

SOCIAL CLASS CONFLICT REFLECTED IN JULIA QUINN'S *AN OFFER FROM A GENTLEMAN*

THESIS

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**SOCIAL CLASS CONFLICT REFLECTED IN JULIA QUINN'S AN
*OFFER FROM A GENTLEMAN***

THESIS

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STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**Social Class Conflict Reflected in Julia Quinn’s *An Offer from A Gentleman***” 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 any objection or claim, I am the only person who is responsible for that.

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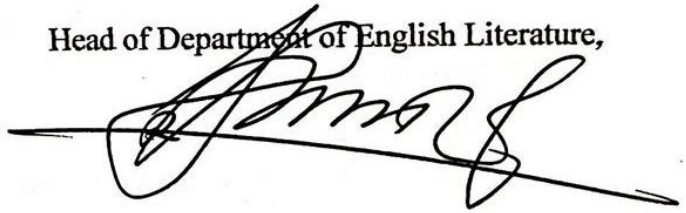
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MOTTO

"If you don't take risks, you can't make the future!"

-Monkey D. Luffy-

DEDICATIONS

With sincere gratitude and warmest respect, I dedicate this work to my parents Mr. Mujiono and Mrs. Ramisah. Thank you to my beloved family who always provides encouragement and prayers, and also to friends who always provide support and help in every way. I would also like to thank the supervisor who has provided direction and guidance in completing this thesis. Hopefully, this thesis can be useful for myself and also for the community. I hope to continue learning and developing to become a better human being.

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ABSTRACT

Mujiono, Rully Aditya Putra (2023) Social Class Conflict Reflected in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Whida Rositama, M.Hum

Keywords: Class, Status, Power, Social Class Conflict

The novel *An Offer from a Gentleman* by Julia Quinn is a fiction novel used by researcher as the object of this research. This research aims to identify social class conflicts that occur between characters in the novel using Max Weber's theory. In addition, the method used in this research is descriptive through a literary criticism approach. It starts with data collection using reading and note-taking. The results of this study show how class, status, and power affect the relationship between the characters in the story. Unequal wealth, power and status cause social injustice and trigger conflict between different social classes. The social class conflict experienced by Sophie Beckett, a servant who is made the Earl's daughter, provides insight into how social class affects a person's social and economic life. The status of the characters also plays an important role in the conflict, such as when Sophie is chased away by Araminta, the wife of the higher-status Earl, or when Philip Cavender, a nobleman, demeans Sophie because of her status as a servant. In addition, power is also an important factor in the conflict, especially when Benedict, who is in love with Sophie, feels that he does not have the power to defy the social norms that limit their relationship. In conclusion, this study shows that social class conflict can affect the relationship between the characters in the story and emphasizes the importance of understanding the social factors that affect one's life.

ABSTRAK

Mujiono, Rully Aditya Putra (2023) Konflik Kelas Sosial Tercermin Dalam *An Offer From A Gentleman* karya Julia Quinn. Skripsi. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Whida Rositama, M.Hum

Kata kunci: Kelas, Status, Kekuasaan, Konflik Kelas Sosial

Novel "An Offer from a Gentleman" karya Julia Quinn merupakan novel fiksi yang digunakan oleh peneliti sebagai objek penelitian ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi konflik kelas sosial yang terjadi pada antar karakter pada novel tersebut dengan menggunakan teori Max Weber. Selain itu, metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif melalui pendekatan kritik sastra. Dimulai dengan pengumpulan data menggunakan membaca dan mencatat. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bagaimana kelas, status, dan power mempengaruhi hubungan antara tokoh-tokoh dalam cerita. Kekayaan, kekuasaan, dan status yang tidak setara menyebabkan ketidakadilan sosial dan memicu konflik antara kelas sosial yang berbeda. Konflik kelas sosial yang dialami oleh Sophie Beckett, seorang pelayan yang diangkat menjadi putri Earl, memberikan pandangan tentang bagaimana kelas sosial mempengaruhi kehidupan sosial dan ekonomi seseorang. Status yang dimiliki oleh tokoh-tokoh juga memainkan peran penting dalam konflik, seperti ketika Sophie diusir oleh Araminta, istri Earl yang lebih tinggi statusnya, atau ketika Philip Cavender, seorang bangsawan, merendahkan Sophie karena statusnya sebagai pelayan. Selain itu, power juga menjadi faktor penting dalam konflik, terutama ketika Benedict yang jatuh cinta pada Sophie, merasa tidak memiliki kekuatan untuk menentang norma-norma sosial yang membatasi hubungan mereka. Dalam kesimpulannya, penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa konflik kelas sosial dapat mempengaruhi hubungan antara karakter-karakter dalam cerita dan menekankan pentingnya memahami faktor-faktor sosial yang mempengaruhi kehidupan seseorang.

المستخلص البحث

موجيونو، رولي أدتيا فوترا (2022) ينعكس الصراع الطبقي الاجتماعي في " An Offer from a Gentleman " لجوليا كوين. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإيسانية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرفة: ويدا راسيتاما، الماجستر

الكلمة الأساسية : الطبقة ، المكانة ، القوة ، الصراع الطبقي الاجتماعي

رواية "An Offer from a Gentleman" لجوليا كوين هي رواية خيالية يستخدمها الباحث كالموضوع لهذا البحث. تهدف هذه البحث إلى التعرف على الصراعات الطبقيّة التي تحدث بين الشخصيات في الرواية باستخدام نظرية ماكس ووبر. سوى ذلك، الطريقة المستخدمة في هذا البحث هي طريقة وصفية من خلال منهج النقد الأدبي. بدء الباحث بجمع البيانات باستخدام القراءة وتدوين الملاحظات. تظهر نتائج هذا البحث كيف تؤثر الطبقة والمكانة والقوة على العلاقة بين الشخصيات في القصة. تؤدي الثروة والسلطة والوضع غير المتكافئ إلى الظلم الاجتماعي وإثارة الصراعات بين الطبقات الاجتماعية المختلفة. يقدم الصراع الطبقي الذي تعيشه صوفي بيكيت، الخادمة التي تم تعيينها ابنة إيرل، نظرة ثاقبة حول كيفية تأثير الطبقة الاجتماعية على حياة الفرد الاجتماعية والاقتصادية. تلعب المكانة التي تحتفظ بها الشخصيات أيضًا دورًا مهمًا في النزاعات، مثل عندما تلاحق آرا مينتا صوفي، زوجة إيرل، أو عندما يستخف فيليب كافندر، أحد النبلاء، صوفي بسبب وضعها كخادمة. سوى ذلك، تعتبر القوة أيضًا عاملاً مهمًا في الصراع، لا سيما عندما يشعر بنديكت، الذي يقع في حب صوفي، أنه لا يملك القدرة على مخالفة الأعراف الاجتماعية التي تحد من علاقتهما. في الختام، تظهر هذا البحث أن الصراع الطبقي الاجتماعي يمكن أن يؤثر على العلاقة بين الشخصيات في القصة وتؤكد على أهمية فهم العوامل الاجتماعية التي تؤثر على حياة الفرد.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains background of the study, problems of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, and definition of the keyterms.

A. Background of the Study

Social changes in life provide opportunities for everyone to change, but these changes do not bring everyone in their desired direction. This results in social differences based on wealth, knowledge, behavior, or association. These social changes can lead a person or group towards deviant actions because they are influenced by unmet or unsatisfied desires (Waluya, 2007). Social inequality can be seen in social stratification and differentiation that creates social classes in society. Social inequality is an unstable situation in people's lives (Irawan, 2022). Social inequality can lead to social and economic problems, such as economic inequality, poverty, and social injustice.

Recently, social inequality has been exacerbated by climate change, global pandemics, and inequality in resource distribution. Social inequality is something that has existed in society for a long time. Recently, several cases occurred in society where a chicken thief was sentenced to 5 years in prison, while officials who corrupted public money were only sentenced to 3 years. This social inequality has existed in Europe for a long time, and many conflicts have occurred due to social inequality. European society was undergoing major economic, political, and social changes at that time. Society started to change from a

traditional agrarian society to a modern industrial society, which had significant social and individual behavior implications. Seeing these conditions, a social expert, Max Weber, conducted an analysis related to these conditions and produced a theory of social class, which stated that the concept of social class is only one of many factors that affect the behavior and social behavior of individuals and groups (Wirawan, 2012).

Social class is the division of members of society into a hierarchy of different classes so that members of each class have relatively the same status, and members of other classes have higher or lower status (Furaiji, 2012). Social class is a group whose members share cultural values, social behaviour, attitudes, and political orientation. Social class is divided into three levels. Among them is the upper class; this class is an elite area at the top of the social level of an area. Whether it is social conditions in the individual's perspective or based on other people's judgments, this uppermost level in classical times was known as kings, princes, empresses, and imperial families. The middle class is a group between the elite and lower layers. Usually, this group is not strong enough to be considered elite but not enough to be included in the low social class. The lower class is a layer of society that is considered the lowest level in the social hierarchy. In classical times, this class was known as enslaved people. Modern society is dominated by laborers, the unemployed, and the dregs of Society (Adnan, 2021).

Social class exists because of the difference between social status and respect. For example, suppose there is a person in the community who is looked down upon because one of these people has a low social status. In that case, a

person in the community is considered honorable and seen as having a high social status (Edmond, 2009). Social status significantly impacts many aspects of human life, including health, relationships, and education. Many people grow upset around this income group because they are so focused on being upper class in society that they try to make themselves upper class in many ways. The Marxist perspective founded by Max Weber stated that social class has a higher effect on dividing people than differences in religion, belief, ethnicity, and race.

Social class refers to groups of people with equal opportunities for external life, supply of goods, and life experiences, according to Max Weber (1998). This opportunity is determined by the power to sell goods with skills for income in the economic order, which makes the distribution of economic power unequal. It is determined as is their income and occupation. Based on social class theory, many observations empirically examine the effects of social class. A social class, according to Weber, can be seen from things such as wealth, income, or occupation of the group of people. The nature of the unrelated social class is different from the nature of social status described by Weber as a community of people who dominate society. People belonging to the same social status are generally related to each other. Weber's social status, for example, is that of royalty. Nobles dominate society, and they are related to each other.

There are two classes involved in a conflict of social class. The classes are representative of each level of the group in society. The first class is the upper class, which is categorized as a class with power in society line and control in society, such as economics and education. The second class is the lower class,

categorized as one that works for the upper class (Mostov, 1989). Based on the explanation of both classes in social life, it is not enough if categorize them by the general meaning. It is because both classes are involved in a conflict of social class. It can see that both classes interact with one another in society. Because of interaction, they can identify how they come into conflict. Social interaction happens when both people, in this case, those from the upper class and those from the lower class, meet and greet each other. The interaction can be by shaking hands, having conversations son, and even fighting against class (Turner, 1988).

In reality of society, conflict is something that must exist, and its presence is non-negotiable. The existence of power differences can undoubtedly be a source of conflict in a complex and heterogeneous society. Not only that, groups with different interests in the social system will pursue each other's goals and compete with each other, giving birth to mechanisms of social disorder (Wirawan, 2012: 59).

Conflict is a struggle carried out by various parties to obtain rare things such as values, status, power, authority, etc., where the goal of those fighting is not only to gain profit but also to subdue their rivals by force or threats. Conflict is a competition or conflict between parties who are not compatible with each other, conflicting circumstances or behavior, disputes due to conflicting needs, drives, desires, or demands, and feuds (Daniel Webster, 2006). Conflict occurs when people's goals are not aligned. Conflicts arise because of imbalances in social relations, such as social status gaps, unequal prosperity, and unequal access, leading to discrimination problems.

Max Weber, a German sociologist, proposed the concept of social class, where individuals are grouped based on their economic and social status. In Julia Quinn's "An Offer from a Gentleman", social class conflict is evident through the interactions between the characters. The main character, Sophie, is a merchant's daughter who falls in love with a wealthy man, Benedict, who comes from a higher social class. This creates tension between their families, and the characters must navigate society's expectations to be together. This conflict reflects Weber's idea that social class significantly impacts an individual's life chances and opportunities.

The novel highlights that social class is determined not only by wealth but also by education, culture, and family background. Benedict and Sophie's families have different values and beliefs, which creates a barrier between them. This reflects Weber's argument that social class is not just about wealth but is also the result of an individual's subjective perceptions of their status. The social class conflict in this novel can be seen as a reflection of the more considerable societal tension between the upper and lower classes. The novel demonstrates the challenges that arise when individuals from different social classes attempt to cross the boundaries of their respective classes and highlights the difficulty of breaking free from social class restrictions.

"An Offer from a Gentleman" is a romance novel by Julia Quinn set in 19th-century England. The story follows Sophie Beckett, a woman of low status and wealth, and Benedict Bridgerton, a noble with high wealth and status. Sophie enters the prince's palace hoping to find employment as a maid but gets caught up

in a situation that leads her to marry Benedict. Although they initially have a frosty relationship, Sophie and Benedict get to know each other and fall in love. However, their social class differences and pasts make it challenging to achieve happiness together. The novel recounts the journey of Sophie and Benedict's love and how their social class differences impact their relationship. The various obstacles and challenges they face in their relationship showcase the importance of social class conflict in their love story.

The researcher look at literary work through the lens of social class conflict in literary criticism. Several studies have been carried out using sociology analysis theory, which is a significant issue in discussing are a form of social class conflict and its impact on social class conflict. First, study from (Berutu, 2021) entitled "*Social class conflict in Kevin Kwan's Crazy Rich Asian film*", The findings of this study revealed that social class conflict occurs because upper-class people want to be in the same class as middle-class people, mainly to family background and egoistic issues. The effects of social class struggle were then discussed, including avoiding miserable people, zero-sum thinking, and an evil opponent, with avoidance, peaceful confrontation, and acceptance as the resolutions. The researcher used Karl Marx's theory of social class conflict. Then, the study by (Mira et al., 2018). It was entitled "*Social Class in British society in Jane Austen's pride and prejudice*." This study deals with social class in British Society in Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice. The study was conducted using the descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research were dialogues and narration in Pride and Prejudice novel. The analysis of this study was based on the

Marxist concept (1995:25). The findings of this study were (1) two impacts of social class on British society found in *Pride and Prejudice* novel, they were pride and prejudice, (2) three types of social classes which were reflected, such as power, wealth, and status.

However, a study (Rimun, 2013) entitled "*A Marxist Analysis of Social Classes and Exploitation of the Lower Class in Suzanne Collins's The Hunger Games*". The study used Marxism in literary criticism. This study found that hegemony is when the proletariat complies with the bourgeoisie's instructions and accepts their low-life conditions without question. Reification also exists because citizens in the districts become the country's labor force, providing all of the country's daily needs and developing into machines in the conceptual universe that the bourgeoisie desires. Meanwhile, a study by (Avriyanti, 2014) entitled "*The social classes in the Victorian era reflected in Charlotte Bronte's Jane Eyre*". This study used the social classes theory by Karl Max. The result of this study, around three classes on Charlotte Bronte's *Jane Eyre* are required. The upper class comprises wealthy individuals who can easily, if not overly, make ends meet. The middle class comprises people with enough money to meet their basic needs; they are professionals. The lower class is made up of poor people who are unable to meet their basic needs. The second result concerns the love relationships between different social classes as portrayed in Charlotte Bronte *Jane Eyre's* principal characters (Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester).

Next, the journal was written by (Rubiyanto and Arini, 2016), entitled "*Social class conflict presented in the Kite Runner novel based on Marxism*".

theory." This study used the social classes theory by Karl Max and Max Weber. The result of this study founds two different social classes contained in this novel, including the upper and lower classes. In the novel, Pashtun as the upper class while Hazara as the lower class society. This follows the theory of Marxism. In this study, the authors suggest that those who will do similar research are better off using different objects or objects that are more recent and have a more significant influence on further study. Then the journal was written by (Siahaan and Arianto, 2020), entitled "*Social class conflict reflected in far from the madding crowd.*" This study used a theory of sociology by Max Weber and Karl Max. The result of this study founds three different social classes in the three characters in the novel, including the upper class, middle class, and lower class. Such representations of different social classes are three applicants who will apply to the main character. Researcher also found different social class conflicts, including the lower class feeling that the upper and middle classes were oppressing them.

Further, the journal was written by (Permatasari, 2015), entitled "*Social class and poverty in American society in the 2000's era as seen in suzanne collins's the hunger games novel*". This study used the theory of the mimetic approach. The result of this study found the gap between the upper class and the lower class. In the study, the lower class seeks to survive poverty while the upper class gets more affluent and has full power. Furthermore, a study (Sapitri, 2010) entitled "*Social class in the princess casamassima novel by henry james*". This study used the social class theory by Karl Max. This study found the power of the

upper-class society that makes it arbitrary for the lower class that the lower class can do nothing but survive. This makes the lower classes unable to make ends meet for themselves.

Moreover, a study (Nabila, 2017) entitled "*Social class in fantasy novel an ember in the ashes.*" This study used Marxist social class theory. This study found two different characters, Laia as the proletariat and Elias as the bourgeoisie. In addition, researcher also found that the proletarian collectivism in the novel did not conform to the existing theory because the proletariat did not unite to rally their peers. Last, a study from (Hananti, 2021) entitled "*Social class conflict in novel crazy rich Asians by Kevin Kwan: a sociological approach.*" The method of writing this article is a qualitative descriptive method regarding the discovery and analysis of social class differences in the novel. This class difference is due to social class groups, which divide their social classes into upper and middle classes. The difference in social class is measured by power or wealth, privilege and prestige, and affects the upper and middle classes' status, lifestyle, habits, and behaviors. Therefore, the gap between the two classes is very significant. Conflicts due to differences in social class are 1) conflict with Rachel Chu and Young's family, 2) conflict with Michele Teo and Leong's family, 3) conflict with Colin Khoo's family, and 4) conflict with Rachel Chu and Nicholas Young.

Based on the previous research above, the researcher found that no studies apply Max Weber's social class conflict theory in *An Offer From A Gentleman*. This study is important because Max Weber's theory has a wide application in analyzing social class differences, so it is very relevant to be applied in analyzing

social class differences in this novel. Then the novel also has a very interesting story and brings readers to understand more about social class differences and how this affects the interactions between characters. In this study, the researcher found a gap in previous studies in the form of a lack of studies on how Max Weber's theory is applied to the analysis of social class conflict in this novel so that the researcher can help to fill the gap in this area and provide deeper insight into how Max Weber's theory is applied in the analysis of social class conflict in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*. The purpose of this study is to understand more deeply how Max Weber's theory is applied in analysis of social stratification and social class conflict in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman* and provide insights useful for developing studies in this field.

B. Problems of the Study

1. What are the social stratification dimensions represented in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*?
2. What are the characters' social class conflict in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*?

C. Significance of the Study

The researcher aims that this study can contribute to literary research. This study has two main significances, namely theoretical significance and practical significance. Theoretical significance: This research helps to understand how Max Weber's theory of social class and conflict contributes to the analysis of social class conflict in the novel "An Offer from a Gentleman." It can add insight and

provide a better understanding of how Max Weber's theory is applied in social and cultural contexts. Practical significance: This research can provide implications for the development of sociology, especially in understanding social class differences and conflicts between characters. The study's results can also help people understand how social class conflict affects individual lives and society.

D. Scope and Limitation

In this study, the researcher focuses on applying Max Weber's theory of social class and conflict in explaining social class differences and conflicts between characters in the novel "An Offer from a Gentleman" only and does not include analysis of other topics and objects.

E. Definition of The Key Terms

To clarify the definitions in this study, several definitions are put forward, among others:

1. **Social Stratification:** hierarchy of social structures indicating inequalities in the ownership of social resources (Muin, 2004)
2. **Social Class:** Social classes are social categories formed by asset, income, and resource access differences.
3. **Social Class Conflict:** Social class conflict is a clash between social classes due to economic, prestige, and resource access differences.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter is a literature review. A literature review elaborates an overview of a particular topic to provide the related literature about the theories and associated studies. Several associated theories and studies are the theory sociological of literature, Max Weber's theory, social stratification, and social class conflict.

A. Sociology of Literature

Sociology is a scientific study that aims to understand humans in society or the study of social institutions and social processes (Laurenson, 1972, p. 11). Meanwhile, sociology as a social science focuses on the meaning that humans are attached to their interactions and actions in certain social contexts (Brint, 1999). Meanwhile, literature is a creative work that includes works of art created by and mostly about humans, which exists on the basis of convention, and these creations can be adapted according to the rules (Soeratno, 2011, p. 65).

Sociology and literature are two different things that complement each other. There are two methods commonly used in sociology and literature-based research, namely literary sociology and literary sociology (Junus, 1986, p. 2). The former envisions a mirror of social conditions. This perspective moves from factors outside literature to discuss literary works. Literature is only valuable if it is associated with elements outside the literary work. While the second term

prioritizes literary texts as research material. Research is directed at the text to describe its structure, then use it to understand social phenomena.

The sociology of literature is generally seen from three different perspectives (Wellek, 1988): the sociology of the author (social status, social ideology, etc. about the author); the sociology of literature (what is implied in the literary work and what is its purpose); and the sociology of literature (reader response and the social influence of literature). This study uses the second definition of literary sociology approach. Literary sociology is the study of texts from a sociological point of view that still pays attention to the intrinsic elements of literary works.

B. Social Class

Social class refers to the stratification or hierarchical division of people or groups in a given society. This categorization of individuals is determined by various factors that make up social stratification, resulting in the formation of different classes or groups within society. Specifically, social class is identified as a group of individuals within society who occupy a specific position in the production process (Magniz, 2001: 45).

Max Weber's theory of Social Class explains that social class is determined by a person's economic position, ownership of resources, and access to resources needed to influence production. In the book "Class, Status, Party" (1922), he wrote: A social class is a social category consisting of individuals who

have a similar position in the structure of economic production." (Weber, 1922, p. 180).

According to Max Weber, social class is a concept that describes the social and economic position of individuals or groups in society. Weber says that social class is determined not only by a person's income or economic position but also by their access and control over the resources needed to influence economic production. Weber also distinguishes between economic class and social status. Economic class refers to a person's position in the economic system, while social status refers to a person's position in society based on factors such as inheritance, education, and prestige. According to Weber, social class is a combination of these two things: economic position and social status. In Max Weber's theory, social class is essential in determining an individual's access to resources and power in society. Social class also influences how individuals interact with others, understand the world, and make choices in life. Thus, the definition of social class, according to Max Weber, is a concept that describes the social and economic position of individuals or groups in society, which affects their access to resources and power, and affects the way they interact, understand the world, and the way they make choices in life.

C. Social Stratification

Weber's perspective on the theory of stratification views it as a "phenomenon" that is shaped by the distribution of economic resources, social status, and influence in Society (Weber, Max, in H. H. Gerth & C. W. Mills (Eds.), 1946, p. 181). At the same time, society is arranged in a hierarchy of

positions that primarily depends on three scarce and sought-after factors (Weber M., 1978). These are (Tumin, 1985, p. 1): ownership of assets, or the rights to goods and services; power, or the capability to ensure one's life even in the face of conflict; and prestige, or social dignity (Fan, Aiai & Cheng, Baoyan, 2017).

Max Weber used the term "class" to refer to all societal strata. Specifically, Weber examined class based on a person's economic status. A person's wealth determines the fundamental category of class, and the factor that creates a class is their economic significance (Weber, Max, in H. H. Gerth & C. W. Mills (Eds.), 1946, p. 183). The economy depends on land and property ownership, leading to different classes engaging in economic activities with their respective skills. As a result, some groups are held in high regard by other members of society and are referred to as a "stand" (Soerjono, 2007, p. 205).

For instance, the upper class typically possesses more than one type of what society values. However, their elevated status is a result of accumulation. In other words, individuals with a great deal of wealth will swiftly acquire land, power, and possibly prestige (Soerjono, 2007, pp. 207-208). A crucial aspect of Weber's analysis is that he refutes the idea that stratification is solely based on economics, as proposed by Marx but instead views it as multi-faceted.

According to Weber's perspective, society is layered based on economic factors, status, and power. The result is that individuals can hold a high position in one or two aspects of the stratification while being at a low position in other aspects. This allows for a more in-depth analysis of social stratification instead of a simplified view of stratification (such as what is practiced by some followers of

Marxist theories). This is because only changes in an individual's economic status are considered (Ritzer G., 2012, p. 217).

According to Weber, a class situation exists when three conditions are met. First, some individuals share the same determining factors for their life chances. Second, these factors are defined solely by economic interests in owning goods and income opportunities. Third, they are described in terms of commodity conditions or labor markets. The term "class" refers to any group of people who share the same class situation and is not a community but rather a group of individuals with the same economic circumstances or market (Ritzer G. 2012, p. 217)

Additionally, the class system influences the market, which distributes goods based on the wealth of a society. From an economic standpoint, social class is categorized based on its connection to the production and acquisition of goods. On the other hand, the status group is divided according to their consumption patterns, which are reflected by their lifestyles. This creates a highly stratified status community closely tied to prestige, with wealth being seen as a relatively minor factor. This leads to an increase in the importance of status in society and a heightened recognition of the significance of prestige in social life. (Weber M., 2009, pp. 231-233).

Social stratification, as described by sociologists influenced by Max Weber, consists of three elements: class, status, and power. Societies or individuals are differentiated based on the social roles they are assigned. Some people or communities have access to rare and valuable items compared to others.

Additionally, some are deemed more critical, and some have more power than others. All of these distinctions rely on the specific resources they possess (Marger, 2008). The following these factors used to classify people are closely linked to the dimensions of social stratification put forward by Weber:

1. Class

The concept of class has been widely discussed and debated. Weber's understanding of class shares some similarities with Marx's perspective in that classes are comprised of people with similar opportunities to acquire the economic benefits of society. In other words, people form classes based on their equal life chances. Marx primarily views class as a position within the production system, such as a worker or an owner. However, Weber emphasizes other factors, such as skills and credentials, in forming classes (Pyakuryal, 2008).

Weber's ideas about class are more comprehensive than Marx's. Some individuals may have better life chances than others due to their skills or expertise in a particular profession, which allows them to earn high salaries. Hence, class encompasses the various economic opportunities available to a person at any given moment (Trujillo, 2007).

Weber views class not as a community but as a group of individuals who act based on common situations (Ritzer G., 2012, p. 217). For example, even though a doctor and nurse work at the same hospital, they might occupy different class positions. Furthermore, there are also differences within the bourgeoisie class, as Weber highlights. The landowner who receives income from rent, the

shareholder who receives dividends, and the small business owner all have different life chances and, therefore, different class positions (Marger, 2008).

Therefore, Weber's definition of class diverges significantly from Marx's perspective. Max Weber applies the term "class" to all social layers that form the economic foundation of society, unlike Marx, who saw class as a tangible social entity. For Weber, class is connected to property and profession (Saunders, 2001, p. 22). The economic class is established by an individual's income and assets (Pyakuryal, 2008).

According to Weber, a class can be broadly categorized into three groups. The first group, the upper class, comprises individuals who live off their property or who own the means of production and have highly favorable life chances due to their wealth (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996) and access to education (Saunders, 2001). The second group, the lower class, is characterized by "*negative privileges*." They lack the resources to generate income and education to secure high-paying jobs (Saunders, 2001). Additionally, their life chances are severely limited due to their weak or marginal position in the labor market (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996).

Additionally, a third class, the middle class, falls between the upper and lower class. The middle class comprises individuals who either have some property but a limited education, such as small business owners and entrepreneurs, or those with a limited property but high salaries based on their

education and qualifications. Some people in this class may have good life opportunities due to non-manual skills, while others may have disadvantageous life opportunities due to market capacity from manual skills. (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996)

2. Status

According to Weber, status refers to differences in social prestige from lifestyle choices, not just economic factors. The status dimension encompasses groups that exhibit distinct lifestyles and are aware of the differences between their lifestyles and those of others. Weber distinguishes between class and status, explaining that classes are grouped based on their connection to the production and acquisition of goods. In contrast, status groups are based on the consumption of goods and the lifestyles they represent. (Weber, Max In H. H. Gerth, & C. W. Mills (Eds.), 1946, p. 193)

This status relates to the position and honor attached to a person without connection to power or materials. Max Weber calls this "*charisma*". A person with charisma is recognized and respected by society without any vested interest. Whereas rulers can control others based on their authority, charisma controls others because of insider admiration (Adnan, 2021).

The idea of status, or prestige, plays a crucial role in understanding inequality because it highlights the intricacies of the modern social hierarchy (Marger, 2008). Status is often reflected in the expectation that individuals who

want to be part of a particular social group adhere to a specific way of life (Krauss, 1976).

3. Power

According to Weber, power is the ability to make others comply with one's wishes (Waters, Dagmar & Waters, Tony, 2015). Power is a crucial component of human interaction and the basis of all forms of inequality, such as class, status, and party (Trujillo, 2007). In a moderate society, power is considered the most important form of organization, even though wealth and income are vital determinants of power. However, an individual's organizational position is considered a more significant power source than financial standing (Marger, 2008).

Weber's primary focus in his work on social stratification is the distribution of power and the hierarchy of control in society. He believes that there are three ways in which one group can assert dominance over another. Firstly, power can come from unequal access to resources, where one group has something the other wants or needs, resulting in the first group having control. This is what Weber refers to as class power. Secondly, power can be derived from social status and perceived superiority, where one group views the other as their social superior and submits to their commands. Weber views this as a type of power exercised by status groups. Thirdly, one group can hold power over another through state agents, either by directly controlling it or influencing those who do." (Saunders, 2001, p. 20).

According to Weber, the state is the only entity in modern society with authority to compel individuals to take specific actions (Saunders, 2001). For example, if a person fails to pay taxes, send their children to school, or reveal classified information, the state may punish them. Weber refers to this use of legal authority as a political force exercised by parties. He defines it as any organized group that seeks to impact state activities, not just formal political parties.

D. Max Weber's Theory of Social Class Conflict

Max Weber was a German philosopher and sociologist born in 1864 and died in 1920. Max Weber is a German citizen known as a figure in sociology, religion, politics, economics, and administration. Max Weber is claimed to be one of the important persons in establishing sociology and state administration in the modern era. The concept of rationality and the discourse of religious sociology are the most dominant terms in various writings of his work (Adnan, 2021).

Social class can cause conflict because there are inequalities in wealth, power, and status distribution (Weber, 1922). In a society based on a social class system, individuals or groups with higher wealth, power, and status have a more significant advantage over those in lower social classes. Higher social groups can use Power and economic resources to maintain their position, resulting in conflict with lower social groups who feel dissatisfied with their position in an unequal social class system. Therefore, social and economic inequality resulting from the social class system can lead to inter-class conflict in society.

Conflict is a tragedy that leaves wounds and causes losses for many parties. Dahrendrof's thesis states that consensus and conflict coexist in society as

a cause-and-effect relationship. Society would not have conflict without prior consensus or agreement. Conflict arises because consensus has been violated (Ritzer and Goodman, 2003, p. 154). Conflict is a natural human characteristic. In the history of human life, the conflict has been a part of the interactive relationship between individuals. Hence, humans are often called homo conflict or conflict-prone creatures (Susan, 2009, p. 8). The conflict has two faces, the first contributing to integrating the social system. Second, resulting in social change (Mul Khan et al., 2002, p. 7).

Conflict arises because individuals or groups have different interests, so conflict often concerns the perception of divergent interests or a belief that the conflicting parties' aspirations cannot be achieved simultaneously. Conflict can occur in various situations and at various levels of complexity. Understanding the meaning of this statement, it is apparent that each conflict has different causes, depending on the object of the conflict and which parties conflict (Suhairi et al., 2020, pp. 55-56).

Weber referred to the conflict as a "system of authority" or "power system." The difference between authority and power is that authority tends to place trust in the force, while authority is legitimized power, which has received general recognition. According to Weber, any "association to be coordinated" is an organization in which authority exists (which in practice must involve all organizations), and the existence of authority itself creates conditions for conflict (Wirawan, 2012, p. 69).

Weber viewed society as a highly complex reality. He also explained that there would come a time when social cohesion emerges in society, followed by conflict and fragmented divisions, and then social change in a social institution. Weber's statement may remind us that conflict is a social reality that accompanies human social life. Conflict exists and lives alongside human social life. (Wirawan, 2012, p. 69-70). Weber had a more pessimistic view that conflict is one of the most important principles of social life that cannot be eliminated. In the future, capitalist and socialist societies will always fight over various resources. Therefore, social conflict is a permanent feature of all increasingly complex societies, but the concrete forms of violence taken vary greatly (Wirawan, 2012, p. 70).

The assumptions underlying the conflict theory include: (1) social relationships show the characteristics of a system, and within those relationships, there are seeds of conflicting interests; (2) social facts are a system that allows conflict to arise; (3) conflict is a phenomenon that exists in every social system; (4) conflict tends to take on a bipolar form; (5) conflict is highly likely to occur over the distribution of limited resources and power; and (6) conflict is a source of change in the social system. (Wirawan, 2012, p.70).

Regarding conflict, Weber stated that when power, domination, and discipline are violated or misused by an actor who creates false legitimacy, resistance that gives rise to conflict arises. As Morton Deutsch stated, conflict is a struggle for power over differences: different information or beliefs, different interests, desires or values, and different abilities in obtaining needed resources

(Halverstadt, 2004, p. 5). Weber's thinking differs from Marx's tendency to emphasize economic base issues, namely injustice in the distribution of scarce resources and the polarization of society into classes that own and do not own property due to exploitation. Meanwhile, Weber believes that the critical source of issues that can lead to social conflict is the variation in the distribution of power, wealth, and prestige in Society (Wahyudi, 2021, p. 46).

Weber views that social class conflict occurs because of society's unfair distribution of power, wealth, and status. Weber argued that three main factors determine a person's social class: wealth, power, and prestige. Weber argues that unequal wealth, power, and status cause social injustice and triggers a conflict between different social classes. Lower social classes tend to feel excluded and do not have equal access to resources, while higher social classes tend to have more access (Weber, 1922).

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This section covers methods and steps, including the research design, the data source, how the data is collected, and how the researcher analyzes. These research techniques will guide literary criticism.

A. Research Design

This research is literary criticism. Literature is the branch of literature that focuses on the study of literature directly to identify, analyze, classify, and assess the literature. Literature has a significant position in the study of literature. Literary criticism is often associated with criticism and appreciation of literature as directly related to the appreciation of literary works (Teeuw, 2008: 35). The researcher uses literary criticism as her research design to organize this study because literary criticism is careful observation. Literature usually considers the good or bad quality, value, and truth of a literary work mainly in the novel *An offer from a Gentleman* by Julia Quinn.

This type of research is descriptive. This descriptive research was conducted to determine the value of independent variables, either one or more variables, without making comparisons or connecting with other variables (Sugiyono 2012: 13). The main purpose of descriptive research is to systematically describe the facts and characteristics of the object or subject being studied appropriately, Sukardi (2003: 157). The researcher intends to describe the problems in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentlemen* through descriptive

analysis research methods. After collecting data and classifying the problem, the researcher will apply Max Weber's theory of social action and social class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman*.

B. Data Source

This study's data source is the novel "*An Offer From A Gentleman*". This novel was written by Julia Quinn and published in 2001. The novel has 286 pages and 23 chapters published in hardcover print and can be accessed as an e-book.

C. Data Collection

The researcher collected data by using the note-taking method. In the first step, the researcher collected data by reading the novel thoroughly and understanding each sentence to find class differences and conflicts in "*An Offer From A Gentleman*". Then, the researcher identified the different social classes and how the characters interacted with each other, which caused the conflict through dialog and sentences in the story. After that, the researcher makes notes to record and analyze any data related to the collected research object.

D. Data Analysis

After the researcher has collected all the necessary data, the next step is to classify the collected data. In classifying the data, the researcher began classifying the caused the conflict in class differences. Then the researcher identifies the data and concludes it with Max Weber's theory of social class conflict.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter discusses the data collected in terms of Max Weber's theory of social stratification and social class conflict. As stated in Chapter 1, this research aims to analyze social stratification and social class conflict in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from A Gentleman*. Stratification includes three dimensions, i.e. class, status and power. Each is discussed in the following sections.

A. Social Stratification In *An Offer from A Gentleman*

1. Class

Social class can be defined as a group whose members have cultural values, social behavior, attitudes, and political orientations. The social class, in Max Weber, has been divided into some classes: upper class, middle class, and lower class. According to Weber, things such as wealth, income, services owned, and goods can be seen. The following analysis will show how social class is classified in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman*.

a. Upper class

The upper class is a term used to describe a social group with very high wealth and social status. People who belong to this group usually have greater access to economic, political, and cultural resources in society. According to Max Weber (1992), the upper class is a social group that has great wealth, influence, and power in society, and its membership is determined by the source of its power

and wealth, status and lifestyle, and the tendency to maintain its position and wealth to pass it on to the next generation.

Violet Bridgerton, the mother of the Bridgerton family, is one example of a character who demonstrates upper class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*. The Bridgerton family was one of London's leading noble families at that time. Violet is also told as a very famous person among the nobility and is always invited to important events. Violet also hosted a masquerade ball to match her son with another nobleman. The following data taken from the novel *An Offer From A Gentleman* by Julia Quinn represents the upper class of the rich and powerful of Violet Bridgerton:

He'd said that he was taking her directly to his mother's residence. Sophie remembered the grand house in Grosvenor Square as if she'd been there the night before. The ballroom was huge, with hundreds of sconces on the walls, each adorned by a perfect beeswax candle. The smaller rooms had been decorated in the Adam style, with exquisitely scalloped ceilings and pale, pastel walls. (Quinn, 2001, p.145)

In the quote above, Benedict's mother, Violet Bridgerton, is portrayed as a very powerful and wealthy upper-class member. In Max Weber's theory, the upper class consists of individuals who live off their possessions or who own the means of production and have very favorable life opportunities because of their wealth (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996). Violet Bridgerton owns a vast and beautiful ballroom, which is decorated with hundreds of perfect beeswax candles, and each one is adorned with a beautiful Adam style and scalloped ceiling. This reflects Violet's ability to control economic resources and demonstrates her high social status in society. In addition, the smaller rooms are

also decorated in Adam's style and pale pastel colors, showing refinement and elegance as a form of aesthetic power. In addition, as the mother of eight children, Violet Bridgerton could control her family's resources and maintain their social status as members of the upper class.

The Bridgertons are a noble family with a high social status. They owned a large and luxurious house in London and had abundant wealth. The Bridgertons were also involved in social gatherings and events attended by the nobility and elite of London society, demonstrating their elegance and high social status. The quote below also illustrates that the descendants of the Bridgerton family have respectable wealth:

Although the Misters Bridgerton are just that— merely Misters— they are still considered two of the prime catches of the season. It is a well-known fact that both are possessed of respectable fortunes, and it does not require perfect sight to know that they also possess, as do all eight of the Bridgerton offspring, the Bridgerton good looks. (Quinn, 2001, p.9)

The upper class of the Bridgerton family in the novel "*An Offer from a Gentleman*" is seen from their wealth and distinguished looks. According to Max Weber (1992), the upper class is a social group that has great wealth, influence, and power in society, and its membership is determined by the source of its power and wealth, status and lifestyle, and the tendency to maintain its position and wealth to pass it on to the next generation. The Bridgerton family has enormous wealth, so they can live a comfortably and efficiently live luxurious lifestyle. Despite their wealth, they still maintain their family's honor and strive to maintain their social position in society. In addition, the Bridgertons' good looks are also a strength of their upper class. They are physically handsome and have a polite and classy attitude, so they are respected and recognized by those around them.

The Earl, Richard Gunningworth, is one of the characters that show the upper class in the novel *An Offer From A Gentlemen* by Julia Quinn. The Earl has a high social status and abundant wealth as a nobleman. He lives in luxury and has many servants who serve him, even though his pet dogs are guarded very closely by specially trained Dog Keepers. The following are data taken from the novel *An Offer From A Gentlemen*

... the housekeeper was standing at strict attention, eyes straight ahead, waiting for the earl to bring his new family inside for introductions. Everyone else seemed to have a designated place. The servants were lined up according to rank, from the butler right down to the lowliest scullery maid. Even the dogs were sitting dutifully in the corner, their leads held tight by the Keeper of the Hounds. (Quinn, 2001, p.3)

The quotation above tells about the Earl of a nobleman who marries a widow with two children. They came from afar to immediately arrive at the Earl's house. When they arrived in front of his house with a carriage, they were immediately greeted by all the servants and servants in the Earl's house. The upper class's social class is seen from power. The Earl as a nobleman, has privileges and abundant wealth, so he can hire many servants to serve his needs. The servants also have clear roles and ranks and must obey the rules and procedures their superior authority sets. The Earl has power over his servants and pets; even his servants and pets are organized hierarchically to show his social status. The depiction of servants marching according to rank and the dogs obeying the dog keeper shows high society's highly organized division of tasks and jobs. Servants were not only regarded as servants but also as symbols of the status and power of their masters. In this way, the nobles could demonstrate their social status through their servants.

Araminta was a Countess who was also the mother of Earl Richard Gunningworth's future wife. As a countess, Araminta lived in high luxury and prosperity, having access to abundant wealth and resources. One example of Araminta living in luxury owned eighty pairs of shoes. The following is data that shows the wealth of Araminta:

"... you might as well polish all of my shoes." "All of them?" Sophie gulped. Araminta's collection must have numbered at least eighty pair. "All of them. And while you're at it..." (Quinn, 2001, p.52)

The quotation above Araminta can be considered a member of the upper class with high wealth and prestige but not significant power. Araminta's shoe collection of at least eighty pairs is one manifestation of her prestige. The extensive shoe collection shows that Araminta has a high financial ability to buy luxury goods and can be seen as a symbol of high social status in society. In addition, an extensive shoe collection also shows that Araminta has specific interests or hobbies that can strengthen her social status.

b. Middle Class

The middle class comprises individuals who either have some property but a limited education, such as small business owners and entrepreneurs, or those with the limited property but high salaries based on their education and qualifications. Some people in this class may have good life opportunities due to market capacity from non-manual skills. In contrast, others may have disadvantageous life opportunities due to market capacity from manual skills. (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996)

Sophie is one character that shows the middle class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*. She works as a maid in the Bridgerton house and serves the family well. The Bridgertons also treat Sophie fairly and equally as their family members. The Bridgertons ensure that Sophie has the same rights as the other servants in their house and treats her respectfully. The following is data that shows Sophie as middle class:

"Mrs. Watkins is busy, I'm sure," Lady Bridgerton said. "Besides, I believe we have need for another lady's maid upstairs. Have you any experience in that area?" Sophie nodded. "Excellent. I thought you might. You speak very well." (Quinn, 2001, p.153)

"And they treat you fairly, right?" "Yes, but—" (Quinn, 2001, p.170)

In Max Weber's theory, the middle class can be seen from Sophie's job and social conditions. As a maid in the Bridgerton family home, Sophie can be considered a member of the middle class who works for a living. Despite her job as a maid, the Bridgerton family treats Sophie fairly and appreciates her hard work. This shows the influence of the ethical values espoused by the Bridgerton family, where they value hard work and treat everyone fairly regardless of social class or occupation.

On the other hand, in Araminta's house, Sophie is seen as an enslaved person and is not paid a cent by Araminta. This shows the difference in social class views and ethical judgment between the Bridgerton and Araminta families. Araminta, who came from the nobility, felt that she was higher in class and looked down on Sophie just because she was an illegitimate child to her. In this case, there is a difference in the influence of the ethical values adopted by the Bridgerton family and the social values adopted by the Araminta family. The

Bridgerton family values hard work and treating others fairly, while the Araminta family pays more attention to social status and class in treating others.

Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree are the cottage housekeepers on the Bridgerton family property. The characters show the middle class in the novel *An Offer From A Gentleman*. They have regular jobs that can provide income to fulfill their needs. However, they do not have enough wealth to live in luxury like a noble family. The following data shows that they are the middle class:

"Who are you?" The words tumbled out of Sophie's mouth before she realized exactly who they must be: Mr. and Mrs. Crabtree, the caretakers of My Cottage. (Quinn, 2001, p.98)
Mrs. Crabtree shook her head. "A fine housekeeper I am if I can't prepare a pot of tea." (Quinn, 2001, p.99)

Mr. Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree are described as married couples working as servants in a cottage near the Bridgerton family home. Regarding social class, they belong to the middle class because they work as servants and have enough income to support their lives.

As servants in the cottage, Mr. Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree have limited power and do not have much influence on the decisions or actions of others. However, they had jobs that provided an income sufficient to meet their needs and allow them to maintain their lifestyle. Despite their low position in the Bridgerton family, they are still respected by the family and considered important members of the team of servants. Throughout the story, Mr. Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree's role is to help the Bridgerton household run smoothly and keep the cottage running smoothly. Although their position is limited, they still play an important role in maintaining the stability and continuity of the Bridgerton family.

c. Lower Class

The lower class is characterized by "*negative privileges*". They lack the resources to generate income and education to secure high-paying jobs (Saunders, 2001). Additionally, their life chances are severely limited due to their weak or marginal position in the labor market (Bilton, Toni & Bonnett, Kevin & Jones, Pip & Skinner, David & Stanworth, Michelle & Webster, Andrew, 1996).

Sophie is a character who represents the lower class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer from a Gentleman*. Sophie was born to a servant and an illegitimate noble family. Before Sophie worked as a maid in Bridgerton, she lived with her stepmother, Araminta. After the earl died, Sophie was always employed with the servants in her house. Moreover, during her time as a maid, she was never paid by Araminta. The following is data that shows Sophie as a lower class:

She thought about all the money that Araminta had received for her upkeep, money Araminta had never seen fit to share. She thought about all those years she'd toiled as a lady's maid, without drawing a single wage. (Quinn, 2001, p.63)

As a maid, Sophie falls under the lower social sphere of the noble family, and she has a limited and less valued social status in society. In Max Weber's theory, Sophie represents the lower social class. In this theory, people's social class can be seen from their economic and educational opportunities. Sophie lacks economic and educational opportunities to improve her social status. As an unpaid maid, she experiences social and economic injustice, which results in her having to work hard for years without getting a cent.

In Max Weber's theory, a person's social class can also be seen by their access to power and influence in society. Sophie has no social power or influence

in society, as she is in a noble family with greater power and influence. Therefore, she cannot fight for her rights as a worker. Sophie represents an example of a lower social class that experiences social and economic injustice and has no power or influence in society. Max Weber's theory explains that these factors can affect a person's social status and lead to power imbalances and social disparities in society.

The data below also shows that Sophie, as a lower class, does not have the right to attend a masked ball held by upper-class nobles:

Sophie sighed. She'd been reading about the upcoming masquerade for weeks, and even though she was nothing but a lady's maid (and occasionally a housemaid as well, whenever Araminta decided she wasn't working hard enough)..." (Quinn, 2001, p.11)

Due to her lower-class status, Sophie is not invited to the masquerade ball held by the Bridgerton family. However, Sophie feels intrigued and wants to attend the party. One night, Sophie finds an old party dress in the wardrobe and wears it to the masquerade ball. With the help of her best friend, Sophie manages to disguise herself and makes it to the party. There, Sophie meets a handsome man who invites her to dance. The man turns out to be Benedict Bridgerton looking for a dance partner. They dance beautifully, and Sophie is delighted. However, the following day, Sophie is embarrassed that she has dressed and acted inappropriately for a maid. She decides to avoid Benedict and the Bridgertons so as not to cause trouble.

In the context of sociology, Sophie's story illustrates social class inequality in society, where people from the lower class are considered inappropriate or do not have the right to attend events held by the upper class. This reflects Max

Weber's social class theory of how social status, wealth, and power are intertwined and influence a person's social access and opportunities.

In addition, the data below also shows that Araminta forbids Shopie from attending the masquerade ball because she feels inappropriate to attend due to her low status and not from the upper class:

"Oh, that's rich," Araminta said, barely able to catch her breath. "Little Sophie at the Bridgerton ball. They don't allow bastards out in society, you know." (Quinn, 2001, p.17)

The quotation above Araminta's view of Sophie can be interpreted as representing the social injustice and discrimination that often occurs in society. Araminta's statement about not allowing Sophie to go out in society in relation to Bridgerton can be interpreted as an attempt to maintain the social boundaries that exist in society. In Araminta's view, Sophie has no right to associate with noble or upper-class families due to her lower social status. However, Araminta's view is unfair to Sophie and other lower-class people. In a just society, everyone should have the same opportunity to develop and associate with anyone, regardless of family background.

Araminta's view can also be linked to Max Weber's concept of social class. According to Weber, social class can be determined by a person's relationship to economic and political resources in society. In this context, Sophie may belong to a lower social class due to her limited economic and political resources.

2. Status

Weber explained that status is categorized based on the principle of consumption of goods represented by a particular lifestyle because people have different consumption lifestyles and patterns (Weber, 1946). Their preferences in entertainment, music, food, housing, and other lifestyles may be very different. Status also relates to the standing and honor attached to a person without any relation to power or material possessions. Max Weber called this “*charisma*”. A person with charisma is recognized and respected by society without self-interest. While rulers can control others based on their authority, charisma controls others because of insider admiration (Adnan, 2021).

Social status in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* is presented in the following quotation:

... pins clamped between her teeth as she made last minute alterations on Araminta's masquerade costume. The Queen Elizabeth gown had, of course, been delivered from the dressmaker as a perfect fit (Quinn, 2001, p.12)

In Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman*, Araminta, a noblewoman, is shown to have a high status through how she dresses. When attending a masquerade ball held by the Bridgerton family, Araminta wears an elegant dress with headdresses and jewelry, resembling the clothes worn by Queen Elizabeth. This shows that Araminta has the access and financial ability to buy expensive and luxurious clothes and has a social awareness of how to look following her social status. In Max Weber's theory, the concept of status indicates differences in one's position in a social hierarchy based on factors such as wealth, power, and social influence. Social status can be seen through clothing, jewelry, and lifestyle

symbols. In Araminta's example, Queen Elizabeth's use of luxurious and stylish clothing shows her social status as royalty and her high financial means.

Rosamund, Araminta's first child, also wears luxurious clothes when she attends the masked ball. The following is data that shows Rosamund wearing luxury clothes:

Araminta snapped her fingers. "Don't forget that Rosamund will need her hair powdered." Rosamund was attending dressed as Marie Antoinette. Sophie had asked if she was planning to put a ring of faux blood around her neck. Rosamund had not been amused. (Quinn, 2001, p.13)

Rosamund is Sophie's half-sister and is a famous actress who is used to living a life of luxury. At the masquerade ball held at Bridgerton's house, Rosamund wore a very luxurious and expensive Marie Antoinette-style outfit. Rosamund's glamorous and luxurious appearance shows that she is a person who is in the upper class and can afford these expensive clothes. Rosamund's appearance at the masquerade ball also shows that she wants to emphasize her social status and get attention from the people present at the party.

In addition, Posy also wears fancy clothes when she attends a masquerade party. The following is data that shows Posy wearing luxury clothes:

Sophie assessed Posy's mermaid costume. The cut wasn't quite right for Posy, who had never lost all of her baby fat, but the color did indeed bring out the best in her complexion. "It is a lovely shade of green," Sophie replied quite honestly. "It makes your cheeks very rosy." (Quinn, 2001, p.10)

At the masquerade ball held at Bridgerton's house, Posy also appeared in a fancy mermaid-inspired outfit. This shows that Posy's family can afford to buy expensive clothes for her daughter. Posy's presence at the masquerade ball shows that she is recognized and invited by the Bridgerton family, who are a noble

family. In this case, Posy's social status is seen from her luxurious appearance and the fact that she is recognized by the noble family and treated with respect.

Besides wearing fancy clothes, Araminta, Rosamund, and Posy also leave by carriage even though the destination is very close. They must look elegant when attending the masquerade ball at Bridgerton's house. The following is the data that shows:

It was barely six blocks to Bridgerton House, where the masquerade was to be held, but Araminta would have insisted upon the carriage if they'd lived right next door. It was important to make a grand entrance, after all. (Quinn, 2001, p.17)

Araminta, Rosamund, and Posy come from wealthy families living in elite neighborhoods in the city. Although their house is very close to the venue, they decide to go by carriage to symbolize their social status. Their journey to the Bridgerton family's masquerade ball is considered an exhibition of their luxury and social status. This ensures that people who see them on their way to the party know they come from wealthy families and have a high social status.

A masquerade ball is an event that the nobles look forward to. Only noble people can attend the event. The event is used as a place to find a mate for nobles who do not have a partner. In addition, the nobles also wear luxurious clothes to look striking at the event. This shows that holding a masked ball is also one of the lifestyles of a nobleman.

This year's most sought-after invitation must surely be that of the Bridgerton masquerade ball, to be held Monday next. Indeed, one cannot take two steps without being forced to listen to some society mama speculating on who will attend, and perhaps more importantly, who will wear what. (Quinn, 2001, p.9)

The masquerade ball in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* denotes high status and lifestyle, as the elite and aristocracy of 18th century England

attend the event. The guests attending the masquerade ball are dressed in luxurious and expensive clothing, such as jewel-studded shirts and stylish dresses. In addition, the masquerade ball was held at the Bridgerton house, which was a noble family, showing that the family had a high status among the British nobles. It also shows that social life and lavish events such as masquerade balls were part of the upper-class lifestyle of the time.

Violet Bridgerton is the mother of the Bridgerton family, well-known among London's elite. In *An Offer from a Gentleman*, Violet Bridgerton is described as an elegant woman who always appears in elegant and luxurious clothes. This shows her high social status and abundant wealth. The following is an excerpt that shows Violet Bridgerton has a status lifestyle:

"Benedict Bridgerton was sitting next to his mother in her very feminine rose-and-cream drawing room, holding out his only link to the woman in silver. Violet Bridgerton took the glove and examined the crest. She needed only a second before she announced, "Penwood." (Quinn, 2001, p.47)

The quotation above Violet Bridgerton is seen wearing clothes made of high-quality materials and looks very elegant. The rose and beige colors also suggest an elegant and upscale lifestyle. In addition, when Violet checks the emblem on the glove held out to her, it shows that she pays attention to details and knows the luxury brands usually used by the upper class. The lifestyle and luxury items used by Violet Bridgerton illustrate the wealth and social status of the Bridgerton family.

3. Power

According to Weber, power is the ability to make others comply with one's wishes (Waters, Dagmar & Waters, Tony, 2015). Power is a crucial component of

human interaction and the basis of all forms of inequality, such as class, status, and party (Trujillo, 2007). Weber believes that there are three ways in which one group can assert dominance over another. Firstly, power can come from unequal access to resources, where one group has something the other wants or needs, resulting in the first group having control. This is what Weber refers to as class power. Secondly, power can be derived from social status and perceived superiority, where one group views the other as their social superior and submits to their commands. Weber views this as a type of power exercised by status groups. Thirdly, one group can hold power over another through state agents, either by directly controlling it or influencing those who do. (Saunders, 2001, p. 20).

a. Class Power

Individuals who have high power with their wealth or resources can control others who have not. The power class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* is evident below:

"If you can keep her from bringing me a tonic," Benedict whispered urgently to Mr. Crabtree, "it's a fiver in your pocket." (Quinn, 2001, p.102)

In the quotation above, Benedict Bridgerton's action of giving five dollars to Mr. Crabtree reflects his class power. As a wealthy nobleman, Benedict has more power and influence than people from lower social classes, such as Mr. Crabtree. Giving money also shows the complex social relationship between employer and servant. In Max Weber's theory, power is measured by a person's ability to influence another person's actions even though that person may not want to perform those actions. In this case, Benedict as the employer, has the power to

influence the actions of Mr. Crabtree as the servant by giving money in exchange for preventing the bringing of the tonic.

In addition, Benedict also tries to control Shopie by persuading her to give him whatever she wants. The following is evidence that Benedict controls with his power:

"I could give you whatever you wanted," he bit off. "Clothes, jewels—Hell, forget about the clothes and jewels, I could give you a bloody roof over your head, which is more than you have now." (Quinn, 2001, p.135)

In Max Weber's view, financial capability is one aspect of social class power. Benedict has great wealth, which allows him to offer Sophie a much better lifestyle than she currently has. In addition, Benedict also has the class power of the honorable Bridgerton family lineage. In British aristocratic society, an honorable lineage and family name are important aspects of social status. As a member of the Bridgerton family, Benedict had class power and high social status in the aristocratic society.

However, despite having significant class power, Benedict cannot impose his will on Sophie. As explained in the novel, he does not want Sophie to feel trapped or feel forced to be his mistress. As a nobleman, Benedict may have power in society, but in a relationship between two individuals, the final decision always belongs to the individual.

b. Social Power

Power can be derived from social status and perceived superiority, where one group views the other as their social superior and submits to their commands (Saunders, 2001). The power of status in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* is revealed in the following quotation:

"Then you may instruct Rosamund to lock you in my closet." Sophie stared at her. She actually wanted Sophie to give the order to have herself locked in the closet? "Do you understand me?" Sophie couldn't quite bring herself to nod. Some things were simply too demeaning." (Quinn, 2001, p.53)

The quotation above where Araminta orders Sophie to tell Rosamund to lock Sophie in the cupboard, can be seen as an example of Araminta's upper-class power. Araminta, as a woman from a noble family, has significant power within the scope of their family and household and can use her power to influence and control the actions of others. Araminta's actions in ordering Sophie to tell Rosamund to lock Sophie in the cupboard can be seen as an abuse of power. In a just society, power should be used to promote the good and well-being of all people, not to impose the will of certain individuals or groups.

This is also supported by the following quote:

"Oh, goodness, you gave me a fright," she said to Araminta. "I didn't hear you coming, and—" "Pack your things," Araminta said in a low, cruel voice. "I want you out of this house by sunrise." (Quinn, 2001, p.60)

The quotation above Araminta demonstrates her power as a noble by kicking Sophie out of her house after learning she went to a masquerade ball held for noble families. This action shows that Araminta feels entitled to organize and have power over others, especially those she considers part of a social sphere lower than hers. Araminta, as a nobleman, has a high level of social power, so he feels he has the right to kick Sophie out of his house.

The following quote also proves that Araminta has the social power to control people:

"Someone stop her!" Araminta screamed. "Stop thief! Stop thief!" Until someone tackled her, thumping into her back and knocking her to the ground. "I got her!" the man yelled. "I got her for you!" (Quinn, 2001, p.245)

In the quote above, Araminta can use her position to gain support from those around her, and because of her high social status, she can influence the actions of others. In this situation, when Araminta yells at Sophie as a thief, her social power has a significant impact on the actions of others. Someone immediately stopped and arrested Sophie despite her innocence and brought her to Araminta. This shows how social power can be used to influence the actions of others, even though it can harm innocent people. In this case, Sophie was victimized by Araminta's social power. According to Max Weber's theory of social power, Araminta can be said to have power because of his position that is respected and recognized by the society around him. This authority allows him to take action and influence others without using violence or coercion.

c. Political Power

By political power, one group or individual can hold power over another through state agents, either by directly controlling it or by influencing those who do (Saunders, 2001). The more important one's position, the broader one's political power scope. The following quote shows that Violet Bridgerton, with her high position, can control a judge:

Lady Bridgerton cut in. "I want my future daughter-in-law released immediately." The warden looked helplessly at the magistrate. "Oh, very well," the magistrate said, jabbing his finger in Sophie's direction. "Let that one free. (Quinn, 2001, p.261)

The quotation above Violet Bridgerton's political and social power is seen when she tells the judge to release Sophie, who was imprisoned on a false theft charge. Violet uses her political and social power to influence the judge to release Sophie. Her political power is seen in the fact that the judge considers her request

that the decision to accuse Sophie falsely is excessive. However, her social power is more visible in her ability to fight for Sophie's rights even though Sophie does not have the high social status that she does. Using her political and social power, Violet Bridgerton proved that justice should be given to everyone, regardless of their social status. Her actions also show that political and social power can be used to fight for the rights of underrepresented individuals in society.

B. The Characters Conflict Related To Max Weber's Social Class

Weber views that social class conflict occurs because of the unfair distribution of power, wealth and status in society. Weber argued that three main factors determine a person's social class: wealth, power, and prestige. Weber argues that unequal wealth, power, and status causes social injustice and triggers a conflict between different social classes. Lower social classes tend to feel excluded and do not have equal access to resources, while higher social classes tend to have more access (Weber, 1922).

In the novel *An Offer From A Gentleman* by Julia Quinn, there are many conflicts that occur between characters. Especially the character Shopie, who comes from the lower class, is often taken advantage of by the upper class and causes conflict. The following is a quotation that shows the conflict between characters in the novel *An Offer From A Gentleman* by Julia Quinn:

But my position changed dramatically. I became a servant. Well, not really a servant." Sophie smiled wryly. "A servant is paid. So I was really more like a slave." (Quinn, 2001, p.264)

Shopie is a bastard child of a noble family, the Earl. Her mother, who worked as a maid, had died after giving birth to Shopie. She lived her life like any

other child in the Earl's house with the servants because that was the only friend she was close to. The Earl treated Shopie with affection even though Shopie was just an illegitimate child. After the Earl of Penwood married Araminta, Sophie's life began to change as she had to follow the orders of her stepmother, who often degraded and exploited Sophie. After the Earl died, Araminta hired Shopie as a maid. Araminta treats Sophie like a slave, requiring her to work hard without paying her proper wages and forcing her to face harsh treatment from the people she employs. The social class conflict, in this case, is evident as Sophie is constantly mistreated by Araminta and is not treated with the same rights as other upper-class people. As a servant, Sophie does not have the power or high social status of Araminta, making it difficult for her to challenge the harsh treatment she receives.

Araminta, as the upper class with high social status mistreats the lower class. Sophie is part of the lower social class because Araminta considers her to be an illegitimate child and not worthy of her equality. Social class conflict also occurs when Araminta throws Shopie out of her house. The following is a quote that shows Araminta kicking Shopie out:

"Pack your things," Araminta said in a low, cruel voice. "I want you out of this house by sunrise."

"But where will I go?" Araminta's eyes narrowed to nasty slits. "That's not my concern, now, is it?" (Quinn, 2001, p.60)

The quotation above the social class conflict between Sophie and Araminta also occurs when Sophie is expelled from the Earl's house after being caught going to Bridgerton's masquerade ball without permission. The Bridgerton family's masquerade ball was only allowed to be attended by nobles. Shopie, as a

lower class disguised herself to participate in the masquerade ball. All the disguise items used items from Araminta, so she caught her. Araminta felt that Shopie, as a lower class, did not deserve to attend the masquerade ball. With her power as the upper class, Araminta forced Shopie out of her house.

The social class conflict involves the social power and influence Araminta possesses. As the wife of the late Earl, Araminta has more power and authority than Sophie. She can quickly get Sophie out of the Earl's house. On the other hand, Sophie does not have enough power or social influence to stand up to Araminta. Although she has muscular moral strength and determination, she cannot compete with the social power possessed by Araminta. In this situation, social status and power play an important role in determining the social class conflict between Sophie and Araminta.

The quotation below also shows the conflict of Araminta, who has long hated Shopie. Here is a quotation that shows that:

"Why do you hate me?" she whispered. Araminta did nothing but stare at her for a moment, and then she whispered, "Because he loved you." (Quinn, 2001, p.255)

Araminta feels uncomfortable with Sophie's presence in their home, especially when the Earl shows more attention and affection for Sophie. Araminta feels threatened by Sophie's presence and her existence as the Earl's illegitimate daughter. When Araminta expresses her feelings to Sophie and says that she hates her out of jealousy of Sophie and Earl's relationship, where Shopie is just an illegitimate child, the social class conflict is further exacerbated. Araminta tries to maintain her power in the house and pressures Sophie not to interfere with her position as the Earl's wife. Araminta feels that she is equalized by Shopie when

she is just a bastard child. On the other hand, Sophie feels unfair because she is only considered a worthless servant when the Earl is gone, even though she is actually the Earl's daughter. This conflict shows how differences in social status can affect relationships between individuals and how power can be used to preserve social status.

The quote below also shows a similar character conflict between Shopie and Araminta:

"A dowry?" Sophie whispered. "That's not true!" Araminta shrieked. "It is true," Posy insisted. "You ought not leave incriminating evidence about, Mother. I read a copy of the earl's will last year." She turned to the rest of the room and said, "It was in the same box where she put her wedding band." "You stole my dowry?" Sophie said (Quinn, 2001, p.265)

The social class conflict in Shopie's character arises when Posy, Shopie's half-sister, the daughter of a noble family, uncovers the truth about the will left by the Earl. In the will, the Earl provides a dowry for Shopie, his illegitimate child, as compensation for the Earl's neglect of Shopie so far. The data evidence shows the conflict: "You stole my dowry?". With this will, Shopie is legally entitled to receive the dowry. Araminta, the wife of Medieng Earl, who is Shopie's stepmother, is of course not happy about this because she feels that Shopie does not deserve the dowry. The conflict intensified when Araminta tried to manipulate that the dowry was hers. However, Posy helps Shopie to know the truth and fight for her rights as Earl's legitimate child. In this case, social class conflict occurs because Shopie as a servant, must fight against a higher social power, namely the noble family who wants to preserve its power and wealth among the upper class.

Besides Araminta, other characters look down on someone who is in the lower class. Philip Cavender is the noble son of the Cavender family. After

Shopie was expelled from Araminta's house, Shopie then worked for the Cavender family. Philip's parents treated Shopie well as a maid. However, when his parents are not at home, Philip uses his power to treat Shopie violently. Philip did this just for fun with his friends. The following is an excerpt that shows that Philip demeans Shopie as a maid:

"Quite right!" Phillip replied. "This one's a housemaid, and as we all know, that breed is born to serve." He gave Sophie a shove, pushing her toward one of his friends. "Here. Have a look at the goods." (Quinn, 2001, p.67)
"It's my home," Cavender shot back, "and she's my maid. And she'll do what I want." (Quinn, 2001, p.69)

The social class conflict that occurs between Sophie and Philip Cavender can be seen from the perspective of Max Weber's theory of social class conflict. Philip Cavender, a nobleman with a higher social status than Sophie, has greater power and access to resources, such as wealth, education, and political power. Philip considers himself superior to Sophie, who is merely a servant. Philip makes a derogatory comment to Sophie, saying that *"that breed is born to serve"*. This shows society's strict class views and strong hierarchy at the time. These comments made Sophie feel helpless and dehumanized her. As a servant, Shopie also wanted her future descendants not to suffer the same fate. Then in the following data about *"And she'll do what I want"*, Philip treats a maid according to his wishes with his power. Shopie as a maid, is treated unnaturally by Philip Cavender. The social class conflict that Sophie faces shows the social injustice in society at that time.

Social class conflict also occurs in Shopie, who refuses to be used as a mistress by Benedict. Benedict is a nobleman from the upper class who loves Shopie, who is only a maid. The following is a quotation showing that:

She shook her head. "I won't be your mistress. I won't be any man's mistress." Benedict's lips parted with shock as he digested her words. "Sophie," he said incredulously, "you know I cannot marry you." "Of course I know that," she snapped. "I'm a servant, not an idiot." (Quinn, 2001, p.201)

Sophie as a servant, was in a lower social status position than Benedict, who came from a noble family. Therefore, according to society then, Benedict could never marry Sophie because of the considerable difference in their social status. In the quote above, as in, *"I won't be any man's mistress"*, Sophie realizes this difference in social status and refuses Benedict's offer as a mistress because she does not want to be a temporary means of pleasure for a nobleman. Sophie also knows that her low social status will always make her the loser in such a relationship. The conflict occurs when Benedict thinks that money and wealth can overcome the difference in social status and asks Sophie to be his mistress.

However, Sophie rejects the offer because she feels that such a relationship is unfair and cannot overcome their vast social status differences. In Weber's view, Sophie's decision was a form of resistance to the prevailing system of social stratification at the time, which placed people at a lower position in the social hierarchy simply because of differences in social and economic status.

The conflict between Sophie and Benedict begins when they meet at a masquerade ball. Benedict is immediately drawn to Sophie's charm and intelligence, but when he learns that Sophie is a waitress, he is forced to confront the social class difference between them. Benedict struggles with his feelings for Sophie, as he knows that their social status makes any relationship between them impossible. The following is an excerpt that shows that Sophie reveals the truth and that there is conflict in their relationship:

"Who were your parents?" he roared. "The Earl of Penwood," she cried out. He stood utterly still, not a muscle moving. He didn't even blink. "I am a nobleman's bastard," she said harshly, years of anger and resentment pouring forth. "My father was the Earl of Penwood and my mother was a maid. Yes," she spat out when she saw his face grow pale, "my mother was a lady's maid. Just as I am a lady's maid."
"I have to go," he muttered. "I can't see you right now." (Quinn, 2001, p.234)

The quotation above with the data, *"I am a nobleman's bastard,"* she said harshly, years of anger and resentment pouring forth. *"My father was the Earl of Penwood and my mother was a maid. Yes,"* Sophie reveals the truth of being the bastard child of an Earl to Benedict and creates a conflict of social class. At that moment, Benedict, who had previously felt attached to and seduced by Sophie, was shocked and felt that their relationship could not continue because of the vast difference in social status. According to Max Weber's theory, differences in social status can cause inequality in relationships between individuals or groups in society. In this case, the difference in social status between Sophie and Benedict makes it difficult for them to have an equal and socially recognized relationship. For Benedict, being unable to marry Sophie because of his status as an illegitimate child is an unacceptable inequality in higher society. Thus, this becomes a social class conflict that affects their relationship.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter contains conclusions from the discussion and suggestions. Furthermore, the conclusions are based on the analysis results or discussion that the researcher has done before. Meanwhile, suggestions provide information related to the findings of further research that is interested in using the same theory.

A. Conclusion

Social class in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* has social stratification that has three dimensions: class, status, and power. The characters in Julia Quinn's *An Offer From A Gentleman* can be classified into three classes. The first is the upper class in the form of wealth. The wealth is in the form of a luxurious house owned by Violet. The Bridgerton, Earl, and Araminta families are aristocrats. The second is the middle class of the characters Shopie and the couple Mr. Crabtree and Mrs. Crabtree, who live well. The last is the lower class of the main character, Shopie as a servant. Regarding status, Araminta, Rosamund, Posy, and Violet are characters with prestigious lifestyles. Then, power is seen from three aspects, namely class power, social power, and political power. In class power, Benedict's character can control others. In social power, Araminta's character utilizes her status to control others. Finally, Violet has political power to control the Judge with her high social status.

In the novel *An Offer From A Gentleman* by Julia Quinn, social class conflicts are seen among the characters. The novel provides a clear picture of social class conflicts in the era of the rise of the English aristocracy. Unequal wealth, power, and status cause social injustice and trigger conflicts between different social classes. In essence, the novel shows the inequality of social classes and the differences in status that can trigger conflicts between them. The cause of conflict occurs when Araminta, a nobleman, uses his power to expel Sophie from the Earl's house, which shows the inequality of social status between the two. Similarly, when Philip Cavender uses his power by mistreating Shopie, causing conflict. Conflict also arises when Benedict tries to win Sophie's heart, despite their different social class backgrounds. This shows how social class differences can affect individual relationships and social interactions.

B. Suggestion

Readers who study literature can use the results of this research as an additional reference in literary studies, namely those that focus on the issue of social class conflict. Furthermore, it is suggested that researchers be able to compare this novel with other works from the same period or from the same genre to see how social class conflict is represented in these works. This may help better understand the social class conflict in *An Offer from a Gentleman*.

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