

THE REFLECTION OF ECONOMIC POWER IN NATASHA SOLOMONS' *THE HOUSE AT TYNEFORD* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes economic power towards the main character in *The House at Tyneford* Novel, written by Natasha Solomons. This research applied Dobie's economic power and Gill's characterization theory. This research used a qualitative method and Marxist approach to present the class distinction in capitalist society. This research showed two indicators of class they were bourgeoisie and proletariat. Bourgeoisie referred to Rivers Family consists of Mr. Rivers and his son Christopher Rivers, Kit. They were the owner of Tyneford House and economically privileged. Rivers' family also has domination that controls all people who live in their houses. Meanwhile, the proletariat referred to Elise Landau, a Jewish character and also a servant in the Tyneford house whose life only depends on the employer. The proletariat were also subordination, they were powerless because they had no power to break the mode of production, and they were economically dominated.

Keywords: Economic Power, Beorgeoisie, Proletariat, Nazi occupation, Jewish.

ABSTRAK

Penelitian ini menganalisis kekuatan ekonomi melalui karakter-karakter utama di dalam novel *The House at Tyneford* yang di tulis oleh Natasha Solomons. Penelitian ini mengaplikasikan teori kekuatan ekonomi dari Dobie dan teori Karakterisasi dari Gill. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan pendekatan Marxis untuk menunjukkan perbedaan kelas didalam masyarakat kapitalis. Penelitian ini menunjukkan dua indikator kelas yaitu kaum borjuis dan proletar. Kaum borjuis di tandai oleh keluarga Rivers yang terdiri dari Pak Rivers dan anaknya Christopher Rivers, Kit. Mereka adalah pemilik rumah penginapan di Tyneford dan mereka secara ekonomi di istimewaakan. Keluarga Rivers juga mempunyai dominasi untuk mengontrol seluruh orang yang tinggal didalam rumahnya. Sedangkan, kaum proletar di tandai oleh karakter Elise Landau, seorang Yahudi dan juga pelayan didalam rumah Tyneford yang hidupnya bergantung kepada majikan. Kaum proletar menjadi subordinasi karena mereka tidak bisa merubah sistem dan mereka juga secara ekonomi terdominasi.

Kata Kunci: Kekuatan Ekonomi, Borjuis, Proletar, Kedudukan Nazi, Yahudi.

A. INTRODUCTION

In this research, the researchers put a Marxist criticism theory that means is a class struggle in society to make equality. Marxist criticism contains economic power that is one of the issues in that era. Economic power is the rule of the socioeconomics of society. It makes society divided into the bourgeoisie as the powerful and the proletariat as the powerless. The bourgeoisie is economically privileged, they get a glamorous life especially travel around the world, the glittering life of parties, a glamorous lifestyle, and have much

financial security. The proletariat especially for Jews during World War II, they have to hide to take a safe and lived under the control of the bourgeoisie, being homeless and had limited opportunity to improve many things, and get a different treatment. The bourgeoisie in the novel was the upper class in England.

Nazi occupation has memories in Natasha Solomons' work that takes a set in the 1930s during Nazi occupation and within hour German invasion of Austria was changing everything. Because of the invasion, many Jews cannot sell their work and migration to other countries such as America and England for safe. Not only that, they must leave their luxurious life and be forced to work as a maid.

The House at Tyneford novel itself was published in 2011. It illustrates the spring in the 1930s in Vienna, Austria. An Austrian-Jewish woman named Elise Rosa Landau, a 19 years old has forced to leave Austria during the Nazi occupation. Elise is the younger daughter of an artistic Jewish family from Vienna. Her father Julian worked as a novelist and her mom Anna is a singer. They lived in middle-class life. After the war in German, Jewish writers and artistic people could not sell their work and must leave Austria to take a safe. They also could not live freely and were always scared every time because their safety was threatened. Her life transformed from a middle-class life into a parlor maid in a manor house in England named Tyneford. Elise's parents have to move to America and her sister, Margot, and her husband to California. War was changing everything, especially for Tyneford when Germans began to bomb Britain and all people tried to survive the tragedy (Solomons 2011).

The novel is suitable for Marxist criticism because it describes the historical era during the Nazi occupation of German that takes a great effect on Jewish people. Marxist criticism analyses literature in terms of the historical conditions which produce it and is similar to being aware of its historical conditions (Eagleton xi). The analysis of the novel is interesting through ¹how is the reflection of economic power towards the main characters in *The House at Tyneford* novel. Based on the research question, the purpose of this study is: To describe the economic power reflected towards the main characters in *The House at Tyneford* novel.

Based on the study, this research has some signs of the study, as follows: Theoretically, this research will add the information from the Marxist criticism, especially about economic power and how it is reflected in the novel. Practically, this research will be useful and inspire other researchers, especially English Literature majors to take this research as a reference for those who analyze *The House at Tyneford* by Natasha Solomons or research Marxist criticism.

B. REVIEW OF RELATED THEORY

1. Literature

In the modern era, literature not only expresses the author's experience but also becomes a medium to evaluate the injustices in a historical era such as gender injustice, race, and class structure. Abrams says Literature has a descriptive function to use in modern critical movements, which consists of historical injustices, gender, race, and class in various eras (178). Literature comes up to critic the ideology of human beings in society. In order, literature has a deal with some criticism such as Feminist criticism, Marxist criticism, gender criticism, and others to address a mass reader about the historical movements. In other ways, even though Marxist criticism was not designed as a method of

literary analysis but with Marxist Criticism, the reader can provide a new way of reading and understanding literature.

2. Novel

Novel is a variety of writings that have in common only the attribute of being long narrative works of fiction written in prose (Abrams 226). A novel usually describes the story in a long and complex and deals with human experience through the sequence of events. A novel includes fiction and representation of the historical background that was written in prose form. The novel also can represent all the feelings of the author who made it.

3. Characters

Characters are the persons represented in a narrative fiction work, interpreted by the reader with particular morals, intellectuals, and emotions. It concludes from what the characters say and from their distinctive ways of saying it in the dialogue and from they do the action (Abrams 42). Therefore, characters are the person who acts in the novel, movie, and drama and put emotion in their action in literary works. The reader can interpret their feeling of saying the action of the characters. In this research, the researcher analyzes some characters that represent economic power in the novel.

4. Characterization

a. Telling

In the telling, the narrator directly presents to the reader the personality of the character. The information about the character presents through the narrator's opinion (134). So, telling is the process of characterization that presents the personality of the characters to the readers through the narrator's opinion and also can be presented from the other character's opinions in the story.

b. Showing

In the showing, the author has more ways to interpret a character. Based on Gill the reader needs to conclude the information throughout the novel to understand the personality of the character (134). Based on Gill there are 7 ways to categorize the showing characterization; **The first way** is through the character's speech. A character might speak in a complicated way, use a lot of illustration, repeated certain words and phrases, and the way character's speech is showing their personality (135). **The second way** is through character's thought. The reader can be aware not only of the character's thinking but also of the manner of the character's thought and how it is made up (137). **The third way** is through the character's appearance. There is a possibility to present the moral purpose behind the representation of character personality (138). **The fourth way** is through the character's dress. Clothes have several functions to indicate the social status of the character (Gill 139). **The fifth way** is through the social standing of the character. The way characters are presented when the author shows the different social classes of the character. It occurs in the upper and lower class (141). **The sixth way** is through the name of the characters. The name of the character gives more information about the history of the character in the story (143). And **the last way** is through the character's action. This technique shows the way characters react is one of the ways the author categorized the personality of the character (Gill 144).

5. Setting

Setting is a time and place where a certain part of the storyline is happening. According to Abrams setting is also referred to as the important part of the story,

consisting of place, time, the social environment, and the occurrence of events (Abrams 216). The setting of time makes some connection between events in the story and historical time in a narrative work. The theory of setting helps the researcher know more about the historical events that happened and also the social circumstances in German, America, and Britain during Nazi occupation.

6. Marxist Criticism

Marxist criticism is the theory of literary analysis that determines economic and social class in society. Marxist criticism form comes and practices from the economic and cultural theory of Karl Heinrich Marx and Friedrich Engels (1818-1883). Marxist criticism analysis of human events and productions focuses on relationships among socioeconomic classes and it explains all human activities in terms of distribution and economic power. Marxist criticism also dictates that theoretical ideas can apply to the real world (Tyson 54).

Marxist criticism is about the human relationship among socioeconomic classes. Throughout history, Marxist criticism comes up and stands for the lower class to get justice and equal life in society. It also criticizes the historical background of class distinction. The purpose of the theory is to generalize the social grouping in society that includes of bourgeoisie represented as the upper class and the proletariat representing the lower class. Marxist criticism criticizes literature in any historical era, as products of the economic and ideological determinants specific to the era (Abrams 182).

7. Social Class

a. Domination

Domination or superordinate is the superior group that has greater access to the economic resource, wealth, prestige, and power (Dowding 646). The bourgeoisie as superordinate has domination in economics and power in society. The bourgeoisie is the powerful to control the proletariat and determine the condition of the proletariat.

b. Subordination

Subordination is the group that has limited access to economic resources, prestige, and power (Dowding 646). Subordination belongs to the proletariat that is controlled by bourgeoisie. They are subordinate because they are poor and powerless. The proletariat is the Jews that do not have enough power to handle the economic conditions. They are homeless and economically dominated.

8. Economic Power

Economic power is the theory that classifies society determined on their historical and economic circumstances to handle the modes of production in society. The economic condition in which what class dominates the economy so they can rule the society. The history of humans is determined by their economic circumstances. The economic condition of society is material circumstances, and the ideology they generate is called historical situation. It means to explain any social or political context, it is first necessary to understand the material and historical circumstances in which they happened (Dobie 87)

It would be easier to observe the difference between the bourgeoisie or the powerful and the proletariat or the powerless just by following their lifestyle. Society is shaped by its forces of production, how society provides food, clothing, shelter, and other necessities, and also the social relations that become the culture's foundation. Capitalist society has a two-part structure consisting of the economic structure, **the bourgeoisie** who own property and control the mode of production, and **the proletariat** controlled by the bourgeoisie and produces their wealth (Dobie 87).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

The qualitative method consists of analyzing words rather than numerical. Qualitative research is appropriate for understanding some aspects of social life. According to Denzin and Lincoln's quotation in Sari, qualitative researches means study things in natural settings, attempting to make sense of and interpret phenomena in terms of the meanings people bring to them (Sari 1). Based on the definition, qualitative is about the study of the interpretation of phenomena in a natural setting. It makes our sense can interpret and find the meaning behind it.

This research also used the Marxist approach to analyze the data. Marxist approach itself is an analysis of human events and productions that focuses on relationships among socioeconomic classes and explains all human activities in terms of the distribution of economic power. By posing as natural ways repressive ideologies prevent us from understanding the material/historical conditions in which we live because they refuse to acknowledge that those conditions have any bearing on the way we see the world (Tyson 56-57).

2. Research Instrument

This study is concerned with finding out the imbalance in economic power in *The House at Tyneford* novel based on the social journey of the main characters in the novel. Based on Patton the researcher is the instrument and that is the credibility of qualitative research relies on the researcher (293). To do so, the researcher needed to use herself as the instrument in conducting this study since the process of analyzing data, began to develop research question until the last step to conclude the study. Thus, the instrument of this study was the researcher herself.

3. Data and Data Source

This research used *The House at Tyneford* novel by Natasha Solomons which was published by Plume in 2011 as the main source of data. While the data that researcher used are dialogue, monologue, and narration in form of paragraphs, clauses, phrases, and words that throughout the novel indicated Marxist criticism and economic power.

4. Data Collection

To collect the data, the researcher also due some steps; First, the researcher did the observations by reading *The House at Tyneford* novel repeatedly to understand the meaning of the whole story. Second, the researcher read some references from journals, books, articles, essays, thesis, and other internet resources to make understand the theory. Third, the researcher highlighted the data that consists of Marxist criticism and economic power through words, phrases, and sentences. And the last, the researcher tries to explain or interpret the data by using the theory.

5. Data Analysis

To answer the research question, this research uses steps of data analysis from Ann B. Dobie (Dobie 95-96). The first is clarify, this part is to clarify understanding of the ideology of the work. Then Identify, this procedure is the identification of the element that comes up with the ideology. The third is determine, This part is determining how the elements can present the ideology and make the reader accept the ideology. And the last is Assess (Draw the result), this part assessing how the text will be sympathy or oppose the theory or would be combined with other criticism.

6. Validity of Data

To make data more valid, the researcher uses triangulation; Data Triangulation, which means that the researcher is using more than one of the data sources. The second is Investigator Triangulation; the researcher is using more than one investigator to support the validity of data by using multiple observers and researchers. In theoretical Triangulation, the researcher is using more than one of the theories. The last Triangulation is Methodological Triangulation. Methodological triangulation is using more than one method of collecting the data. The researcher is using data triangulation for the study to make data more valid and that will be appropriate to answer the research questions. The theoretical triangulation considers the theories with other experts.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Bourgeoisie

The bourgeoisie is the dominant class who handled the economic power including superstructure (political, media, etc), and dominated the proletariat. Bourgeoisie who own property and control the mode of production (Dobie 87). As the dominant class, the bourgeoisie has greater access to economic resources, wealth, and power.

a. Economically Privileged

Economically privilege means that the bourgeoisie has great material possession to get the necessities of life. The novel focuses on class relations between the owner of Tyneford House named Rivers family and their servant Elise Landau. In the following days, Mr. Rivers held a party for his son's birthday, Kit. It describes by the following narration:

The following day was **Kit twenty-first birthday and his coming of age. Mr. Rivers had agreed to a house party at Tyneford, a full three days of celebrations with half the young ladies and gentleman of Dorset in attendance. They tried and failed to hire extra staff.** Kit ordered crates of liquor from London, along with stainless steel cocktail shakers (112)

By following the evidence above, Kit's economic condition is told through the narrator's opinion determined the data that "Kit twenty-first birthday, Mr. Rivers had agreed to a house party at Tyneford, a full three days of celebrations with young ladies and gentlemen in attendance". It describes that Kit is economically privileged, his wealth is from the inheritance of his father, Mr. Rivers. "My father is Mr. Rivers. I told you, I'm Kit" (82). Determined by the words, it was presented that Kit is Mr. Rivers' son. He was born into a rich family and he did not worry about money to hold a big party in Tyneford house. though Kit was not legal to own the property, he is the only one whose inheritance of the Rivers' family wealth, so he had the right to use the privilege of his father.

b. Controlled the Mode of Production

The mode of production means everything goes into production to get the necessities of life. It includes human labor, financial, material, and facilities to keep the bourgeoisie's position in society. when the winter is coming, Mr. Rivers was not accept to buy a heater and chose to hire some servants,

Mr. Rivers decided that instead of selling the turner seascape as well, family and guests alike could manage with old-fashioned fires. Except for the servants. We had neither radiators nor fires and had suffered with chilblains from late October. It seemed very odd to me that a man who owned such a large and magnificent house as

Tyneford could not afford to heat it properly. **He was a gentleman of the old school and believed it his responsibility to employ as many people from the village as possible** (127)

By following the evidence, Mr. Rivers' economic condition is told through the narrator's opinion. The narrator describes by following words "He was a gentleman of the old school and believed it has a responsibility to employ as many people from the village as possible". By maintaining the evidence, Mr. Rivers is necessary to employ many people to indicate the human labor. The narrator's represented that Mr. Rivers has a responsibility in society to employ many people in the village. It clearly described that he was dominant and keep maintaining his position in society.

2. Proletariat

Proletariat is a subordinate class that is dominated by the bourgeoisie. It is categorized as propertyless, and limited opportunity. In the novel, the proletariat refers to Elise Rosa Landau as the Jewish character in the novel. Jewish during the Nazi occupation is subordination.

a. Propertyless

Propertyless is indicated by following the proletariat's material possession to show their economic circumstances. The first evidence describes the economic condition of Elise Landau as the Jews character in the novel,

I went to bed early, in a small room under the eaves. It had sloping ceilings, and I couldn't stand up in two thirds of it, so I lay down on the bed. And stared at the rough wood beams (Solomons 51).

Elise lived an unequal life and an uncomfortable place in her employer house. She lived in a different place in Tyneford house. while the bourgeoisie sleep in the glamor room, Elise slept in the sloping ceilings that made her could not stand up. The proletariat was socially constructed to want nothing more and must accept the condition. They are difficult to develop and they do not have the money and power for changing the situation. Elise did not have any chance to have a good place because the society condition constructed her. In this case, the economic power is told through the narrator's opinion.

b. Limited Opportunity

Limited Opportunity indicated by the proletariat has limited access to obtain wealth and power. In the novel, Solomon's clearly reflected on the life of the proletariat. It reflects Landau's family which consists of Julian, Anna, Margot, and Elise. At the beginning of the novel, Landau's family has to move from Vienna to New York. Meanwhile, Elise Landau as the main character moved to London alone and becomes a parlor maid in Tyneford House "Darling Bean, I hope you will be in New York in six months. But for now, you must go where it is safe." I knew things were bad for us in Vienna. I heard the stories of old women being pulled out of shops by their hair and forced to scrub the pavements (10). By the condition, the circumstances in Vienna were inconducive because Hitler started an invasion of all of the Jews in Vienna Elise's mother hoped that they can live together in New York but the visa would not come for Elise. In this part, the author describes Elise's economic circumstances from the following dialogue.

My parents hoped to escape to New York, where the Metropolitan Opera would help them with a visa, if only Anna would sing. Anna picked up her pace. "And you will come. But we cannot get an American visa for you now" (7)

In 1938, it was no longer safe to be a Jew in Vienna. Because Adolf Hitler made aggression to cut all the Jews in Vienna, Austria. This case clearly described Elise's family as subordination that has limited access to economic resources. Without access, the proletariat is doomed to stay in their circumstances with no way to approach a better life. They have no power to break the system. Elise mentioned her thoughts "My parents hoped to escape to New York, where the Metropolitan Opera would help them with a visa". Elise hoped that people which had power would help them because the system supported the bourgeoisie. Because they have to pay the bribe to get a visa. From the data above, Elise's economic status is portrayed through the narrator's opinion.

Meanwhile, the next evidence described that Mr. Rivers refused the relationship between Kit and Elise through the following dialogue,

"I accept that you love her and she you. But come on, Kit. This is not supposed to happen. People like you and people like Elise. You're not supposed to marry."

Kit recoiled. "People like Elise? You mean Jews."

"Yes, don't be such a schoolboy. Her father would be as furious as I am. And it's not just that she's a Jewess. For God's sake, Kit. She's a housemaid." Mr. Rivers drain his whiskey. **"I would like you to love a rich woman. I would like you to have something to pass down to your son. I have done my best, but Kit Tyneford ... we can't carry on as we are. The estate needs money"** (178)

In this data, Elise's economic status is telling through other character's opinion, in which the character shows his social environment. Mr. Rivers here got high his reputation in society. To the extent that he was very reluctant to see his son falls in love with people who were economically unequal to them. he intimated his power towards his son. Reputation is the important thing to living in a capitalist society. The material circumstances in society have relegated the bourgeoisie to a better existence. Mr. Rivers was the owner of the house and he thought that he has full power to control and rule whose live in the Tyneford house even though his son. Mr. Rivers has power in determining his child's life and happiness. It mentioned that the Rivers family must have a guarantee or grip in the form of marrying people who were socially equal to maintain their dignity and power in society.

As a discussion, the portrayal of the character shaped by the bourgeoisie and proletariat is indicated by characterization theory. According to Gill's characterization theory, the characters in novel were portrayed in telling and showing characterization. In telling, characterization was shown from the author's opinion and other characters' opinions. Whether showing characterization showed in the character's speech, the character's thinks, character's dress, character's appearance, character's actions, and social standing of the character. The type of characterization that was not used in the novel was the character's name. Because there was no differentiation in calling names between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat was found in the novel.

The reflection of economic power towards the main characters is indicated by following their economic circumstances. The relationship of the production is between the employer and the worker. The reflection of economic power towards bourgeoisie characters, Mr. Rivers reflected he was economically privileged. He was the owner of mansion, Tyneford house and he controlled the mode of production like hire some maids to work in his house to maintain his wealth and power. He also mentioned that his son, Kit has married a rich woman to keep Tyneford standstill. The economic power of Kit

reflected that he has limited opportunity which is the inheritance of Tyneford house and got a glamor life from his father.

On the other hand, the reflection of economic power towards the proletariat was reflected by posing Elise Landau's economic condition. Elise is propertyless, because she lived in uncomfortable place in the Tyneford house. Her life depends on her employer and was worried about money to pay the bribe to save her parents. Elise has limited opportunity to obtain the necessities of life, got many strict rules from the bourgeoisie, like must cut her hair and she cannot fall in love with Mr. Rivers' son, Kit because they had unequal life. The relationship between the bourgeoisie as the employer and the proletariat as the worker is unfair. The bourgeoisie gave strict rules to keep their position in society without protest by the proletariat.

E. CONCLUSION

The House at Tyneford novel represented two economic distinction. They were bourgeoisie as the owner of the Tyneford house who was powerful and proletariat as Jewish character who was powerless. Economic power would be indicated by material and historical circumstances. In the bourgeoisie, economic power was reflected by seeing the indicators; economically privileged and control the mode of production. On the other hand, in proletariat was reflected by seeing indicators; propertyless and limited opportunity.

Economic power was portrayed in both telling and showing, in the bourgeoisie character was directly portrayed by the narrator's opinion, other character's opinions, character's dress, and appearance. And then the proletariat is directly and indirectly presented by the narrator's opinion, character's speech, dress and appearance, character's action, character thought, the social standing character. By analyzing characterization, the researcher discovered that the characters who belong to the bourgeoisie were Mr. Rivers and Kit and the character who belongs to the proletariat was Elise Landau. Moreover, the economic power was handled by the bourgeoisie to dominate the proletariat.

After the study, the researcher suggests to other researchers who expect to analyze other aspects of *The House at Tyneford* novel. The researcher can conduct other research that analyzes the Multiculturalism aspect of the novel by using Clara M. Chu's theory, on the representation of Racism. In the novel, Elise's character is a Jewish from Vienna who migration to London that gets unequal treatment by society. However, the existence of Racism is acceptable to be analyzed.

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