

**SOCIAL CLASS IN THE VICTORIAN ERA IN ELIZABETH
GASKELL'S *THE GREY WOMAN***

THESIS

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**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM
MALANG
2023**

**SOCIAL CLASS IN THE VICTORIAN ERA IN ELIZABETH
GASKELL'S *THE GREY WOMAN***

THESIS

Presented to:

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.)

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE

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UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM

MALANG

2023

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**Social Class in the Victorian Era in Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Grey Woman***” 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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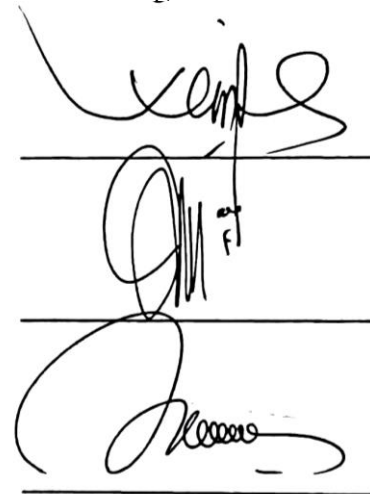
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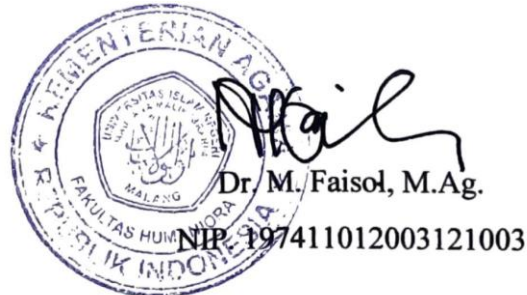
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MOTTO

“بِسْمِ اللَّهِ، تَوَكَّلْتُ عَلَى اللَّهِ، لَا حَوْلَ وَلَا قُوَّةَ إِلَّا بِاللَّهِ”

"In the name of Allah, I put my trust in Allah, there is no power and strength except with Him",

“Don’t Think, Just Do!”

(Maverick)

Liberate your mind from overthinking, embrace action and let your instincts guide you to success.

DEDICATION

This thesis is specially dedicated to:

- My beloved parents, H. Sutarno, S.Pd.I. and Hj. Siti Mubayyanah, A.Ma , for their unwavering love, prays and support throughout this research journey.
- My younger brother and sister, I'tibar Fitriadi and Ulfa Qowiyyatun Nasywa. This dedication is especially for the happiness and success to both of you.
- My extended family, Harjo Sumarto's and Ahmad Suyadi's, for their encouragement and understanding.
- My lovely partner, Derin Nanggari Putri, for your love, understanding, and patience.
- Lastly, to M. Rafiq Aslimudin, thanks for myself for the dedication, perseverance, and passion for this research.

This research is dedicated to all those mentioned above, my personal growth, and development. Thank you for participating in this significant milestone in my academic journey.

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Therefore, the researcher would like to express profound gratitude and extend heartfelt appreciation to the following individuals and groups who have played a significant role in the successful completion of this research:

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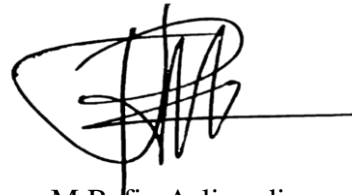
academic supervisor, for his valuable advice and assistance throughout the research process.

5. The English Literature Department, particularly, merits special thanks for providing invaluable information, experiences, instruction, stimulating conversations, and inspiring insights that have greatly enriched my academic journey.
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7. My beloved parents, H. Sutarno, S.Pd.I. and Hj. Siti Mubayyanah, A.Ma for their unwavering love and support throughout this research journey. Your belief in me has provided me the strength to pursue my dreams and overcome any obstacles that have come my way.
8. My younger brother and sister, I'tibar Fitriadi and Ulfa Qowiyyatun Nasywa, who are my source of strength and motivation to pursue my dreams.
9. My extended family, Harjo Sumarto's and Ahmad Suyadi's, for their encouragement and understanding. Your presence and words of wisdom have reminded me the importance of family bonds and the value of collective support.
10. Last, I express my heartfelt gratitude to my beloved partner, Derin Nanggari Putri, for your unwavering love, understanding, and patience. Your unwavering belief

in my abilities and constant support have been a pillar of strength, empowering me to strive for new heights in my academic pursuits.

Malang, December 5th, 2023

The Researcher,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'R' followed by several vertical strokes and a horizontal line extending to the right.

M Rafiq Aslimudin

ABSTRACT

Aslimudin, M. Rafiq (2023). Social Class in the Victorian Era in Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Grey Woman*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Asni Furaida, M.A.

Keywords: social class, influence, victorian era

This research delves into the intricate interplay between social class and the life of Anna Scherer, the main character in Elizabeth Gaskell's novel *The Grey Woman*. The study is rooted in a sociological approach, aiming to unravel the profound influence of social class on the protagonist's experiences. The research uses Karl Marx's social class theory to examine how societal conditions, particularly social class, impact Anna's life. The qualitative research design is underpinned by a sociological lens, focusing on the social phenomena embedded within literary works, with the main character serving as the focal point for analysis. The study uncovers the profound impact of social class on Anna's life, elucidated through her tumultuous marriage to M. de la Tourelle, which ultimately leads to her isolation and psychological distress. The power dynamics, emotional trauma, and psychological horror she experiences underscore the far-reaching implications of social class on individual well-being. The narrative portrays Anna's descent from the middle class to the lower class, reflecting the harsh realities faced by women reliant on marriage for social mobility in the 19th century. This transformation culminates in her physical and emotional deterioration, epitomizing the enduring effects of social class dynamics. The novel's portrayal of social class resonates with the societal realities of the Victorian era, painting a vivid picture of English society during that time. Gaskell's narrative, influenced by the author's prominence in the Victorian era, provides a compelling reflection of the societal dynamics and challenges of the 19th century. The depiction of Anna's life is a poignant representation of women's struggles within the rigid confines of social class, underscoring the pervasive impact of societal structures on individual destinies.

مستخلص البحث

أسليمودين ، م. رفيق (٢٠٢٣). الطبقة الاجتماعية في العصر الفيكتوري في رواية المرأة الرمادية لإليزابيث جاسكل. برنامج دراسة الأدب الإنجليزي ، كلية العلوم الإنسانية ، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرف: أسني فريده، ماجستير

الكلمات المفتاحية: الطبقة الاجتماعية ، التأثير ، العصر الفيكتوري

يبحث هذا البحث في التفاعلات المعقدة بين الطبقة الاجتماعية و حياة آنا شيرير، الشخصية الرئيسية في رواية إليزابيث جاسكل "المرأة الرمادية". هذه الدراسة متجذرة في منهج اجتماعي يهدف إلى الكشف عن التأثير العميق للطبقة الاجتماعية على تجارب بطل الرواية. يستخدم هذا البحث نظرية الطبقة الاجتماعية لكارل ماركس لدراسة كيفية تأثير الظروف المجتمعية، وخاصة الطبقة الاجتماعية، على حياة آنا. يتم دعم تصميم البحث النوعي من خلال عدسة اجتماعية، تركز على الظواهر الاجتماعية الواردة في الأعمال الأدبية، مع اعتبار الشخصية الرئيسية هي النقطة المحورية للتحليل. تكشف هذه الدراسة التأثير العميق للطبقة الاجتماعية على حياة آنا، والذي يظهر من خلال زواجها المضطرب من السيد دي لا توريل، والذي أدى في النهاية إلى عزلتها وضيقتها النفسي. تؤكد ديناميكيات السلطة والصدمات العاطفية والأهوال النفسية التي يعاني منها على التأثير البعيد المدى للطبقة الاجتماعية على رفاهية الفرد. يصور السرد نزول آنا من الطبقة المتوسطة إلى الطبقة الدنيا، مما يعكس الحقائق القاسية التي تواجه النساء اللاتي اعتمدن على الزواج من أجل الحراك الاجتماعي في القرن التاسع عشر. ويبلغ هذا التحول ذروته في تراجع الجسدي والعاطفي، مما يرمز إلى التأثير الدائم لديناميات الطبقة الاجتماعية. ويتمشى تصوير الطبقات الاجتماعية في هذه الرواية مع واقع المجتمع في العصر الفيكتوري، مما يقدم صورة واضحة عن المجتمع البريطاني في ذلك الوقت. تقدم رواية جاسكل، المتأثرة بشهرة المؤلف في العصر الفيكتوري، انعكاسًا مقنعًا لديناميكيات المجتمع وتحدياته في القرن التاسع عشر. إن تصوير حياة آنا هو تمثيل مؤثر لنضال المرأة داخل الحدود الصارمة للطبقة الاجتماعية، مما يؤكد التأثير البعيد المدى للهياكل المجتمعية على مصير الأفراد.

ABSTRAK

Aslimudin, M. Rafiq (2023). Kelas Sosial di Era Victoria dalam *The Grey Woman* karya Elizabeth Gaskell. Skripsi Sarjana. Prodi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Asni Furaida, M.A.

Kata kunci: kelas sosial, pengaruh, era victoria

Penelitian ini menyelidiki interaksi yang rumit antara kelas sosial dan kehidupan Anna Scherer, karakter utama dalam novel Elizabeth Gaskell, *The Grey Woman*. Kajian ini berakar pada pendekatan sosiologis, yang bertujuan untuk mengungkap pengaruh mendalam kelas sosial terhadap pengalaman tokoh protagonis. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori kelas sosial Karl Marx untuk mengkaji bagaimana kondisi masyarakat, khususnya kelas sosial, berdampak pada kehidupan Anna. Desain penelitian kualitatif ditopang oleh lensa sosiologis, yang berfokus pada fenomena sosial yang terkandung dalam karya sastra, dengan tokoh utama sebagai titik fokus analisis. Studi ini mengungkap dampak mendalam kelas sosial terhadap kehidupan Anna, yang terlihat melalui pernikahannya yang penuh gejolak dengan M. de la Tourelle, yang pada akhirnya menyebabkan isolasi dan tekanan psikologisnya. Dinamika kekuasaan, trauma emosional, dan kengerian psikologis yang ia alami menggarisbawahi dampak luas kelas sosial terhadap kesejahteraan individu. Narasi tersebut menggambarkan turunya Anna dari kelas menengah ke kelas bawah, mencerminkan kenyataan pahit yang dihadapi perempuan yang bergantung pada pernikahan untuk mobilitas sosial di abad ke-19. Transformasi ini berpuncak pada kemerosotan fisik dan emosionalnya, yang melambangkan dampak abadi dinamika kelas sosial. Penggambaran kelas sosial dalam novel ini sejalan dengan realitas masyarakat di era Victoria, memberikan gambaran yang jelas tentang masyarakat Inggris pada masa itu. Narasi Gaskell, yang dipengaruhi oleh ketenaran penulisnya di era Victoria, memberikan refleksi yang menarik tentang dinamika dan tantangan masyarakat pada abad ke-19. Penggambaran kehidupan Anna adalah representasi tajam perjuangan perempuan dalam batasan kelas sosial yang kaku, yang menggarisbawahi dampak luas struktur masyarakat terhadap nasib individu.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The following chapter describes about the introduction in background of the study, problems of the study, research significance, scope and limitations, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of The Study

Social class is a social phenomenon that circulates in society, especially among people who still adhere to ancient principles that wealth and possessions can distinguish the status of one human being from another. According to Horton (1984, p. 122), social class is a group with the same political orientation, cultural values, attitudes, and social behavior. The social class generally classifies individuals or groups in social society based on the accumulation of wealth, power, and prestige. According to Karl Marx (1848, p. 15), society is divided into two main classes, namely, the working class (proletariat) and the capitalist class (bourgeoisie). Karl Marx also argued that social class is determined by the individual's relationship to the means of production. Based on this opinion, a person or individual or group of people with economic capital in the form of money and property will have the power to become the upper class in social society in a certain area where he lives.

The practice of differences in social class in society can cause various significant effects or impacts on the life of a person or individual. The existence of status grouping

or division of social classes in society can lead to various social problems, such as economic inequality and discrimination, and even impact the nature or character of a person or individual. Growing up and living under the context of different social and economic classes will impact people's thoughts, feelings, and behavior. Furthermore, the influence or impact of social class on thoughts, feelings, and behavior will be the main theme of this research. The importance of analyzing the influence of social class in life is to understand how the existence of social class affects one's life. Social class is a sociological phenomenon that is quite complex and has a major impact on human civilization. The existence of social class phenomena is important to study to determine the extent to which these phenomena directly impact human life, especially the impact on a person's psychology.

The phenomenon of social class can be found in various layers of society. Moreover, the phenomenon of social class can also be found in literary works. Literary works often reflect, describe, or criticize social inequality, power dynamics, and class differences in society through the study of literary works. The novel is a literary work that describes a character's life based on the reality of human life in general. Character is a fundamental element of literature that refers to the representation of a person in a work of fiction. According to Abrams (2009, p. 200), characters in literary works represent people with certain moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities that readers interpret from their dialogues and actions. Their actions, dialogues, and interactions with other characters reveal character traits and qualities. According to Wilson (2014, p. 77), literature as an imitation of human action often presents a picture of what people

think, say, or do in society. One of them is the reality of human social life which is described through the life of the characters in the novel. One of the social issues found in literary works is the phenomenon of social class and its impact on the novel's characters. The impact of social class divisions can be seen in the novels or literary works written against the background of the 19th century, in which that century, people lived in a division of social classes ranging from upper, middle, to lower class. The phenomenon of social class in the 19th century can be found through literary works, one of which is the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell. Literary works as social documents that reflect the situation in which the work was written, by applying this perspective, a reflection of British Society in the 19th century can be achieved (Swingwood, 1972, p. 17). The existence of class differences in the life of the characters in the novel has a considerable impact on the main character.

Elizabeth Gaskell was an English novelist and socialist during the Victorian era. Most of her works reflect the social life of British society in the 19th century. One of her works is the novel *The Grey Woman*. The novel tells the sad life of Anna Scharer, a woman from the middle class, due to her rash choice to marry a foreign man from the upper class. The attention and material gifts she received from a foreign man from the upper class gave her no choice but to accept the man's proposal and marry him. Support and coercion from those around her made her unable to stick to her own choices, so she married a stranger she had just met at her relatives' house. Because the marriage made her go far to follow her husband, her life has changed completely since she decided to leave her family and live with her husband. The marriage she thought

would bring her happiness turned out to ruin Anna. The difference in social class between Anna and her husband makes her helpless, makes her live in fear, and has a big impact on her feelings, thoughts, and mental health, and this is the topic that will be the main study in this research.

After reading the novel, the researcher is interested in analyzing how social class can have an impact on one's thoughts, feelings, and behavior; using the theory of social class division by Karl Marx, the researcher wants to examine how social class division in society in the novel can have an impact on the thoughts, feelings, and behavior of the main character in the novel. The researcher uses the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell is that the novel is very popular and has an interesting and complex story to study with a story background that describes a society's life in the 19th century where in that century the existence of social class was still highly respected by the community.

Hence, the researcher was interested in studying how the practice of social class at that time and its impact on the life of the main character in the novel. In order to gain a deeper understanding of this literary work and the theoretical framework that will be used in this study, the researcher has found various journal articles and theses to build a research foundation. This research will comprehensively analyze the novel by utilizing academic sources and emphasizing the intricate underlying messages and themes.

First, the journal E Ludlow and R Styler (2015). This article is about the short story form in literature, specifically focusing on the Mid-Victorian era and the works

of Elizabeth Gaskell. It discusses the definition and characteristics of the short story, its relationship to the novel, and its evolution into the modernist short story. The article also explores the perception of the short story as a lesser form of literature and the commercial motivations behind its creation. It highlights the importance of Gaskell's shorter fiction and her role in the Victorian literary marketplace. The article summarizes various critical perspectives on the short story and its value as a literary form. Overall, the article offers insights into the short story's historical context, development, and critical reception, specifically focusing on Elizabeth Gaskell's contributions.

Next, M Hitlbruner (2009) aims to compare and analyze the similarities and differences between Elizabeth Gaskell's short story *The Grey Woman* and Bluebeard's story, using various theories of feminist literature and approach. The research method includes carefully reading texts and analyzing the themes and motifs, while the theoretical approach includes feminist and Gothic literary theory. The article presents the similarities and differences between the two texts, highlighting how the two stories address themes of women's oppression and the perils of patriarchy. This analysis also alludes to the differences in narrative technique and structure used in the two texts. It highlights the similarities in using Gothic elements, such as the secret room and the mysterious husband. While the conclusion presents the idea that Bluebeard's Bride is a cautionary tale against curiosity and disobedience, *The Grey Woman* is a more subversive and empowering text that offers a different perspective on women's resistance.

The thesis by Willis, Rachel (2021) analyzes the gender construction and evolution of the cross-dressing character Amante in Elizabeth Gaskell's Gothic short story *The Grey Woman*. The research method involved reading the text carefully and analyzing the plot devices and narrative framework used to construct and validate Amante's gender identity. The theoretical approach used in the analysis is queer theory. The article argues that Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Grey Woman* presents Amante as a potentially male-identifying character and validates her gender construct through plot devices and narrative frameworks. The analysis also compares Amante's situation to that of Gaskell's other cross-dressing character, Cranford's Peter Jenkyns, to show how the layout and plot elements of a story can play a large, if subtle, role in validating and establishing a character's gender identity. The overall conclusion presents the argument that Elizabeth Gaskell's work is worthy of consideration within the realm of queer theory and offers a more progressive reading and understanding of her work, particularly within a feminist framework.

The journal and thesis above are based on previous research conducted on material objects that primarily center on the novel *The Grey Women*. These studies aimed to dig deeper into the nuances and intricacies of the novel and its related material objects to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of the novel and its impact.

Fourth, the journal by M I Siahaan and T Arianto (2020). This study uses a sociological approach to examine the themes of love and romance in the novel and how these themes are influenced by social class. This study provides an overview of

the research methodology, including data collection methods and data analysis techniques. It also deals with the fictional elements of the novel, such as characters, plot, setting, point of view, and themes. The study references previous studies and theories related to social class and literature. The theory used in analyzing this novel is a sociological theory, especially the theory of Karl Marx and Max Weber. The researcher concludes that the novel provides insight into the dynamics of social class and the struggles faced by individuals from different classes. Overall, this study explores social class conflict in the novel and its relevance to society. It comprehensively analyzes the novel and its themes, offering insight into the relationship between literature and social class.

Next, the thesis by N Ezlyn (2022). The researcher concludes that the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in the novel *The Beauty and The Beast* by Gabrielle SuzAnna Barbot de Villeneuve is described through social aspects. The social conditions illustrated in this novel show that the relationship between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat is not good because the bourgeoisie is seen as an authority figure who can do anything to get what they want. The theory used in analyzing this novel is the social class theory of Karl Marx. This theory divides society into different classes based on their relationship to the means of productions. Marx believed class conflict was inherent in capitalist society, with the bourgeoisie (the ruling class) exploiting the proletariat (the working class). The novel's analysis using this theory focuses on how social classes are described, conflicts between different classes, and the power dynamics between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Sixth, the journal by M Y Hamdi (2022) the researcher examines the social stratification and inequality depicted in the novel, especially concerning racism and slavery. This study uses a qualitative data analysis method that refers to Marxist theory to analyze the social conditions of the characters in the novel. The findings highlight the gap between the bourgeois and proletarian classes and the discrimination and social stratification experienced by black people. A Marxist sociological overview provides insight into social class divisions and the impact of racism and slavery on society. The study results show that the novel depicts social inequality and stratification, particularly regarding racism and slavery, which create a gap between the white and black races in American society.

Next, Trisni Dian Ningsih, Y.B Agung Prasaja (2022) this study uses qualitative research methods and applies Marxist theory to analyze the social class described in the novel. The study discusses the social stratification between the Silver (upper class) and Merah (lower class) in the novel, highlighting differences in privilege, power, and social status. It explores the relationship between these two social classes, depicted as ruler and servant images. This study also examines the class struggle and rebellion of the lower class against oppression and inequality imposed by the upper class. The theory used in this research is the theory of Karl Marx. The researcher uses Marx's theory to analyze social class and inequality in the novel.

Marx's theory states that literary and cultural phenomena reflect patterns of economic relations and that literary works can only be understood concerning these relations. In the novel *The Red Queen*, the researcher uses Marx's theory to analyze

the relationship between the bourgeoisie (Silver) and the proletariat (Red) and the conflicts that arise due to inequality between these two social classes. In conclusion, this study shows how the novel raises social inequality and the struggles of the lower class and raises sensitive issues such as social inequality, nepotism, and racial differences.

Next, S Siahaan (2018) This study explores Marxist ideology and its application in the novel *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. It examines Marxism's ideological concepts, goals, and core values and the role of revolution in bringing about social change. This study examines the themes of class struggle, exploitation, and revolution depicted in the novel. It also examines the role of ideology in shaping character actions and power dynamics in agriculture. The conclusion of this study highlights the importance of Marxist ideology in understanding the novel and its depiction of social and political issues. This study uses Marxist theory in its analysis. Indeed, it does not discuss social class theory, but here the researcher finds a new view in this journal about Marxist theory by Karl Marx.

Furthermore, Al-Yasin, Nayif (2017) analyzes two novels, *North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell and *Nice Work* by David Lodge, and their exploration of class relations in Victorian and late 20th century England. The study discusses the representation of class, gender, and work relations in the novels, as well as the social and economic issues faced by society at that time. It examines the influence of Marxist and Weberian theory on class and how it is portrayed in the novel. This study highlights the similarities and differences between the two novels in dealing with

social and economic problems and compares their treatment of class dynamics. The theory used in this research combines class theory and Marxian and Weberian stratification. Marx's theory emphasizes the role of class struggle and ownership of the means of production in shaping social class.

On the other hand, Weber's theory focuses on market power and economic opportunity as determinants of class. Overall, this study explores the relevance of class in British fiction and how these novels engage with contemporary social and political issues. This theory divides society into different classes based on their relationship to the means of productions.

Last, SA Dilmi (2021), this study is a criticism that compares the novel *The Great Gatsby* by Francis Scott Fitzgerald with the novel *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Robert Fowles from a Marxist perspective. It explores the similarities in the class struggles experienced by the protagonists, Jay Gatsby and Charles Smithson, in their respective societies. The study explores how the two characters navigate the capitalist social and economic constructs that control them. It highlights the author's critique of the social order governed by capitalism and their belief that this system leads to unjust social struggles and human destruction. This study emphasizes that this literary work reflects class struggle and functions as a critique of social class, highlighting the manipulation of society and the barriers it creates to reality. Highlights include an examination of the novel's historical and economic context, analyzing social classes and their representations of characters, and exploring the author's ideology and commitments. Marxism is discussed as a lens through which to analyze Fitzgerald and

Fowles' novels, and the study draws on Marxist thinkers such as Terry Eagleton and Raymond Williams. This study provides a critical understanding of the novel and its relevance in reflecting and critiquing social class dynamics.

Based on the explanation above, no researcher has examined *The Grey Woman* using social class theory, especially focusing on analyzing Anna Scherer's character. The first three studies only discuss a formal object, namely *The Grey Woman*. The next objective of the study is to discuss material objects, namely social class theory. From the previous studies stated above, the researcher found a correlation and research gap between the previous research and the research that will be studied.

The researcher used a sociological approach in this study, with the object of analysis being the main character, Anna Scherer. The sociological approach is closely related to literature and society. In this study, researchers used the social class theory from Karl Marx, which discusses the social conditions of a society studied in a literary work. The researcher examines how the social conditions of society, especially social class, can influence someone's life, especially the life of the Anna Scherer character in the story. Hence, the researcher chooses to use this theory in this study.

B. Problems of the Study

Based on the research background described above, the researcher formulates several problems of the study to be answered in the following questions:

1. How is social class shown in the life of the main character in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell?
2. How does social class influence the main character's life in *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell?
3. How does the social class in the novel *The Grey Woman* relate to the social class in the Victorian era of the 19th century?

C. Significance of the Study

This research is expected to provide theoretical and practical benefits for the readers. Theoretically, this research is expected to increase knowledge about how to apply sociology literary criticism, especially Karl Marx's social class theory, in analyzing literary works. This research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of social class theory in the sociology of literature and to analyze figures in literature for those who conduct research based on the same theory. In addition, this research is expected to provide an understanding of how social class influences the characters' lives in the literary work *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

D. Scope and Limitation

This research only focuses on analyzing the influence of social class on the life of the main character Anna Scherer from *The Grey Woman* novel and how the social

class relate with social class in Victorian era of the 19th century. Researchers refrain from discussing other characters and aspects such as setting, background, etc.

E. Definition of Key Terms

1. Social Class:

Social class, according to Marx, is rooted in social relations of production, not in relations of distribution and consumption. He divided social classes into three categories: workers, capital owners, and landowners (Karl Marx, 1888, p. 87).

2. Influence

Refers to the power or ability to have an important effect on someone or something. It involves the capacity to bring about change or shape the opinions, actions, or behavior of others (Wilson, 2014, p. 77).

3. Victorian Era

Social classes in the Victorian era were divided into three classes consisting of the upper class, middle class and working class (Cody, 2002, p. 29).

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter explores literature related to social class research, character research, and sociological approaches in literary analysis. Karl Marx's social class theory, which consists of the upper class (proletariat), middle class, and lower class (bourgeoisie), provides valuable insights into the social dynamics of literature.

A. Sociology of Literature

Sociology of Literature is a field of study whose primary function is to show symbiosis, interconnectivity, interaction, and the subtle ins and outs between literature and all sociological activities that occur in society. Wellek, Rene, and Austin Warren (2014, p. 110) use literature as a social document for one of the approaches to studying the relationship between literature and society. Therefore, sociology and literature connect real-life thinking and culture, which become the determinants of literary works. According to Culler (1997, p. 189), literary work plays in different modes and has different content than its liberal. A literary work is the creation and organization of signs which produces a human world charged with meaning. This also signifies that readers always find the meaning of a literary work by comparing it to the real world to get meaning.

Literature is a reflection of society, literature presents a picture of life, which is a social reality. In this sense, life includes relationships between humans, between humans and individuals, between humans, and between events that occur in one's mind.

Like sociology, literature is also related to humans in society as business people and their efforts to adapt to life. Thus, the novel can be considered an attempt to recreate the social world of human relations with family, environment, politics, state, economy, and so on, which is also a sociological problem. It can be concluded that sociology can provide a helpful explanation of literature. It can even be said that without sociology, our understanding of literature is not complete.

The sociology of literature is defined as the study of literature from a sociological perspective, examining how literature reflects and influences social structures, norms, and behaviors (Wellek, Rene, and Austin Warren, 2014, p. 110). This interdisciplinary approach combines elements of sociology and literary studies to explore the relationship between literature and society. The application of the sociology of literature involves analyzing literary works to understand the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which they were produced, as well as the impact they have on society.

This field is utilized in various research contexts, such as analyzing the portrayal of friendships, romantic relationships, and social conflicts in literary works. It provides a framework for understanding how these themes are depicted and how they relate to broader social dynamics.

The sociology of literature involves an interdisciplinary approach, integrating sociological theories and concepts with the analysis of literary texts. This allows researchers to explore the connections between literature and social phenomena, providing insights into the ways in which literature reflects and shapes societal values,

beliefs, and behaviors. The term sociology of literature refers to a literary approach that uses text analysis to determine the structure of a work of literature to gain a deeper understanding of social phenomena that occur outside of literary works. The idea that literature is a mirror of its time is at the heart of the current sociology of literature approach used the most. This approach focuses a lot on the documentary aspect of literature. This point of view holds the presumption that kinship, class conflict, and other aspects of the social structure can be seen in literature directly. Sociology's job in literature is to connect fictional character's experiences, author-created situations, and their historical contexts. It is necessary to transform personal themes and styles in literary works into social ones.

According to Wellek and Warren (1977), there are three concepts of sociological approach:

1. Sociology of the author and the institution of literature.
2. Problem of social content, the implication and social purposed by the writer.
3. Problem of the audience and the influence of literature to the society.

In doing this research, the researcher focuses on the second concept. The researcher intends to explore the social content using this concept, as it directly addresses the social issues prevalent in 19th century British society. Specifically, in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell, the social content revolves around marriage and social status, shedding light on Elizabeth Gaskell's critical perspective on her society. This exploration aims to uncover the societal implications embedded

within the narrative, providing insight into the social fabric and norms of the time. By delving into the social content of the novel, the researcher seeks to elucidate the underlying social critique and commentary woven into the fabric of the story, thereby offering a deeper understanding of the societal context in which the literary work is situated. This approach allows for a nuanced analysis of the intricate connections between literature and the social dynamics of the time, enriching the interpretation and appreciation of the novel within its historical and cultural context.

According to Swingwood (1972, p. 17), the basic concept sociology of literature is to find the meaning of imaginary character in literary work that learns the society including social classes, work, love affairs, religion, nature and art. There are three perspectives of the sociology of literature proposed by Swingwood:

1. Sociology of Literature views the literary work as a social document which has the reflection of the situation the work was written
2. The sociology of literature views the literary work as a mirror of the author's social condition.
3. The sociology of literature views the literary work as a historical moment and a social-cultural situation.

In order to conduct a comprehensive analysis, the researcher adopts the first perspective of the sociology of literature, which views literary works as social documents reflecting the circumstances in which they were written. By employing this perspective, the researcher aims to achieve a deeper understanding of the reflection of

British society in the 19th century within the literary work under examination. This approach involves scrutinizing the text as a mirror that reflects the societal norms, values, and challenges of the historical period in which it was created. It offers a lens through which the social, cultural, and historical dimensions embedded within the literary work can be interpreted, thereby enriching the analysis with a more profound understanding of the intricate interplay between the narrative and the broader socio-historical context. Through this application of the sociology of literature, the researcher reveals the multi-layered societal implications and cultural reflections encapsulated within the literary work, fostering a more comprehensive and insightful analysis of its significance within the historical and social environment at that time.

The 19th century changed the perception of women's nature. Women's social conditions change over time, often causing changes in their role in society (Koscher, 2006, p. 210). Women in this region face difficult and confusing problems due to society's misperceptions about their identity and social roles (Arnold, 2005, p. 34). This study finds at least two compelling reasons to explore the role of middle-class women in 19th century England. First, the novel under study focuses on women and their lives as someone from the middle class, and the author herself comes from the middle class. Through this, Elizabeth Gaskell describes how society and class influenced women's lives in that period. Second, issues related to social class are always interesting to analyze, and the challenges women face in this novel will draw great attention to the social class of women and the qualities they exhibit in today's society.

By using the sociology of literature, a literary work reflects society by applying sociology of literature, providing valuable insight and inspiring the readers. Rahman and Weda (2018, p. 149), further argue that literature is prominent in civilized society. Based on this statement, the researcher attempts to analyze Elizabeth Gaskell's novel using the sociology of literature to reveal the influence of social class on the main characters in the novel.

B. Social Class

Karl Marx was a German philosopher, economist, and social theorist who lived from 1818 to 1883. He is best known for his work in developing the theory of communism and his critique of capitalism. Marx's notion of social class was a central part of his theory. Marx argued that social class is determined by the individual's relationship with the means of production. Those who own and control the means of production, such as factories and land, are members of the *bourgeoisie* or capitalist class. Those who do not own the means of production but sell their labour to the bourgeoisie are members of the *proletariat* or working class.

Marx believed that the conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat was the driving force of history. This conflict would eventually lead to a revolution that would overthrow the capitalist system. He argued that the bourgeoisie exploited the proletariat by paying them less than the value of their work and thereby extracting more value from them. This exploitation will lead to the alienation of workers from their jobs and each other.

Marx's understanding of social class arises from the power dynamics in production systems, in which one group dominates and oppresses another. He categorizes society into three groups, as noted by Jordan (1971, p. 147):

1. *Bourgeoisie* or upper class, who own and control land and the means of production
2. Middle class, consisting of government employees.
3. *Proletariat* or lower class, which does not own land and the means of production, includes factory workers.

The concept of social class is generally divided into three categories. The upper class consists of very wealthy and powerful individuals who own and control the means of production. The middle class comprises working professionals, small business owners, and lower-level managers. Finally, the lower class includes those who rely on low-paid jobs for their livelihood and those who experience poverty. By understanding the differences between these social classes, the researcher can gain insight into the dynamics of social class and its impact on various social groups.

C. Social Class in Victorian Era of 19th Century.

Social class has been an issue from time to time since the end of the 17th century in England and continued until the 20th century (Cody, 2002, p. 18). In its context, social class is a social group that differentiates between higher and lower depending on historical processes, such as in British society in the 17th to 20th centuries (Afriyanti, 2014, p. 20). England is one of the most important countries in Europe because of its

good economic conditions. Many great discoveries resulted in sophisticated life in British life, such as new technology that made life much easier. Recently, massive changes in the industrial era have impacted society's social structure (Patten, 2012, p. 4). Social phenomena in England also occurred during the reign of Queen Victoria in the 19th century, known as the Victorian era.

England's Victorian period was marked by the Industrial Revolution, which brought about many significant changes in everyday British life. As mentioned by historian Walter Houghton in 1858, Sir Henry Holland called this era a transitional era (Samples, 2013, p.17). Technological sophistication due to industrialization makes life easier. Manual processes are replaced with machines, making production faster. However, even though it positively impacted everyday life, the revolution also hurt society. There is a general perception that a sophisticated industrial revolution could create a rigid social structure. The gap between the upper class and the urban poor grew larger due to living conditions at that time. The bourgeoisie has strong power and authority over the lower classes of society, while people experiencing poverty have no choice but to survive in poverty (Samples, 2013, p. 24).

Social classes in the Victorian era were divided into three classes consisting of the upper class, middle class and working class (Cody, 2002, p. 29). In the early nineteenth century, a "working class" and a "middle class" emerged. The old hereditary nobility, strengthened by the new nobility who were present, brought success in trade, industry, and professions, which then developed into an "upper class" characterized by the emergence of State Schools and Universities while maintaining control over the

political system, robbing not only the working class but also the middle class in the political process (William, 2012, p. 35).

All of these social phenomena are described beautifully by Elizabeth Gaskell in her work *The Grey Woman*, which tells about social phenomena in everyday life in England in the 19th century. Through her storytelling, she captures that time's everyday life and social class distinctions. As a popular writer of the Victorian era, Gaskell's narrative offers a compelling glimpse into the social dynamics and challenges of the period. Her work provides a clear and engaging portrayal of the complexities of social class during the 19th century.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter explains how researcher analysed the novel, discusses research design, data sources, data collection methods, and how researcher analyse literary works.

A. Research Design

The design of this research is qualitative with sociological approach. Sociological approach is sociological study that is examined through social phenomena contained in literary works. literary works which are the object of study and the use of sociology to analyze the problems of the study. The social theory used in this research is social class theory by Karl Marx to analyze the influence of social class on the main character Anna Scherer in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell. The use of this theory is expected to be able to determine the influence of social class on the life of the character Anna Scherer in the novel. The researcher also uses Victorian era social class theory to explain the relationship between social class phenomena in the novel and real social class phenomena in the Victorian era in the 19th century.

B. Data Source

The primary data source in this research is the text in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell. *The Grey Woman* is a novel by Elizabeth Gaskell, a great writer of the Victorian era. The novel *The Grey Woman* was published in 1861. The novel

The Grey Woman itself was copyrighted in 2001 by Blackmask Online, consisting of three parts and 27 pages. and the secondary data source in this research is the historical background which the researcher collected from historical texts and journals which refer to the life of British society in the Victorian era in the 19th century.

C. Data Collection

In collecting data, researchers applied several procedures and went through several stages. First, the researcher read and fully understood the primary data source in the form of the storyline of the novel *The Grey Woman*, and the researcher analyzed and marked several utterances or sentences that showed the social class that influenced Anna Scherer's life in the novel *The Grey Woman*. Secondly, the researcher matched several sentences and sayings in secondary data in the form of historical texts from journals that showed social class phenomena in the Victorian era in the 19th century, which were linked to social phenomena in the novel.

D. Data Analysis

The analysis will start by giving knowledge and explanation about novel. After the data is collected, the analysis is continued by describing social class that shown in the life of Anna Scherer. Then, based on these data, the researcher analyzes the influence of social class on the life of the main character in the novel. Then, the researcher analyzes further the consequences of the influence of social class on the life of the main character of the character Anna Scherer. and in the final stage, the

researcher analyzed the social class phenomena in the novel and their relationship to the social phenomena that existed in the Victorian era of the 19th century.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses social class, its influence on the main character, and the consequences for the main character's life. In this chapter, the researcher analyzes how social class differences affect how the main character behaves, interacts with other people, and feels feelings of inferiority or superiority. This analysis is made to answer the three questions that have been made by the researcher above.

A. Social Class Shown in the Life of Main Character in the Novel *The Grey Women* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

In social class theory by Karl Mark, society is divided into three groups, as noted by Jordan (1971, p.147), namely the bourgeoisie or upper class, the middle class, and the proletariat or lower class. The author of the novel describes the phenomenon of social class various ways, both implicitly and explicitly. For the explanation of how Anna's character is a middle-class person described at a fairly early part in the story, as in the following novel excerpt:

"It was that of a young girl of extreme beauty; evidently of middle rank. There was a sensitive refinement in her face, as if she almost shrank from the gaze which, of necessity, the painter must have fixed upon her." (p. 2).

At the novel's beginning, the author uses a third-person point of view, where it is told that there is a painting of a woman in a house belonging to Frau Scherer. The woman in the painting is Anna Scherer. The sentence above shows that Anna in the painting belongs to the middle-class society. The mention of "sensitive refinement" on

Anna's face indicated that she was not used to being the subject of such artistic attention, further implying that she did not belong to the upper class. The contrast between her beauty and her middle-class status suggests that she was commenting on the social hierarchies of that time, in 19th century era where beauty and refinement were often seen as the exclusive characteristics of the rich or upper class (Cody, 2002, p. 30).

“Not that I cared much for giving up my post, for, in spite of my father's great kindness, I always feared that I did not manage well for so large a family (with the men, and a girl under Kätchen, we sat down eleven each night to supper).” (p. 4).

Furthermore, the novel *The Grey Woman* uses the first-person point of view. The word "I" in this sentence is the story's speaker, Anna Scherer. This sentence reflects Anna's position in a large family that belongs to the middle or lower middle class. The phrase "for so large a family" implies that the family has difficulty managing the household due to limited size and means. Despite the kindness of Anna's father, Anna still feels insecure about her ability to manage the household. It shows Anna's sense of responsibility for the welfare of her family. The mention of "a girl under Kätchen" might imply that the family employed domestic servants, typical of families of this class status. because at that time, in the 19th century, the Victorian era, only people from the middle class to the upper class could employ servants in their homes (Mokra, 2009, p. 14).

“They learned that the father had held some kind of inferior position about the Grand-duke's court, and was now dead, leaving a widow, a noble lady, and two daughters, the elder of whom was Sophie, my friend.” (p. 4).

The next sentence gives us information about Sophie's family background, which shows their social status. The expression "the father had held some kind of inferior position about the Grand-duke's court" suggests that the father had a low-ranking job in the Grand Duke's court, but he has now died and left behind a widow who is described as a duchess and two daughters. It implies that Sophie's family could be from a middle or upper-class neighbourhood. The term "noble lady" implies that Sophie's mother belonged to a privileged social class. Sophie was considered an important figure in the family, perhaps because of her birth order or achievements. Overall, this sentence shows that Anna's social class environment can be relatively special, maybe aristocrats or upper middle class, but inversely proportional to Anna, who is from the lower middle class.

"I was silently vexed, I remember, at Babette's inspection of my clothes; at the way in which she settled that this gown was too old-fashioned, or that too common, to go with me on my visit to a noble lady; and at the way in which she took upon herself to spend the money my father had given me to buy what was requisite for the occasion." (p. 4).

This sentence raises the theme of social class and its influence on the experiences of the main character Anna. Anna expresses her annoyance and frustration with Babette's assessment of their outfits. Babette examines Anna's clothing and decides that some are too old-fashioned or inappropriate enough to be worn to a visit by a noblewoman. It shows that the level of judgment and expectation is related to one's social class and appearance. Anna also mentions how Babette took the money their father gave her herself, which was meant to buy appropriate clothes for the occasion. It implies a power dynamic in which Babette, who may be in a higher position or social

authority, takes control and dictates what is necessary. The sentence emphasizes the influence of social class on speaker interaction. It underscores the challenges they face in meeting the expectations and demands of their visit to a noblewoman. Where at that time, clothing became a value in itself to show one's social class, and there were certain rules in a social class at that time for dressing that were closely related to their social class.

"Madame Rupprecht had been out all morning, as she told me, to glean information about Monsieur de la Tourelle. He was a propriétaire, had a small château on the Vosges mountains; he owned land there, but had a large income from some sources quite independent of this property. Altogether, he was a good match, as she emphatically observed." (p. 5).

This sentence provides information about Madame Rupprecht's activities and her interest in Monsieur de la Tourelle, highlighting the importance of social class in their relationship. Madame Rupprecht spent the morning gathering information, especially about Monsieur de la Tourelle. It is said that Monsieur de la Tourelle was a "propriétaire," meaning he was a property owner with a small château in the Vosges mountains. It suggests he belongs to a certain social class related to land ownership and possible wealth.

Additionally, it was stated that he had substantial income from sources other than his possessions, indicating financial independence and potentially higher social status. The emphasis placed on her being a "good match" to be set up with Anna by Madame Rupprecht further underscores the importance of social class in their relationship. This implies that Madame Rupprecht believes Monsieur de la Tourelle's social status equals or exceeds her own, making Monsieur de la Tourelle a perfect match for Anna.

“M. de la Tourelle, as landed proprietor, sportsman, and what not, was generally out of doors the greater part of every day, and sometimes for two or three days at a time.”
(p. 8).

These sentences provide insight into Monsieur de la Tourelle's lifestyle and activities, highlighting social class and leisure pursuits. It is said that Monsieur de la Tourelle, described as a "landed proprietor" and "sportsman," spent much time outdoors. A "landed proprietor" designation indicates that he is a property owner, possibly owning large tracts of land and significant assets, which usually corresponds to a higher social class. The fact that he is described as a "sportsman" suggests involvement in recreational activities, which are often expensive and leisurely. This shows that he has the means and free time to devote himself to outdoor activities, indicating that his social status is upper class. Monsieur de la Tourelle sometimes spent two or three days outside the home, implying a certain degree of freedom and independence that came with his social class. It suggests that she has the luxury to choose how she allocates her time and is not bound by strict daily obligations or financial constraints. In that time, only upper class people could have a lot of free time to spend exercising and doing their hobbies. They were also not too attached to work that took up most of their time, and this was in accordance with the lives of upper class nobles at that time.

“I understood that I had made what Madame Rupprecht and her set would have called a great marriage, because I lived in a château with many servants, bound ostensibly to obey me as a mistress.” (p. 8).

In these lines, Anna reflects on their marriage and how it was viewed by Madame Rupprecht and her friends regarding social class. Anna understood that their marriage

was considered impressive because they lived in a large and luxurious house called a château and had many servants. The maids should have obeyed Anna as their mistress. This suggests that Anna's social status was highly esteemed because they had wealth, magnificent residences, and people who worked for them. The sentence highlights how social class influences perceptions of success and power.

“But you know that by birth we were not very far apart in rank: Amante was the daughter of a Norman farmer, I of a German miller; and besides that, my life was so lonely! It almost seemed as if I could not please my husband.” (p. 9).

This line touches on the themes of social class and Anna and Amante's experiences. Anna and Amante are relatively close regarding social status because they both come from humble backgrounds. Anna describes Amante as the daughter of a Norman farmer, while Anna herself is the daughter of a German miller. Emphasizing the similarity of their backgrounds, Anna stated that in terms of social class, there was no significant difference between Anna and Amante. This highlights that social class is determined by birth or upbringing and the status and opportunity a person feels in society. This is very in line with the division of social classes at that time where this was also determined by upbringing and birth. Most nobles in the 19th century were descendants of their families. And in certain cases they were awarded noble titles because of their upbringing and service to the kingdom. The sentence also alludes to Anna's loneliness and the challenges Anna faces in her marital relationship with her husband. "It almost seemed as" suggests frustration or an inability to satisfy one's partner. It can be interpreted as an indication that regardless of social background, other

factors may be at play, such as different expectations or struggles in marriage, which can influence their social dynamics.

“I had, it is true, let myself go into a sorrowful review of all the troubles which lay hidden beneath the seeming luxury of my life. I knew that no one cared for me except my husband and Amante; for it was clear enough to see that I, as his wife, and also as a parvenue.” (p. 9).

In this sentence, Anna reflects on her social class and how others view her life. People assumed there must be a hidden problem behind the luxurious appearance of Anna and her husband. Anna admits that only their husbands and Amante care about them, suggesting that Anna feels lonely or disconnected from others.

Anna also refers to herself as a "parvenue" meaning someone who has recently acquired wealth or success but lacks the social background usually associated with their new status. This term implies that Anna feels judged by others in their social environment because of Anna's lower social class.

B. The Influence of Social Class in The Main Character Life in the Novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

After explaining how social class is shown in the novel, the researcher then analyzes the influence of social class on Anna Scherer's. This can be seen from the way Anna Scherer behaves and interacts with other people. Researchers further explored how social class shaped Anna Scherer's character and its impact on her life. According to Holman and Harmon (1985), the characterization of characters in stories is described in various ways, namely explicitly and illustrating them through the actions they take, then through actions without much explicit comment from the author so that readers

can infer the characters from the actions they take and implicitly, without providing direct commentary on his thoughts and emotions, but rather through his actions and their influence on the characters. As exemplified in the following quote:

"She never seemed to think that I could refuse him after this account of his wealth, nor do I believe she would have allowed Sophie a choice, even had he been as old and ugly as he was young and handsome. I do not quite know so many events have come to pass since then, and blurred the clearness of my recollections if I loved him or not."
(p. 6).

This sentence implies that social class and wealth play an important role in determining the acceptance of a potential partner in society. Anna, in the dialogue, seems to have no choice in accepting the proposal of someone who is quite a stranger to her. Madame Rupprecht ignores the possibility that Anna will reject Monsieur de la Tourelle after learning of his wealth, showing great respect for social class. Madame Rupprecht doesn't even let Sophie have a say on the matter, insisting that social class and wealth take priority over personal preferences and autonomy. This underscores society's expectations that individuals prioritize social status and financial gain over their desires. Lastly, Anna is unsure whether she loves Monsieur de la Tourelle, reflecting an internal conflict perhaps caused by the influence of social class and society's expectations. Overall, these sentences examine the impact of social class on relationships, emphasizing the role of social class in determining and shaping relationships in society. where in that era, someone with a lower social status usually considered wealth and social status more than love in choosing a partner. This is also what happened to Anna, even though she had time to consider love, the people around her were more concerned about profit alone.

“And he was very charming to everybody around me, who all spoke of him as the most fascinating of men, and of me as the most fortunate of girls.” (p. 6).

This sentence highlights the impact of Monsieur de la Tourelle's charm on Anna and the people around her, regardless of differences in social class. Monsieur de la Tourelle is considered charming by everyone, including Anna, and is the center of attention because of his irresistible charm. This made Anna considered lucky because she received attention and affection from Monsieur de la Tourelle.

“He loaded me with presents, which I was unwilling to take, only Madame Rupprecht seemed to consider me an affected prude if I refused them. Many of these presents consisted of articles of valuable old jewellery, evidently belonging to his family; by accepting these I doubled the ties which were formed around me by circumstances even more than by my own consent.” (p. 6).

From this sentence, the influence of social class and the expectations that accompany it can be assessed. Monsieur de la Tourelle gave Anna many gifts, especially valuable old jewelry, which apparently came from his family. This was in accordance with the culture of the middle social class to the upper class at that time to give gifts in the form of jewelry and other things to be a sign that they wanted the woman to be their partner. This reflects Monsieur de la Tourelle's generosity and signifies high social status, as precious jewelry was often associated with wealth and splendor but Anna is hesitant to accept the gift, perhaps uncomfortable with the implications. However, Anna feels pressured to accept the gift, especially because of Madame Rupprecht's judgment. Refusing a gift could make Anna considered arrogant by Madame Rupprecht. This shows how important social expectations and pressure are to fulfill the norms and behavior expected in a social class.

Apart from that, Anna also observed how the social bonds around them became stronger by receiving these gifts, even against their consent. Anna becomes increasingly attached to Monsieur de la Tourelle's social circle by receiving the precious jewel. The receipt of these lavish gifts strengthens the relationship between Anna and Monsieur de la Tourelle as well as the social bonds that arise from the circumstances surrounding them. In addition, this sentence describes the dynamics of social class, inherent expectations, and pressure to meet social expectations. The act of giving a gift, the consequences of accepting or rejecting a gift, and how it affects the relationship between the individual and his or her social environment are highlighted in the sentence.

“At length, however, I learned from Madame Rupprecht that she had written to my father to announce the splendid conquest I had made, and to request his presence at my betrothal.” (p. 6).

In this quote, Anna's character is described explicitly. Anna discovers that Madame Rupprecht has informed her father of her successful engagement and invites him to the ceremony. This suggests that Anna's social status and the approval of others play an important role in her life.

“I started with astonishment. I had not realized that affairs had gone so far as this.” (p. 6).

Anna is shocked by the news, indicating she was not fully aware or ready for the extent of progress in her engagement. This indicates a need for more agency in the decision-making process and a potential disconnect between one's wishes and the expectations of others.

“But when she asked me, in a stern, offended manner, what I had meant by my conduct if I did not intend to marry Monsieur de la Tourelle I had received his visits, his presents, all his various advances without showing any unwillingness or repugnance.” (p. 6).

Mrs. Rupprecht confronts Anna, expressing disapproval and offense. Anna had accepted visits, gifts, and advances from Monsieur de la Tourelle without showing any refusal. This implies that Anna's actions, influenced by social expectations, have made others assume her willingness to marry Monsieur de la Tourelle.

“And it was all true; I had shown no repugnance, though I did not wish to be married to him, at least, not so soon.” (p. 6).

In this quote, Anna's character is described explicitly. Anna confirmed that Madame Rupprecht's statement was accurate. Although she did not actively reject or express disgust, she did not wish to marry Monsieur de la Tourelle, or at least not at this point. It reveals the conflict between Anna's desires and the pressure to conform to societal expectations.

“What could I do but hang my head, and silently consent to the rapid enunciation of the only course which now remained for me if I would not be esteemed a heartless coquette all the rest of my days?” (p. 6).

In this quote, Anna's character is described explicitly. Faced with Madame Rupprecht's reproachful questions, Anna succumbs to societal pressure. She feels compelled to live up to the expectations placed on her to avoid being labelled as heartless and flirtatious for the rest of her life. It shows the power of social judgments and the limited choices available to individuals within certain social circles.

The five sentences above highlight the complex dynamics of social class and the influence societal expectations have on individual relationships and decisions. This

analysis's central themes are Anna's lack of agency and pressure to conform to social norms.

“But all the money arrangements were liberal in the extreme, and more than satisfied, almost surprised, my father.” (p. 6).

This sentence describes how social class can influence financial arrangements and overcome existing expectations. Anna's father's positive reaction and surprise show the difference in social class and the generosity of Monsieur de la Tourelle to him in financial arrangements. It also shows the important role of financial considerations in social relations. In that quote, Anna's character is described explicitly.

“M. de la Tourelle never encouraged me to go out alone, either in a carriage or for a walk, saying always that the roads were unsafe in those disturbed times; indeed, I have sometimes fancied since that the flower-garden, to which the only access from the castle was through his rooms, was designed in order to give me exercise and employment under his own eye.” (p. 11).

In this quote, Anna's character is described explicitly. The sentence indicates that M. de la Tourelle is of high rank or belongs to a higher social class, making Anna reluctant to go out alone. This suggests that Anna's social class or societal position may not afford them the same freedom or security as M. de la Tourelle. He never encouraged Anna to go out alone, neither by carriage nor by foot. The reason was that the roads were not safe during those difficult times. Anna thought that the flower garden, which could only be accessed through M. de la Tourelle's room, was deliberately designed to give her a comfortable atmosphere so that she could relax looking at the flowers but under her husband's supervision.

This analysis highlights the role of social class in influencing Anna's freedom and activities. M. de la Tourelle, as an individual with a higher social class, has control and influence over Anna's actions. The ban on going out alone and the flower garden design show a power dynamic influenced by differences in social class.

In Anna Scherer's life, there were significant changes in behavior, social interactions, and self-perception caused by social class. The researcher explores the impact of this social class influence and how its influence shapes Anna Scherer's life through character characterization shown through the behavior, traits and actions of the character Anna. As seen in this sentence:

“We were married; and after two days spent in festivity at Carlsruhe, among all our new fashionable friends there, I bade good-by for ever to my dear old father.” (p. 7).

This sentence describes the momentous event in which Anna married and said goodbye to her father. The mention of spending two days at parties in Carlsruhe among fashionable friends suggests that Anna and her husband were part of a social circle of high status and wealth. The phrase "dear old father" suggests that Anna's father is from a lower social class and not from the same social circle as her husband. Anna saying goodbye "forever" to her father implies separation or moving from the middle to the upper social classes. This sentence highlights the contrast or shift in social class that occurred with Anna's marriage and their departure from their old social circle. This suggests that Anna is moving towards a new social class associated with wealth, fashion, and a more glamorous lifestyle. This is in accordance with the culture of the 19th century era, where a person's social class will also rise if their partner comes from

a higher social class. Even though Anna may not be happy with her marriage, she has been promoted from middle to upper social class.

“You have often asked me the reason of that mark on my hand; it was where, in my agony, I bit out a piece of flesh with my relentless teeth, thankful for the pain, which helped to numb my terror.” (p. 12).

These sentences provide context and insight into Anna's mental and emotional state explicitly and through actions. Anna mentions that someone asked her about the mark on her hand. This means conversations or questions about Anna's experiences with her husband. The image of biting a piece of flesh in pain implies the level of distress or suffering that Anna is experiencing in dealing with the current situation. The mention of “grateful for the pain” suggests that Anna views physical pain as a distraction or coping mechanism for her fear. This shows that Anna has gone through a traumatic experience. Namely, Anna witnessed with her own eyes her husband killing another person along with his accomplice.

Although the sentence does not directly address social class, it provides insight into Anna's emotional struggles and traumatic events. This shows that Anna's experiences have shaped her perspective and mental state, which can indirectly influence her class and social situation. Anna's marriage to her husband caused her to experience this traumatic event. Marrying someone she didn't know, going far from her family, and living under her husband's supervision caused her to experience traumatic events.

“Up to that moment, I think, I had only feared him, but his unnatural, half-ferocious reply made me hate even more than I dreaded him.” (p. 14).

This sentence shows Anna's power dynamics and emotional response. Anna admitted that all this time she was only afraid of the person she meant, namely her husband. This shows discomfort or fear towards her husband.

The referenced person's half-grumpy reply provoked a stronger emotional response from Anna, causing her to feel resentment. This heightened emotional reaction indicates a negative change in Anna's perceptions and feelings toward her husband. The depiction of Anna's characterization is depicted explicitly through Anna's actions. Social class is not mentioned explicitly in this sentence, but power dynamics and emotional responses can be influenced by social class. The mention of fear and hatred of someone suggests a relationship involving Anna's perception of superiority or dominance.

After the horrific murder committed by her husband, and Anna witnessed it with her own eyes, Anna decided to run away from her husband's house and live in seclusion and seclusion with Amante. Anna's life has changed completely; she ran and hid wherever she could so that her husband would not be found. As in the following quote:

“I do not know more; as soon as I was placed there I lost sense; I came to myself with a horrible dread lest my husband was by me, with a belief that he was in the room, in hiding, waiting to hear my first words, watching for the least sign of the terrible knowledge I possessed to murder me. I dared not breathe quicker, I measured and timed each heavy inspiration; I did not speak, nor move, nor even open my eyes, for long after I was in my full, my miserable senses.” (p. 15).

This sentence conveys fear, isolation, and psychological distress. This depiction was also conveyed explicitly by Elizabeth Gaskell to describe the fear that Anna experienced. Anna mentions being stationed at a specific location, though it is not

specified where. It denotes a change in the environment or circumstances. The sentence describes Anna losing self-awareness and waking up with terrible fear. The mention of her husband's sudden presence, his potential hiding place being discovered, and his fear of known danger suggest a state of heightened paranoia and anxiety. The narrator is very careful and controls his actions and words, fearing the consequences of being caught in hiding. This suggests a grave threat and a sense of vulnerability that weighs heavily on Anna's mind.

“In fact, I dared not speak even to her, as if there were anything beyond the most common event in life in our preparing thus to leave the house of blood by stealth in the dead of night.” (p. 15).

This sentence reflects the sense of secrecy, fear and horror behind the magnificent "house of blood". described explicitly through the information that Anna provides. Anna stated that she was afraid to talk to someone called "he", who was actually her husband, implying a level of caution and secrecy in communicating with him.

The expression "preparing thus to leave the house of blood by stealth in the dead of night" denotes a secret departure from a place described as "the house of blood." This description indicates that the location or the palace is associated with violence, tragedy, or murder. The emphasis on leaving "by stealth in the dead of night" suggests a heightened sense of urgency, perhaps out of fear of being discovered or the repercussions of knowing a murder had taken place.

“I thought that surely the end must be death in some shape; and I only hoped that to death might not be added the terror of the cruelty of men.” (p. 17).

This line reflects a fear of death and a desire to avoid male cruelty, suggesting a possible connection to social class. Anna, in her sentence, expresses the belief that the final outcome, "the end," will most likely involve death in some form. In this sentence it can be judged that Anna's character, who experiences fear of death, is conveyed explicitly through Anna's own statement. It can indicate a gloomy outlook or perception of life full of difficulties and dangers. The mention of "cruelty against men" highlights the behavior of others, particularly men, and the potential for harassment or violence perpetrated by them. Anna's desire is to avoid death and the terror of additional cruelty. This shows a desire for safety, security and protection from danger, which may be influenced by social class dynamics. Fear of male cruelty may indicate vulnerabilities associated with lower social classes, where individuals may be more vulnerable to abuse or exploitation by those in positions of power or privilege.

"I never stirred abroad, and saw no one, and Amante's want of knowledge of German kept her in a state of comparative isolation." (p. 25).

The sentence above shows a sense of social isolation and limited opportunities due to the language barrier. Anna stated she had "never stirred abroad" and dared not go out. This implies a lack of mobility or interaction with the outside world, as she and Amante have left the castle and want to try a new life. "Saw no one" further emphasizes Anna's lack of social contact or connection with others. This can indicate a limited sense of isolation or social network. This is also shown explicitly through the information that Anna gives.

“This fresh apprehension told on my health and impeded my recovery. We had so little money we could not call in a physician, at least, not one in established practice.” (p. 25).

This sentence shows the relationship between limited financial resources, access to health care, and social class. "This fresh apprehension" implies a new or heightened sense of concern. The expression "told on my health" suggests that this fear negatively affected Anna's well-being and physical condition. This is also shown explicitly through the information that Anna gives. The phrase "impeded my recovery" suggests the narrator's ability to recover from an illness or health problem is difficult. The statement "we had so little money" highlights a lack of financial resources or economic means. The statement "we could not call in a physician, at least, not one in established practice" indicates barriers to accessing medical professionals due to financial constraints. Analysing these elements regarding social class, the sentence implies that the narrator's limited financial resources prevent them from seeking adequate health care. Any mention of disability or access to physicians, particularly those of "established practice," suggests a lack of economic privilege or lower socioeconomic status. This suggests that Anna's position in society is more likely to face financial difficulties and struggle to access essential services such as health care.

“But he gave much time and consideration to the case, saying once to Amante that he saw my constitution had experienced some severe shock from which it was probable that my nerves would never entirely recover.” (p. 25).

The sentence above provides an overview of Anna's health and the dynamics of power and privilege in a social context that are conveyed explicitly through Anna's actions. The statement "But he gave much time and consideration to the case" suggests

that someone, possibly a medical professional or doctor, put significant care and thought into Anna's condition. The phrase "saying once to Amante" indicates that the person, i.e., the doctor, was talking to Amante and discussing Anna's health. The sentence continues, "he saw my constitution had experienced some severe shock." This suggests that the person analysing the case acknowledged that Anna had experienced significant physical or psychological trauma. The phrase "it was probable that my nerves would never entirely recover" indicates that the speaker believes his nervous system may not be fully recovered or not what it was before.

"I grew strong in time stronger, at least. I was able to work a little at home, and to sun myself and my baby at the garret-window in the roof. It was all the air I dared to take." (p. 25).

In these words, Anna conveyed increased physical strength with time explicitly. The word "I grew strong in time stronger" shows that, at first, Anna faced a challenge or a weak condition. Namely, she was physically and psychologically ill. Anna can also do a little work around the house to make ends meet while spending time with her baby by the window in the attic, basking in the sun. Despite this, Anna needs to be careful with taking fresh air because she is afraid and wants to stay hidden from the pursuit of her ex-husband and his members.

"But the perpetual state of terror in which I had been during the whole months succeeding my escape from Les Rochers made me loathe the idea of ever again walking in the open daylight, exposed to the sight and recognition of every passer-by." (p. 25).

In these lines, Anna expresses a strong aversion to being in public and being exposed to the scrutiny and recognition of others. Anna conveyed this explicitly

through her words. The phrase "perpetual state of terror" indicates that Anna has experienced a traumatic event or ongoing fear. The mention of "my escape from Les Rochers" indicates that Anna used to come from a place called Les Rochers because she was married and lived there for several months. The feeling of "ever again walking in the open daylight" indicates a strong dislike or fear of being seen by other people (her ex-husband and his gang members) in public places. Anna thinks being "and recognized by every passer-by" implies her vulnerability or discomfort when being noticed or identified by passers-by.

"The good doctor took me and my child by stealth to his modest dwelling; and there I lived in the same deep retirement, never seeing the full light of day, although when the dye had once passed away from my face my husband did not wish me to renew it. There was no need; my yellow hair was grey, my complexion was ashen-coloured, no creature could have recognized the fresh-coloured, bright-haired young woman of eighteen months before. The few people whom I saw knew me only as Madame Voss; a widow much older than himself, whom Dr. Voss had secretly married. They called me The Grey Woman." (p. 27).

In these sentences, Anna describes their life situation and identity. The phrase "good doctor" indicates that the person in question holds a respected or reputable position in society. It is also the doctor who serves Anna well. The mere mention of being taken to the doctor's home implies that Anna and her child live in a place that is neither extravagant nor extravagant. This shows that his life is now in the lower or middle class. The word "deep retirement" denotes a secluded or isolated lifestyle and further denotes a desire to be alone. The statement "never seeing the full light of day" implies a lack of exposure to the outside world, potentially indicating a limited social circle or a lack of engagement with society. The transformation of Anna's appearance, from yellow hair and a fresh complexion to gray hair and a pale complexion, represents

a significant change in their state. This change in appearance could be due to age or stress, potentially reflecting a decrease in social status. The fact that Anna was known as Madame Voss, a widow older than Dr. Voss, points out that they have assumed different identities from the real thing to hide their true situation.

Overall, based on the details of the sentence, Anna has experienced a decline in social status and now lives a simpler and more solitary life. They have assumed a new identity and have limited interactions with other people. The mention of the title "*Grey Woman*" reinforces the idea of their changing appearance and declining social status. That's all depicted explicitly through the actions that Anna displays in the novel.

"I told M. Voss, on his return home, and he tried to cheer me, but the shock of seeing M. de la Tourelle had been too terrible for me. I was ill for long months afterwards."
(p. 27).

In these sentences, Anna discusses her reaction when she accidentally saw M. de la Tourelle and the subsequent impact on her well-being. Anna's description of the shock of seeing M. de la Tourelle implies that the presence of this person had a profound negative impact on Anna; namely, the trauma and terrible events that Anna had wanted to get rid of were accidentally recalled. The statement that the shock was "too terrible" for Anna emphasized the severity of her emotional response. M. de la Tourelle caused the fact that Anna was ill for a long time because she was the source of all of Anna's emotional and psychological stress. This could imply a potential vulnerability or sensitivity in Anna. Anna character's conveyed this explicitly through her words.

In conclusion, the sentences above provide a glimpse into the complexity of social class and its influence on Anna's life. Her marriage to M. de la Tourelle became a nightmare for Anna. Anna could not refuse the man's proposal because of the difference in status. This marriage had a big impact on Anna's life. Anna is far from her family and isolated in a luxurious, scary palace. Anna's reaction to seeing M. de la Tourelle reveals significant power dynamics, emotional trauma, and psychological distress.

Meanwhile, Anna's relationship with M. Voss shows that he is Anna's new husband. Anna's long-standing shock and illness reflect feelings of vulnerability, emotional distress, and psychological horror in the presence of someone from an upper social class with greater influence and power. This highlights how social class can have a major impact on a person's emotional well-being and physical health. Additionally, Anna's prolonged illness shows the lingering effects of trauma, emphasizing the long-term consequences that social class dynamics can have on a person's life. This sentence highlights the nuances of social class and its ability to shape perceptions, emotions, and experiences.

C. The Relation Between Social Class in the Novel *The Grey Woman* and Social Class in the Victorian Era of the 19th Century.

After discussing how social class phenomena are shown in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell and also how they influence the life of the character Anna Scherer, who is the main character in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell,

in this section, the researcher will explain how social phenomena exist in the novel *The Grey Woman* has a relationship or connection with social classes that existed in the 19th century or the Victorian era. As explained in the previous chapter, Elizabeth Gaskell was one of the famous writers of the Victorian era. In the Victorian era, social classes were divided into three classes consisting of the upper class, middle class and working class (Cody, 2002, p. 33). This class can be found in several characters in *The Grey Woman*, especially the main character, Anna Scherer.

In the novel *The Grey Woman*, Anna Scherer is told as the daughter of a bread mill owner. In this case, Anna and her family are categorized as coming from the middle class. The middle class consists of people who do not work with their own hands; they are factory or industrial machine owners (Cody, 2002, p. 33). This story also says that Anna and her family employed several servants in their house. This indicates that they come from a class that is neither working class nor lower class, but rather middle class.

Then, M. De la Tourielle's position in the story of *The Grey Woman* is a position for nobles who occupy the upper class. Even though he is said not to have come from England but was a nobleman from France, the social class system in England and France at that time was almost the same. In the novel, Mr. De La Tourelle is said to have owned a large area of land and a magnificent castle in France. In this case, Mr. De La Tourelle can be considered part of the upper class. According to Eva Mokra (2009, p.16), in her book, she states that the social class category with the upper class

is specifically for elite land-owning nobles. Upper-class members own land and property inherited from their families and make money through business investments or profits earned from their land (Mokra, 2009, p. 17). This is by the description of Mr. De La Tourelle. In several quotes in the novel, he is also told that he spends his days without working and has free time to do things he likes. He is also told that he has many servants and a large house with a garden around it. It can be concluded that he is a noble class.

Then, at the end of the story, poor Anna experiences a decline in social class because she runs away from the cruelty of Mr. De La Tourelle. He ran away with his servant Amante and lived as a tailor in the city. In several novel excerpts, Anna and Amante are told of sewing clothes and even shoes belonging to the nobles. In this case, Anna and Amante are categorized as working class. The Working Class consisted of unskilled laborers who worked in brutal and unhealthy conditions (Social Hierarchy of Victorian England). They cannot access clean water and food (Mokra, 2009, p. 26).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this fifth chapter, the researcher describes the conclusions and suggestions as a result of the research that has been done.

A. Conclusion

Based on the data and discussion above, it can be concluded that social class can influence and have a very complex impact on the life of Anna, the main character in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell. Anna, a woman from the middle class, cannot choose her path in life to marry someone she does not know well. As a result of indirect coercion from the people around her, she could not refuse the proposal of M. de la Tourelle, who was from the upper class.

The money, jewellery, and material possessions seem to give him power and charm that cover up who he is. Anna and M. de la Tourelle's marriage made Anna live away from her family, leaving her old father. She lives far away in a magnificent castle under her husband's strict supervision; this makes her lonely and foreign, and she does not have relationships with many people. Shortly after her marriage, just when Anna was pregnant with her first child, Anna learned a big secret that her husband was a murderer. This made her scared and traumatized to the point where she decided to run away from her husband's house, live on the run, hide, and live in poverty with her

servant Amante. Since that incident, her life has changed a lot, suffering, fear, and full of trauma.

The depiction of social class in Anna's life in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell is also a real representation of women's lives at that time. Women in the 19th century lived in the shadows of social class. They live by relying on marriage as their way of getting a better life by looking for a partner who has wealth and a high social class (Mokra, 2009, p. 39). Anna Scherer's case may be a little different because the marriage that was expected to bring happiness and a better life like most women at that time did not have a good ending. However, Anna was the opposite. Her marriage to someone of higher social status destroys her life and she even becomes a woman from a lower class at the end of the story.

Based on this, social class has influenced Anna's life; she initially lived happily as a middle-class woman until she had to suffer as an upper-class woman and become a lower-class woman; he became sick and traumatized. People called her *The Grey Woman* until her beautiful face grew old and her white skin turned gray.

The phenomenon of social class in the novel *The Grey Woman* by Elizabeth Gaskell also has relationships that reflect the life of English society in the Victorian era. This appears in the explanation of the background and lives of the characters in the novel, especially the character Anna. This relationship is also supported by the author's background, who was a famous writer during the Victorian era. so that the story narrative he produces refers to the real life of British society in the Victorian era of the 19th century.

B. Suggestion

By delving deeper into the influence of social class on Anna Scherer's character and adopting social class theory from Karl Marx in the analysis of literary works, this research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of social dynamics in stories and their relevance to a wider social context.

For further research, it is suggested to use social class theory in analysing literary works more systematically. Marxist, Weberian, or Bourdieusian theories can be used as analytical frameworks to understand social class dynamics in analysing literary works. By utilizing social class theory, researchers are expected to be able to reveal the layers of social relations, tensions, and conflicts that arise in stories related to social class.

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