. Many came only to gawk at the legendary local recluse. After the funeral, speculation about the state of her house was high, and a few citizen decided to explore what was left. They found her bedroom locked, and they kicked down the door to found inside every gift Emily ever bought for Homer. On the bed

was the badly decomposed body of Homer Barron with an indentation in the pillow beside him and a single gray hair.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

In this part, the writer knows the problems of the short story *A Rose for Emily* by William Faulkner's :

1. What are the classification of social classes reflected in William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily*?
2. What is the cause of classification of social classes in William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily*?
3. What are the effects of classification of social classes in William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Conducting the research, the writer formulates the objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To find out the classification of social classes reflected in William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily*
2. To analyze the cause of classification of social classes in William Faulner's *A Rose for Emily*
3. To analyze the effects of classification of social classes in William Faulner's *A Rose for Emily*

1.4 Scope of the Study

Referring to the statement of the problems, the scope of the study in this research is not going to be broad. The writer only wants to analyze the reflected, the causes, and the effects of the classification of social class according to Karl Marx theory in the short story William Faulkner's *A Rose for Emily*. The writer chooses this short story for her research because she believed that she can analyze about the classification of social class and using the theory from Karl Marx. The writer also uses this theory because marxism is a theory that is understood, and she wants to try to analyze the short story using this theory.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The benefits expected from the research are:

1. The result of this study is expected to be able to give information and increase of knowledge to the reader. this is also as a reference for other writer who wants to conduct further research, especially in the literary studies on the short story *A Rose for Emily*.
2. The writer wants to enrich her knowledge and experience about writing research of literature and for other writers, hopefully have interests in the study of literature in short stories by using the Marxist approach.

1.6 Approach to the Study

This study uses a sociological approach in literature to answer the statement of the problems. The first is, what are classification of social classes reflected in the short story, and the second is, what is the cause of classification of social classes in the short story, and the last is, what are the effects of classification of social classes in the short story. The writer will use a social class concept approach in Marxist theory especially in Karl Marx's theory. So, the writer wants to understand the meaning of Marxism and Karl Marx's theory of social class for me to use in my research. The meaning of marxism itself is an economic and social system based upon the political and economic theories of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. Karl Marx believed in capitalism, there is the alienation of humans from themselves. According to him, personal and market wealth does not give value and meaning to all that they feel that alienates people, humans from themselves. With this, the classification of social classes arises. Social class or social group itself refers to hierarchical differences between human beings or groups of people in society or culture.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

The writer organizes this paper into five chapters and it is to make it easy to understand.

Chapter one explains about the introduction; that consists of the background to the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study,

scope of the study, significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the paper.

Chapter two, there are explanation about the author's biography and synopsis of *A Rose for Emily* short story.

Chapter three consists of theoretical framework which the writer will explain and discuss the previous study the writer took, literature definition, short story definition, the character definition, the plot definition, the conflict definition, the Marxism theory by Karl Marx, and the social class theory by Karl Marx.

Chapter four is about the analysis or the discussion which the writer will explain and discuss the Marxism theory by Karl Marx and the social class theory by Karl Marx.

Chapter five contains the conclusion and suggestion, the writer will explain the whole chapter and summaries it and also concludes it by solving the entire problems related to chapter one until chapter four. So the writer hopes by using this organization of the paper, the final project can be more manageable and clearly organized.