

THESIS

**THE SOCIAL PROBLEM IN NEAL SHUSTERMAN AND
JARROD SHUSTERMAN'S DRY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG**

2023

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JARROD SHUSTERMAN'S DRY**

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Presented to
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)

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IBRAHIM MALANG
2023**

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I state that the thesis entitled "*The Social Problem In Neal Shusterman And Jarrod Shusterman's Dry*" is my original work. I do not include any materials previously written or published by another person, except those cited as references and written in the bibliography. Hereby, if there is an objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

Malang, 14th March 2023

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MOTTO

“You have your way, I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist. And, There are no facts, only interpretations”

(Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche)

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents for their relentlessly flowing support and prayers, all my teachers who always provide knowledge and prayer support, the one and only my lovely older sister who is always firm and often buys me food, my great friends who always accompany and support all my learning processes wherever they are, especially in coffee shops, and pleased to lend me a laptop to write this thesis. Thank you all for so patiently living with me. Life still has a long way to go, comrades.

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Malang, 14th March 2023



Muhammad Ibnu Fahrurrozy

ABSTRACT

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Humans have relationships with various sectors of social life, such as the political elite, economy agents, military, and society. Along with these relationships, social problem often arise in these sectors, including during the California drought depicted in the novel "*Dry*" by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. This research was conducted to analyze the social problem that occurred during that time, along with their causes. To achieve this goal, the researcher employed Charles Wright Mills' theory of social problems (1959) and utilized the sociology of literature approach by paying attention to intrinsic elements in the story's setting. The qualitative method was used by collecting primary data in the form of descriptions and dialogues related to the research objectives. The results indicate that there were social problems in the form of unemployment and poverty caused by the government's indecisiveness in handling disasters and the military's unilateral decisions that harmed the community. The military's actions actually made civilians feel afraid, and many refugees experienced difficulties. On the other hand, some businesses gained easy access to water during the drought. This research provides an overview of the social problems that arise during droughts in California, along with the factors that cause them.

مستخلص البحث

فجر الرازي، محمد بن. 2023. مشاكل رايت ميلز الاجتماعية في نيل شوسترمان وجارود شوسترمان دراي. بحث جامعي. مالانج: الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة الإسلامية الحكومية مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. مشرف: اغوع ويراناتا كوسوما المجستير

الكلمات المفتاحية: علم اجتماع الأدب، المشكلات الاجتماعية

يتكون المجتمع من أربعة قطاعات مترابطة: الحكومة والاقتصاد والجيش والمجتمع. القطاعات الأربعة لا يمكن فصلها ولا يمكن فصلها عن المشاكل الاجتماعية. تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى تحليل المشاكل الاجتماعية خلال كارثة الجفاف في كاليفورنيا في روايات Jarrod و Neal Shusterman الجافة. يحلل الباحثون أيضا أسباب المشاكل الاجتماعية. في عملية التحليل، يستخدم الباحثون نظرية المشكلات الاجتماعية التي اقترحها تشارلز رايت ميلز (1959) باستخدام نهج اجتماعي من خلال العناصر الجوهرية لإعداد القصة. يستخدم هذا البحث أسلوبا نوعيا يستخدم البيانات الأولية في شكل أوصاف وحوارات مكتوبة تتعلق بأهداف البحث. تظهر نتائج هذه الدراسة أن هناك مشاكل اجتماعية في شكل البطالة والفقر. سبب المشكلة هو غياب الحزم في إدارة الكوارث من الحكومة والقرارات الأحادية التي لا تفيد المجتمع. ثم كان هناك تعامل من جانب الجيش الذي أخاف المدنيين، وانتهى العديد من اللاجئين بشكل مأساوي. ومن منظور اقتصادي، يحصل بعض رواد الأعمال والعاملين لحسابهم الخاص بسهولة على المياه أثناء فترات الجفاف. هذه العناصر الثلاثة للطبقة العليا مهمة للغاية عندما يتعلق الأمر بالتغيير الاجتماعي، خاصة عندما يتعلق الأمر بالجفاف. ومع ذلك، فإن مساهمتهم ودورهم ليسا جيدين، مما يجعل المشاكل الاجتماعية دون حل، والمجتمع نفسه ليس لديه المزيد من القوة لتغيير مصيره.

ABSTRAK

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Kata Kunci: Sosiologi Sastra, Masalah Sosial.

Manusia memiliki hubungan dengan berbagai sektor kehidupan sosial, seperti elit politik, pelaku ekonomi, militer, dan masyarakat. Seiring dengan hubungan tersebut, seringkali muncul masalah sosial di sektor-sektor tersebut, termasuk pada masa kekeringan di California yang digambarkan dalam novel "*Dry*" karya Neal Shusterman dan Jarrod Shusterman. Penelitian ini dilakukan untuk menganalisis masalah sosial yang terjadi pada masa tersebut, beserta penyebabnya. Untuk mencapai tujuan tersebut, peneliti menggunakan teori masalah sosial oleh Charles Wright Mills (1959) dan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra dengan memperhatikan unsur-unsur intrinsik dalam latar cerita. Metode kualitatif digunakan dengan mengumpulkan data primer berupa deskripsi dan dialog yang berkaitan dengan tujuan penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat masalah sosial berupa pengangguran dan kemiskinan yang disebabkan oleh ketidaktegasan pemerintah dalam menangani bencana dan keputusan sepihak militer yang merugikan masyarakat. Tindakan militer justru membuat masyarakat sipil merasa takut dan banyak pengungsi yang mengalami kesulitan. Di sisi lain, beberapa pelaku usaha mendapatkan akses air yang mudah selama kekeringan. Penelitian ini memberikan gambaran mengenai masalah sosial yang muncul saat kekeringan di California, beserta faktor-faktor penyebabnya.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Water scarcity is a global issue that affects millions of people, and it is predicted to worsen in the coming years due to climate change and population growth. This problem is explored in Neal Shusterman's novel, *Dry*, which portrays a dystopian world where water is scarce, and chaos and violence ensue. As a sociological phenomenon, the scarcity of water in the novel is not only a physical problem but also a social problem that affects people's lives and relationships. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the social problem in *Dry* using the sociology of literature approach, which examines how literature reflects and shapes society's attitudes and beliefs towards social problem.

A. Background of the Study

The sociology of literature studies literary works considering the involvement of social structures. The sociology of literature is gaining much attention among students and observer of literature. The existence of social aspects in the intrinsic structure of literary works is a central problem in the sociology of literature (Ratna, 2003, p. 23). Since there is a reciprocal relationship between literary phenomena and social structures, the sociological studies of literature proved very useful for understanding the socioeconomic situation, political problems, the world of views and creativity of the author, the social and political systems of organizations, the relationship between specific thoughts and

the cultural configuration in which they occur and the determinants of literary works (Meiliana, 2019, p. 1).

The sociology of literature study focuses on the content of the literary work, the purpose, other things implied in the literary work itself, and those related to a social problem (Wiyatmi, 2013, p. 45) . People have presented sociology of literature theory since before Christ. One of the written documents containing the social theory of literature is the work of Plato, a Greek philosopher who lived in the fifth and fourth centuries BC. His book entitled *Ion and the Republic* alludes to the relationship that exists between literature and society. His theory of the role of

literature in society mainly expressed in Republic Chapters II and X (Damono, 1979, p. 14) . Furthermore, in this research, researcher will focus on discussing social problem that occur in the novel and the causes of social problem.

In social life, three sectors bind each other: the government, entrepreneurs, and civil society (Setiabudhi, 2016, p. 145) . They cannot break away from the contract as a necessity that is an essential means of community life because (Zulfrman, 2017) . Civil liberties as an excellent lead to two paths. First, civil liberties as a political right. Second, civil liberties as a civil (private) right. The last-mentioned right relates to individual or personal rights related to the exchange of wealth to meet personal well-being. The nature of this right has no political power (Zulfrman, 2017, p. 404).

Mills begins with the assumption that "human nature" is formed by the interaction of historical and social structures (1959, p. 13). Sociocultural systems, particularly the modern nation-state, determine the type of men and women who inhabit the system. Human beings, Mills asserts, cannot be understood apart from the social and historical structures in which they are formed and in which they interact (1959, p. 162). The nation-state has become the "history-making unit" in the modern world, the "man-making unit" (1959, p. 158) . Through the socialization process, aspects of human character are liberated or repressed. As the history-making unit, the nation-state selects and forms the character of human beings. It opens possibilities and limits the variety of men and women who make up society.

Although people are motivated by societal norms, values, and belief systems, structural change often throws this "motivational vocabulary" into disarray (1959, p. 162). The number and variety of structural changes in a society increase as institutions become more prominent, more embracing, and more interconnected (1959, pp. 20-21). As structural institutions become larger and more centralized, the circle of people who control these organizations also becomes narrower—the "iron law of oligarchy" prevails (1959, p. 21). As a result, change has accelerated in the modern era. That change has consequences for all parties—both those in control of the enlarged organizations and those who are subject to them and produce social problems.

Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman's *Dry* (2018) is a novel that discusses the relationship between humans and the environment (social problem) in drought disasters. The novel was written in 2018—an illustration copyrighted by Jay Shaw and published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, New York. The main themes in the novel are loss of humanity, survival of the fittest, and violence of weapons. The moral message conveyed is invaluable and an inspiration to many people. Reporting from www.pluggedin.com, this *Dry* received the Chicago Public Library's Best of Teen Fiction award, 2018; NYPL Best Books for Teens, 2018.

The interactions between the groups, motivations, strengths, and weaknesses are all part of what makes *Dry* so good to research. They are a group

united out of necessity, forced to accept each other if they survive the ordeal they endured.

Dry shows how complicated humans are. On the surface, the researcher see one aspect of a person's personality, and in the face of adversity, people may react in ways we can not predict. Kelton and his family are the embodiment of this novel. Alyssa had a specific view of Kelton, and the whole ward had a distinct impression of her family. *Dry's* novel brilliantly conveys how, under pressure, human beings can act unexpectedly. The line between good and evil can change under adverse conditions. Many features of humanity, good and bad, are featured in the novel.

There are two reasons why the researcher chose this novel. First, the main characters, Alyssa, Kelton, Garrett, and Jacqui, motivate researcher that humans can improve their circumstances through effort, innovation, and knowledge. In addition, the novel makes researcher realize that there are still many humans who have the potential to become a threat to other individuals due to the pressure of circumstances and needs. Secondly, the novel inspires researcher to pay more attention to water resources. Many people still waste water massively and uselessly, and they need to realize that many others need water resources. This condition requires more attention and is too selfish to fulfill desires and put aside more urgent human needs.

In addition, the threat to human life in the form of social problems is mainly given a solution by creating the concept of government or the political

order, and some of its originators, such as John Locke, Thomas Hobbes, and J.J. Rousseau. However, *Dry* manages to provide a different perspective. The novel also shows that there are power elites who can cause social problems. Exploring the sociological side to approach this novel is very interesting. It can help us realize that the cultivation and dissemination of human values can be viewed in terms of society's structure. This research also intends to help us know the social problems proposed by Wright Mills. Therefore, this novel is interesting to study.

Many studies related to this sociological theme, including Heidi Yeandle, entitled *Hobbes and Rousseau in Heroes and Villains* (Yeandle, 2017). The research focuses on the cold war context depicted in the novel *Heroes and Villains*. The hero's and villains' existence is positioned as a guide to survival in the post-apocalyptic period in the role of professors' education. This research uses qualitative analysis methods in studying objects. As a result, he used a blend of Hobbes's and Rousseau's theories in analyzing the state of nature and the civil state.

Second, research on *Barnaby Rudge's* novel (1841) written by Tom Prasch, entitled *Social and Antisocial Contracts: Voices and Locations of Tradition and Dissent in Barnaby Rudge* (Prasch, 2011). This research focuses on a trope that signifies one of the principles underlying the novel's structure in the basis of social order on the social contract put forward by Thomas Hobbes, an understanding of the relationship between social order and government that ordered to work in England during the seventeenth century. The results of this

study found that resolutions are never really completed. Finally, only the little problems of the novel are entirely solved.

The third study was *The Role of Narrative in Post-Apocalyptic Representations of the Social Contract* (2018) written by Nicole Duncan. This research discusses the phenomenon of moral degradation in society, which led to the emergence exploration of apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic thought from the point of view of the social contract initiated by Thomas Hobbes. The object of this study is the text of the play *A Canticle for Leibowitz* (1960) by Walter M. Miller Jr, *Riddley Walker* (1980) by Russell Hoban, *The Road* (2006) by Cormac McCarthy, and *The Book of Dave* (2006) by Will Self. The results of conclusions on historical fragments can subjectively be used as a reference (reconstruction or deconstruction) of the social contract in improving the order of society.

Fourth, the study had titled "*Pretenders of a Vile and Unmanly Disposition*": *Thomas Hobbes on the Fiction of Constituent Power*". Written by Adam Lindsay (2018) , This research focuses on analyzing the power of constituents in a group to establish or revise the main constitutional conditions of a country. This research explores alternative perspectives on the genealogy of constituent forces. Researchers argue that constituent power is not a creative material force but a type of political claim that shapes the collective rights, responsibilities, and identities of the "people." Using Thomas Hobbes's theory to study constituent power among the Scottish Presbyterians during the English Civil War. The results of this study demonstrate the existence of constituent power

taking for Hobbesian in providing a significant challenge to contemporary theories by showing how the partisan construction of constituent power shapes the political choices available to groups (Lindsay, 2018).

The fifth study is a study by Ronnie D. Lipschutz entitled "*Flies in Our Eyes: Man, the Economy, and War*" (2009) . The research focuses on understanding how boys act the way they do when they arrive on the island and try to create a new society—using the theory of the social contract and the state of nature by Thomas Hobbes. The study results show a state of nature in life on the island, such as wild and brutish life.

The sixth study was written by James Heit, entitled "*The Politics of The Hunger Games*" (2015). The researcher focuses on President Snow's authoritarian leadership and how he can legitimize his actions aligned with Thomas Hobbes' theory. Based on Hobbes' theory, the results of this study suggest that "the basis for government is intrinsic instability derived from desire" because the human being will always strive to achieve more and live in fear of others who want to take it from him. The government is needed in this situation because the people are a problem because their class cannot trust them. Therefore, an authoritarian government is a solution to maintaining peace. Researchers believe this idea will draw to President Snow's actions in *The Hunger Games*. The researcher concludes that responsibility for the government's actions rests on the shoulders of the governed.

The seventh study was written by Joseph J. Foy entitled "*SAFE TO DO WAT?*" *Morality and the War Against All in the Arena*" *The Hunger Games and Philosophy* (Foy, 2012). Focusing on an authoritarian system of government using the theory of Thomas Hobbes. The results of this study show that there is legality and justification for the government's actions in using any tactic, no matter how brutish or oppressive, to maintain peace and order. The study provides a conclusion by being able to use it to legitimize a solid totalitarian regime on the basis that it will protect its citizens from harmful traits.

Eighth, the other source of inspiration for this journal comes from Claire Curtis' analysis of the novel *Lucifer's Hammer* in her research titled *Postapocalyptic Fiction and the Social Contract: We will Not Go Home Again* (2010). The research uses Hobbes' theory of social contract to analyze the plot and actions of the characters. Researchers gave the result that the novel "argues over the Hobbesian social contract" and that "it promotes an authoritarian style of government chosen by the people to protect their lives and the possibility for that life to flourish." Due to difficult times, people are willing to draw up a social contract and "lay down their rights." A farm in the hills becomes a sanctuary with elected leaders, illustrating Hobbes' idea that there must be a leader to secure civil society. People may not agree on everything, but they have laid down their rights and have agreed to be governed by the system.

The ninth previous study has titled *How Does Evil Relate to Civilization?* *A Study of Correlation between Evil and Civilization in William Golding's Works*

in the Context of the Views of Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau was written by Julia Naumowicz (2014). This study explores the themes of human nature, civilization, and savagery in William Golding's early prose, namely in the novels *Lord of the Flies* and *The Inheritors*. In particular, this work focuses on the correlation between evil and civilization implied by Golding in his works. by trying to explain how, according to Golding, civilization and savagery affect human nature. This line of argument is in the context of the views of the philosophers Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Thomas Hobbes, and John Locke. The study results show the relationship between civilization and human evil when within the scope of the state of nature within the framework of three figures of thought. Moreover, the three figures indicate the fundamental differences related to the state of nature. One side indicates the existence of evil in every human being, and one side of every human being is a blank, spotlessly clean paper.

The tenth is a journal written by Thomas A. Lyson. It is titled "*Big Business and Community Welfare Revisiting a Classic Study by C. Wright Mills and Melville Ulmer*" (2006) . The researcher examines the relationship between community welfare and community involvement, the self-reliant middle class, and big business. The scope of the analysis took a district that relies on the manufacturing sector. Partial correlation analysis was used to identify significant business-independent and mediating effects. The results show that local economies organized around small-scale, diversified firms have better outcomes than economies dominated by one or a few large firms.

The eleventh previous study is a thesis written by Stephanie Piamonte, entitled "*The Criminological Imagination: Mills, Reflexive Analysis, & Richard Wright's Native Son*" (2010) . This research uses Wright Mills' theory of criminological imagination in analyzing Jack Katz's *Native Son* and the Birmingham School. This research uses the methodology of epistemological and ontological elements and criminological inquiry. The analysis of *Native Son* yields the research that there is criminological potential in many genres of fiction. This thesis represents a kind of criminological intersection where biography and society, fact and fiction, methodology and epistemology are explored.

The literary research presented in this section uses the theories of Hobbes, Mills, Locke, and Rousseau to understand society, social problems, and social contracts in the selected novels. All the studies conclude that the novels analyzed present the social contract as the foundation for society, and life without a social contract would be considered a 'state of nature.' Having no rules and letting anyone do whatever he would be a disaster recipe. That is why the children in *Lord of the Flies* made rules soon after their arrival, and the people on the farm in *Lucifer's Hammer* agreed to elect a leader to secure the structure of their society. President Snow in *The Hunger Games* can be seen as an illustration of Hobbes' ideas as he strengthens his grip over Panem and imposes stricter laws to prevent chaos and a return to a state of nature.

The social problem is essential in these dystopian and post-apocalyptic novel genre, whether in creating control and security after the loss of society or

maintaining what has existed. For *Dry*, we will look at examples of both aspects. California's government, The military ranks, would represent a strict authority that seeks to maintain control by all means possible. The economy with businesses and entrepreneurs who still have access to water during a drought. They are making social problems worse and unresolved.

On the other hand, based on previous research, most of the research conducted is only to explain human behavior towards other humans within the scope of the state on the intrinsic elements of literature and social facts in sociology. This study only discusses the description of the state of natural phenomena in the novel and the social contract in general (which was put forward not only by the thoughts of Mills but also Hobbes, J.J. Rousseau, John Locke, and Rawls). In addition, the novel also provides information and ideas about the state of human nature and its development in classical and apocalyptic times. However, the efforts of humans to resolve their conflicts individually with little help from the government still need to be improved. In addition, there is a need for more focus in discussing social issues from one point of view of Wright Mills' thoughts in implementing the setting elements in the intrinsic elements. Therefore, an in-depth analysis of this perspective is still needed. Because of these considerations, the researcher conducted a sociological analysis of the novel *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman.

B. Research Question

Based on the explanation of the background of the study, the following questions are:

1. What is the portrayal of social problem in the setting of Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman's *Dry*, and how do they reflect societal problem?
2. How do the factors and circumstances presented in Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman's *Dry* contribute to the emergence of social problem?

C. Significance of the Study

This research will contribute to science in English Literature, which can help students understand and practice social philosophy and sociology in a literary work. Researcher is optimistic that the social problem in this novel will show the world the importance of maintaining peace, especially understanding the essence and complexity of human life and even the challenges beside it. By understanding conflicts, readers can reflect and understand themselves so that they can take on moral values.

Furthermore, the researcher also hopes that the results of this research will be helpful for students majoring in literature, researchers, academics, institutions,

universities, and those who want to concentrate and explore more about the theme of sociology in a literary work.

D. Scope and Limitation

Due to practical and technical limitations in answering the question, the researcher will limit the scope of this study to only analyze the existence of social problems in *Dry's* (Shusterman & Shusterman, 2018) with Wright Mills' theory of the Social Problem (2000). It only focuses on the social problem and the causes of problem.

E. Definition of Key Term

1. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of literature is the study of the relationship between literature and society, and the ways in which literature is a product of social and cultural conditions. It is concerned with the social and ideological functions of literature, and with the social and cultural contexts in which it is produced, circulated and received (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972)

2. Social Problem

A social problem is a problem or issue that is faced by the community collectively and requires a solution from the authorities or from the community itself (Mills C. W., 1959)

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter discusses some of the related literature used to analyze *Dry*. It consists of the sociology of literature, Wright Mills idea in sociology, social problem, types of social problem, causes of social problem, and setting as an intrinsic element of a novel.

A. The Sociology of Literature

In general, sociology is an objective study of humans and society, covering the social processes that occur in it. Of course, sociology presents all social phenomena as research material that needs to explain scientifically. There are several scopes: culture, economy, language, literature, politics, and others. This process clarifies how the individual can communicate with his environment and social order. So that the individual is acceptable in certain behaviours and norms therefore, sociology can easily be understood as a scientific discipline whose purpose is to study human behaviour, the formation of social structures, and form mutual agreements in the realm of economics, politics, and culture (Durkheim, 1958, p. 24).

Similarly, with sociology, literary works are seen as a medium to recreate human relations with social, political, cultural, religious, and other societies. It can be an alternative from the aesthetic side to adjust and change society. The

similarity of functions between sociology and literature made some thinkers consider

literature separate from sociology. With its basis, literature can stand alone as a study that can approach the elements in it. Even as an art form, literature is considered to go beyond accurate scientific descriptions and analysis, penetrating the social surface and explaining human feelings about what he experiences. It makes literature more clarified in scope and can summarize several events that can explain systematically and in detail through the method of sociology, which is referred to as the sociology of literature (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972, p. 12).

The process of literary works derives from phenomena that occur in society, which are then written and read by society. This is due to the movement that encourages the emergence of literary works, public acceptance of literary works, and the selection of cultural patterns that harmonized to influence people's interest in reading these literary works (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972, p. 43).

In literary studies, phenomena visible to the reader can be found in related objects of study. Based on looking at a form that focuses on four orientations, it has been explained by Klarer, namely:

1. Pragmatic: A reader-focused study.
2. Expressive: With an orientation focus on the author.
3. Mimetics: A study that focuses on the context of environmental facts or the universe. Because literary works as an imitation of the picture of environmental facts.

4. Objective: A study that focuses on the literary work or orientation towards the intrinsic elements of literature (Klarer, 1999, pp. 75-100).

Of the four orientations, the field of study developed into a broader scope, one of which was in the sociology of literature (Harsono, 1999, pp. 6-10) which in its division was:

1. The expressive study of the sociology of literature. The study centers on the analysis of the author's social phenomena. It remains to focus on the relevance of literary works and authors since the author's social phenomena are reflected in his work.
2. The pragmatic study of the sociology of literature. The study centers on the analysis of the social phenomena of the reader related to the acceptance of literature from the reader's side.
3. Socio-context studies, with literary studies relating to production consumption. This research centers on analyzing its relevance among literary works with social systems, such as several networks that include the author himself, ranging from the author himself, editors, distributors, sponsors, and others.
4. The objective study of the sociology of literature. The research centers on the analysis of social problems that are intrinsically told in literary works. Problems come with the structure and detailed elements of the

literary work. The structure and the whole of the elements are analyzed with sociological objectives (p. 10).

Therefore, literary works have a position as one of the objects of study that focus on the intrinsic discussion of the text by relating it to the social phenomena that occur. Swingewood explains that linking the experiences of imaginary figures to history, themes, settings, and stylistics is a relevant way of knowing the interrelationships of literary works with patterns of society located outside the text (Swingewood & Laurenson, 1972, p. 14). Thus, in this thesis, the researcher aims to discuss intrinsic background elements, to be aligned with social phenomena in literature intrinsically with the sociological approach proposed by Charles Wright Mills.

B. Wright Mills Idea in Sociology

Wright Mills (1916–1962) was a sociologist who had an idea of seeing and understanding society, known as creating the term sociological imagination. He is a professor at New York's Columbia University. Sociological imagination is the ability to see the interrelationships between personal life and background in one's environment that can shape a person's life (for example, lifestyle or political agenda). For example, a person's wealth or poverty is usually categorized as a personal problem (for example, gaining or losing a job). It should be understood as a broader public problem (e.g., economic health and social change in government institutions (Aschmitz, 2012).

In his famous work, *The Sociological Imagination*, Mills noted how social forces and personal life are intertwined:

When a society is industrialized, a farmer becomes a worker; The feudal lord is liquidated or a businessman. When the class rises or falls, a man is employed or unemployed; When the level of investment rises or falls, a man takes on a new heart or goes bankrupt. When war broke out, an insurance salesman became a rocket launcher; a store clerk, a wife living alone; A child growing up without a father (Mills C. W., The Sociological Imagination, 1959). Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can stand without understanding both.

Without a sociological perspective, one may think of personal experiences as the source of the problem; the solution to that problem also lies within the person. Unemployment, for example, is an individual problem for an unemployed person that may be due to its characteristics such as work ethic, job skills, or opportunities. Suppose the individual is one of the few unemployed in the city. However, when the unemployment rate soars and many people are unemployed, there is something wrong in the structure of society that results in inadequate job opportunities. While there will certainly still be lazy or unskilled people among the unemployed, millions of unemployment cases cannot be explained at this individual level, and the solution to each individual will not solve the problem. Working harder, getting more training, or finding a different workplace will only result in jobs when the economy is good and no jobs can be available (Ryan W. , 1976).

C. The Social Problem

The sociology study starts from the fundamental premise that human life is related to social society. Most humans are constantly engaged in interaction with other humans. From the family in which one was born through school, work, games, and even meetings commemorating one's death, the man spends his life

within a circle of interrelated social arrangements (Rebach & Bruhn, 2001). So, the study of sociology focuses on this realm, including how they are created, how they change, and how they affect a person's life, opportunities, and choices.

In human life, many individuals experience one or more social problems personally. For example, many people are poor and unemployed, in poor health, have family problems, drink too much alcohol, or commit crimes. When hearing about these individuals, it is easy to think that their problems are their own and that they and other individuals with the same problem are entirely to blame for their difficulties (Barkan, 2011).

Mills explains that it is important to look at social problems by understanding the personal lives and social structures in which individuals live, and these two elements cannot see from one side alone. For example, in an industrial society, there are two opportunities: a farmer becomes a worker who can make money or fail to harvest, and a feudal lord gets a chance to be liquidated or become a businessman. When a class goes up or down, one has the option of working or unemployed; When the investment level rises or falls, a person seizes the opportunity or goes bankrupt (Mills C. W., 1959).

For other example, illustrating social problems using Mills' point of view begins with the phenomenon of unemployment, as Mills describes it. If out of the 100,000 townspeople, only a few people are unemployed, Mills wrote, then it can explain that reasonably by saying that they are lazy, do not have good work habits, and so on. If so, unemployment becomes a personal problem. However,

unemployment is better understood as a public problem when millions lose jobs. The problem and various appropriate solutions require considering society's economic and political institutions and not just the personal situation (Mills C. W., 1959, p. 9).

Based on Mills' insights, William Ryan (1976) shows that to help understand social problems by using the point of view of blaming individuals, considering why poor children in urban areas often learn very little in their schools. According to Ryan, looking at social problems from an individual point of view by blaming the victim will mean that children's parents do not care about their learning and fail to teach them good study habits. This type of explanation, he writes, may apply to some parents but ignores a much more important reason: the pathetic form of America's urban schools, which are overcrowded, spaces that hold only old textbooks and outdated equipment. He wrote that to improve the schooling of children in urban areas, he wrote, should improve the school itself and not just try to "fix" parents (Ryan W. , 1976).

D. Types of Social Problem

Social problems are issues that affect the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. Poverty and unemployment are two social problems that have a significant impact on the lives of many people around the world. In this session, the researcher will discuss poverty and unemployment based on Wright Mills' theory.

1. Unemployment

Ideally, people live in freedom in their neighborhoods individually with intellectual and social endeavors through public action. With reflection, open communication, and organized action, the public community feels whole and active at points of structural relevance. However, the members of the masses are in a disadvantaged environment and cannot get out, either by thought or activity. When a handful of people are out of work and not looking for work, the problem is bound to be personal. However, when twelve million people are unemployed, it cannot be denied that they have not suddenly become 'lazy' and 'no good.' This phenomenon is called 'structural unemployment,' which means that, for one thing, the people involved cannot control their employment opportunities (Mills C. W., 1959).

2. Poverty

Wealthy people in America are culturally among impoverished people; the only kind of experience that their model is the material experience of earning money and saving money. Material success is their only basis of authority. In addition to the rich, who can compare their conditions to the poor, some celebrities often take advantage of cultural poverty and political illiteracy for national charm. In essence, celebrities are figures for the means of the distraction of the masses, with a media and entertainment base, and in the end, the public is powerless to make changes (Mills C. W., 1959).

Ultimately, the distinction between social structure and environment is an important way of looking at social problems. In every significant area of life, the loss of government structures downwards and the abandonment of a defenseless environment are vital facts. In the labor division, the person who works performs in the economic hierarchy is also in a narrow environment, and the position of the production process as a whole exists only in the center. It makes a person alienated not only from the products and tools of their labor but from any understanding of the structure and production process. In the political order, people cannot take part in voicing their opinions, cannot see the whole political dynamic, and cannot state the problems that, in reality, will determine the overall fate of where they are (Mills C. W., 1959).

E. Causes of Social Problem

The causes of social problems are factors that must be understood to fight social problems that can affect society's growth, development, and transformation. The structural causes of social problems revolve around how incompetent socio-economic, political, or governmental administrators function and inequality in providing resources to society (Uzodike & Maiangwa, 2012).

Regarding the causes of social problems, Mills focuses on the power elite position that makes the lower middle class powerless. According to him, this privileged position creates an interconnected power structure in which they control society for their benefit at the expense of the public interest and ultimately cause social problems. There is no real access between the upper and lower

classes of social groups, both for power and material gain, the system is unfair, and the distribution of resources and power is unequal (Mills & Wolfe, 2000).

The central national powers are in the economic, political, and military spheres. Other institutions are siding and subservient to elite power. No society directly has power in changes to national affairs, no church has more direct power in youth in America today than a military establishment, and no college is as strong as the national security council in shaping actual events. Religious, educational, and family institutions are not autonomous centers of national power to effect change. On the contrary, decentralized territories are increasingly shaped by the big three, where decisive and direct consequences are now taking place (Mills & Wolfe, 2000, p. 6).

Mills describes the power elite as a group whose members come from distinguished and influential families. The power elite is the people who control the highest positions in business, the military, and politics and have a common culture, values, beliefs, and profit orientation. The power elite has members from three domains, the political, economic, and military (Mills & Wolfe, 2000, p. 269).

1. The political elite, a collection of several members of the decentralized state government, became executive institutions that took on much-scattered power and now get into every gap of social structure and are influential in the mass media. Mills explained that when executive political ranks declare a 'balance of power,' it can be interpreted that not a single public interest can offer the will or by

putting forward conditions to the ruling party, or the proposed public interest can create a deadlock. That all the policies of the ruler are the result of compromise. His policies often create societal imbalances (Mills & Wolfe, 2000).

2. Economic elite contains a line of companies of small productive units widespread throughout the autonomous regions. It is dominated by several administratively interrelated companies, which hold the key to economic decisions. Economic elites have solid connections and skills in bureaucracy. People who possess those skills are well rewarded for their efforts by being paid handsomely, provided they can exercise national influence not only through their companies but through roles they will perform to serve "unilateral interests on a national scale" (Mills & Wolfe, 2000).
3. The military is a security domain that, in its establishment, has the principle of protecting society using force. This military realm is supplied by militias by the state, becoming the most significant and expensive feature of government security. They are well-versed in public relations. Of all the branches of the power elite, this 'military power' has the most dangerous implications. 'American militarism' means victory in all spheres of life, and therefore makes subordination to society (Mills & Wolfe, 2000).

Along with political elites and corporations, Mill analyzed the role of the 'political directorate' responsible for executive decisions made on behalf of the

United States. Closely tied to the military and corporate sectors, United States political leaders put together an agenda that benefits their class rather than what might be good for the nation. They, as well as the police, derive significance from the simple fact that violence is the final solution to power for those who oppose it (Mills & Wolfe, 2000).

F. Setting as an Intrinsic Element of a Novel

The setting has defined an explanation as the background in which the characters live their lives in the story. The setting can relate to where the characters live, and the time they live (Terms, 2015, pp. 141-156). In addition, the setting refers to a natural and artificial landscape or environment in which characters in literature can live and move. This means that everything related to the environment, such as time, light, trees and animals, society, sounds, smells, and weather described, is part of the (Fiction: An Introduction to Reading and Writing, 1987). The arrangement of the work is descriptive of the object and the physical appearance of the place where the story takes place.

Setting can establish the credibility of a literary work in explaining characters and situations and contribute to atmospheric nuances, or the dominant atmosphere in the story can be seen in the shadows or symbolically (Rohrberger & Woods Jr, 1971, p. 22). Then it is essential to know the situation and time in a literary work because it can help to analyze intrinsic and extrinsic elements.

To analyze the settings, we can use the point of view of Edgar's thinking. According to him, Setting refers to the natural or artificial scenery or environment

in which characters in literature live and move. Seeing also includes what in the theater would be called props or properties—the implements employed by the characters in various activities. Such things as the time of day and the consequent amount of light at which an event occurs, the flora and fauna, the sounds described, the smells, and the weather are also part of the setting. Paintbrushes, apples, pitchforks, rafts, six-shooters, watches, automobiles, horses and buggies, and innumerable other items belong to the setting. References to clothing, descriptions of physical appearance, and spatial relationships among the characters are also part of setting (Roberts, 1969, p. 50).

In addition to several types, settings also have a function. Fiction is used to perform some of the functions desired by the author of the novel's story. The setting may function (1) to provide a background action; (2) as an antagonist; (3) as a means to create an appropriate atmosphere; (4) as a means of expressing character; and (5) as a means of reinforcing the theme (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981).

1. Setting as Background for Action

Setting as background for action is the setting that explains the places where the events of literature work occur.

2. Setting as Antagonist

The setting can serve as a kind of causal agent of the problem or antagonist, helping to establish plot conflicts and determine the outcome of events.

4. Setting as a Means of Creating Appropriate Atmosphere

Setting as a means of creating an appropriate atmosphere is the setting that describes the state or the atmosphere in literature work that can arouse the state of readers.

5. Setting as a Means of Expressing Character

Setting as a means of expressing character is how a character perceives the setting, and the way he or she reacts to it will tell the reader more about the character and his state of mind than it will about the physical setting itself.

6. Setting as a Means of Reinforcing Theme

Setting as a means of reinforcing a theme is used to be a means of reinforcing and clarifying the theme of a novel or short story. It is the setting that explains the idea of an author in literature work that is expected to send to the readers (Pickering & Hoeper, 1981, p. 39).

In this thesis, the researcher focuses on the above regarding the types of four settings: physical setting, time, the novel's social environment, and atmosphere, as well as reviewing objects based on the function of the setting as previously described. Later in the analysis of this thesis, it will be found that using setting to assist researchers in analyzing the novel *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman using Charles Wright Mills' sociological perspective on social

problems. This method means that the use of setting is essential. Given the setting can help researchers in studying the content of the novel.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

Based on the theme studied, this chapter describes the methods used to research these problems. Some points that will be present include research design, data sources, data collection, and data analysis. Therefore, the details are as follows:

A. Research Design

This research is categorized into literary criticism, because it relates to the restriction, classification, analysis, and assessment of literary works (Abrams, 1981) . The data obtained in the qualitative method, which is the source of information derived from the theory, will be many descriptions, and there will be more explanations of the processes occurring in the context (Miles & Huberman, 1984). Qualitative methods are research used in various domains of the family of sciences, one of which is the social sciences (Al-Ma'ruf & Nugrahani, 2017). The qualitative way of working was chosen because this research has the character of participant observation, namely the researcher examines the world of the data he is studying, understands it, and constantly systematics the objects he is studying (Al-Ma'ruf & Nugrahani, 2017) . Which in its implementation technically observes human beings, in the context of their territory and culture (Budianto, 2014) . The most suitable approach is a sociology of literature using the social problem theory of Charles Wright Mills (2000) . This theory reveals the relationship between the state of the environment and human development.

Including his way of expressing social problems in a literary work and revealing the causes of social problems,

human relationships with their peers. Therefore, social problem theory is used as an answer to research formulation.

B. Data Sources

In research, data is the crucial thing that must consider to support the validity of information and produce conclusions. The presentation on this point is about the sources of information to select for analysis (Siswantoro, 2010). In this study, the data was in the form of sentences. In particular, with the text model dialogue, the statement of the characters, and the description of the setting elements in the intrinsic story given by the novel's author. The data is used to solve the problems determined in the previous chapter. The primary data source in this research is the novel *Dry* (2018) by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman. The novel has 274 pages divided into six chapters. It is a copyrighted illustration by Jay Shaw and published by Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, New York. In addition, to support the above primary sources, researchers also use data sources from literary books, theories from experts, dictionaries, journals, and various information from the internet.

C. Data Collection

Data collection activities are an essential part of any research. Various matters related to the data collection process must be understood in the analytical activities carried out (Sutopo, 2002). In this study of the sociology of literature, data sources are taken from *Dry's* novel. The words or texts are a form of data; researcher can obtain them through several techniques such as reading,

documenting, taking notes, and marking key points of the book. For further analysis, the authors use the following steps. The first is reading the novel carefully and repeating it several times. Second, understanding and deep thinking of the content of the novel. Third, finding out the data related to research problem. Fourth, writing down the important notes from the novel. Fifth, organizing data into several parts based on their classifications

D. Data Analysis

The next step is that the researcher will collect the data and analyze it, as well as interpret the data obtained to generate coherence of some answers to the problem under study. To answer the research questions of the study in the novel, the researcher will carefully read, look for social aspects of humans in every paragraph, even in every word, then write points in notes. This includes examining all its intrinsic features, especially in the setting elements. Some interweaving processes in researching and interpreting this object are as follows, 1) Classify the data into different categories according to the research questions. 2) Explore and describe human social problems from the perspective of social problem theory. 3) Find the coherence between the setting of the novel and the social problem theory. 4) Conclude data analysis to answer research problems.

CHAPTER IV

FINDING AND DISSCUSSION

In this chapter and reviewing the big picture of the previous theme, this research aims to describe the social problems depicted in the novel *Dry* using a sociological approach. The analysis will focus on the story setting that builds and describes the relationship between humans and the social environment. Such as social problems arising from human conflicts that can create unfavorable relationships between people, as proposed by Wright Mills.

Therefore, in this chapter, researchers present some data that can be used for analysis to answer the research questions in this study. This chapter is divided into two parts. In the first part, the researcher analyzes data regarding social problems in the California environment and other areas depicted in the novel *Dry*. In the second part, researcher describe the causes of social problems in the novel. Such as when there is a military emergency party that handles disasters ineffectively.

A. The Social Problems in The Novel

The primary setting in *Dry* is an inland state in the western United States. It is in California, which borders Oregon to the north, Nevada, and Arizona to the east. California is one of the most densely populated states in the United States and is the third largest state by area. On the other hand, within the *Dry*, California has been exposed to significant fire risk since humans began changing the climate. Likewise, with the impact of climate change other than fires, there is the non-trivial

phenomenon of drought that has hit the California region, and the phenomenon has created many social problems that occur in California or the setting of the story *Dry*.

1. Unemployment

Bad decisions were made by the government in the face of the drought, which resulted in the dismissal of relevant agencies. The data is listed below:

“Have you been watching the news?” she says. “They’re saying even the Los Angeles Aqueduct went dry. It’s been dry for weeks, and they kept it a secret. People are resigning and being fired left and right. They’re saying LA’s water commissioner could be brought up on criminal charges. (p. 12)

Based on the data presented above, several factors have exacerbated the drought in California due to the absence of water supply support. The statement *“They’re saying even the Los Angeles Aqueduct went dry. It’s been dry for weeks, and they kept it a secret“*, reveals the unprofessionalism and unwillingness of many people to help the affected areas. As a result, their actions were exposed, and they were dismissed. The water commissioner's efforts to aid the disaster were also hindered. An example of the unemployment phenomenon is the bankruptcy of many shops, as seen in the data below. Alyssa, Kelton, and Garrett visited a mini supermarket that had ceased operations and was abandoned:

The three of us roll up to the store and step inside, taking in our surroundings. Like the rest of the world, the store is a slight aberration of normal. Bleak and dusty, the air is so thick it coats your throat. The AC’s off, which we already knew, since we hadn’t hit a single functioning streetlight between home and here. But what I don’t expect is how barren this place is, devoid of not just products, but even the hope of them. (p. 74-75)

The data presented above indicates that a supermarket has ceased operations. As described in the sentence *"The store is a slight aberration of normal. Bleak and dusty"*, the shop workers were forced to stop working due to the lack of goods, particularly mineral water. Consequently, unemployed individuals resorted to group evacuation as a means of survival, as shown in the data below:

"You could say we've taken up residence here," Charity says, addressing us all. "At least for the time being." I look around and notice that there isn't just one campfire, but several, constellated across the span of the traffic-jammed freeway, in different clearings. This is nothing like the homeless encampment we saw before; these seem like people from many walks of life who have decided that staying here in the midst of the crisis is better than being anywhere else. (p. 198)

The data presented above depicts a middle-aged woman who serves as the leader of a group of unemployed civilians. As described in the setting of the story, *"These seem like people from many walks of life who have decided that staying here in the midst of the crisis is better than being anywhere else,"* many members of her group are also unemployed and have come together for refuge.

The survival of Charity groups is a crucial aspect of their efforts to withstand the effects of the drought. Due to their commitment to social welfare, Charity and her team strive to maximize the potential of each individual. The process of recruiting members is outlined in the data presented below:

"Is that how long you've been here?" I ask. "Two days?"

"Three," he says. "I wandered onto the freeway two days after the Tap-Out. I had it worse than most people on account of my blood pressure meds make me sweat like a racehorse. Dehydrated real quick, and I couldn't get a drop of water for the life of me. I wandered onto the freeway, determined to either find water, or drop. I

dropped. But the Water Angel found me. Charity gave me water, and when I was strong enough, put me to work. Before long there were dozens of us, all working and taking care of each other."

"Kind of like a commune," Kelton says.

"Yeah, I guess it just kind of evolved into that. We all have our own skill sets. Turns out I'm pretty handy," he says with pride. (p. 200)

The above data illustrates that the Charity group lived communally in a nomadic manner for three days, enabling them to look after each other. The individuals rescued by Charity can be seen in the sentence, *"I dropped. But the Water Angel found me. Charity gave me water"*. Leveraging the experience of each individual, Charity was able to mobilize her team to work together.

One of the residents who was detected to be unemployed was Kelton's older brother Brady. Contained in the statement *"We knew he lost his job and bailed on his roommates"*. When the disaster occurred, he was unemployed and secretly did not communicate with his family. Kelton finally realized it when he arrived at Mr. McCracken's evacuation house, as in the data below:

"My brother happened here!" he says, with so much anguish in his eyes, I have to look away. "This is where Brady must have been living! We knew he lost his job and bailed on his roommates. We thought he might be living with his girlfriend. It never occurred to us that he might come here. Where he knew there was food and water enough to last for months. . . ." (p. 217)

The data above showed when Kelton's group arrived at Mr. McCracken's evacuation or emergency house. After entering the house, Kelton was shocked by the condition, which was very messy, and there was not a single food or drink. With this incident, Kelton realized that only

his brother had the key to him. Uncle Basil's unemployment, on the other hand, is caused by broader factors. As is the case in the data below:

Daphne, our uncle's sometime girlfriend, has a big house here that was left to her by her mother. Before coming down here, she was a realtor up in Modesto, the same town where Uncle Basil had his almond farm. But almond trees use more water than almost everything and with rationing set so low, the almond farms failed first. He declared bankruptcy, let the bank take the farm (p. 139)

The above data depicts Alyssa's uncle, who faced bankruptcy in the almond farming business. The sentence, *"The almond farms failed first. He declared bankruptcy, let the bank take the farm"*, provides clear evidence of this. Due to the drought, the demand for water to maintain his orchard increased significantly, while the water supply dwindled sharply. As a result, he was forced to declare bankruptcy, and the bank took over his farm, ultimately resulting in unemployment.

2. Poverty

When drought occurs and the government's role is not at all helpful in disaster management, it is undeniable that people in California have a great need for water, and many are scrambling to get a bottle of mineral water. The inability of the community to obtain water is a sign of poverty as posited by Wright Mills (1959). One of the individuals who experienced powerlessness in having enough water to quench her thirst is Alyssa, as depicted in the following data as described by this data:

In the kitchen behind me, Garrett opens the fridge and grabs a bottle of Glacier Freeze Gatorade. He begins to guzzle it, but I stop him on the third gulp.

"Put it back," I tell him. "Save some for later."

“But I’m thirsty now,” he whines, protesting. He’s ten—six years younger than me. Ten-year-olds have issues with delayed gratification. (p. 7)

The dialogue above depicts Alyssa, who is in the kitchen with her younger brother Garrett, he cannot resist the thirst in his throat. Despite the surrounding conditions and the dry season, he innocently tries to quench his thirst. The following can be seen in the sentence *“Put it back,” I tell him. “Save some for later”*. The above incident is one of the early phenomena of Alyssa's family's poverty. Likewise, the depiction of the character of the neighbors who, when gathered together along the suburban road, are helpless to get water as a necessity of life, see below:

Garrett, who’s been standing quietly, brings his Gatorade bottle up to his lips . . . and for a brief moment everyone stops talking. Involuntary. Almost like a mental hiccup, as they watch my brother gulp the quenching blue liquid. Finally, Mr. Burnside breaks the silence. “We’ll talk,” he says as he turns to leave. It’s the way he always ends a conversation. It signals the conclusion of this loose little fellowship. Everyone says their goodbyes and heads back to their homes . . . but more than one set of eyes glance at Garrett’s empty Gatorade bottle as they leave. (p. 8-9)

The data above shows Alyssa's neighbor, who is jealous of Garrett when he drinks water. Seen in the phenomena setting in the sentence *“and for a brief moment everyone stops talking. Involuntary. Almost like a mental hiccup, as they watch my brother gulp the quenching blue liquid”*.

Also as shown in the data below:

Mr. Burnside raises his eyebrows. “Hate to say I told ya so, but didn’t I say they’d hoard what’s left of the Colorado River? We let that river become our only lifeline. We should never have let ourselves become so vulnerable.” (p. 8)

The data above shows that Mr. Burnside disagrees with the government's decision to close the Colorado River. Exactly in the sentence

“Hate to say I told ya so, but didn’t I say they’d hoard what’s left of the Colorado River? We let that river become our only lifeline. We should never have let ourselves become so vulnerable.” This action makes the water allocation unavailable.

The quantity of water is very scarce when it comes in on the third day of the drought disaster. Once the condition worsens, many people can access water. As illustrated in the data below:

“Tensions rise as the Southland enters the third day of the Tap-Out, but government officials say relief is on the way.”

Local Eyewitness News anchor Lyla Singh reads her part, then defers to Chase Buxton, her coanchor, who recites his line from the teleprompter.

“Meanwhile, the cascade effect that has left more than twenty-three million people without running water shows no sign of abating. For more, we take you to Donovan Lee in Silverlake.” (p. 34)

The above data portray a snapshot of the situation as local news broadcasters in the Kzla region gave news of how 23 million people had no access to water, and there was no good news about emergency facility repairs. Although it has rumors that the government is sending water aid, it has yet to arrive quickly. The bad situation can see in the sentence *“Meanwhile, the cascade effect that has left more than twenty-three million people without running water shows no sign of abating”*.

The civilian population does not have the power to change their fate instantly. They take the initiative to loot strategic places to fulfill their basic needs. The following data illustrates poverty during times of disaster:

The supervisor dispatches the other guards, and begins to frantically call 911, but it’s too late—because that mob, in its righteous rage, is crashing through the gate

and flooding into Pete's plant. And it's more than just dozens of people. It could be hundreds. (p. 62)

The event data above described when Pete's supervisor from the electricity company instructed the company guards to call 911. However, the rage and strength of the mob/mob, which is civil society, turned out to be faster to mobilize the masses to bring down the company's defenses. Such as in the sentence *"because that mob, in its righteous rage, is crashing through the gate and flooding into Pete's plant"*. On the other hand, there are incidents that demonstrate collective prayer activities by civilians in churches. They pray for the thirst to be quenched. The data on this can be found below:

"Look at that!" says Garrett. He's pointing ahead, where a church is lit by hundreds of candles. The door is wide open, the sanctuary is packed, flowing out to the street. Dozens of families, huddling close, praying for deliverance from thirst. (p. 130)

During Alyssa's group journey, Garrett witnessed a phenomenon where the community gathered in a church to pray for their safety and that of their families during the disasters that had befallen them. The sentence reads, *"flowing out to the street. Dozens of families, huddling close, praying for deliverance from thirst"*. Likewise, this also happened to the civil society around the dry aqueduct:

About an hour into this channel, we come across people who have set up camp on either side of the aqueduct, and it doesn't look like a new occurrence. There are dozens of pitched tent dwellings made of tarps and blankets and makeshift supports, like some sort of skid row. I think of what Jacqui said, and realize that it's not only things that get lost behind the cushions of the world. People do, too. (p. 189)

The data above shows the number of poor refugees around the aqueduct. They look helpless over the conditions, and their efforts are limited to making simple tents. Even within Alyssa's smallest sphere, there is poverty among her neighbors.

“The math gives everyone seventy percent of a bottle.”

“That’s ridiculous!”

“Families with young children should get a full bottle!”

“That’s discriminatory!”

“My wife is pregnant.”

Burnside puts up his hands. “All right, calm down!” But the genie is already out of the lamp. Everyone begins talking among themselves. I can see alliances forming, lines in the sand being drawn—all within seconds, and all because I announced that I have a limited supply of something that all of them desperately need. (p. 114)

The data above described when Alyssa wanted to help a group of neighbors who did not have water for their needs. However, Alyssa's water supply could not alleviate the problem of poverty of primary needs in her neighborhood.

Poverty makes the surrounding environment unsafe because there is an opportunity for someone to attack others in order to get the necessities of life. Like the data below:

“Those people might kill them!”

And then Garrett says something that’s actually kind of wise. “Prolly not,” he says. “I mean, they weren’t fighting back. Water-zombies just want one thing, right? If you don’t get in their way, I bet they leave you alone.”(p. 128)

The data shows Garrett trying to reduce Kelton's anger who was hit by the accidental shooting by his father at Brady, his brother. Garrett gives an

understanding that even though his group left Kelton's parents, the looters will not act to kill his parents.

Likewise, Jacqui, as a group member, also has an essential role in maintaining awareness in alleviating social problems because the essence of group salvation is safety for herself. Although individually, Jacqui had the opportunity to fulfil his desire for salvation. However, with a bond with the group, he will still maintain his awareness and give each others benefits and safety to others. The data found below:

But now that the whole of Southern California has actually been plagued, I'm a little disappointed. Not that I want to endure any more than I already have, but I'm disappointed by people—how weak they are, how frail their psyches must be to allow a water shortage to turn them into murderous mobs. If there's one thing I know for sure, it's that I don't want be in the same league as them—hell, I don't even want to be in the same ballpark. (p. 129)

The data above shows the path chosen by Jacqui. Between surviving and maintaining her consciousness or becoming a mob that can cause social problems and creates chaos. The scene takes place after the mob attacks the Kelton family. The event offers a choice in choosing one's path in life. The impact of poverty is horrific, as civilians are helpless to fulfill their needs, and become savage. As in the data below:

Something feels slightly off. I'm not sure what it is, but it hangs in the air like a scent. It's in the impatience of the people in line. The way people use their carts—on the verge of being battering rams to make their way through the crowd. There's a sort of primal hostility all around us, hidden by a veneer of suburban politeness. But even that politeness is stretching thin. (p. 10)

The data above is a picture of civilians queuing for desalinated water. They are impatient with the large line of people who have the same goal, getting water assistance.

B. The Causes of Social Problem

Based on Mills' ideas about the causes of social problems, it focuses on the power position of the elite that makes the middle and lower classes powerless. These power elites are interconnected and control society for their interests (Mills & Wolfe, 2000). There are three components of the power elite illustrated in *Dry*. Each power elite has a significant role in society and the surrounding environment.

1. Political Elite

Ideally, when an area is affected by drought, water conservation or saving is essential, but these are only partial actions that lead to temporary resilience to drought. The actions taken by most government agencies during droughts, such as when locals need rescue, do so as a priority objective. However, what happens instead is that the government prefers to channel water aid to essential services and provide information to the public that is based on something other than data. As below:

“As a precautionary measure, all county and municipal water districts in Southern California are temporarily rerouting all resources to critical services. But I cannot stress enough the need to keep calm. I’d like to personally assure everyone that this is a temporary situation, and that there is nothing to be concerned about.” The media begins to bombard him with questions, but he ducks out without answering a single one.” (p. 6)

The data above shows the actions of the California government, which prioritized the distribution of water aid to critical service locations. As in the sentence, *“As a precautionary measure, all county and municipal water districts in Southern California are temporarily rerouting all resources to critical services”*. Also the governor's statements, which lack

a factual basis but aim to calm the public, are also evident. This is seen in the following sentence, *“But I cannot stress enough the need to keep calm. I’d like to personally assure everyone that this is a temporary situation, and that there is nothing to be concerned about.”*

In *Dry*, the government's character displays through the mass media rather than directly to the community. This action gives the impression that the government is a controller and observer who always instructs civil society to be calm but lacks in disaster management, as below:

Then the TV suddenly goes off. It’s Garrett—he’s turned it off. He keeps the remote out of reach, just in case his sister or I want to turn the TV back on. “I don’t want to watch that—they’re just trying to freak us out!”

“They’re saying we should stay calm,” Alyssa points out.

“Yeah, that’s what they said to people on the Titanic when they already knew it was going down.”

And he’s right. As far as authority is concerned, calm people quietly dying is a lot easier to deal with than angry people fighting for their lives. (p. 68)

The data above shows Garrett and Alyssa’s dissatisfaction with the government’s handling of disasters. It is stated in the sentences, *“I don’t want to watch that—they’re just trying to freak us out!”* and *“Yeah, that’s what they said to people on the Titanic when they already knew it was going down.”* Already the two children distrusted the government regarding the future of disaster-stricken Californians.

On the other hand, the government has also provided regulations for its citizens when disasters occur, although there are no significant results. The data is below:

Fines for people who watered their lawns. The Frivolous Use Initiative. Public service announcements reminding people to conserve water. None of that mattered. The water still ran out. Now the Dove Canyon fountain was empty. The mountain lions had either died or migrated, and the humans were now facing the same two alternatives. (p. 137)

The above data shows that the results of the rules issued by the government turned out to be ineffective and not solutive to solve the problem of drought disasters, from the initiative to use water for what needs the announcement of public services in making instructions to save water for the community. Because the rule turns out to be useless and water still need on a large scale, the community is restless and needs to comply with it.

Moreover, Nevada and Arizona state governments also chose to cut off river flow assistance to California. As found below:

“Arizona and Nevada just backed out of the reservoir relief deal,” Mom tells him. “They’ve shut the floodgates on all the dams, saying they need the water themselves.”

Which means that the Colorado River won’t even reach California anymore. Uncle Basil tries to wrap his mind around it. “Turning off the entire river like it’s a spigot! Can they do that?”

My father raises an eyebrow. “They just did.” (p. 6)

The data above states that the contract agreement was terminated between the California government and Arizona and Nevada, which had previously promised to provide water supplies to help people in the California region. Government elites play an essential role in mobilizing networks to other upper-class elements. As the data are shown below:

There’s a shot of FEMA officials—actual FEMA, not just their reserve volunteers—handing out water in an evacuation center, but a wider shot reveals more crowds than they can possibly handle. Rock stars plan relief concerts to

raise funds. Celebrities promote charities. All the usual self-congratulatory stuff. The only difference is that we're the victims now, rather than the ones sitting comfortably in our homes, sending five bucks on a charity app and patting ourselves on the back because we're so goddamn generous. "They just did." (p. 150)

Likewise, the relationship between the military elite and the government uses instructions to civilians to accept official evacuations organized by these elites, as in the data below:

"If you're getting this report, and you're in the Southland right now—there is a mandatory evacuation," says Anderson Cooper. His image is accompanied by shots of military personnel helping families evacuate onto massive trucks, handing out water to long lines of people. "Evacuation centers are being set up throughout Southern California in school gymnasiums, churches, and malls— but there seems to be a staggering number of people who are choosing not to cooperate with these government mandates." (p. 150)

The data above shows the relationship between government and military elites in disaster management. Although in practice, a large number of evacuated residents did not receive water aid rations. At the end of *Dry's* story, there is an event where the Arizona governor resigns for several reasons, as seen in the data below:

"The governor of Arizona just resigned," Mom tells me. No surprise there. Everyone who had a part in shutting off the flow of the Colorado River into California is facing criminal prosecution. Officials are being indicted on everything from criminal negligence to conspiracy to commit murder. (p. 269)

The data above shows that government elites are very influential on elements of society in the surrounding area. The impact that occurred in California with the termination of the river aid contract was very detrimental to civil society.

2. Military

Although the government has created official evacuation centers to mobilize and assist the community, the response is minimal, given the number of places that still need water rations. These phenomena are in the data below when the character Alyce, a military officer, is instructed to deliver relief water to the refugee center. It turns out that she landed wrong, and she was shocked to find out that there were so many refugee camps that did not get clean water assistance:

And then she's hit with a gust of emotion, an inner turbulence that shakes her to her core. She starts doing the math: At this point, there are about two hundred evacuation shelters. Even if only half the population went to a shelter, that means that nearly 12 million people would be there, waiting for water. That's sixty thousand people for each shelter. And yet the choppers in service can only provide enough water for about six thousand people per shelter per day. Which means that nine in ten people won't get water today. And that's just in the official centers. (p. 159)

The drought phenomenon has seen government directives through news media to remain calm in the face of drought. However, in practice, the riot police participated in handling the disaster, thus making the community more aggressive in seeking safety. As in the data below:

but her attention is grabbed by something on the living room TV. A news report. There's footage of raging brushfires, and riot police in downtown Los Angeles. And the news anchor—only one instead of the usual two—says, "As a precaution, residents are instructed to stay in their homes, and remain calm." But in direct opposition to the anchorman's attempt to soothe viewers, the crawl below reads, Southland declared official FEMA disaster zone. (p. 67)

The data above described when Alyssa and her family watched the news on TV. During the drought, many reports of fires in bushes and trees due to the extreme heat and riot police deployed under the pretext of maintaining security in Los Angeles. The news anchor also relayed a

special message from the government that as a precaution against public disturbances, they asked to stay home to avoid getting thirsty if exposed to hot temperatures outside.

Conditioning people on a large scale to be obedient and calm in the face of disaster takes work. It is full of strategic ways so that each individual can accept and feel their safety. However, if the government also mobilizes the military to condition citizens, then what happens is panic and fear. As happened in the story below:

EMERGENCY ALERT: MARTIAL LAW DECLARED IN LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, VENTURA, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND SAN DIEGO COUNTIES. STAND BY FOR FURTHER DIRECTIVES.

Martial law is the last step before everything falls apart. Now it could go one of two ways: 1) Martial law will be effective; there will be enough military might to counteract the chaos; riots will be flashpoints, rather than widespread; things will break soft, and recovery will be relatively easy. 2) Martial law will fail; the military will underestimate the need, or not be able to scramble fast enough; riots will be systemic and severe; Southern California will break hard, and recovery will take years, if at all. (p. 119)

The data above explains the phenomenon of martial law warnings for several regions, such as Los Angeles, Orange, and Ventura. From the notification, civil society is instructed to wait for military instruction when conditions are tense through the literal social contract that the military does to civilians. In the end, there is still much civil society afraid of disasters. Because the conditions of the displaced communities are awful, as in the data below:

Then he turns to me. "There were body bags, Alyssa. Some of them were already full, but there were stacks and stacks and stacks of empty ones."

“There were?” says Garrett, wide-eyed, like someone just proved to him that the boogeyman was real.

“Do you see why I had to get us out of there, Alyssa? Do you? I had to save us, because if I didn’t, no one else would have. Do you see?” (p. 176)

The above incident was described when Alyssa's group was fleeing the pursuit of military soldiers at the location of the official evacuation centre. What happened at the site was described as having hundreds or even thousands of people inhabiting the stadium; with tight guards, they could not get out of it. No help from mineral water came to them. The guards kept an eye on the condition of each line of people about to enter the evacuation site. Bodies were also found wrapped in bags like people using sleeping bags. Based on this phenomenon, Alyssa's group tried to avoid and stay away from the official evacuation centre organized by the government.

As when the military elite first began to engage with the community to overcome the drought disaster. By carrying complete weapons and a large mass, seen in the data below:

It’s a camouflage-green open-top military truck, packed with armed soldiers.

“What do you think’s going on?” I ask Kelton, hoping that his extensive knowledge of useless military factoids will come in handy.

“I don’t know,” he says. “It’s too soon for martial law. . . .”

“It’s when the military takes over,” he says. “It means that government brass thinks the local police can’t handle the situation by themselves.” (p. 47)

The data above shows that the government elite has coordinated with the military elite to participate in disaster management, they use complete weapons to scare civilians so that they do not riot. The actions of the

military can make civilians feel helpless and think that they are the enemy, such as the data below:

It's not just one truck, but a whole bunch of military vehicles. They've got the swimming pool on total lockdown . . . because high school pools were the only ones that were excluded from the Frivolous Use Initiative. They're the only pools left that still have water.

The perimeter of the aquatics center is now guarded by soldiers with automatic rifles. And spidering into the pool are a dozen thick fire hoses— which seem to be sucking up water and depositing it into a series of tanker trucks. Then one of the military guards spots us and locks eyes. I don't look away, but I don't get any closer either. It's like somehow I'm the enemy. (p. 48)

The data above shows when the military guards a swimming pool that still holds water. The pool water sucks by a fire truck which will send to the public service. Kelton, who saw the event, gave the impression that he was an enemy of the military elite.

The military's actions are not solutive and only cause congestion everywhere, and civilians are not allowed to act on their own to find water, as happened below:

As we continue north it becomes increasingly apparent to everyone else what I already know: There's no escaping the military takeover. We pass an open canopy truck crammed full of soldiers. Random humvees are parked on corners. Helicopters tear through the sky overhead. Then we dead-end at a traffic jammed road. There's another roadblock up ahead, and soldiers directing people down another suburban funnel that leads either back to the high school, or to an "overflow facility" that will be the last place to see water. There are no roads left in all of Southern California that go anywhere we want to be. (p. 182)

The data above shows the event where Alyssa's group was looking for a way to the reservoir. Coincidentally, they arrived near the evacuation handled by the military. Residents who have entered service territory cannot leave, as in the sentence, *"There is no escaping the military*

takeover". The evacuation site, which is not enough to accommodate the residents, is still forced.

3. Economic Elite

The cause of social problems originating from the economic elite is the airline sector. This phenomenon can be seen in one of the narratives of *Dry's* story when a civilian, Dalton, his mother, and Sarah - his younger sister, are subtly denied a flight schedule, and not all citizens can go out of town to get a better place. Although, they have been willing to wait in long queues and jostle according to airport rules. The following data shows how this condition is depicted:

Then, just as they're about to start boarding, the gate agent comes on the loudspeaker and makes an announcement. "Unfortunately, we're oversold on this flight," she says. "We're asking for volunteers with flexible travel plans who are willing to take a later flight." (p. 21-22)

"I'm sorry," says the gate agent, not sounding sorry at all, "but as the last to purchase, I'm obliged to reschedule you to a later flight." Dalton's mom goes ballistic, and he can't blame her. This is one time they need to fight. (p. 22)

The lengthy data above explains that the airport officials cut off the tickets of the three people and arranged the flight unilaterally without understanding how urgent they were to leave for John Wayne. Although on the other hand, airport officials intend to move Dalton to another timetable. Finally, in the story, Dalton and his two families were given flight tickets at another hour, and the next day, when they checked the flight schedule, it turned out that there was no flight schedule as the officer had promised.

In the business sector, economic elites hold power over those below them. In *Dry's* narrative, there is a depiction of the setting that shows how the economic elite behaves towards those below them. They prioritize individual benefits without considering the benefits of others. These data are listed below:

He somehow manages to flash a cool smile, even in his most emasculated state. "Assets that I've acquired, fair and square."

Alyssa steps forward. "Was it fair when you took my uncle's truck?"

"Of course," he replies, taken aback by the mere suggestion of impropriety. "I have all the paperwork." "You took advantage of him!"

"The price of water has gone up," he says, getting defensive. "Don't tell me that's my fault." Alyssa curls a fist, ready to dislocate more of his body parts. Which I'd actually pay to see. (p. 148)

The data above shows the character Henry, a teenage businessman who lives in elite housing. Henry's cunning negotiation was recognized when Alyssa visited his house to retrieve the truck keys that had been exchanged for *AguaViva* mineral water. Henry sees an excellent profit opportunity when the water supply in various regions is no longer available - not caring about the fair price benchmark for exchanging something of value for his *AguaViva* mineral water product.

Henry is a traitor who sells Alyssa's uncle's truck to a stranger for a sip of water. He also lied to Alyssa's group by bringing *AguaViva* boxes that were promised to contain mineral water. However, the box only contained mineral water sales brochures. Until at the peak, Alyssa's group was furious with Henry's actions, as in the data below:

And then Henry begins to grovel for his life. "Please," he whimpers. "I'm sorry. I'm so so sorry for everything. . . ."

"The only thing you're sorry for is being caught," says Jacqui, which is probably true.

And then Garrett, feeling this betrayal more deeply than anyone, says, "Do it! Do it, Jacqui!"

Alyssa reels at that, horrified. "Garrett!". (p. 221)

The case above showed when Alyssa asked Kelton to release the shotgun that Henry was facing. Then Garrett and Jacqui came in full of emotion. Moving agilely, Jacqui immediately pointed her gun at Henry. There, Alyssa tried to stop the fight. Although Garrett, her brother, strongly supported Jacqui's actions to kill Henry. Fortunately, Alyssa was able to defuse the dispute.

There are also corporate elites who play a role in the jamming of water aid that should be obtained by civil society. As a result, many residents have attacked these corporate elites, as shown below:

The supervisor dispatches the other guards, and begins to frantically call 911, but it's too late—because that mob, in its righteous rage, is crashing through the gate and flooding into Pete's plant. And it's more than just dozens of people. It could be hundreds. (p. 62)

The event data above described when the manager of the electricity company instructed the company guards to call 911. However, the anger and strength of the masses or civil society mobs are faster to move to break down the company's defences.

Before the riot, the California water company had sent a tanker truck of water to the power company. This incident sparked the anger of

civilians, who became mobs looting water trucks. As seen in the data below:

This afternoon's delivery is a critical one. He's bringing water to the workers holed up behind the locked fence of Huntington Beach power plant. But he has to halt short of the security gate, because someone's standing in his way, preventing him from proceeding. Not an employee, but a girl, no older than twenty. By the way she's planted her feet, and by the angry, thirsty look in her eye, he gets the feeling she's not going to let him pass. (p. 59)

The data above shows a girl blocking the tanker truck's path to the electricity company. This incident took place before the mob's rampage and destruction of the company's facilities, as described in the second data above. From an elite economic point of view, in addition to having access to water, being prepared with security equipment is necessary. Just in case someone takes advantage of it. Like the data below:

Today he's driving a truck full of drinking water, and riding shotgun is a guy with a shotgun. And a bulletproof vest. In fact, they've given David a vest, too. (p.58)

The data above shows that the economic elite carry rifles and bulletproof vests when delivering water to the electricity company. Like the second data previously showing a girl and mob trying to prevent the tanker truck from entering the electricity company.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter concludes an analysis of the social problem and the causes of social problems in Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman's *Dry*. In addition, this chapter is also equipped with suggestions that are expected to be able to help researchers further in analyzing the same literary works or with the same research methods as this research.

A. Conclusion

The research concludes that there are two social problems resulting from drought: unemployment and poverty. Improper resolution of drought can cause people to lose their jobs, such as store employees who stopped working due to the lack of mineral supplies. Additionally, due to the high demand for water, Uncle Basil failed at almond farming, leading to the repossession of his assets by the bank. Officials involved in stopping the river channel leading to California were eventually fired or resigned. The second social problem that occurred was poverty. There was a great deal of inequality in California during the disaster, with civilians unable to access mineral water even for basic needs. The inability to obtain water was not limited to any particular individual or group, but rather affected the entire city.

They lined up for desalinated water that did not have a good system and made civilians suffer. There were riots between communities that were eventually

shot and killed by the police to defuse the situation. In the following sentences, *It's in the impatience of the people in line. The way people use their carts—on the verge of being battering rams to make their way through the crowd. There's a sort of primal hostility all around us, hidden by a veneer of suburban politeness. But even that politeness is stretching thin. (p. 10).*

The unequal distribution of resources leads to social problems that threaten civil society. One of the causes of these social problems is the easy access to water by businesspeople who have obtained government approvals, particularly for power generation companies and critical services. The government also collaborated with the military in evacuating civilians, but no help arrived at the official evacuation site. Civilians were confined in locked and heavily guarded stadiums, with the government and military ensuring that no one could escape.

The government, in news broadcasts, continuously instructed its citizens to remain calm and said that help would be coming soon, although there was none. Even when civilians could not have water, the government ruled that citizens not waste water, water plants, or fill the pools. On the other hand, many celebrities provided entertainment through TV broadcasts and fundraising. The government's lack of decisiveness in dealing with the disaster has caused structural social problems.

The cause of social problems in the military sector is the coercion of soldiers to the public to come to official evacuation centers. Civilians were not given the choice and freedom to survive in their way. As a result, many people

suffered and died while in evacuation centers. Elsewhere, when riots broke out at the water desalination plant, riot police quickly fired their guns at civilians. Even though the desalination plant did not have proper systems and techniques to serve the community, the situation made it even more difficult for people to access aid, and dead bodies were lying everywhere.

B. Suggestion

After analyzing Charles Wright Mills' theory of social problems contained in the *Dry* by Neal Shusterman and Jarrod Shusterman, the researcher found that there are two social problems, namely unemployment and poverty caused by the role of political elites, economic agents and the military. For better research in the future, should use Charles Wright Mills' theory comprehensively and adjust it to the needs of the research object.

This study found that the government, economic agents and the military have implications for disaster management and social problem solving. Ideally, the handling of social problems is done appropriately, correctly and humanely. However, in reality, the involvement of these three parties is often a nightmare for civilians who need help, especially when disasters occur.

Researcher hope that all actions that cause social problems can be immediately stopped and addressed. The object of this research, the novel *Dry*, contains more than just social values. Many interesting aspects can be analyzed, such as feminism, psychology, and ecocriticism. We hope that there will be

researchers who study the novel *Dry* in a more in-depth, interesting, and useful way.

Finally, the researcher realizes that this research can still be better. Therefore, criticism and suggestions from readers are needed to conduct better research in the future.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Muhammad Ibn Fahrurrozy was born in Malang on February 13th, 1999. He graduated from Brawijaya Smart School Elementary School in 2011 and continued his studies at An-Nur Junior and Senior High School. He lived in the An-Nur 2 Islamic boarding school until completing his studies in 2017. During Junior and High School, he became a personal assistant or "*abdi*" of KH. Badruddin Anwar's friend, Mbah Sul.

On the other hand, he could have had better academic achievements during his studies. After mid-2017, he became a student at UIN Malang, and then he became a student executive board at the department level for two periods. He was trusted to be the chairman of the Organizing Committee in Student Orientation in 2018 and became the chairman of the Steering Committee in Student Orientation in 2019. In the same year, he was entrusted to become the chairman of PMII Ibn Aqil Faculty of Humaniora. In addition, he is active in cross-campus major organizations at IKAMABSII and in the Gusdurian Malang community. In 2021 Rozy became an active administrator in the executive organization DEMA UIN Malang and was trusted to be the vice chairman of religious affairs at PMII Commissariat Sunan Ampel Malang. Rozy's like for organizational management led him to learn more about society and community. Until now, he has been the administrator of the Lesbumi NU Malang organization.

OVERVIEW

The past few years have been great year. Global pandemics and natural disasters are the main events of this earth's life season. This phenomenon was brought to greater attention by Neal Shusterman and his son, Jarrod Shusterman, to write the story of the chaos. The author of the *Arc of the Scythe* trilogy gives his narration following Alyssa, his younger brother, Garrett, and his neighbour, Kelton, in their quest to survive after California suddenly runs out of water.

Dry is an action story that displays the phenomenon of drought disasters from one scene to another with precision and ease. The different snapshot fragments that Neal and Jarrod include in the chapters show the water crisis's consequences from as many different perspectives as possible. At the same time, the characters are fully developed, each with a complementary set of traits and skills at the required time. Because Neal and Jarrod Shusterman offer an exploration of humanity, empathy, and thought-provoking human behaviour when placed in extreme situations.

Dry describes California's condition when it falls apart, containing desperate humans. Moreover, in some cases of the fact that there is a drought that occurs there. From the phenomena to a mirror when knowing that when stricken with despair, humans will struggle to survive, producing the worst and the best. Losing or regaining trust in humanity is the responsibility of the individual. Here Alyssa and her group fight against humans who kill each other for a bottle of

water and fight against looters who raid a neighbour's house to find a way to survive. When faced

with the position, the characters try to help others and teach them how to survive. Finally, Alyssa and her group managed to fight by still bringing humanitarian awareness without causing social problems around her.

APPENDICES

A. The Social Problems in the Novel

No.	Data	Page	Chapter	Aspect
1.	<i>“The kitchen faucet makes the most bizarre sounds. It coughs and wheezes like it’s gone asthmatic. It gurgles like someone drowning. It spits once, and then goes silent. Our dog, Kingston, raises his ears, but still keeps his distance from the sink, unsure if it might unexpectedly come back to life, but no such luck”.</i>	5	1	The beginning of the water crisis
2.	<i>She’s watching the TV, where a news anchor is blathering about the “flow crisis.” That’s what the media’s been calling the drought, ever since people got tired of hearing the word “drought.” Kind of like the way “global warming” became “climate change,” and “war” became “conflict.” But now they’ve got a new catchphrase. A new stage in our water woes. They’re calling this the “Tap-Out.</i>	6	1	Widespread news of drought
3.	<i>“As a precautionary measure, all county and municipal water districts in Southern California are temporarily rerouting all resources to critical services. But I cannot stress enough the need to keep calm. I’d like to personally assure everyone that this is a temporary situation, and that there is nothing to be concerned about.” The media begins to bombard him with questions, but he ducks out without answering a single one.”</i>	6	1	The statement of a governor who is not assertive
4.	<i>I hate the fact that he’s probably right. Disaster is one thing, and a riot is another, but the total disintegration of society? Is that what we’re witnessing? My head spirals into visions of a post-apocalyptic reality that I never imagined could arrive quicker than the expiration date on our milk.</i>	99	2	Alyssa's unrest is due to the social problems that arise in line with the drought disaster.
5.	<i>In the kitchen behind me, Garrett opens the fridge and grabs a bottle of Glacier Freeze Gatorade. He begins to guzzle it, but I stop him on the third gulp. “Put it back,” I tell him. “Save some for later.” “But I’m thirsty now,” he whines, protesting. He’s ten—six years younger than me. Ten-year-olds have issues with delayed gratification.</i>	7	1	Poverty of one family's drinking needs
6.	<i>Mr. Burnside raises his eyebrows. “Hate to say I told ya so, but didn’t I say they’d hoard what’s left of the Colorado River? We let that river become our only lifeline. We should never have let ourselves become so vulnerable.”</i>	8	1	The government's policy of closing river channels makes civil society suffer
7.	<i>“Tensions rise as the Southland enters the third day of the Tap-Out, but government officials say relief is on the way.” Local Eyewitness News anchor Lyla Singh reads her part, then defers to Chase Buxton, her</i>	34	1	Government water assistance is just a promise

	<i>coanchor, who recites his line from the teleprompter. “Meanwhile, the cascade effect that has left more than twenty-three million people without running water shows no sign of abating. For more, we take you to Donovan Lee in Silverlake.”</i>			
8.	<i>Garrett, who’s been standing quietly, brings his Gatorade bottle up to his lips . . . and for a brief moment everyone stops talking. Involuntary. Almost like a mental hiccup, as they watch my brother gulp the quenching blue liquid. Finally, Mr. Burnside breaks the silence.</i>	8	1	Garrett's neighbors began to experience the poverty of drinking needs
9.	<i>“We’ll talk,” he says as he turns to leave. It’s the way he always ends a conversation. It signals the conclusion of this loose little fellowship. Everyone says their goodbyes and heads back to their homes . . . but more than one set of eyes glance at Garrett’s empty Gatorade bottle as they leave.</i>	9	1	Garrett's neighbors began to experience the poverty of drinking needs
10.	<i>The supervisor dispatches the other guards, and begins to frantically call 911, but it’s too late—because that mob, in its righteous rage, is crashing through the gate and flooding into Pete’s plant. And it’s more than just dozens of people. It could be hundreds. Helpless, plant manager Pete Flores watches the security screen, and realizes that, like electricity itself, this mob is a force as dangerous as that Japanese tsunami . . . and it may be his turn to go down with the ship.</i>	62	2	Civil society that does not accept injustice from the elites
11.	<i>“Have you been watching the news?” she says. “They’re saying even the Los Angeles Aqueduct went dry. It’s been dry for weeks, and they kept it a secret. People are resigning and being fired left and right. They’re saying LA’s water commissioner could be brought up on criminal charges.</i>	12	1	Government workers were fired and unemployed
12.	<i>The three of us roll up to the store and step inside, taking in our surroundings. Like the rest of the world, the store is a slight aberration of normal. Bleak and dusty, the air is so thick it coats your throat. The AC’s off, which we already knew, since we hadn’t hit a single functioning streetlight between home and here. Refrigerators that usually contain soda, energy drinks, and water are empty, as expected. But what I don’t expect is how barren this place is, devoid of not just products, but even the hope of them. Only one in ten items still remain on the shelves—one type of chips, one brand of gum. It reminds me of pictures I once saw in class of a destitute market in a war-torn country, where your only options were between canned beans or bread, and if you hesitated, you didn’t get either. All the while, the grimness is mocked by fifties doo-wop music that echoes from an old battery-operated radio somewhere.</i>	74-75	2	One of the department stores that has been abandoned by its workers
13.	<i>Something feels slightly off. I’m not sure what it is, but it hangs in the air like a scent. It’s in the impatience of the people in line. The way people use their carts—on the verge of being</i>	10	1	the impact of people who are unemployed and

	<i>battering rams to make their way through the crowd. There's a sort of primal hostility all around us, hidden by a veneer of suburban politeness. But even that politeness is stretching thin</i>			waiting for assistance from the government
14.	<i>"You could say we've taken up residence here," Charity says, addressing us all. "At least for the time being." I look around and notice that there isn't just one campfire, but several, constellated across the span of the traffic-jammed freeway, in different clearings. This is nothing like the homeless encampment we saw before; these seem like people from many walks of life who have decided that staying here in the midst of the crisis is better than being anywhere else.</i>	198	4	The unemployed start to survive
15.	<i>"Is that how long you've been here?" I ask. "Two days?" "Three," he says. "I wandered onto the freeway two days after the Tap-Out. I had it worse than most people on account of my blood pressure meds make me sweat like a racehorse. Dehydrated real quick, and I couldn't get a drop of water for the life of me. I wandered onto the freeway, determined to either find water, or drop. I dropped. But the Water Angel found me. Charity gave me water, and when I was strong enough, put me to work. Before long there were dozens of us, all working and taking care of each other." "Kind of like a commune," Kelton says. "Yeah, I guess it just kind of evolved into that. We all have our own skill sets. Turns out I'm pretty handy," he says with pride.</i>	200	4	How people who survive use their skills
16.	<i>"My brother happened here!" he says, with so much anguish in his eyes, I have to look away. "This is where Brady must have been living! We knew he lost his job and bailed on his roommates. We thought he might be living with his girlfriend. It never occurred to us that he might come here. Where he knew there was food and water enough to last for months. . . ."</i>	217	4	Kelton knew that his brother had become unemployed and returned to his family's makeshift home.
17.	<i>Daphne, our uncle's sometime girlfriend, has a big house here that was left to her by her mother. Before coming down here, she was a realtor up in Modesto, the same town where Uncle Basil had his almond farm. But almond trees use more water than almost everything and with rationing set so low, the almond farms failed first. He declared bankruptcy, let the bank take the farm</i>	139	2	As a result of the drought, Basil's uncle failed to farm and is unemployed
18.	<i>"Look at that!" says Garrett. He's pointing ahead, where a church is lit by hundreds of candles. The door is wide open, the sanctuary is packed, flowing out to the street. Dozens of families, huddling close, praying for deliverance from thirst. My grandmother believed in the power of prayer. There's a trite saying among the faithful, goes like this: "God answers all prayers. And sometimes his answer is no." My grandmother hated that. "God never says</i>	130	2	the residents surrendered their condition to the church by praying together

	<i>no,” she told me. “He just says, ‘Not today.’” Which is exactly the answer raining down upon this candle-lit vigil.</i>			
19.	<i>About an hour into this channel, we come across people who have set up camp on either side of the aqueduct, and it doesn’t look like a new occurrence. There are dozens of pitched tent dwellings made of tarps and blankets and makeshift supports, like some sort of skid row. I think of what Jacqui said, and realize that it’s not only things that get lost behind the cushions of the world. People do, too.</i>	189	3	The unemployed take refuge on the edge of the aqueduct
20.	<i>“The math gives everyone seventy percent of a bottle.” “That’s ridiculous!” “Families with young children should get a full bottle!” “That’s discriminatory!” “My wife is pregnant.” Burnside puts up his hands. “All right, calm down!” But the genie is already out of the lamp. Everyone begins talking among themselves. I can see alliances forming, lines in the sand being drawn—all within seconds, and all because I announced that I have a limited supply of something that all of them desperately need.</i>	114	2	Neighbors who have become unemployed, fighting over mineral water
21.	<i>“Those people might kill them!” And then Garrett says something that’s actually kind of wise. “Prolly not,” he says. “I mean, they weren’t fighting back. Water-zombies just want one thing, right? If you don’t get in their way, I bet they leave you alone.”</i>	128	3	The impact of unemployment, becoming looters who can endanger people around them.
22.	<i>But now that the whole of Southern California has actually been plagued, I’m a little disappointed. Not that I want to endure any more than I already have, but I’m disappointed by people—how weak they are, how frail their psyches must be to allow a water shortage to turn them into murderous mobs. If there’s one thing I know for sure, it’s that I don’t want be in the same league as them—hell, I don’t even want to be in the same ballpark.</i>	129	3	Jacqui’s unrest at seeing people unemployed during a disaster, and using violence as a means of survival.

B. The Causes of Social Problem in the Novel

No.	Data	Page	Chapter	Aspects
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23.	<i>“As a precautionary measure, all county and municipal water districts in Southern California are temporarily rerouting all resources to critical services. But I cannot stress enough the need to keep calm. I’d like to personally assure everyone that this is a temporary situation, and that there is nothing to be concerned about.” The media begins to bombard him with questions, but he ducks out without answering a single one.”</i>	6	1	The government's indecisiveness in dealing with the drought disaster
24.	<i>Then the TV suddenly goes off. It’s Garrett—he’s turned it off. He keeps the remote out of reach, just in case his sister or I want to turn the TV back on. “I don’t want to watch that—they’re just trying to freak us out!” “They’re saying we should stay calm,” Alyssa points out. “Yeah, that’s what they said to people on the Titanic when they already knew it was going down.” And he’s right. As far as authority is concerned, calm people quietly dying is a lot easier to deal with than angry people fighting for their lives.</i>	68	2	The government that can only provide soothing rhetoric for its citizens
25.	<i>Fines for people who watered their lawns. The Frivolous Use Initiative. Public service announcements reminding people to conserve water. None of that mattered. The water still ran out. Now the Dove Canyon fountain was empty. The mountain lions had either died or migrated, and the humans were now facing the same two alternatives.</i>	137	3	Government rules that provide no good solutions
26.	<i>EMERGENCY ALERT: MARTIAL LAW DECLARED IN LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, VENTURA, RIVERSIDE, SAN BERNARDINO, AND SAN DIEGO COUNTIES. STAND BY FOR FURTHER DIRECTIVES. Martial law is the last step before everything falls apart. Now it could go one of two ways: 1) Martial law will be effective; there will be enough military might to counteract the chaos; riots will be flashpoints, rather than widespread; things will break soft, and recovery will be relatively easy. 2) Martial law will fail; the military will underestimate the need, or not be able to scramble fast enough; riots will be systemic and severe; Southern California will break hard, and recovery will take years, if at all.</i>	119	2	The military has begun to respond to the disaster
27.	<i>The supervisor dispatches the other guards, and begins to frantically call 911, but it’s too late—because that mob, in its righteous rage, is crashing through the gate and flooding into Pete’s plant. And it’s more than just dozens of people. It could be hundreds.</i>	62	1	Economic elites who are pressured by civil society action
28.	<i>“Arizona and Nevada just backed out of the reservoir relief deal,” Mom tells him. “They’ve shut the floodgates on all the dams, saying they need the water themselves.” Which means that the Colorado River won’t even reach California anymore. Uncle Basil tries to wrap his mind around it. “Turning off the entire river like it’s a spigot! Can they do that?”</i>	6	1	Arizona and Nevada governments that terminated aid agreement contracts for California

	<i>My father raises an eyebrow. “They just did.”</i>			
29.	<i>There’s a shot of FEMA officials—actual FEMA, not just their reserve volunteers—handing out water in an evacuation center, but a wider shot reveals more crowds than they can possibly handle. Rock stars plan relief concerts to raise funds. Celebrities promote charities. All the usual self-congratulatory stuff. The only difference is that we’re the victims now, rather than the ones sitting comfortably in our homes, sending five bucks on a charity app and patting ourselves on the back because we’re so goddamn generous. “They just did.”</i>	150	2	Political elites, celebrities, and artists who seek to impress the public through the mass media
30.	<i>“If you’re getting this report, and you’re in the Southland right now—there is a mandatory evacuation,” says Anderson Cooper. His image is accompanied by shots of military personnel helping families evacuate onto massive trucks, handing out water to long lines of people. “Evacuation centers are being set up throughout Southern California in school gymnasiums, churches, and malls— but there seems to be a staggering number of people who are choosing not to cooperate with these government mandates.”</i>	150	2	Military elite branding to the public
31.	<i>“The governor of Arizona just resigned,” Mom tells me. No surprise there. Everyone who had a part in shutting off the flow of the Colorado River into California is facing criminal prosecution. Officials are being indicted on everything from criminal negligence to conspiracy to commit murder.</i>	269	4	The government that conspired to close the river finally resigned
32.	<i>And then she’s hit with a gust of emotion, an inner turbulence that shakes her to her core. She starts doing the math: At this point, there are about two hundred evacuation shelters. Even if only half the population went to a shelter, that means that nearly 12 million people would be there, waiting for water. That’s sixty thousand people for each shelter. And yet the choppers in service can only provide enough water for about six thousand people per shelter per day. Which means that nine in ten people won’t get water today. And that’s just in the official centers.</i>	159	3	The condition of the refugees is pathetic because they do not get proper treatment
33.	<i>But her attention is grabbed by something on the living room TV. A news report. There’s footage of raging brushfires, and riot police in downtown Los Angeles. And the news anchor—only one instead of the usual two—says, “As a precaution, residents are instructed to stay in their homes, and remain calm.” But in direct opposition to the anchorman’s attempt to soothe viewers, the crawl below reads, Southland declared official FEMA disaster zone.</i>	67	2	There are contradictions in the news with the conditions in reality, many riot police and fires
34.	<i>Then he turns to me. “There were body bags, Alyssa. Some of them were already full, but there were stacks and stacks and stacks of empty ones.” “There were?” says Garrett, wide-eyed, like someone just proved to him that the boogeyman was real.</i>	176	3	Inadequate handling from the elites led to the death of civilians

	<i>“Do you see why I had to get us out of there, Alyssa? Do you? I had to save us, because if I didn’t, no one else would have. Do you see?”</i>			
35.	<i>It’s a camouflage-green open-top military truck, packed with armed soldiers. “What do you think’s going on?” I ask Kelton, hoping that his extensive knowledge of useless military factoids will come in handy. “I don’t know,” he says. “It’s too soon for martial law. . . .” “It’s when the military takes over,” he says. “It means that government brass thinks the local police can’t handle the situation by themselves.”</i>	47	2	Government elites cooperate with military elites in drought disaster management
36.	<i>It’s not just one truck, but a whole bunch of military vehicles. They’ve got the swimming pool on total lockdown . . . because high school pools were the only ones that were excluded from the Frivolous Use Initiative. They’re the only pools left that still have water. The perimeter of the aquatics center is now guarded by soldiers with automatic rifles. And spidering into the pool are a dozen thick fire hoses— which seem to be sucking up water and depositing it into a series of tanker trucks. Then one of the military guards spots us and locks eyes. I don’t look away, but I don’t get any closer either. It’s like somehow I’m the enemy.</i>	48	2	Military elites are fetching water from a swimming pool by completely closing access for civilians
37.	<i>Then, just as they’re about to start boarding, the gate agent comes on the loudspeaker and makes an announcement. “Unfortunately, we’re oversold on this flight,” she says. “We’re asking for volunteers with flexible travel plans who are willing to take a later flight.”</i>	21-22	1	Airport company elites denied access to one of the residents, citing flight schedules as the reason
38.	<i>As we continue north it becomes increasingly apparent to everyone else what I already know: There’s no escaping the military takeover. We pass an open canopy truck crammed full of soldiers. Random humvees are parked on corners. Helicopters tear through the sky overhead. Then we dead-end at a traffic jammed road. There’s another roadblock up ahead, and soldiers directing people down another suburban funnel that leads either back to the high school, or to an “overflow facility” that will be the last place to see water. There are no roads left in all of Southern California that go anywhere we want to be.</i>	182	4	Military elites force civilians to go to authorized evacuation sites
39.	<i>He somehow manages to flash a cool smile, even in his most emasculated state. “Assets that I’ve acquired, fair and square.” Alyssa steps forward. “Was it fair when you took my uncle’s truck?” “Of course,” he replies, taken aback by the mere suggestion of impropriety. “I have all the paperwork.” “You took advantage of him!” “The price of water has gone up,” he says, getting defensive. “Don’t tell me that’s my fault.” Alyssa curls a fist, ready to dislocate more of his body parts. Which I’d actually pay to see.</i>	148	3	Young businessman, from the economic elite manipulating Alyssa’s uncle

40.	<i>And then Henry begins to grovel for his life. "Please," he whimpers. "I'm sorry. I'm so so sorry for everything. . . ."</i> <i>"The only thing you're sorry for is being caught," says Jacqui, which is probably true. And then Garrett, feeling this betrayal more deeply than anyone, says, "Do it! Do it, Jacqui!"</i> <i>Alyssa reels at that, horrified. "Garrett!"</i>	221	4	A young businessman, Henry is finally cornered because of his mistake in deceiving Alyssa's group.
41.	<i>This afternoon's delivery is a critical one. He's bringing water to the workers holed up behind the locked fence of Huntington Beach power plant. But he has to halt short of the security gate, because someone's standing in his way, preventing him from proceeding. Not an employee, but a girl, no older than twenty. By the way she's planted her feet, and by the angry, thirsty look in her eye, he gets the feeling she's not going to let him pass.</i>	59	2	Economic elites from water companies send tanker trucks to power companies
42.	<i>Today he's driving a truck full of drinking water, and riding shotgun is a guy with a shotgun. And a bulletproof vest. In fact, they've given David a vest, too.</i>	58	2	Economic elites from water companies carry shotguns and use bulletproof vests when delivering water