

CLASS EXPLOITATION IN RON RASH'S *SERENA* NOVEL: A MARXIST CRITICISM

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ABSTRACT

This study examined *Serena* novel written by Ron Rash as the object of the research. The aimed of this research was to find out the portrayal of class distinction and labor exploitation in the novel. To achieve the purposes of the study, the research applied Marx's Social Class and Exploitation theory, and International Labor Organization or ILO's Indicators of Labor Exploitation. This research used descriptive qualitative research method and Marxist criticism to analyze the social issue of class exploitation reflected in the novel. The data in this research were words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs that indicated social class and exploitation. The result of this research showed two social classes, they were bourgeoisie and proletariat. Bourgeoisie referred to Serena, Pemberton, Buchanan and Wilkie who were owner of timber business, while proletariat were the workers whose life only depended on bourgeoisie for employment. Meanwhile, there were four forms of labor exploitation. First was excessive working hour, like worked eleven hours shift a day and only fifteen minutes break. Second was low salary, like cheap labor and inappropriate wages. Third was bad living condition, like limited and uncomfortable living condition, live in cheap and ragged wooden boxcar. And fourth was hazardous work, like no safety equipment, manual and dangerous tools, forced to work in moody ground and against extreme cold.

Keyword: Marxist criticism, Capitalism, Class distinction, Exploitation, Mode of production.

ABSTRAK

*Penelitian ini mengkaji novel *Serena* yang ditulis oleh Ron Rash sebagai objek penelitian. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan gambaran perbedaan kelas dan eksploitasi pekerja di dalam novel. Untuk memperoleh tujuan penelitian, penelitian ini menggunakan teori Kelas Sosial dan Eksploitasi oleh Karl Marx, dan teori Indikator Eksploitasi Pekerja oleh International Labor Organization (ILO). Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif deskriptif dan kritik*

Marxis untuk menganalisis isu sosial yaitu eksploitasi kelas di dalam novel. Data penelitian ini adalah kata, frasa, kalimat dan paragraf yang menunjukkan kelas sosial dan eksploitasi. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan dua kelas sosial, yaitu borjuis dan proletar. Borjuis adalah Serena, Pemberton, Buchanan dan Wilkie, yaitu pemilik dari bisnis kayu, sedangkan proletar adalah para pekerja yang hidupnya hanya bergantung pada pekerjaan yang diberikan oleh borjuis. Sementara itu, ada empat bentuk eksploitasi pekerja. Pertama adalah hari dan waktu kerja yang berlebihan, seperti bekerja dengan selama sebelas jam per hari dan limas belas menit istirahat. Kedua adalah gaji rendah, seperti pekerja murah dan gaji yang tidak sesuai. Ketiga adalah kondisi tempat tinggal yang buruk, seperti kondisi tempat tinggal yang terbatas dan tidak nyaman, ditempatkan di sebuah mobil kotak dari kayu yang murah dan compang-camping. Dan keempat adalah kerja yang penuh resiko, seperti tidak ada peralatan keamanan, alat kerja manual dan berbahaya, dipaksa untuk berkerja di lahan berlumpur dan melawan cuaca dingin yang ekstrim.

Kata kunci: Kritik Marxis, Kapitalis, Perbedaan kelas, Eksploitasi, Mode Produksi

A. INTRODUCTION

Generally in industrial activity, the factors of production are needed in producing goods and services. Eyiwere argues that the factors of production are nature, labor and capital (qtd. in Chigbo 162). Labor is an active resource which is one of the factors in the smoothness of a production process. The workers in their activity should be supported by good and humane forms of management work so that they can work well. However in reality, many employers exploit their workers.

Exploitation of one social class by another is seen in industrial capitalism. Capitalist society deals with economic contradiction that shapes class distinction and creates conflict among the classes. Isaac also argues that the relations between social classes are relations of power, where the capitalist class has power over the working class (123). Labor is not considered as equal partners, but an object for capitalist's interest. The economic and power contradiction between the social classes caused the labor exploitation, where capitalist treat the labor unfairly for their own benefit. Labor exploitation is happened because in capitalist society, the means of production are privately owned by a minority of the members of society who tend to employ these means in such a way to maximize the profit (Wood 47). In capitalist system, the capitalist search for higher profit. The private ownership confers power on capitalist and enables them to exploit their labor in order to get more profit and wealth.

The issues above also appear in literary works because literature is reflection of human life or the attitude of society. Wellek and Werren states that literature is mirror or expression of life. Literary work becomes a

document that represents the time and the social truth (99-100). By using literature, the author can tell the historical truth and represent the social condition in certain era. As the aims of this research, the researcher revealed the social class and the economic contradiction in the terms of production depicted in *Serena* novel using Marxist criticism.

Serena novel set in 1929s in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina during the Great Depression, massive industrialization and capitalism are also dominate America at that time. The story is about Serena and George Pemberton and their timber business. Serena and Mr. Pemberton is an evil couple. They do anything for profit in their lumber company. This novel illustrated the hellish conditions that workers endure, working six 11-hours shifts a week, unsafe working condition and no safety equipment.

Based on the illustration of the background above, the aims of this research are: (1) to describe the class distinction in capitalist society portrayed in *Serena* novel; and (2) to describe the labor exploitation under system of capitalism portrayed in *Serena* novel.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Character and Characterization

Character is the important element in a story because it drives the story. Character is a person in literary work who has identity which is made up through their appearance, conversation, action and name to represent a message (Gill 127). From the statements above, character is person or other creature as human being in narrative work who has identity and moral quality as expressed in their dialogue and action.

When talking about character, it also talks about characterization. Character refers to the people in the story, while characterization is the traits of the character. Gill explains characterization is the way a character is created in the story (127). It important in literature because it helps the reader to reveal what the characters are like. There are two features in characterization, those are telling and showing characterization. In *Telling characterization*, the narrator directly tells readers what the character is like. The information about the character conveys through the narrator's opinion, while in *showing characterization*, the reader needs to conclude and gather information throughout the novel in order to understand what the character is like (Gill 134). It means that the author indirectly shows the traits of character in various ways and make the reader interprets the traits of character itself. Gill further explains that there are some ways in which a character emerges in *showing characterization*. They are character's speech, think, the appearance, dress, the social standing, the name and action.

2. Marxist Criticism

Marxist criticism is a theory of analysis literature that examining economic, and social class issues. As Abrams explains, Marxist analyzes social groupings, relations and the ways of people thinking which largely determined

by the changing mode of material production (181). From the definition, Marxist criticism analysis and critique of the class-relations within society that shaped by the development of production system which is capitalism.

Historically, Marxism is a social, economic and politic theory based on the writings of German philosophers Karl Marx (1818–1883) and Friedrich Engels (1820–1895). Their work *The Communist Manifesto* in 1848, explain about the principle of communism and critics the capitalism, this crisis culminates in the proletarian revolution and eventually led to the understanding of capitalism replaced with communism, without social class and human based on common ownership (Dobie 85). From this view, initially Marxism was not designed as a method of literary analysis. Marxism is Marx's protest against capitalism to voice the struggle of working class.

The first major of Marxist critic is George Lukacs, a Hungarian critic. His thought known as reflectionism which is a text will reflect the society. The reflectionists practice Marxist criticism to discover how characters and their relationships reveal class conflict, the socioeconomic system, or the politics of a time and place (Dobie 85). Then Marxist provides a way of understanding and analysis literature and works to reveal inequitable economic relationship as the source of class conflict.

3. Social Class

In capitalist society, Marx describes a production system dominated by owners of means of production. Capitalism has a two structure consisting of **the bourgeoisie** or the capitalist who own and control the means of production, and **the proletariat** who are the workers controlled by the bourgeoisie and whose labor produces their wealth (Dobie 87). From the explanation, in Marxist theory, the formation of class division and class conflict arises in capitalist society because of contradictions and injustices in economic relationships.

That cotradiction in economic relation creates power relation among classes. Issac said the capital-labor relation is a relation of domination and subordination (83-84), as eexplained bellow:

a. Domination

The superordinate is the superior group that has greater access to the economic resources, wealth, prestige and power (Dowding 646). Bourgeoisie as superordinate class in society have domination in wealth and power. The capitalist/bourgeoisie are able to control the proletariat through two mechanisms. The first is direct control through the exercise of power, which means working class under the control of the capitalist and the product is the property of the capitalist (Isaac 126). The second is indirect control of people's minds through the imposes of ideology or ideas. According to Dobie, an ideology formed by the dominant class functions to legitimate their power in society. Then leads people to accept a system that is unfavorable for them without protest or questioning. To

make it seems logical things to be, they have developed a **false consciousness** (92).

b. Subordination

The group that being dominated and has limited access to the economic resources, prestige and power (Dowding 646). Subordination belongs to low position/class and being controlled by other. They are subordinate because they are poor and powerless. Isaac explains that proletariats depend their lives on wages given by the bourgeoisie. They do not have means of production, but their labor power to sell (Isaac126). This economic condition places them at subordinate position in society.

4. Theory of Value and Exploitation

Capitalism is unjust because it involves exploitation. Exploitation is unfair treatment toward someone or group of people in order to benefit from their work because of their inferior position (Dowding 232). In other work, exploitation happened when one class is benefitted and other is suffering. Capitalists earn profits not by buying cheap and selling expensive, but from work done by workers. According to Marx in Saad-Filho's *Anti-Capitalism: a Marist Introduction*, labor power (the worker's capacity to work) is made or seen as a commodity to get profit. The capitalist increase the hours of work where the laborers continue to work even though they have produced goods whose value is enough for capitalists to return the capital and pay salaries. In the rest of time, the workers are exploited. They produce the value for the capitalist. This is what Marx call **surplus value** (35).

Form the explanation above, the way capital exploit the worker are by manipulates the labor time and wage of the workers which are lengthen the working day and decrease wages. In this case, proletarian produces values greater than the wages they receive and the more values are taken by the capitalist.

5. Indicators of Labor Exploitation

There are some indicators of labor exploitation according to ILO (International Labor Organization). The ILO established the Special Action Program to Combat Forced Labor (SAPFL) in 2001. SAPFL spearheads ILO activities in against forced labor, including human trafficking. This program did the survey and collects the indicators from a wide group of expert (SAP-FL 4).

a. Bad Living Condition

Exploitation can include poor living conditions. This includes being denied freedom of choice for location or living conditions. Workers force to live in a poor condition, unhealthy, unsanitary, and isolated place.

b. Excessive Working Days or Hours

This includes being forced to work long hours and days and the concept of forced overtime. It also includes excessive workloads because excessive quotas of productivity. The ILO convention about working hour are The hours of work (industry) convention, 1919 (No. 1), which established the principle of 8 hours a day and 48 hours a week for the manufacturing sector, The hours of work (commissary and officer) convention, 1930 (No.30), which extended 48 hours a working week for commissary and officer, and The forty-hours week convention, 1935 (No. 47), which established new standard of 40 hour week (Lee, McCann and Messenger 2).

c. Hazardous Work

Hazardous work relates to working in dangerous conditions without protection, being forced to provide sexual services, work that is too difficult to undertake, work too difficult for a minor to undertake and hazardous working environment or very bad working environment such as extreme heat, extreme cold and non-safely facility.

d. Low or No Salary

No salary relates to cases in which individual is completely denied of his/her salary or receive payment in the form of goods/ in-kind payment. Low salary refers to cases where the individual receives less than the agreed salary or where he is paid less than the minimum wage.

e. No Access to Education

Exploitation can also include being denied to access education or opportunities of study. This exploitation usually happened to the children workers or school-age workers who do not allowed having education.

f. No Respect of Labor Laws

In this case, there is no social protection in terms of social insurance which provides compensation for injured and old age workers. It also includes cases where the individual was forced to work without a contract. There is no respect of labor laws that regulates and protects the worker's right. This condition gives effect to the conditions of the work, such as deception about the employer, deception about the payment, deception about the number of working hours, deception about the working conditions.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

This research used descriptive qualitative research as the method. Qualitative research is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis (Patton and Cochran 2). Regarding to

definition above, this research design was appropriate for this research because the researcher analyzed the social issue, which was class exploitation that contained in *Serena* novel. This research also used Marxist approach to analyze the novel. Marxist criticism searches out the depiction of inequities in social classes, an imbalance of goods and power among people, or manipulation of the worker by the bourgeoisie (Dobie 93). By using Marxist approach this research analyzed the class exploitation, which was the manipulation of worker by the bourgeoisie and also the form of imbalance in economic and power among classes in society.

1. Data and Data Sources

The data in this research are dialogue and the narration in the form of words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs from *Serena* Novel written by Ron Rash. The primary data source is *Serena* novel written by Ron Rash which published by Canongates Book in 2010. And the secondary data source are some references such as books, journals and article, undergraduate thesis or other internet sources.

2. Data Collection

The researcher did some steps in collecting the data. The first was the researcher read the *Serena* novel carefully to understand the meaning of the whole story. The second was to read some related references from books, journals, articles, and essays or other internet resources. The third was to take some important notes of words, phrases, sentences and paragraphs that contain information relating to the issue in this research, those were class distinction and labor exploitation.

3. Data Analysis

After collecting the data, the researcher did some step of data analysis. First, the data that had been collected from *Serena* novel were selected and classified based on the issue of class distinction and labor exploitation. Second, organized and presented the data based on the class distinction and forms of labor exploitation to make researcher easy in analyzing the data. After that the researcher analyzed the data using theory of Social Class by Karl Marx to discover class distinction, theory of Exploitation by Karl Marx and Indicators of Labor Exploitation by ILO (International Labor Organization) to discover labor exploitation in *Serena* novel. The researcher also used the theory of characterization by Gill to convey how the class distinction and the labor exploitation were portrayed by some characters. Third, drew the conclusion based on the result of analysis.

4. Triangulation

Based on four basic types of triangulation above, the researcher applied theory triangulation. In theory triangulation, the researcher used theory of exploitation by Karl Marx to explain the process and concept of exploitation

and indicator of labor exploitation by ILO (International Labor Organization) to identify forms of labor exploitation. The both theory useful in examine the validity of research finding that the research finding constitute the exploitation.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

1.1 Class Distinction Portrayed in the Novel

a. Bourgeoisie

The first social class that reflected in *Serena* novel was bourgeoisie. Bourgeoisie referred to the upper class, which owned the means of production (e.g. nature, tools, financial) and dominated the economy and proletariat. As the domination class, they had domination in wealth and power. In *Serena* novel can be found when the author describe about one of character named Serena in the following narration,

Pemberton knew other aspects of Serena's appearance helped foster Buchanan and Wilkie's obvious surprise—pants and boots instead of a dress and cloche hat, sun-bronzed skin that **belied Serena's social class**, lips and cheeks untinted by rouge, hair blonde and thick but cut short in a bob, distinctly feminine yet also austere (5).

Serena's class portrayed through the social standing of character, which meant character's social environment like family and economic status was illustrated. In the novel, Serena did not wear dress, cloche hat, rouge on her lips and cheeks like the other upper class women and it belied her social class. She was an upper class or bourgeoisie woman but it just belied by her appearance. In this case, Serena's class was mentioned so that the reader did not get confused about her origin. In same description, it mentioned that "Serena had been born in Colorado and lived there until sixteen, **child of a timber man** ... She'd come to east only after her parents death" (6). The author presented her family's economic status. She was a daughter of a man who owns a timber business. It showed that she was from rich family. Her wealth was from inheritance. Bourgeoisie in this novel were the timber barons.

b. Proletariat

The first social class that reflected in *Serena* novel was proletariat. Proletariat was the working class who was controlled or being dominated by bourgeoisie because their life depended on wages given by the bourgeoisie. Workers were in subordinate position in society because they were poor, powerless. This novel illustrated about the contrast of life of the two social classes, in making money or fulfilling their daily needs. When the bourgeoisie had means of production and labor to create their wealth, different with the proletariat who were only had their labor power,

Men seeking work came to the camp in a steady procession now, some camped out in the stumps and slash, **waiting for a maimed or killed**

worker to be brought from the woods in hopes of being his replacement (199).

The life of proletariat class depended on bourgeoisie class for employment. It was portrayed thought workers' action above "waiting for a maimed or killed worker to be bought from the woods in hopes of being his replacement", it showed the subordinate condition, they has limited access to the economic resources, that the working class survived only by work and depend on the salary that given by Pemberton. They came every day and waited for job. They hoped to replace other workers who were injured and killed. Even though they knew the work they were going to do would have the same risk as the worker that being replaced. This clearly illustrated the powerless of proletariat, where having a job with low pay and put in risk work was better than having no job. Pemberton and his partners saw them as mere commodities that could be easily replaced cheaply.

1.2 Labor Exploitation Portrayed in the Novel

a. Excessive Working Days or Hours

The employer benefited from the oppressive nature of capitalism, gained large amounts of wealth from their lumber company. During the great depression, a time when the American people endured incredible economic misery, many people out of work. The higher social classes greatly benefited, because worker produced their wealth from the work hard that the workers did. They exploited the worker by forcing them to work excessive hours a day or long time working. As can be seen in this data,

"Most of the loggers were still exhausted from last week's six eleven-hours shifts. Some were hung over and some were injured" (24).

It showed the workers exploitation that the workers had to long working hours. This exploitation was directly portrayed by the narrator's description about the condition of the worker. The illustration above "exhausted from last week's six eleven-hours shifts" showed the worker suffering. They had to do heavy work in long time that caused them to "exhaust" and even "injured" during the work. They did the manual labor, work eleventh hours shift a day for six day, while the standard working hour were seven or eight hours a day and forty or forty-eight hours working week. Eleven hours a day meant sixty-six hours working week with low wage. Worker was being commodity for them to make a profit. With long working hours, more production was produced. Low salaries and long working hours were way for capitalists to get surplus or more profit from worker.

b. Low Salary

In capitalism, bourgeoisie gained big profits by exploiting the workers and giving them low wages. It was represented in the novel when Serena and Pemberton went to see the condition of the lumber. They talked about the ins and outs of lumber company in everyday life, including the wage of the workers,

“And their pay,”

“**Two dollars a day** right now, but Buchanan wants to raise it to two-ten.”

“Why?”

“He claims we’ll lose good men to other camps,” Pemberton said as he pulled up in front of their house. “I Say these government land grabs mean a surplus of workers, especially if champion sells out.”

“What does Wilkie think?”

“Wilkie agrees with me,” Pemberton said. “**He says the one good thing about this stock market crash is chapter labor.**”

“I agree with you and Wilkie,” Serena Said (16).

The dialogue above showed the form of labor exploitation done by the employers toward their workers. The owners of capital gave low wages to their workers so that more money was spent on production. It was portrayed by the character’s speech. One of their partner, Buchanan wanted to raise the wage of the worker from “two dollar” to two-ten, Pemberton and other partner, Wilkie agree to not increase the wage and Pemberton said “cheap labor” was important. In other word workers with two dollars payment was cheap labor. Two dollar was low at that era so that it needed to be raised, especially they work overtime. It clearly exploitation, they work long time but their wages was not increasing or in other word their wages did not appropriate to their long working.

c. **Bad Living Condition**

It seemed clear that people who live in poor economic conditions were very vulnerable to various forms of exploitation. One of them was bad living condition, where the employer forced the worker to live in unworthy place. Workers did not have the ability or opportunity to determine where and how they lived. This also appeared when Serena used her power to control workers. Beside discuss about the worker’s salary, Serena and Pemberton also discussed about the rent of worker’s housing and its condition.

After Vaughn left, Serena stepped back into the bedroom window and peered out the string houses.

“**Does the worker have electricity?**”

“**Just in the dining hall.**”

“**It’s best that way,**” Serena said, Stepping back into the room’s center.

“Not just the money saved but for the men. **They will work harder if they live like Spartans.**”

“Money freed to buy more timber track,” Serena said. “If we’d wished our wealth spent otherwise we’d have stayed in Boson.” (17)

The dialogue above showed the form of labor exploitation, which was the employer let the worker live in bad condition. It was portrayed by the character’s speech, from what the Serena said. The employer let the worker live in lacking, that “the only room with electricity in the worker camp was the dining hall”, Serena argued “it was best that way, they would work harder if

they lived like Spartans”, the phrase “live like Spartans” meant a simple and no comfort living condition (“Spartan” 1386). He made the life of workers limited so that workers increasingly worked hard for their lives. It indicated how the bourgeoisie got their weight despite by providing the low salary to workers, but also by letting the worker live in uncomfortable living condition. Serena was a cunning bourgeoisie, she definitely got profits because workers hard work benefit them and money would save and money could be freed to buy more timber track.

d. Hazardous Work

Hazardous work related to working in dangerous conditions without protection, work that was too difficult to undertake and hazardous working environment or very bad working conditions. This form of exploitation was illustrated in the story, as data bellow that showed the hazardous work which were portrayed through the telling characterization where the narrator directly told or described the characters condition,

From October until May, snow and ice clung to the ridge. **Several men died when they slipped trying to avoid falling trees or limbs. Another tumbled off a cliff edge and one impaled himself on his own axe and still another was beheaded by a snapped cable. A cutting crew lost its way during a snowstorm in January and was found days later, their palms peeling off when searchers pride the axe handles from their frozen hands. Fingers and toes lost to frostbite were among the season’s lesser hazards** (101).

The men must work in all extreme weathers, as the data above that told about the hazardous working environment like extreme cold. The description of character’s condition above portrayed that the workers were forced to work in extreme weather. The harshness of the winter, as it was described above, caused many accidents. The ground full of snow which caused several men died when they slipped trying to avoid falling trees, fell from the edge of a cliff and lost in a snowstorm. Worked using dangerous tools, the worker should be alert but cold weather made them blank. One impales himself on his own axe and another was beheaded by a snapped cable. Frostbite got them lost finger and toes.

2. Discussion

Serena novel represented class distinctions between bourgeoisie and proletariat class. The bourgeoisie was indicated by the characters’ domination. The domination meant wealth and powerful. Bourgeoisie in this novel were timber barons or the owner of timber business. Their wealth was from the trees they cut and from proletariat work. They dressed in neat, clean and find clothes, also their expensive stuffs that showed their lifestyle. Bourgeoisie were powerful. They did not afraid of any consequences from what they did. They could pay a Sheriff and free form punishment after killing someone. They could control the proletariat’s condition, like wages and life. And controlled people

mind, made as if they provided jobs for people by bought people land and made them work with them but in fact, they exploited people and destroyed their home. After all trees had been cut, they could move to other place and rebuild their next business.

The proletariat was indicated from the characters subordination. The subordination meant poor and powerless. In the novel, people from working class depended their life on Bourgeoisie' employment so that they only wait for maimed and killed workers and hoped to replace them. The workers wore a manufacturing work wear called bib overall, used cheap but tough material like flannel shirt and pants and wore a logger boots called chippawah boots. Their clothes were also worn and old color. Proletariat did not have power to protect them self from exploitation, their reaction toward the social inequality was only silent, lament or accepting. When all the natural resources run out, workers lost their income.

In the novel, characters' social classes was portrayed through showing characterization, in which the characters' social class was indirectly showed through the character's speech, think, the appearance, dress, the social standing, and action. Character's name was not found in the novel because there was not the differentiation in the name calling between the two classes. There was not telling characterization found because the narrator did not mention the information about what social class was the characters belong to.

Further, the exploitation could be indicated when proletariat was suffering. The workers' suffering could be seen in some forms of exploitation, the first was the workers worked in long time, which was eleven hours shift a day and only break for fifth minutes that caused them exhausted and injured. The second was workers were paid in low wages. They were given two dollar a day, which was cheap labor at that time, the workers' wages were not appropriate to their long working and not enough for the workers and the family. The third was workers lived in few comforts and limited condition, their house lack of electricity, their houses were made of cheap wooden boxcar, the foundation used ragged locust poles, and the window was only a gouged hole in the wood. And the fourth exploitation was workers worked in hazardous condition. There was no safety equipment, work using manual and dangerous tools, forced to work in moody ground, against extreme cold, forced to log the trees that made them working in close to one another. Injured, maimed and killed as a logger were things that clearly described. They were drowned in splash ponds, impaled by their own axes, beheaded by snapped cables, frozen in snow storms, fell from ledges and crushed by machinery.

The researcher did not find the form of exploitation like no access to education. The story did not represent that the proletariat was being denied to the access of education or opportunities of study. This form of exploitation was usually experienced by the children workers. In *Serena* novel, there was not children worker. It was mentioned that the youngest member of the crew at nineteen (30).

The researcher also did not find the other exploitation, which was no respect of labor laws. This novel did not talk about employment contract or social insurance. In 1929, there was no legal labor law that regulated the labor right from government and labor movement was declined during the depression era. After the end of great depression, America came to New Deal era where the government started to initiate a series of labor laws. And in 1935 the federal government guaranteed the right of American workers to form and join independent labor unions, and bargain collectively for improved wages, benefits, and working conditions (Faragher 859).

Additionally, all the forms of exploitation were depicted in telling characterization so that the situation of the workers look realistic because the novel clearly described the conditions of the workers, what they did, under what conditions, what they experience, etc. And depicted in showing characterization, in which the exploitations were showed in bourgeoisie decision, order and control, which were depicted in their mind and speech.

In conclusion, the class distinction was matter to the exploitation issue in this research because the exploitation occurred due to contradiction in economic power. The novel described how the bourgeoisie which was a group of timber baron came to the North Carolina Mountain and with their wealth, they bought people's land and made people who were majority farmers, worked for them. They dominated the locals and used their power to exploit people and forest for their personal wealth. Proletariat only depended on bourgeoisie for employment. They did not have power to against or they lost their livelihood.

E. CONCLUSION

The researcher concluded that *Serena* novel represented two kinds of class distinctions. They were bourgeoisie as the owner and proletariat as labor or worker. The social class of each character could be indicated by their economic and power. The two social classes were portrayed by the character's speech, action, thought, dress and appearance, and social standing of character. The researcher discovered that the characters who belong to bourgeoisie were Pemberton and his wife, Serena, and also their partners Buchanan and Wilkie. The characters who belong to proletariat referred to the workers.

Moreover, in this research, the researcher revealed some form of workers exploitation in *Serena* novel based on ILO's Indicators of Labor Exploitation. From six indicators of labor exploitation, it proved that there were four indicators. They were excessive working days or hours, low or no salary, bad living conditions, and hazardous work. The exploitation portrayed in both telling and showing characterization. In telling, the conditions of the workers directly described through narrator's or other character's opinion and in showing, the employer's exploitative tests were depicted through their speech and thought.

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