

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This research is divided by some matters that deal with research including the background about the topic representation of social inequality in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*. Following these topic, there are some previous study related with the topic and novel. This research consist of five point, there are research background, statement of problem, research objective, research significant and definition of key term.

### 1.1 Research Background

Literature is reflection of life. It is because literature is exist in every part in our life. Literature is the one of way we can experience life that we cannot imagine before with reading some book or watching movie. With literature, our mind are left to imagine freely. Literature also become a medium for author to convey their ideas. Because when we create some literature is personal human expression of thought, experience and imagination. Literature is a combination of reality and imagination. World in literature is imitation (mimesis) of events that occur in everyday life.

Literature is also product of literary written work especially as an occupation. It is supported by Nurholis (2016: 8) "Literature is the work of human creation that illustrates the social turmoil in people's lives by using language media as a means of expression and interpreting the caste work itself." Literature has a value because we considered that literature it is a value writing. According to Marx (in Rivkin and Ryan, 2004: 644) said that "...literature reflects unproblematically the values and ideal of the class in dominance." As the times develop, the literature will also develop. Literature will always be an experience of a writer, whether from his personal experience or because the writer observes the circumstances of his

surroundings. The more develop technology, the more interesting the literature created by the writer.

A literature work certainly tells the social problems that the author want to convey. This problems hopefully become a social critics for society to be more sensitive to the problems around them.

Literature divided into three, there are prose, poetry and drama. Prose itself divided into short story, novel, essay, natural science, philosophy, history and law.

Novel is a long fictional prose narrative. Novel categorized as prose because it does not have the characteristic of poetry. Novel usually has a complex story than short story with many characters in its content. Watt said in Goodyer (2008: 17) that the first novels rejected the traditional practices and universal plots of other literary form (i.e. mythology, legend, history, etc.) instead, the clung to the truth of the individual (personal/private) experience, which is always unique and therefore new.

Novel is a reflection of the social reality that occur in society. Stories in novels are contained about problems of man with man, man with their environment and man with their creator as a literary work, novel contain the value of beauty that can cause pleasure, be touched, curious, attract sympathy, and provide a soul experience to the reader.

Novel is always be the most fiction that people choose to read. It is because novel has many genres and has many interesting things. Although novel is in the form of books and usually hundreds of pages, novel is still an option when we are free and need entertainment. We can read novel whenever and wherever we want.

One of the most interesting novel is *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins. *The Hunger Games* is dystopian novel. Which is dystopian is genre of speculative fiction that explore social and political structure. Dystopian fiction is the opposite: the portrayal of a setting that completely disagrees with the author's ethos. Which is ethos itself refers to any element of an argument that is meant to appeal to an

audience's responsibilities. Whilst, ethos in literature is an argument based on the ethics or credibility of the person making the argument.

*The Hunger Games* published in 2008 by American Writer Suzanne Collins. It is written in the voice of 16-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives in the future, post-apocalyptic nation of Panem in North America. The Capitol, a highly advanced metropolis, exercises political control over the rest of the nation. *The Hunger Games* is an annual even in which one boy and one girl aged 12-18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the capitol are selected by lottery to compete in televised Battle Royal to the death.

Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* is representation of our real life now and the future. Many good values can we get by read this novel. Researcher found many interesting thing that can be analyze from this novel. Start from the character of Katniss, we can analyze about characterization, feminism, and bravery of the main character, women voice and many more. But, the most interesting thing that researcher catch is about social inequality.

Social inequality refers to relational processes in society that have the effect of limiting or harming a group's social status, social class, and social circle. It is occurs when the resources in society definite distribute uneven. According to Karl Marx social inequality is a differences of social class based on ownership of production equipment. This is in line with the opinions of Barner (2014: 1), he said that "Social inequality stems from an ever-present set of beliefs created by the political elites in order to maintain their own power and control over the poor and powerless. Political elites and wealthy members of society initially crafted social inequality in order to maintain their own power and wealth, while simultaneously creating social structures that eliminated the possibility of upward mobility for lower classes." From these explanation, we can know that social inequality exist because the power of upper class to control the lower class. Upper class can do anything according to their will. This is what makes a difference between upper class and lower class. Because the lower class does not have power, so their movement is limited.

Besides the things mentioned above, there are other things that cause social inequality such as religion, kinship, gender, sexual orientation, prestige, race, ethnicity, and age. Areas of social inequality include access to right, freedom of speech and assembly, uneven wealth, poverty, human rights, the extent of property right and access to education, health care, quality housing, traveling, transportation, vacationing and other social goods and services. Social inequality related to economic inequality and is usually described based in the distribution of income or wealth that is not evenly distributed. Broadly speaking, social inequality is a social problem due to imbalances in society's lives. The things mentioned above are certainly deviations that occur in society with limitation and violation in various aspects. Social inequality can affect society. Impact that can affect the community such as poverty, crime, social conflict, social irregularities, unemployment and competition. These affect also influence the character from Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.

As a literature, Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* also implies many social problems. In Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*, social inequality are represented. After read the novel, researcher found that social inequality become very prominent and described very detailed trough the figure, characterization and a story. Katniss as the main character described the plot very detailed. How the condition of herself as a 16-year-old girl had to endure difficulties alone. She also had to support her sister and mother after her father dead. The depiction of Katniss who has survive for life is interesting thing in this novel. She also described the condition of the district 12 where she lived. A slum with a lot of people having difficulties in their lives too. While, The Capitol as the center of Panem, there, everyone lives in vain. Squandering money, food, and everything as if it were a necessity. The two things that are so contradictory. Two things are opposite. As Rivkin and Ryan (2004: 645) said that "But literature also displays signs of contradictions (between Classes, between ideology and realities) that threaten society from within and are put on display in literature."

There are some previous researches to this topic. The first research is titled *The Characterization of Bourgeois and Proletarian: A Marxist Study on George Orwell's novel The Road to Wigan and Nineteen Eighty-four* by Nurholis from State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, in 2003. In his thesis, he talk about characterization of bourgeois and proletariat. Theory that used in this thesis are from Terry Eagleton that combine with Marxist literary criticism. The object of this thesis is two novel from George Orwell *The Road To Wigan* and *Nineteen Eighty-four*. The characterization of bourgeois and proletariat describes how their working conditions is. The similarity with researcher research is about the using of Marxist literary criticism and talking about social class, but the theory is different with researcher.

The second, the research is titled *Media Violence and Power in Suzanne Collins's Hunger Games Trilogy: On The Hunger Games and the media in American Society* by Daniel Johansson, from Goteborgs Universitet, published in 2013. This research have the same object with the researcher, *The Hunger Games*. In this essay, the topic discusses is The Hunger Games trilogy. The novel lift several topics such as media spectacles, totalitarian government and class differences. The aim is to investigate violence, reality television and media power in The Hunger games trilogy. The essay shows that the books criticize the excessive use of violence on television in America and raise awareness of the power that the media can have. The similarities found in this essay with research researcher are the object discussed, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins. The distinguishing thing is that this thesis deals with all three Collins works.

The third, is undergraduated thesis from Silmi Nursinsani was made in 2016, the titled is "*Revoution In Class Struggle in the Trilogy Novels Suzanne Collins The Hunger Games*". This thesis talking about social class conflict between upper class and lower class. This thesis have the same object and topic with the researcher. The thing discussed in this thesis is almost the same as the discussion of researcher, namely discussing the struggle of the lower classes in the revolution.

The working class is nothing but the lower class fighting for their right towards the upper class

The fourth, is under graduated thesis by Lilis Rohaeni was made in 2017, the titled is "*Inner Conflict of Katniss Everdeen in Suzanne Collins's The Hunger Games*". This thesis is discussing about behavioral and psychological problems that affect the character. This thesis has the same object with researcher. Although, this thesis has the same study object as the researcher, the discussion in this thesis is different. In this thesis, discussed the inner conflict experience by the main character in the novel, Katniss Everdeen.

The fifth, the research in form an article. The titled is *Base and Superstructure in Suzanne Collins Hunger Games* by Muhammad Kiki Wardana and Wan Anayati from Faculty of Language and Communication, Harapan Medan University, published in 2008. In their article discusses *The Hunger Games* using the theory of Karl Marx which explains base and superstructure. It is said that Marx criticism in literature has been widely used to define the basis of human questions, social justice. Dystopian novel such as *The Hunger Games* highlight this idea very clearly. The social injustice triggers a grassroots ideology is not seen to change through rebellion, this is harmony with Marxist ideology about simple thought. The similarity of this article with research researcher is the object *The Hunger Games*. In this article they also discuss a little about the social inequality with the theory of Karl Marx base and superstructure.

The Sixth, the research in form of undergraduate thesis from student of English Literature Student in State Islamic University Sunan Gunung djati Bandung made in 2007 by Helmi Permana with title "*Social Conflict in William Faulkner Absalom-Absalom!*" Theme of this undergraduate thesis is talk about social conflict and the content of this thesis is focused on it. Which is this thesis has in common with research conducted by researcher. Although using different interpretation and different object, the things discussed remain the same, it is about social inequality in literary work.



The Seventh, the form of this research is thesis from Evi Komariah, Student of English Literature in State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bndung. The title is “*Struggle of Social Class in Jane Austin Novel’s Pride and Prejudice.*” This thesis discussed the people of Victorian Era who were very concerned with the throne, money and dignity. They will not accept things are inappropriate for them. Here it can be said that economic problems are carried out and become an important topic. Thus, this research has the same topics and theories as the research of researcher did, only the object are different.

The Eighth, is undergraduate thesis form Student of English Literature in State Islamic University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung made in 2006 by Jatnika Alamsah, the title is “*Social Critique in George Orwell’s Keep the Aspidistra Flying*”. There are social problems formed with materialism as a phase of modern societies. In this thesis also tells that Orwell as an author describe society reflects a period of economic capitalism. That is meant this thesis using theory Marx.

Those previous studies are different from the researcher presentation. With analyzing this novel, the researcher will explain about the pattern of power cause social inequality, and find social inequality are exist in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games* and also to know how can social revolution influence based on inside the characters on The Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*.

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Based on the research background of problem above, the problem of this research is about representation of social inequality in Suzanne Collins’ *The Hunger Games*. The problem of the research can be formulated into the three research question as follow:

1. How does the pattern of power cause the social inequality of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*?
2. What kinds of social inequality are found in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*?

3. How is the struggle of the main characters as proletarian to fight social inequality in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

The objectives of this research are:

1. To find out does the pattern of power cause social inequality of Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.
2. To find out what kinds of social inequality are found in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.
3. To find out the struggle of the main characters to fight social inequality in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games*.

### **1.4 Research Significance**

The researcher expects that this research can give much new knowledge to increase the understanding about the representation of social inequality in Suzanne Collins' *The Hunger Games* which this undergraduate thesis will explain how does the pattern of power cause social inequality and what kinds of social inequality are found and the struggle of the main characters to fight social inequality in *The Hunger Games*.

Researcher expects to helping the other researcher to analyze how the representation of social inequality in prose, poem, novel and drama. And also knowing how the pattern of power causes social inequality in prose, poem, novel or drama. The researcher expects, this research has far-reaching to help the researcher to analyze literature.

This research will add reference analyst about literature to student English Literature Faculty of Adab and Humaniora, Islamic State University Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung.



## 1.5 Definition of Key term

There are some key terms that should be understood related to the research in order to avoid and misunderstanding to the readers.

1. **Representation:** representation is to describe something that in our mind through language to communicate which people can understand. Representation also the use of signs that stand in for and take the place of something else. It is through representation that people organize the world and reality through the act of naming its elements.
2. **Social Inequality:** Social inequality refers to relational processes in society that have the effect of limiting or harming a group's social status, social class, and social circle. It occurs when the resources in society are distributed unevenly.
3. **Marxism:** Marxism is a way of thinking but it is not a system. Marxism is an analysis of the development of the world as it is, a method that must forge an intimate connection between practice and theory.
4. **Dystopian novel:** the term "dystopian" emerges from the word "utopian", broadly meaning perfect, or flawless adopted into common terminology from Thomas More's novel *Utopia* published around 1516, set in an imaginary town displaying a socio-political satire. A dystopian theme effectively deals with the binary of existence of free will and the oppression faced by the cruel government that will go to any lengths to hold power over everything that it has accumulated.

Dystopian novel mostly describes the story in which the setting of the story is unhumanistic or environmentally degraded as compared to the present environment. The novel's story setting is like that of earth, not a different world or planet but the situation is entirely different, mostly life-damaging. There is something utterly wrong with the way the world works.