

SOCIAL CONFLICT IN KEVIN KWAN'S CRAZY RICH ASIANS

(2013)



A Research Paper (S-1)

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of
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By

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2023

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PAGE OF MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“If you are having a hard time, remember, ‘هذا سيمر’ *All this will surely pass*. The difficulties you are facing will surely pass. You can get through it.”

- Iqoh

Dedicate to

Siti Rofiqoh

My beloved husband

My beloved parents

My honorable lectures

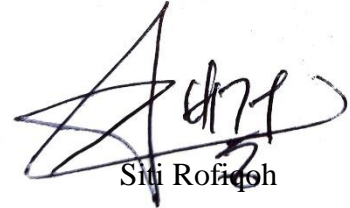
All my friends

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this Final Project is completely my original work and that it has never been applied for another degree. In accordance with academic writing conventions, all ideas, findings, and works of others quoted here have been properly recognized and accredited.

Semarang, 11 July 2023

The Researcher



Siti Rofiqoh

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This research is far from being perfect. The researcher requires feedbacks and suggestions in order to better in the future. Finally, the researcher hopes that this research will be useful to readers, particularly students in the English Literature Department.

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Siti Rofiqoh

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ABSTRAK

Rofiqoh, Siti. 2023. "Social Conflict in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asians (2013). Sebuah Skripsi, Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Program Sarjana di Universitas Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang. Pembimbing: Yulistiyanti, S.S., M. Hum.

Kata kunci: konflik sosial, menulis penerbitan, marxisme, kelas sosial ekonomi.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menemukan penyebab, tindakan, dan dampak dari social konflik yang di hadapi pemeran utama, Rachel Chu, dalam novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menggambarkan social konflik di dalam novel. Teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah teori Marxisme dari Karl Marx, kelas social ekonomi.kelas social ekonomi terbagi menjadi tiga; kelas atas, kelas menengah, dan kelas bawah. Pembagian kelas ini menyebabkan konflik. Peneliti menemukan bahwa penyebab konflik adalah latar belakang Rachel, stereotip, nama keluarga, dan kecemburuan. Tindakan konflik social yang tercermin dalam novel *Crazy Rich Asians* adalah konflik internal dan konflik eksternal. Dampak dari konflik social dalam novel ini adalah mengabaikan orang-orang yang menentang Rachel dan mengikuti logika dengan memutuskan hubungan dengan Nick karena hubungan mereka tidak sehat jika mereka tidak dalam kelas yang sama, Rachel akan ditindas oleh anggota keluarga lainnya.

ABSTRACT

Rofiqoh, Siti. 2023. “ *Social Conflict in Kevin Kwan’s Crazy Rich Asians (2013)*”. A Thesis, Program Study of English Literature, Degree program in Universitas Stikubank (UNISBANK) Semarang. Supervisor: Yulistiyanti, S.S., M.Hum.

Keywords: social conflict, publishing writing, Marxism, socioeconomic class

This research aims to find causes, actions, and impacts of social conflict faced by the main character, Rachel Chu, in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. This research used is a descriptive qualitative method to describe the social conflict in the novel. The Theory used in this research is Marxism Theory by Karl Marx on socioeconomic class. Socioeconomic class is divided into three classes; upper-class, middle-class, and lower-class. This class division causes conflict. This research found that the causes of the social conflict are Rachel’s background, stereotype, surname, and jealousy. The Actions of social conflict reflected in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* are internal conflict and external conflict. The impacts of social conflict in this novel are ignoring people who against Rachel and following logic by breaking up with Nick because the relationship is not healthy if they do not have the same principle in one class, Rachel will get oppress by other family members.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Humans are social beings, this means they cannot live alone which require human to be in society. Humans are capable to fulfill their needs, but the capabilities that every human have are limited (Pranata, 2017). Therefore, humans will always establish and maintain social relationships to assist and relieve one another to fulfill their needs in life.

Life in society is not always smooth, sometimes we have to deal with conflict, including conflict with both individuals and groups. Social conflict is a squabble, dispute, conflict is based on differences in social relations (Oktavia, 2021). Social conflict occurs in a real-world where humans pursue their own interests (Cuppen, 2018). This is a social phenomenon that exists in every society and will be presented in social life. The social conflict that Karl Marx emphasizes is that different people and groups (social classes) have access to different amounts of material and non-material resources in society (the rich vs the poor), and that the more powerful groups frequently use their influence to subjugate the weaker groups (Bressler, 2011).

Based on the explanation above, social conflict can be reflected in the real life of society, this conflict occurs between individual and social group classes at different levels. For example, social conflict in real life is the demonstration of employees demanding to increase minimum wage to the government and

factory owners in DKI Jakarta on November, 24th 2022 because they feel that the salary they get is not adequate to cover their necessities. With the 2023 Jakarta's minimum wage increase of 5.6% or IDR 4.9 million, the labor party and labor union organizations strongly criticized the decision of the Acting Governor of Jakarta which was considered incentive to the live of employees (Hanif I, 2022).

Social conflict also can be reflected in literary works such as novel, for example *The Note Book*, *The Best of Me*, and *Crazy Rich Asians*. The social conflict that the author focuses on is social conflict between the upper, the middle, and the lower classes. The researcher tends to pay attention to social conflict in difference classes those are the upper class and the middle class. The upper class, which can be identified by their level of wealth, influence over particular societal segments, high earning, level of education, and stability in their personal and familial lives while the economy of middle class has average education and income thus they have to save money for future planning (Tyson, 2006)

Social conflict is one of the themes that often raised in the novel. Lots of novels are made to provide an overview of the conflicts that often occur in society. In writing it, the author inserts the message he wants to convey in the novel. It is intended that the community can respond to conflicts that often occur in social life.

Crazy Rich Asians (2013) is a novel that raises issue of social conflict and social class. This novel is based on true story that tells about the author's life,

Kevin Kwan when he was young. He explained that today's social conflicts between the poor and the rich is very intense. Time magazine categorized Kevin Kwan, the author as one of the most influential writers (MJ Jose, 2018). *Crazy Rich Asians* (2013) is the first book in a trilogy of novels released in 2013, the other two novels are *China Rich Girl Friend* (2015), and *Rich People Problems* (2017). The novel tells of a couple of Chinese and Singaporean descent and work in New York, United States. The main characters are Nick Young and Rachel Chu. Initially, Rachel thought that Nick was an ordinary man who migrated to New York to work. But Rachel did not think of their trip when they were going to attend his best friend's wedding, Rachel does not know that Nick is the son of the rich people in Asia. Nick's family is different from Rachel Chu's family who was far away from the capitalist faction. Rachel is a professor of economics at a campus in America while Nick is in America to broaden his knowledge of the business world.

Rachel and her mother started from zero to raise her family, she worked hard so little by little she rose and became a professor to raise her family status. However, Rachel's condition was considered different by Nick's mother, who knew that Rachel was different from Nick and against their relationship, they had to end their relationship.

The description of the reality of social conflict against the characters told by the author, made the researcher take the initiative to analyze the novel more deeply.

1.2. Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, this research focuses on social conflicts in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* that can be formulated as follows:

- a. What are the causes of social conflicts in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel?
- b. How are the actions of social conflicts in *Crazy Rich Asian* novel realized?
- c. What are the impacts of social conflicts in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel?

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research are as follows:

- a. Analyzing the causes of social conflicts in the novel *Crazy Rich Asians* novel
- b. Revealing the social conflicts that occur in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel
- c. Finding out the impacts of social conflicts in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel.

1.4. Scope of the Study

Based on the problems that have been stated above, the researcher needs to determine the problem boundaries. The problem in this research focuses on determining causes, actions, and impacts of social conflicts experienced by the main character in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel.

1.5. Significance of the study

This research is expected to provide benefits, both theoretical and practical benefits.

1. Theoretical Benefits

The results of this research are expected to add to the body of knowledge, especially in the study of analysis of novel so that they can be useful for the development of English Literary studies.

2. Practical Benefits

a. For Education

It is hoped that this research will provide teachers with an overview of social conflict in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* to be used as a guide for learning literature that is interesting, creative and innovative.

b. For readers

This research is expected to be able to add insight and understanding of literary works in analyzing novels to readers, especially English Literature Department students.

c. For other researches

This research is expected to be used as a reference and comparison material for further research with similar problems.

1.6. Approach of the Study

The researcher will focus this study on the forms of social conflicts between the poor and the rich in *Crazy Rich Asians* novel written by Kevin

Kwan by using Marxism Theory, socioeconomic class. According to Marx, there are three social economy classes; The upper class, the middle class and the lower class. The upper class is those who control the economy and human resources. The middle class has better economy life style and stabile. The lower class, the majority of the people who live in inadequate conditions and who have always worked for the upper class, then give upper class get richer and richer (Tyson, 2006). When the proletariat realizes that they are only being used and discriminated by the bourgeoisie, conflict occurs and leads to social change The proletariat will fight for justice to bring life without social classes division.

The method that the researcher uses in this research is a qualitative approach. It means the researcher will analyze then phenomenon of social conflicts. This research does not need to use numeric data.

The procedures the researcher does are to read the novel to understand the story, then to identify sentences to paragraphs that show social conflict, after that, the researcher will analyze it using Karl Marx's socioeconomic classes.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

The writing systematics in this research will be divided into five chapters with the following details:

CHAPTER I Introduction, this chapter contains: background of the study, statement of the problems, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach of the study, and organization of the paper.

CHAPTER II Contains the synopsis *Crazy Rich Asians* novel and the biography of Kevin Kwan.

CHAPTER III Contains of reviews of related literature; previous studies, literature, novel, intrinsic elements, Marxism, socioeconomic class, and social conflict.

CHAPTER IV Contains of finding and discussions.

CHAPTER V Contains of conclusion and suggestion.