

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

Victorian society was the shift from feudalism to capitalism in England. The Victorian society began in the second quarter of the nineteenth century and ended in 1900. This age was the time of extensive social and political developments. The social changes, the developments of the technology and industrial revolutions had great impacts on Victorian society. The greatest impact at this age was the capitalism economy system. Bruce stated in his book *The Political Economy of Capitalism* that “Capitalism is an economic system where private actors are allowed to own and control the use of the property in accord with their own and control the use of property in accord with their own interests, and where the invisible hand of the pricing mechanism coordinates supply and demand in markets in a way that is automatically in the best interest of society” (2006: 5). It means that the economy system of capitalism handles the workers to survive their existence.

The economic system of capitalism in Victorian society makes workers have to struggle in order to survive in their existence. At this time, people spent their time for getting money, and it made them get accustomed to these activities. Capitalists force the class to struggle, to survive in the system of capitalism. Hitchcock states in his book *A Theory for Classic: A Student Guide* that: “class struggle in capitalist society presupposes that economic development progresses from primitive feudal to capitalist and that class struggle becomes dominant

mode of production in each society” (2005:5). It means that class struggle occurs because the material needs. Economy was the main factor for the people to struggle in order to be wealthy enough. In fact, this condition drove Victorian society to be materialistic and valued something based on money.

The major phenomenon in Victorian society was economy system of capitalism in industrial revolution. At this time, the economy system of capitalism often considered as being said as the foundation of Victorian society which gave a huge influence towards Victorian society as nation in all of the aspects especially in economy, culture and social life. In literature, the Victorian society undoubtedly affecting the literary works in Victorian society. The characteristic of literary works which are published in Victorian society was usually realistic work which portrayed the social condition. In Victorian society, the literary works almost give details of socio-economic condition, social struggle, economic problems and class discrimination, especially the economy system of capitalism that becomes issue in Victorian society. One of the literary works in Victorian society that talked about the economy system of capitalism was Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island*.

Treasure Island was published in 23 May 1883, written by Robert Louis Stevenson. *Treasure Island* talk about searching buried gold that are presented by two groups: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. In *Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson showed how the struggle of the classes to get better live in society.

The writer analyzes *Treasure Island* because the novel showed how Bourgeoisie and Plotariat to get better life, but in the end they get diferent result. The rich become richer, the poor become poorer, because poor people was oppressed by rich man. Moreover, the writer thinks that economy is the object that still interesting to become a topic to be discussed today. In this research, the writer wants to analyze the conflict that happened among characters in this work which caused by the economic and social class issue.

In analyzing this novel, the writer wants to imbalances between classes (bougeoisie and plotariat) in Victorian society in England because the novel was written in Victorian society. Then, the writer wants the readers to more understand this work and shows how this work able to explore the social condition particularly in social economic aspect that happened in Victorian society which reflected in this work. Beside, the writer wants to prove whether it is true or not that literature represents the social reality and condition of human being in a society.

The writer thinks that *Treasure Island* is appropriate to analyzing by using Reflection theory by George Lukacs. This theory sees the contradiction based on economic system of capitalism in the society that can be reflected in literature. The writer wants to analyze how capitalist aspect influences class struggle and social condition and what kinds of impacts that happened in Victorian society. For this case, the writer tries to explore the social imbalance between novel and Victorian society in England because the novel was written in Victoria society.

1.2. The Identification of Problem

The problems that will be analyzed in this work are the impacts of capitalism. It is about the injustice in the society where the rich becomes richer and the poor get poorer because the poor people is oppressed by the rich. In novel *Treasure Island*, author showed the gap between the proletariat (Long John Silver, Mr. Hand, Black Dog and Tom Redruth) and bourgeoisie (Dr. Livesey, Mr. Squarel Trelawney) in orientation money in society.

In identification of the problem, the writer would analyze individualism in Long John Silver and Dr. Livesey characters in *Treasure Island*. The unfair treatment as reflected in Long Jhon Silver, inharmonis relationship as reflected in bourgeoisie, and the materialistic way of life in British society as reflected *Treasure Island*.

1.3. The Scope of the Research

The limit of the research is focuses to analyze the impacts of capitalism in *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson. To get more understanding of this problem the writer concentrates on the following problems:

1. The Individualism on characters Dr. Livesey and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*.
2. Unfair Treatment as reflected in Dr. Livesey and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*

3. Inharmonious as reflected in Dr. Livesey and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*.

1.4. The Objective of the Research

The objective of the research is the writer wants to find the impacts of capitalism on Victorian society as reflected in *Treasure Island*. Then, the writer relates it to the Victorian society when story was written and set. Further, the writer wants to analyze how far economy system of capitalism influence social classes in Victorian society.

1.5. The Review of Previous Studies

In applying Reflection theory, it is important to note that there is some research about *Treasure Island* novel which always become a major concern in the object of study. Some researchers have critically analyzed of what it means to help research study. Through critical study, some researchers have conducted analysis literature: Ridwan Effendy entitled "Analysis of Jim Hawkins the Main Character of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*", Adrian Stewart in his book, *Robert Louis Stevenson and Scotland*, Marta Cristina in "Historical Background And Literary Analysis *Treasure Island*", Ahmad Kosuma discusses on "Comparing Materialism & Friendship with Imagery In *Treasure Island*".

The first, Ridwan Effendy entitled "Analysis of Jim Hawkins the Main Character of Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*". He showed in his analyzing a child named was *Jim Hawkins* has amazing characters: brave,

careful, smart and wise. Ridwan showed that *Jim Hawkins* was a smart child and the fortune carrier. Jim Hawkins has very sensitive thought toward any situation that he faces. He is very careful in anticipation of anything that would happen, and in solving any problems or troubles that he finds. So, his analyzing is important to support the writer in analyzing the impact of capitalism on characters Bourgeoisie (Dr. Livesey) and Plotariat (Long John Silver). Both of them was struggle to get better in getting material. The Bourgeoisie struggle to add their wealt and Plotariat struggle to survive in society. Both of two classes, fight each other to get treasure. Treasure made the gap between plotariat and bourgeoisie. They do everything they want for treasure island.

Second, Ahmad Kosuma Wardana entitles “Comparing Materialism & Friendship with Imagery in *Treasure Island*”. Ahmad focuses on analyzing the different character between Bourgeoisie and Proletariat in action in *Treasure Island*. The writer sees this essay is important to help the writer in analyze the Bourgeoisie and Plotariat who becomes individualist for treasure island. Bourgeoisie only protect his friend in searching treasure island, but Plotariat did not protect, they fight each other. It is because bourgoisie control and oppress plotariat and give much money.

Third, Marta Cristina entitles “*Historical Background and Literary Analysis Treasure Island*”. She focused to discussed the history of pirate and the origin of pirate. The word of *Pirate* comes from English 13th century BC, the Latin term “pirate”, from which the English “pirate” stems, derives from Greek peira, that means attack and attempt. Robert Louis Stevenson’s *Treasure Island* refers

to the issue of social economic in Victorian society. This essay supports the writer to understand the impacts of capitalism on Victorian society as reflected in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. This phenomenon has similarities between novel and Victorian society. Robert Louis Stevenson made *Treasure Island* to describe the condition of Victorian society. The class had struggled to survive in their existence.

Fourth, Adrian Stewart in "Robert Louis Stevenson and Scotland" that said Robert Louis Stevenson is a consumptive novelist, poet and Scotland, who transcended his infirmities to create romantic heroes of magnificent adventures, Scotland's influence upon Stevenson will be seen as two fold. Firstly, the geographical and historical impressions which were made upon him, and secondly, the traditions of superstition which so characterized its people.

Compared to other previous researches, the writer's analyzing will be different, the writer focuses on the impacts of capitalism on Victorian society as reflected in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Based on the description, the writer assumes that, *Treasure Island* related Victorian society in England. There are three impacts that will be discussed in this analysis: Individualism, Unfair Treatment and Inharmonious Relationship in British Society. Therefore, the writer proposes to conduct a research entitled "The Impacts of Capitalism on Victorian society as Reflected Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure*".

1.6. The Theoretical Framework

In order to get sufficient analysis of *Treasure Island* written by Robert Louis Stevenson, the writer agrees with *The Mirror And The Lamp: Romantic Theory And Critical Tradition* by M.H. Abrams's book. He divided approaches to literary works into four; mimetic, pragmatic, expressive and objective approaches. To analyze this thesis, the writer applies the mimetic approach. Abrams says that: "the mimetic orientation is the explanation of art as essentially an imitation of aspect universe that art imitates or should imitate, were variously conceived as either actual or in some sense idea" (1976:8). From the quotation, the writer can learn that the mimetic approach treats a literary work as a truthful portrayal of reality. It means that the social event is measured in the complex problem of reality. So, in this thesis the writer will connect the phenomena and events in the novel with the history of Victorian society.

To develop the analysis, the writer also uses Marxist theory to investigate the impact of capitalism on Victorian society as reflected in Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*. Marxist theory is based on the idea formulated by Karl Marx and Frederick Engel as critique of industrial revolution. It focuses the attention on social history in relation to political economy, particularly with

regard to class struggle. As in the book *Adventures In English Literature* note that “The industrial revolution was happen the sift during late eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries from hand labor to the new methods of the factoring made possible by power driven machine” (1980:411). It meansthatthe workers in Victorian society have to lose their job, because they were replaced by machines and it forced them to struggle to get job and better life. The impact of capitalism or industrial revolution brough the injustice in the society where the rich becomes richer and the poor get poorer because they use capitalistic economic system, where the economic activities is handled by capitalist (owner).

In Marxist’s idea, economy is important thing in social life, economy as the ‘base’ and other as ‘superstructure” (Sills, 1968:41). It means that economy has great influence toward all aspect in social life. This statement is supported by Louis Tyson who says: “For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the art, science, technology, and the media and so on” (2006:54). It means that everything people do in their life is oriented by money or economic aspect.

Jefferson and Robey state in their book *Modern Literary Theory* that “To be reflected in literature, reality has to pass through the creative, form-giving work of the writer. The result, in the case of a correctly form of the real world” (1982:171). It means that through the experience in their real life, the writer can reflects it in literary work. This work not only reflects reality, but also criticizes

the contradiction in society base on socio-economic life under capitalism. This statement supported by Booker in his book *A Practical Introduction to Literary Criticism*:

For Lukacs, literature can play an important role in the development of this new proletariat consciousness of totality. In this view, the greatest artists are those who can effectively represent the totality of human life. The most effective mode for this representation is literary realism, which for Lukacs reflects reality much in the mode that the Marxist superstructure reflects the base (1996:75).

Based on that quotation, the writer can assume that the best work is the one that can represent the totality of human life. Based on reflection theory of George Lukacs, the literary work reflects the social condition that criticizes the contradiction under capitalism. Meanwhile, Selden and Widdowson strengthen this statement that "...the novel reflects reality, not by rendering its mere surface appearance, but by giving us a truer, more vivid and more dynamic reflection of reality" (1993:76). It means that when the author tries to write a literary work, he gives description of the social condition critically.

1.7.The Methods of the Research

In conducting the research, the writer has three steps: collecting data, analyzing the data and presenting the result of analysis.

1.7.1. Method of Collecting the Data

In conducting this research, the writer applies library research method which relates with books and other written sources. The primary data is *Treasure Island* by Louis Stevenson. Besides, the history book of Victorian Era's social information also become the primary data since the writer want to compare and relate directly between the novel and Victorian society. While some books, thesis and journals or articles from the internet which related to the topic will be the secondary data.

1.7.2. Method of Analyzing Data

The Research theory that writer used is the method of novel as reflected of the reality over the literary work. The writer focuses on effect capitalism to people as reflected individualism, unfair treatment, inharmonism in British society in characters Dr. Livesey and Long John Silver in *Treasure Island*.

1.7.3. Method of Presenting Analysis Data

Since the writer uses the qualitative method, he automatically applies the descriptive method in presenting his analysis because the collected the data are served from of words rather than numbers. The result of the research contains quotation from the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation" (Bodgan, 1982:28). Then the writer explains the capitalism phenomenon which occurred in the novel in descriptive method. The descriptive method is used to see the problems from the researcher's point of view.

