

**THE ECONOMIC OPPRESSION OF THE WORKING-CLASS
PEOPLE IN THE NOVEL *NORTH AND SOUTH* BY ELIZABETH
GASKELL**

A Thesis



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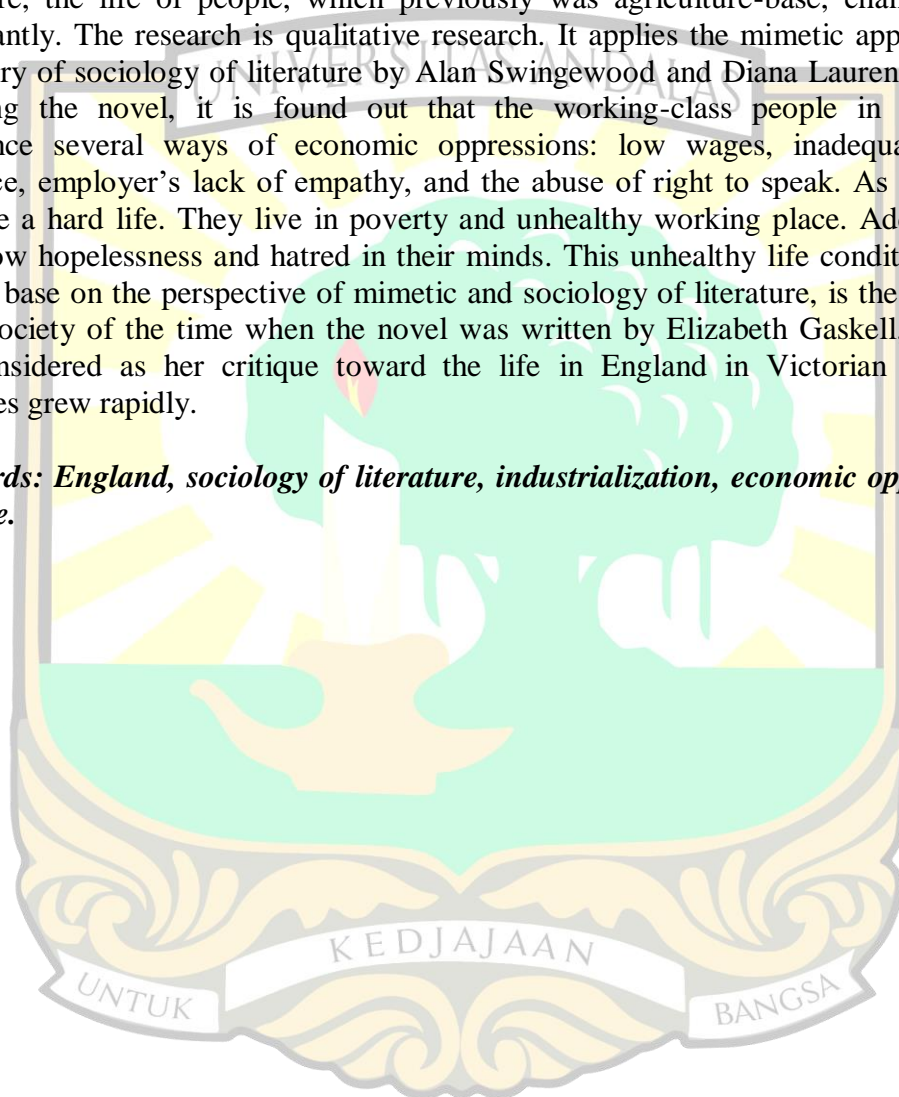
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ABSTRACT

This research analyzes the economic oppressions and the effects to the life of the working-class people in England at industrial era as portrayed in the Victorian novel *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell. The research is aimed at explaining how the novel captured the reality of the society at that time. England in Victorian era was developing into industrial country and many cities changed into industrial cities. Therefore, the life of people, which previously was agriculture-base, changed quite significantly. The research is qualitative research. It applies the mimetic approach and the theory of sociology of literature by Alan Swingewood and Diana Laurenson. After analyzing the novel, it is found out that the working-class people in the novel experience several ways of economic oppressions: low wages, inadequate health insurance, employer's lack of empathy, and the abuse of right to speak. As the result, they live a hard life. They live in poverty and unhealthy working place. Additionally, they grow hopelessness and hatred in their minds. This unhealthy life condition of the society, base on the perspective of mimetic and sociology of literature, is the reflection of the society of the time when the novel was written by Elizabeth Gaskell, which is also considered as her critique toward the life in England in Victorian era when industries grew rapidly.

Key words: *England, sociology of literature, industrialization, economic oppressions, hard life.*



ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisis tekanan ekonomi dan dampaknya terhadap kehidupan masyarakat pekerja di Inggris pada era industri seperti yang digambarkan oleh novel zaman Victorian berjudul *North and South* karya Elizabeth Gaskell. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan bagaimana novel ini menangkap situasi masyarakat pada masa itu. Inggris pada era Victoria berkembang menjadi negara industri dan banyak kota berubah menjadi kota-kota industri. Sehingga kehidupan masyarakat pun berubah cukup signifikan karena sebelumnya Inggris adalah negara agrikultur. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan 'mimetic' dan teori sosiologi sastra oleh Alan Swingewood dan Diana Laurensen. Hasil analisis, menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat kelas pekerja dalam novel mengalami beberapa bentuk tekanan ekonomi, yaitu: upah rendah, tidak ada jaminan kesehatan, kurangnya empati dari para pengusaha, serta hilangnya hak bicara. Akibatnya, mereka menjalani kehidupan yang sulit. Mereka hidup dalam kemiskinan dan kesehatan yang buruk. Selain itu, mereka juga menjadi kehilangan harapan hidup dan penuh kebencian. Hal ini, berdasarkan pendekatan 'mimetic' dan teori sosiologi sastra merupakan gambaran dari situasi saat novel ini ditulis oleh Elizabeth Gaskell, yang juga dianggap sebagai kritiknya terhadap kehidupan di Inggris pada era Victoria ketika industri berkembang pesat.

Kata kunci: *Inggris, sosiologi sastra, industrialisasi, tekanan ekonomi, kesulitan hidup*

