

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Problem

Generally, Jews are community that are always isolated, persecuted, and despised by people in the world. Then Jews are also regarded as poor community that live depends on other people, or people called them as 'sporadic' community. The social status-class of Jews in the society is always put in the lower class. Therefore, in keeping the life longer Jews have to work hard for surviving the life in the hard environment, in which people regard them as isolated people. Still, recently Jews have succeeded to be a great people. They have great power in claiming the world. They have also power in controlling business in some countries.

The struggle of life that is done by Jews reveals good result for their community. After gaining their success, Jews rise up their social status-class in the society and they also have opportunity to get cooperation with other countries. They use this chance as a good way to get success in the world, so that they can live in peace without despising insult from people in the world anymore.

Perceiving this case, the researcher finds out a novel that contains the storyline of Jews that is despised by their environment. Interestingly, the researcher sees that the novel was written by an American Jew. In its novel, the researcher finds out a great struggle of life that is done by a poor Jew that reveals social conflict in the story.

Thus, in this paper the researcher is interested to analyze **the struggle of life of the main character** in the novel of Bernard Malamud, entitled *The Fixer*.

1.2. Statement of Problem

Yakov is a Russian Jewish from minority class who wants to be a rich man. Then in making his dream come true he gets out from his Jewish community. However, in the ninetieth century, before World War I, Russian Jews were faced trouble of *anti-Semitism* so that they are forbidden to make interaction or relation with Russian enterprise, or major class. In order to limit and specify the problems, the research questions of this study are:

1. What factors make Yakov has to struggle in the forbidden town in Russia?
2. What efforts does Yakov do in struggling his life in *Anti-Semitism* period before World War I in Russia?
3. What are the moral values in *The Fixer* related to Realism and Experimentation Period?

1.3. Purpose and Significance

Related to the research questions above, this paper is proposed to know:

1. to know the factors make Yakov has to struggle in the forbidden town in Russia.
2. to know the efforts of Yakov in struggling his life in *Anti-Semitism* period before World War I in Russia.
3. to investigate moral values in *The Fixer* related to Realism and Experimentation Period.

Meanwhile, the significance of this research is to enrich, in this university, the practices of literary critique and criticism to a more elaborate and subtle, which ever learned in the class. Besides, this present research shall give some informative historical inputs for readers about the Jew's history in the ninetieth century in Russia. Then this present research shall give some informative inputs to those who want to carry out further the research in the same field.

1.4. Conceptual Framework

In comprehending main idea of a literary work is not difficult if reader knows well the storyline of its story. It leads reader in reaching the message of the literary work. Then, in fiction main idea of the literary work is usually called *theme*, in which it is the main point of a story. A theme is usually stated in general terms. In many stories, theme is the center, the moving force, the principle of unity (Kennedy, 1983:103-105). Moreover, comprehending the theme smartly is important in perceiving the meaning of the work which is written by the writer. Therefore, if reader can comprehend the theme of the literary work well, it will be easier to know what the message of the text wants to convey.

Message of a story is related to theme that is served through characters in the novel. In a story, character is an important element in conveying a message of the writer to the reader. Abrams (1985:23-24) states:

“Characters are the persons presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with moral, dispositional, and emotional qualities that are expressed in what they say-the dialogue-and by what they do-the action. The grounds in the characters’ temperament, desires, and moral nature for their speech and actions are called **motivation**. A character may remain essentially

“stable,” or unchanged in outlook and disposition. Whether a character remains stable or changes, the reader of a traditional and realistic work expects “consistency”-the character should not suddenly break off and act in a way not plausibly grounded in his or her temperament”

The writer may use a character for purposes other than characterization. A character may do ‘uncharacteristic’ things in order to enlarge the plot: for the writer a character may be associated with actions or objects for a purpose connected with the theme of the novel; a character may say things just so that the reader can be informed something. Characterization is creative image about characters which try to show *realitiness* to reader, so that the story is not felt so imaginative. Actually character is built through a combination of mind, impression, and acts, together with willingness shapes principals.

Then, usually the writer takes common theme which occurs around us. Sometimes, the writer gets inspiration from some life phenomenon in the society which is mixed by *fictitious*. The idea of literary which is taken from the real life as an allusion reveals a history or true story beyond it, although it is covered by fiction.

Literature is a product of society which is reflecting reality that occurs in the society in a certain age. Eagleton (1976:49) states

“In its cruder formulations, the idea that literature ‘reflects’ reality is clearly inadequate. It suggests a passive, mechanistic relationship between literature and society, as though the work, like a mirror or photographic plate, merely inertly registered what was happening ‘out there’”.

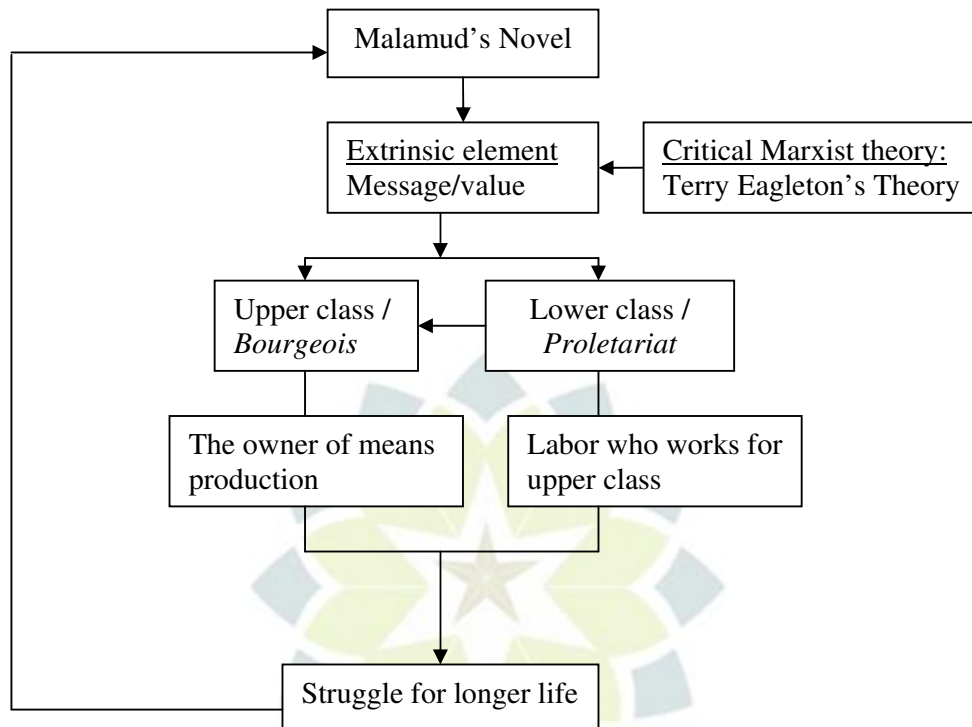
Literature is influenced by social condition around its surrounding such as by politic, economy, religion, education, social relation, and many more; therefore, sometimes literature seems historical work. In social relation, for

example, occasionally the writer distinguishes two social classes in the society; they are lower class and upper class. Or Marx called these classes as *bourgeois* and *proletariat* (in Suseno, 2003:121).

Proletariat is the labor who works for the upper class [or bourgeois]. Meanwhile, bourgeois is the owner of the land and means of production. Hence, the relation between upper class and lower class is absorber and exploited. Upper class lives from absorbing of labor's power, and labor, indeed, is men who the power is absorbed by the production owner. Eagleton (1976:6) states "Men are not free to choose their social relations; they are constrained into them by material necessity-by the nature and stage of development of their mode of economic production".

Moreover, in capitalist production system, upper class and lower class are against each other. Upper class is the strong class who has great power, while lower class is the weak class. Upper class gives many bound rules for the labors, and labors are forced to obedient whatever the rules of the capitalist applying. Therefore, in production relation, the authority is the owner and the suppressed is the labor. Based on Marx's analysis bourgeois or upper class openly uses egoistic business in reaching their private profit as the highest value (in Francis Magnis-Suseno, 2003:164).

Narration above can be framed such this conceptual framework below:



Picture 1. Conceptual Framework

1.6 Procedure of Research

1.6.1 Research Method

This research is qualitative research which uses descriptive method. The descriptive research involves a collection of techniques used to specify, delineate, or describe naturally occurring phenomenon without experimental manipulation. According to Davis (1995:23) “descriptive method is a way of describing what is observed through literary study, and hence this is the most appropriate method to be applied on literary text”. Therefore in analyzing this research, the researcher tries to describe the struggle of life data which is found in the literary text of Bernard Malamud's *The Fixer*.

1.6.2 Data

Data for this research are conversations of characters and narrations of the writer which those data are taken from its novel, entitled *The Fixer*.

1.6.3 Data Resource

Data resource for this research is taken from the novel itself that is *The Fixer*, which was written by Bernard Malamud. It was published in 1966 in USA.

1.6.4 Technique of Collecting Data

In collecting data, Bagdan and Taylor (1975:82-85, in Moleong, 2004:282) suggested: "reading the text smartly; making code, arranging based on the typology, and reading some books related to the research problem". In applying those steps; the researcher reads the novel first, entitled *The Fixer*; makes some codes based on the particular data that will be used in the research; arranges typology by means of collecting and classifying them into some categories related to the survival of life data; and the last reads some books related to the research problem.

1.6.5 Step of Analysis

In analyzing data, the whole data are analyzed and those data are put into classification related to the theme that is available in the novel. Moleong (1999:103) states that "in analyzing data it needs identifying, classifying,

interpreting data, and finding conclusion". Based on those steps it can be applied such as below:

1. Identifying every dialogue or conversations of the characters and narration of the writer in Bernard Malamud's *The Fixer* related to the struggle of life problem.
2. Classifying the struggle of life data which is related to the grand theme. The classification is focused to the conversations of characters and narrations of the writer.
3. Interpreting the data particularly in Marxism theory as stated in the conceptual framework.
4. Finding conclusion based on the result of research.

Classification of Terms

Base : the economic structure of society. It functions to legitimate the power of the social class which owns the means of economic production.

Ideology : it functions to legitimate the power of the ruling class in society.

Marxism : Political and economic theory of Karl Marx, on which Communism is based

Marxist : a term for an ideology of Marxism.

Superstructure : it consists of certain 'definite forms of social consciousness' (political, religious, ethical, aesthetic, and so on)

Survival of life : thing that has to do to fight violent in the wild or forbidden area in gaining a freedom by needing great efforts.

The researcher : a person who writes this research paper.

The writer : a person or novelist who writes the novel of *The Fixer*.

