

**AMERICAN WORKERS IN ERIC FLINT'S *1632*: A GENETIC  
STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS**

**THESIS**

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UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK  
IBRAHIM MALANG**

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STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS**

**THESIS**

Present to

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in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra (S.S.)*

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2023**

## STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**American Workers in Eric Flint’s 1632: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis**” 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.

Malang, 27 Desember 2023

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## APPROVAL SHEET

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Malang, 27 Desember 2023

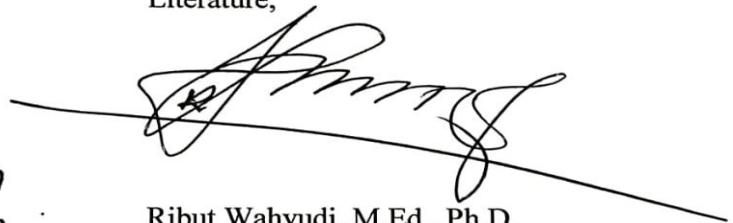
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## **MOTTO**

“What is at a peak is certain to decline. He who shows his hand will surely be defeated. He who can prevail in battle by taking advantage of his enemy's doubts is invincible.”

(Cao Cao – Leader of Wei Dynasty)

## **DEDICATION**

I proudly present this thesis to all of my family. Especially for my Mother, Siti Aminah, who has become the head of the family because my father's role does not play a very significant role so we only consider him as an extra. But I still respect him as a father even though his character is bad, hopefully he can be enlightened

Amin

Thank you for My Mom for everything she has put in, even I always disappoints you, I hope this work is proof that your child really loves you more like you love

me as your son

And don't forget my friends who helped and supported me a lot until the end of my struggle in going through college.

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This thesis has been completed by the researcher. This is a challenge to complete this thesis step by step until this thesis can be completed by the researcher. And also with the help of people around me who always support me in completing this thesis:

1. My beloved mother, thank you for your dedication all this time. You struggled to replace your father's position and dared to carry your own burden. Hopefully your child can help you lighten the burden you have been carrying.
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Abdul Qodir Jaelani

## ABSTRACT

**Jaelani, Abdul Qodir (2023)** *American Workers in Eric Flint's 1632: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis*. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor: Whida Rositama, M.Hum

*Key word: Genetic Structuralism, American Workers, Author's Viewpoint*

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To better understand the meaning of a literary work, it is necessary to look at the life and social conditions of the author at the time the work was written. Where in the view of Lucien Goldmann (1964) the creator of a literary work cannot be seen as an individual, but as a collective form of his social group. This research is included in literary research, using Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism analysis theory to see how the American labor characters in the novel are depicted, and to see how these characters reflect the social conditions at the time this work was created. This study is a literary criticism that focuses on the characters in the novel who reflect the author's social group from a sociological perspective. It uses the theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann (1964) which includes structure in literary works, worldview, and the author as a transindividual subject. This research reveals that the characters depicted in the novel are figures who are members of a labor union. In the novel, several of these characters not only act as extras, but also have an important role in the development of the story. And several characters in the novel also provide a homology about labor workers in the novel, with labor workers in America in the 2000s.

## ABSTRAK

**Jaelani, Abdul Qodir (2023)** *Buruh Amerika dalam karya Eric Flint 1632: Analisis Strukturalisme Genetik*. Tesis Sarjana. Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Pembimbing: Whida Rositama, M.Hum

*Kata kunci: Strukturalisme Genetik, Buruh Amerika, Sudut Pandang Penulis*

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Untuk lebih memahami makna dalam sebuah karya sastra, perlu melihat kehidupan dan kondisi sosial pengarang pada saat karya tersebut ditulis. Dimana dalam pandangan Lucien Goldmann (1964) pencipta suatu karya sastra tidak dapat dipandang sebagai individu, melainkan sebagai bentuk kolektif dari kelompok sosialnya. Penelitian ini termasuk dalam penelitian sastra, dengan menggunakan teori analisis Strukturalisme Genetik Lucien Goldmann untuk melihat bagaimana tokoh-tokoh buruh Amerika dalam novel yang digambarkan, serta melihat bagaimana tokoh-tokoh tersebut mencerminkan kondisi sosial pada saat karya ini dibuat. Kajian kali ini adalah kritik sastra yang berfokus pada tokoh-tokoh dalam novel yang mencerminkan kelompok sosial pengarang dari sudut pandang sosiologi. Ini menggunakan teori Strukturalisme Genetik oleh Lucien Goldmann (1964) yang mencakup struktur dalam karya sastra, pandangan dunia, dan pengarang sebagai subjek transindividual. Penelitian ini mengungkapkan bahwa tokoh yang digambarkan dalam novel adalah tokoh yang tergabung dalam serikat pekerja. Dalam novel, beberapa tokoh tersebut tidak hanya berperan sebagai figuran saja, namun juga mempunyai peranan penting dalam perkembangan cerita. Dan beberapa tokoh dalam novel tersebut juga memberikan satu homology mengenai pekerja buruh pada novel, dengan pekerja buruh di Amerika pada tahun 2000 an.

## مستخلص البحث

جيلاني ، عبد القادر (٢٠٢٣) العمل الأمريكي في كتاب إريك فلينت ١٦٣٢ : تحليل بنيوي جيني. أطروحة البكالوريوس. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الثقافية، جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم الإسلامية الحكومية مالانج. المشرف: ويدا روزيتاما، M.Hum

*الكلمات المفتاحية: البنيوية الوراثية، العمال الأمريكيان، وجهة نظر المؤلف*

لفهم معنى العمل الأدبي بشكل أفضل، من الضروري النظر إلى حياة المؤلف وظروفه الاجتماعية وقت كتابة العمل. حيث يرى لوسيان جولدمان (١٩٦٤) أن مبدع العمل الأدبي لا يمكن النظر إليه كفرد، بل كشكل جماعي لمجموعته الاجتماعية. يندرج هذا البحث في البحث الأدبي، مستخدماً نظرية تحليل البنيوية الجينية للوسيان جولدمان لمعرفة كيفية تصوير الشخصيات العمالية الأمريكية في الرواية، ومعرفة كيف تعكس هذه الشخصيات الظروف الاجتماعية في وقت تأليف هذا العمل. تعتبر هذه الدراسة نقداً أدبياً يركز على شخصيات الرواية التي تعكس الفئة الاجتماعية للمؤلف من منظور سوسيولوجي. ويستخدم نظرية البنيوية الجينية التي كتبها لوسيان جولدمان (١٩٦٤) والتي تتضمن البنية في الأعمال الأدبية، والنظرة العالمية، والمؤلف كموضوع عابر للفرد. يكشف هذا البحث أن الشخصيات التي تصورها الرواية هي شخصيات أعضاء في إحدى النقابات العمالية. في الرواية، لا تعمل العديد من هذه الشخصيات كإضافات فحسب، بل لها أيضاً دور مهم في تطور القصة. وتقدم العديد من الشخصيات في الرواية أيضاً تماثلاً بين العمال العماليين في الرواية، والعمال العمال في أمريكا في العقد الأول من القرن الحادي والعشرين.

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## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains an explanation of the background of the study, the problem of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitations of the study, and the definition of key terms. This chapter also mentions several previous studies.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Eric Flint is an American writer. He was known as a science fiction writer whose works are mostly historical in nature and prefer alternative history. As one example that is also the object of study in this research is one of his many famous works, the novel *1632*. In an internet media from Lotus, it explains the biography of Eric Flint, where before he released several of his works, he had already worked as a laborer. He did this because he was also a labor activist and had the view that American worker always did not have their own place in a literary work. So this then encouraged him to create a novel which was used as the object of study in this study (Lotus, 2022). This provides an overview of the social perspective of the author's social life at the time the work was created. Where the meaning value of a literary work will be visible if someone already knows the literary work genetically. Researcher in this study tried to look more deeply into the meaning that the author wanted to convey through his work, using the theory of Genetic structuralism.

Because there has not been much research on this novel (until the time this article was written), previous studies took journals and theses related to the theory used in this study. Where this previous study will help researcher to understand how the Genetic Structuralism theory works.

Several previous studies that used this theory were from Saiful Ghozi with his research entitled "*Harper Lee's Worldview Toward White Supremacy in Her Go Set a Watchman*" (2020) This research has two objectives. To explain Harper Lee's world view and see how Harper Lee describes this phenomenon through the structural elements of the novel. The results of this research provide an illustration that Harper Lee's view of the work is explained through four categories. The first is economic life, the second is the political process, the third is family marriage patterns, and the third is education patterns which are always considered low by white people (Ghozi, 2020).

Another journal, written by Bagas Maulana, E. Ngestirosa Endang Woro Kasih, and Suprayogi, with their journal entitled "*Genetic Structuralism Analysis on The Color Out of Space by H.P. Lovecraft*" analyzes the structural form of the story considering from the author biography, the social structure of New England and word view of the author toward the short story. The study found out that Lovecraft viewed the condition of New England after world war two and the earthquake in New York to delineate the horror (Suprayogi, 2022).

Fachriza Amalia Rakhman, Eko Suwargono, and Meilia Adiana, in the journal they wrote entitled "*Philantropism in Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol: A Genetic Structuralism analysis*" analyzed Charles Dickens' worldview



contained in his work entitled *A Christmas Carol*. The purpose of this article is to explain Charles Dickens' worldview and Charles Dickens' aim of incorporating this worldview into his work. The result of his research is that Charles Dickens had a world view of philanthropism. The world view contained in his work emerged because of Charles Dickens' sad childhood, the very poor condition of poor people in England and the religion he adhered to. His goal in creating this novella was to restore balance between himself and his environment. The purpose of including this worldview in his work is to make the upper class aware of the importance of sharing and loving each other so that there is no distance between them and the poor. Apart from that, Dickens wanted to restore human morals which had experienced a decline due to capitalism (Adiana, 2015).

In addition, Eric Flint not only as a collective subject in the making of his work. But he also created a solid social group to strengthen his work on history and fiction. So in this problem, of course there is participation from the readers or his community, helping in the development of the ideas and historical context he raised. And this is found in journals that discuss how foundation of the novel were build. José Sanchez Blázquez (2016) in his research entitled "*Participatory Worlds: Models of Collaborative Textual Production beyond the Entertainment Industry*" focuses on the formation of an inner culture formed by audience participation. In this journal, it explains how participation in a community helps someone to create a new idea in formulating a work, and how to form a text that represents the history of the past so that it can attract the audience to read. The result of his research is that audiences are attracted to his work because the science fiction concept is combined

with historical context, making the story unique to explore (Blázquez J, 2016).

Meanwhile in his other research, José Sánchez Blázquez's research (2018) entitled "Defining Participatory Worlds: Canonical Expansion of Fictional Worlds through Audience Participation" aims to define the formation of the world in literature by audience participation. In this research, the focus is on how a world perspective is formed from a collection of ideas in a community so that it can relate to interpretations of the history of 1632. The results of the research prove that this is effective in forming a picture of the world in the novel with the historical context of Germany in 1632. Although not as accurate as the original, at least represents one perspective on the social conditions of that time (Blázquez J, 2018).

From these several journals, the researcher then draws a common thread from all of them with a literary approach to find an explanation from the author's view of the American workers as representation of the social group that occurred in novel. Which researcher use a sociological approach, with the theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann. Researcher took journals about this theory to help researcher in applying the theory. M. Anwar Masadi (2019) in his research entitled "*Poverty, Mysticism, and Religiosity of Sumatra Inland Communities in Bidadari- Bidadari Syurga Novel by Tere Liye: Genetic Structuralism Analysis Lucian Goldman*", which in this study, focuses on the author's view and finding out phenomena or events in Lalabay Valley as the background of the novel. The result is, there is a genetic relationship of the author and the background of his writing which are all depictions of the life of the author (Masadi, 2019).

Elysabet br. Zebua and Elly Prihasti Wuriyani in their journal entitled "*Application of Genetic Structural Theory in The Novel Bruised Moon on The Edge of Toba by Sihar Ramses Simatupang*" focuses on their analysis of the application of theory in the novel *Bruised Moon on The Edge of Toba*. The results of his research, the facts of humanity and the collective subject of the Toba people through the figures of Hamonangan and Ganda. This novel describes the problems of human facts and collective subjects. Humanity facts tell about social activities and political activities. The social activity tells about the social problems in Tanah Batak due to the operation of the Paper Mill (Wuriyani, 2022).

In a thesis written by Ahmad Priono (2019) entitled "*J.D Salinger's Worldview as Reflected in The Catcher in The Rye: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis*" explains a correlation between *The Catcher in the Rye* and the 'baby boomers' generation. There are two results from this analysis. Namely first; the structure and structuration in *The Catcher in the Rye* can be seen from the relationship between Holden Caulfield and other figures, and the relationship between Holden Caulfield and nearby objects. Second; the existence of homology between events in the real world of the 'baby boomer' generation and those depicted in the novel *The Catcher in the Rye*. Third; J.D Salinger brought a world view of humanism in the novel *The Catcher in the Rye* (Priyono, 2019).

This is different from the research conducted by Bima Atmana (2019) in his research entitled "*Harper Lee's World View in Go Set A Watchman novel: A Genetic Structuralism Analysis*" which both have research on the world view, but with different results. Where in the study, Harper Lee describes the social

conditions when the novel was written. That is the condition during the era of racism between the white race and the black race (Atmana, 2019). The last is the research from Hafidhun Annas (2021) in his research entitled "*The Enlightening Message of Evangelical Movement: A Genetic Structuralism Study on A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens*" which in this study aims to explain the structure of the novel, as well as the meaning of the movement. Evangelical in England during the Victorian Era. The result is, ghost of Christmas in the novel, has things that can affect the characters, setting, and plot in the novel. And also enlightening the message conveyed through the Evangelical movement which has food about human kind (Annas, 2021).

From all previous study that has been described above, then a background is formed for this research to focus on how the character described in the novel, and how the characters reflect the social conditions of author. The aim is to find out the world view of author about the American worker reflect the social conditions of the author.

### **B. Problem of the Study**

Problem of this study is formulated as follows:

1. How are the American's worker described in the novel?
2. What is the homology between the workers in the novel and workers in America in 2000s?

### **C. Significance of the Study**

This study aims to explore the description of the author's thoughts on the history that occurred in Europe during the thirty year's war. Where in this case, the researcher assumes that the author in forming his idea for his work is not solely done alone. However, because of the help of several people belonging to a social group from the author himself. In addition, to reveal the background of the author himself. Because each of his works is always themed on history and alternative history in the science fiction version. So from some of these claims, the researcher feels that there must be a historical background that shapes the ideology.

### **D. Scope and Limitation**

The focus of the research study is on the author's view of the novel "*1632*" on Europe during the Thirty Years' War. And how the idea emerged from the author's thoughts in the novel. However, because there is no research that focuses on literary research, since this paper was written, there are many things that can still be analyzed from various different approaches.

### **E. Definition of Key terms**

The researcher provides understanding to avoid misunderstandings or misinterpretations in the study.

#### **Genetic Structuralism**

Lucien Goldmann, as the pioneer of this theory, stated that every literary work cannot be separated from the history of the literature it was made. The background, the ideology that represents a social group, as well as the basis and reason for the work being made are the main points of this theoretical approach.

**American Workers**

The term "American workers" refers to individuals who are employed or engage in productive labor within the United States. These individuals contribute to the nation's economy by providing their skills, services, and labor in various industries and sectors. American workers can be part of diverse occupations, including blue-collar and white-collar jobs, and they may work in fields such as manufacturing, technology, healthcare, finance, education, and more.

**Author's Viewpoint**

Author's viewpoint is the way an author looks at a topic or the ideas being described. Viewpoint includes the content and the language used to present the data. Thoughtful readers decipher an author's point of view.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

This chapter present an overview of related literature. It contains a number of topics to support the analysis of this study, which is an essential resource related to this topic. Some of the sources used are sociological approach, and sociological theory.

#### **A. Genetic Structuralism**

Genetic Structuralism is a theory that refers to the origin of the literary work that was formed. This theory was proposed by the French critic, Lucien Goldmann. In theory, a literary work is not born out of the mind of the author. However, it arises from its relationship with the worldview of the author's social group and the conditions of the society thatgave birth to the work. According to Goldmann (1964), every human being grows from several tendencies that are human nature. This could come from the environment or life (Goldmann, 1964).

The structure of a literary work will be one of the main focuses in this theoretical study. Where the intrinsic structure of literature can also reflect an author's view in his work. Overall, there are many intrinsic elements that build structure in a literary work. However, in this research, the intrinsic elements will be analyzed in two ways. The first is about the characters, and the second is the setting as a support from the author's perspective.

Where in this case, the structure of literary works is considered as the view of the author's social group. Which in this case, the author as a representative of a particular social group, which represents the thoughts and ideas of the social group into his work (Wiyatmi, 2017). According to Muniroch (2007) in his journal entitled "*Understanding Genetic Structuralism*" explains that there are three fundamental characteristics of human action. The fundamental characteristics are: a.) Tendency to adapt, b.) Tendency to create a consistent mindset in dealing with problems in the environment, c.) And tendency to change pre-existing mindsets. These three things are the main concepts in this theory of genetic structuralism. In accordance with the concept, then developed again into several sections to better understand the readers of the theory used. Some of those parts are: a.) the author as a trans-individual subject, b.) world view, c.) dialectic: understandings, d.) the structure of literary works (Muniroch, 2007).

Lucien Goldmann in his book discussing this theory which is translated from French by Alan Sheridan (1964) explains that Genetic Structuralism, is a hypothesis that all humans have a habit that is driven by a tendency caused by a particular social environment. Which particles will later influence some. The focus of genetic structuralism is indeed on the historical realm in the literary work. However, all of this cannot be separated from the existence of studies on human facts that have a correlation with this theory because they are still in one unit. Which is a fact of humanity, cannot be separated from the so-called tendency, which has been listed above.



In the deconstruction of the old structure, there will be a structural reconstruction in a component which results in a difference from the old structure. Which is the case with historical structures, where each era will produce several different historical theories. While the structuration of new totalities, is a new structuration that completely changes the old structure. The impact will produce a new meaning from the structuring of a component. Which, if applied in a literary work, how will a novel, or a literary work that tells a history, produce a new historical meaning from a literary perspective (Goldmann, 1964). From the existence of deconstruction and structuration, several ideas emerge which are one in forming an idea for their work reference (Goldmann, 1964).

The focus of genetic structuralism is indeed on the historical realm in the literary work. However, all of this cannot be separated from the existence of studies on human facts that have a correlation with this theory because they are still in one unit. Which is a fact of humanity, cannot be separated from the so-called tendency, which has been listed above. From the existence of human facts, the background is based on human realities, which has a two-sided process: the destruction of old structures and the structuration of new totalities. In the deconstruction of the old structure, there will be a structural reconstruction in a component which results in a difference from the old structure. Which is the case with historical structures, where each era will produce several different historical theories. While the structuration of new totalities, is a new structuration that completely changes the old structure. The impact will produce a new meaning from the structuring of a component. Which, if applied in a literary work, how will a novel, or a literary work that tells a

history, produce a new historical meaning from a literary perspective (Goldmann, 1964). From the existence of deconstruction and structuration, several ideas emerge which are

Indicators of this theory, in which some of these indicators are important points of this theory in literary works. The indicators are: Subject Transindividual, World View, Structure of literary works, and Dialectic understanding. In addition, this research also uses a comparative study, because it is to find an overview of the differences produced by this novel, from the existing history.

### **1. Author as Transindividual**

As previously explained, in genetic structuralism, the author is a representative of a particular social group that represents the ideas of a social group of the author. This means that the author is not seen as an individual who makes literary works. However, as a collective subject of a group that has the same ideas and ideology (Goldmann, 2013, p. 170). According to Wiyatmi (2017), what is meant by a transindividualist subject is a subject that acts as a shell for several ideologies of its social group. So this subject acts as an entity that conveys messages from the group. So in this view, the author is not the only one who contributes to generating ideas in the story. Because social influence can also bring about a big change in the author's way of seeing life. This is one of the emphasis on genetic structuralism in a literary work.

## **2. World View**

A world view is a term used to describe a whole concept or idea that is connected with members of a particular social group. Which in this case, how a world view can be reflected, because the emergence of that world view because it has been previously reflected in its reality. So it would be very unlikely if someone knows the forest but he has never seen or never felt the forest. According to Lucien Goldmann (1964) explains a concept of world view in a literary work, not only interpreted as an interpretation of the author in his work. Because the interpretation itself is not just an individual, but the social environment also has a big impact on understanding the world view (Goldmann, 1964, p.161). So the reflection of the world view is not based on the author alone, but is a view represented by one person, namely the author.

## **3. Structure of literary works**

Genetic structuralism views literature as a social fact. Which is a fact, has a historical role in it (Faruk, 1994). As a social fact, a literary work is a work whose object is the universe and human groups. Where usually a literary work will talk about problems of law, life, problems of society, and the universe. Because basically, the social facts contained in literary works are the result of reflection of what is experienced by the author as the collective subject of his social group. So it can be said that the literary work itself has a relationship with real life and history (Goldmann, 2013). It can be said that a literary work certainly has a background in its creation.

Because in a literary work, there are plots, characters, settings, all of which become important pillars in a literary work. Which then, will be matched again with the structure found in a literary work. On the other hand, as previously explained, genetic structuralism which focuses on human facts cannot be separated from structuration and destruction. This is because both of them are the two main axes that make up the literary work.

#### **4. Dialectic: Understandings and Explanation**

The dialectical method is used to find the relationship between the structure of literary works and the structure of society, which is mediated by the worldview of the author's social group (Goldmann, 2013). The dialectical method is used to determine the extent to which the relation of a literary text can be in harmony with a social problem that occurred behind the literary work was formed.

The similarities in literary works with the history carried in the work will later be used as a medium to look for the relationship that is reflected in the work. Which aims to get a little picture, about the historical situation and conditions that are carried in the novel. As well as to find out the background at the time this work was made. Goldmann (1964) emphasized that in the dialectical process of a literary work, the data in a novel does not only act as artistic evidence. However, if we look more closely at the interpretation, of course there is a pattern that is related to the author's life at the time the work was created (Goldmann, 1964, p. 170).

#### **B. American Workers in 2000s**

In the 2000s, American workers experienced a dynamic work environment with advances in technology and globalization. This era is characterized by a shift towards information-based industries, finance and employment services becoming

more diverse, reflecting a mix of different genders, ethnicities and backgrounds in various professions. Of course, this is also the beginning of improving the work system towards a modern one because technological developments during this period also brought major changes in the work sector. Especially for American workers. In the book written by Jared Bernstein, John Schmitt, and Lawrence Mishel entitled "The State of Working America 2000-01" (2000), explains the social conditions of American workers in the 2000s.

In 2000, the American economy stabilized due to the large number of job vacancies. Where one of them is a union worker. They work to get wages from their superiors. In some conditions, this is better because if you look at the previous year, America experienced a lot of economic crises in employment. The large number of job vacancies for union workers at that time also had a good impact on society because the unemployment rate at this time had fallen below 5.5%, namely around 4.0%. Even so, it seems as if their role is not considered too special in some communities. Thanks to them, the bankruptcy rate reduced and the American economy can continue to run (Mishel, 2000).

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter explains several methods used in this literary study. Starting from research design, data source, data collection, data analysis.

#### **A. Research Design**

This study examines literary criticism research which focuses on research on a literary work. Which in this study, researcher used a sociological approach with the theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann. Literary criticism has a function to help readers to understand and appreciate literary works. Lewis A. Coser (1913) once revealed in his book entitled, "*Masters of Sociological Thought*" that the most important thing is not how we know the pattern of a social sphere, but the most important thing is to know the historical background of the emergence of social life. He highlighted the outline of the sociological approach as an approach to getting to know a literary work at large. Because literary works are not just artistic aesthetics in language, but are also a medium for wider social knowledge.

#### **B. Data Source**

The data was taken from a primary data from the novel and secondary data from the conditions of workers in America to help researcher finding the background of literary work. Where in this novel, data is obtained through analyzing the fictional characters in the novel, and finding out the same relationship with the author's life at the time this work was created, so the social reflection will also be visible later. And then look back at a reflection depicted in the novel, it

conditions of workers in the novel, with workers in America to see a homology that connected in these conditions. The author's biography used as a reference to assist researcher in finding definite data.

### **C. Data Collection**

Data collection was carried out in two ways, namely by identifying fictional characters in the novel, and looking at the social reflections produced by these characters. Because as literature has several elements, the elements used are through characters and settings. Data collection was carried out by reading the text in the novel and the author's biographical text, then recording several important details that connected the researcher to the author's social context. Data was collected from as many novels as possible to assist researcher in uncovering answers to the problems in this research. This is also the basis of qualitative research, namely connecting the data that has been obtained, then sampling from several journals to see the relationship between the author's life and the work he created. According to Rahardjo (2020), the benchmark for whether data is sufficient or not depends on the researcher himself. So the benchmarks for analytical data in research must be more intense and careful. This is intended to prevent fatal errors in interpreting data (Raharjo, 2020, p. 114).

### **D. Data Analysis**

After the data procedure, the next step is data analysis. As in data collection, there are several procedures in the data analysis process that are expected to make it easier for researcher to analyze the data. First, researcher identify and describing the fiction characters that appear in novel, and then identifying the role of the

characters in novel, to get some reflection of the authors social condition of that time. What is certain is that in identifying the characters, the researcher applied the Genetic structuralism theory in the novel. Because as is the basic concept of genetic structuralism theory, the structure in a literary work also plays an important role in developing the story so that it does not appear monotonous. Then the second is looking at the homology that exists between novels, with the conditions when the work was created. Where researchers find out more about American workers who appear in the novel, with American workers in the 2000s. Because this novel was released in 2000, the social conditions at that time will be reflected in the novel. Where the context is the condition of American workers at that time and their role in the novel, it will lead the reader to a result that shows the meaning of the message the author wants to convey to his readers.



## **CHAPTER IV**

### **FINDING AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter discusses the result of analysis on describing the research. This chapter will explain the main problems in this research. Where the explanation will focus on two objectives which aim to answer the research problem. Namely 1.) Describing American workers in novel, 2.) Describing the Homology of American workers in novel and in real life at 2000s.

#### **A. Describing American workers in the Novel**

In the novel 1632, there are many characters who play an important role in shaping the plot. And of course in this context, characters are divided into two types. Namely fictional characters and historical characters. Fictional characters themselves are characters created purely through the author's imagination. Meanwhile, historical characters are created through the context of a particular history in which the character lives. In this study, researcher will only focus on fictional characters. Where these characters, apart from acting as important characters in the novel, are also representatives of the social group of the author being depicted.

Some of these characters are characters who act as American workers, who are thrown back to 1631 in European history. Such as mining workers, school principals, blue collar workers, and so on. The analysis in describing this character also has two steps, first is looking at the specific character, and looking specifically at the important role in the novel.

First introduced in the early chapters of the novel, and takes the perspective of the main character in the novel, namely Mike Sterns, where he serves as chairman of the mining union in his town.

*"The smile faded away completely. "And then, when your father was crippled, you came back to take care of your family. And did as good a job of that as you'd done scaring them to death earlier. Quite respectable, now. Even managed to get yourself elected president of your local miners' union a couple of years back." (p.10)*

At this moment, readers are introduced to the main character whose position is chairman of the mining union. Of course, this gives a little idea that the main character himself comes from American worker. His important role in the novel is depicted when he and the others are thrown into the past, where he has to be faced with a situation where the city where he lives is no longer in the country of his birth, namely America. He discovered this when he encountered a situation that made him realize that he was not currently in the year 2000.

*"The two farmhouses in the distance were burning fiercely. The one nearby was not. It was a large and rambling structure. Unlike the wood-frame farmhouses which Mike was familiar with, the construction of this one leaned heavily toward stone. Hand-fitted stone, from what Mike could see. If it weren't for the fact that the farmhouse had all the signs of current occupancy—that unmistakably ragged-respectable air of a place where people worked—Mike would have sworn he was looking at a something out of the Middle Ages." (p.20).*

At that moment, it certainly provided conditions that made Mike begin to adapt to an environment he had never encountered before.

*"It will be, you gutless jackass. It will be." Then, to the crowd: "According to Melissa Mailey, we now live in a*

*world where kings and noblemen rule the roost. And they've turned all of central Europe— our home, now, ours and our childrens' to come—into a raging inferno. We are surrounded by a Ring of Fire. Well, I've fought forest fires before. So have lots of other men in this room. The best way to fight a fire is to start a counterfire. So my position is simple. I say we start the American Revolution— a hundred and fifty years ahead of schedule!" (p.58).*

At that moment, there is an interesting pattern that can be obtained. That is how Mike Stern, whose previous position was only as chairman of the UMWA mining union, was then faced with a condition where technological resources and relations between regions became very limited due to a phenomenon that occurred suddenly. So Mike, who was appointed as leader of the city, tried to build relationships with several neighboring kingdoms, so that the city's resources and economy could continue to run.

Apart from Mike, school teachers also have a big role in building the ecosystem cycle in the city of Grantville which has been thrown back in time. The teacher in this novel is first introduced at a meeting to decide the leader of Grantville. The teacher's name is Greg Ferrara.

*"The mayor gave a glance of appeal to one of the teachers sitting next to the principal. Greg Ferrara rose and stepped up to the microphone. The high school's science teacher was a tall, slender man in his mid-thirties. His speech patterns, like his stride and mannerisms, were quick and abrupt—and self-confident." (p.53).*

This teacher was first introduced as a figure who had a tall and wise posture. His position is as a science teacher. Which of course has a big role in empowering energy resources. Because of course as a science teacher, we definitely know more

about many things related to resource mechanisms. Whether it's a resource in the form of gas or anything else. In the novel, he is elected as a cabinet member who will later help with some of Mike's work.

*"His eyes fell on the teachers sitting next to Piazza. Mike's face broke into a grin. "Melissa Mailey." The history teacher's prim, middle-aged face broke into a moue of surprise. Ah, sweet revenge. "And Greg Ferrara." The younger science teacher simply nodded in acknowledgment."* (p.59).

The appointment of Greg Ferrara was not without reason, because Mike needed an exclusive cabinet who was able to handle problems in the right way. And when looking at the character's background, Greg Ferrara, who is a science teacher, is considered more suitable to be a cabinet member. Greg's character's important role in developing this newly formed country can be seen when Greg learns information about the location of abandoned oil sources. So he shared this information and also gave some suggestions to his team.

*"For the first time, Greg Ferrara spoke. "I'm pretty sure it is, Ed." The science teacher made an apologetic face. "I can't be sure, of course. But I examined what I could of the evidence left by the Ring of Fire. As near as I can tell, the—whatever it was—cut out a perfect circle. Right through everything. Dirt, trees—even rail lines and power cables—cut like a razor."* (p.64).

Greg read about the situation after the ring of fire phenomenon, which transported the residents of the town of Grantville and its contents, to the era of the German war during the Thirty Years' War. Where his scientific thinking led him to assumptions that left questions about whether the burnt ring of fire would produce ground gas which would function as an energy supplier for the daily needs of the residents of Grantville.

*"Ferrara paused, studying the tiles as if the answer were to be found there. "I'm not positive, but I'll be surprised if we don't discover that we've got the same radius beneath our feet. Three miles down, at the center—maybe more. Way deeper than any gas and oil beds we'll be tapping into. Or coal seams." (p.64).*

Greg's assumption here also has a significant impact as a science teacher who always researches everything rationally, as well as as a resource researcher around the city of Grantville. Where Greg seems to be a character who always provides information through his interpretation. Because apart from being rational, he is also an expert as a spokesman and advisor to Mike Stern.

*"He took a deep breath. "We're going to have to call for volunteers." Another deep breath. "I'm going to pretty much want every boy in next month's high-school graduating class."*

*The room exploded with protests from Ed Piazza and Melissa Mailey. Ed gobbled semicoherent and indignant phrases about his kids . Melissa neither gobbled nor was incoherent. She simply denounced Mike. She avoided the term warmonger , but precious little else.*

*Throughout, Mike weathered the storm in suffering silence. When the protests began to die down, he opened his mouth to speak.*

*Greg Ferrara cut him off. " Don't be stupid, Melissa.You too, Ed. I agree with Mike completely. Most of the miners are getting on in years, you know that as well as anyone. The mines have done only a trickle of new hiring for the last decade." Bitterly: " Downsizing.Hell, at least half the working miners in this area are Frank's age. Late forties and up. You can't expect men that old to do all the fighting. Not for long, anyway." (p.66).*

From the conversations and texts in the novel, it is clear that even a teacher class is considered qualified enough to occupy a government chair. Apart from that, assembling weaponry, such as explosives, was also one of the tasks that Greg and

his students had to carry out, who were also thrown into the middle of the 16th century.

*“Mike looked away. He hoped the confidence of the science-teacher-become-artillery-officer was justified. Ferrara and his precocious students had designed and built the rockets themselves. Whether they would work, in an actual battle, remained to be seen.”* (p.104).

Greg's enthusiasm is indeed commendable when it comes to dealing with state security. Even Mike himself in the dialogue above said that if Greg co Another roar of laughter. Most of the crowd was with him now, Mike could sense it. Rooting for the home team, if nothing else.

Another character that is no less important is Bill Porter as the power plant manager. When we talk about a power plant, of course we imagine a power station. Where both are actually the same thing. The Power Plant is one of the most important things here, because at that time the management of power resources was still not as sophisticated as the technology in 2000. So through this, it had a very significant impact on the survival of the residents of the city of Grantville. Bill Porter, as the owner and always manages the power plant, is one of the important characters in.

*“Sure, we can fight them off for a while. We've got modern weapons, and with all the gun nuts living around here”—another mass laugh—“we've got the equipment and supplies to reload for months. So what? There's still only a few hundred men who can fight. Less than that, once you figure out how much work's got to be done.”*

*Now he pointed to Bill Porter, the power plant's manager. “You heard what Bill had to say. We've got enough coal stockpiled to keep the power plant running for six months. Then—” He shrugged. “Without power, we lose most of our technological edge. That means*

*we've got to get the abandoned coal mine up and running. With damn few men to do it, and half the equipment missing. That means we have to make spare parts and jury-rigged gear."uld join the military, of course he would be suitable for the job." (p.56).*

In the text, it is explained what the impact would be if the city of Grantville lost the resources that support several technologies in the city of Grantville. So Bill Porter becomes a character who has an important role in ensuring that this power plant continues to function by always supplying some fuel. The power plant in the novel helps the people of Grantville to be active and productive. So this is also the main point why Bill Porter is considered an important character in the story. Because apart from managing the power plant, he is also the one who manages the entire power plant mechanism. So the power station will always produce sufficient resources to provide city residents with access to their activities.

To create an economic cycle so as not to suffer losses in the future, several characters in the novel are assigned by Mike to manage state revenues. Where this was held by Willie Ray Hudson. This character was appointed by Mike to hold a farm in the country.

*"Need a farmer. The best one around is—Mike spotted the short, elderly figure he was looking for. "Willie Ray Hudson." (p.59).*

Willie was entrusted with holding the farm so that the results could later be bartered with foreign countries. His important role in the novel is to lead all of Grantville's farmers to work together as a supporter of the state's economy. This was also explained when Mike entrusted several farmers to him.

*"Later. He looked at Willie Ray. "Willie, I want you to get all the farmers together and draw up a plan for food*

*production. Inventory our resources, figure out what you're going to need—" He broke off. Hudson had started nodding before Mike had finished the first sentence. The old man was a natural-born organizer. Mike could let him handle it from there." (p.67).*

It can be seen that Willie here plays the role of a farmer who has to supply several necessities for his people, as well as some for sale. Judging from how Mike responded to the old man.

*"Not much, Mike," he called out. "We're a job shop, you know. The customer usually supplies the material." Nat Davis glanced around, looking for the other two machine shop proprietors. "You could ask Ollie and Dave. Don't see 'em. But I doubt they're in any better position than I am. I've got the machine tools, and the men who can use them, but if we aren't supplied with metal—" He shrugged. (p.57).*

From this conversation, it can be seen that Nat Davis does have skills in engine mechanics. This is also depicted at a moment where it is first thrown back to 1631.

*"Ken Hobbs says it's a matchlock. He'd know, too. He's made a hobby of antique weapons his whole life. They haven't made guns like this in—oh, must be two hundred years. At least. Even by the time of the American Revolution, everybody was using flintlocks." (p.27).*

As explained in the text, the Matchlock weapon is a weapon that was developed in the 15th century, in which this weapon was no longer produced since 1720 because it was replaced with a Flintlock system weapon (Pauly, 2004, hal. 51). This is also the beginning of a clue for the characters in the novel, to realize that they are in medieval times. Which then led them to several major conflicts that occurred between the people of Grantville in 2000, and the European folks in 1631. From a weapon, we will be directed to a situation where at first we will think that



it makes no sense between the weapon and the World view thought by the Author himself. Which in fact it is also a description of what the author experienced during his life. Because he has several people or close friends who really understand the issue of weapons, so with that little thing, he can also at least add a little detail about the existence of the Middle Ages.

Most of the characters that play a role in this novel are references to American workers in the author's environment. And these characters, although fictional, the author seems to make someone in his area involved in the novel. And it has also been proven from the text above. Based on the theory of Lucien Goldmann (1964) is that a structure in a literary work or even a history, has the same concept with the same elements. Where the pattern will always be a story (Goldmann, 1964). This also raises a statement that, even though the characters contained in the story are fictional, there is a real story behind the background. And of course the role of social groups is really needed to build a solid foundation for a story in a novel. Because at the same time, they are also the ones who will build a plot. Which is also the case at the battle of Breitenfeld, when Gustav's army fought Tilly's mercenaries.

*“As time went on, it became obvious that the Swedish artillery overmatched their opponents. The king had more guns, better guns, and better trained gunners. Most of all, he had Torstensson in command. Once they were into their rhythm, the Swedish artillerymen were exchanging three shots for one with their imperial counterparts.” (p.196).*

The war against Count Tilly on the land of Breitenfeld, was the beginning of the main war that took place, in the 1632 timeline. Due to this condition, the

Catholic Army had already taken control of Magdeburg and ransacked the city, then they would face Gustav in the same year, namely 1631, with the month and different date. Because Count Tilly himself fought against King Gustav on September 17th (Wolke, 2022, hal. 66).

Overall, the characters in this novel are many and varied. And all of these characters are not only extras, but they also have their respective roles as laborers when they adapt to social groups in 1631 to 1632. Of course this then raises a question that is often asked regarding the reasons for the publication of the novel. This. Where in the next discussion, after several characters in the novel are described, we enter the stage of analysis of the author's social conditions at the time this work was created.

### **B. Homology of workers in the novel and in America in 2000s**

The author's social condition can be seen from the reflection of the characters in the novel. This is because all the characters in the 1632 novel are fictional, and actually come from a combination of the author's imagination and ideas from his social group. This can happen because according to Goldman (1964) social reflection is not just about interpreting a meaning through a literary work, but from the behavior carried out in a work (Goldmann, 1964, p.169). Where in this context the character is a reflection of the author's life. In the novel 1632 itself, it is explained that the fictional characters he created are representations of people who come from their social environment.

*“More generally, the American characters who populate 1632 are all figments of my imagination. But I like to believe they are a faithful portrait of the American people.”(p.365).*

This statement comes from a fragment of the author's afterwords text, where in this fragment he states that the characters he created came purely from his imagination. However, to be more precise, this character actually comes from the reference of his social group. Where at the time this work was created, Eric Flint lived in the midst of social life in a society with the majority coming from American workers. Of course, this picture creates a clear picture of the author's own life when he was designing his novel. Where in his efforts, it is certainly not without reason why he includes the character of American workers as characters who have an important role in it.

*“Part of the reason I chose to write this novel is because I am more than a little sick and tired of two characteristics of most modern fiction, including science fiction.*

*The first is that the common folk who built this country and keep it running—blue-collar workers, schoolteachers, farmers, and the like—hardly ever appear. If they figure at all, it is usually as spear carriers—or, more often than not, as a bastion of ignorance and bigotry. That is especially true of people from such rural areas as West Virginia. Hicks and hillbillies: a general, undifferentiated mass of darkness.” (p.365).*

In this text, he gives a big reason why he wrote a literary work that takes the perspective of American workers as figures who have the most important role. Of course, looking at the text, they exist because they are a representation of what the author wants to convey to the public. According to Goldman (1964), when humans enter into tendencies within themselves which are influenced by their social

environment, this will encourage them to represent these ideas to express them so that the message is conveyed to their readers (Goldmann, 1964, p.162).

*“The first is that the common folk who built this country and keep it running—blue-collar workers, schoolteachers, farmers, and the like—hardly ever appear. If they figure at all, it is usually as spear carriers—or, more often than not, as a bastion of ignorance and bigotry. That is especially true of people from such rural areas as West Virginia. Hicks and hillbillies: a general, undifferentiated mass of darkness.”* (Flint, 2000, hal. 365).

Most of the characters that play a role in this novel are references to American workers in the author's environment. And these characters, although fictional, the author seems to make someone in his area involved in the novel. And it has also been proven from the text above. Based on the theory of Lucien Goldmann (1964) is that a structure in a literary work or even a history, has the same concept with the same elements. Where the pattern will always be a story (Goldmann, 1964, p.156). This also raises a statement that, even though the characters contained in the story are fictional, there is a real story behind the background. And of course the role of social groups is really needed to build a solid foundation for a story in a novel. Because at the same time, they are also the ones who will build a plot. Which is also the case at the battle of Breitenfeld, when Gustav's army fought Tilly's mercenaries.

*“As time went on, it became obvious that the Swedish artillery overmatched their opponents. The king had more guns, better guns, and better trained gunners. Most of all, he had Torstensson in command. Once they were into their rhythm, the Swedish artillerymen were exchanging three shots for one with their imperial counterparts.”* (p.196).

The war against Count Tilly on the land of Breitenfeld, was the beginning of the main war that took place, in the 1632 timeline. Due to this condition, the Catholic Army had already taken control of Magdeburg and ransacked the city, then they would face Gustav in the same year, namely 1631, with the month and different date. Because Count Tilly himself fought against King Gustav on September 17th (Wolke, 2022, p.66). In the analysis of Genetic Structuralism itself, if we look at the historical context presented in the novel, then of course it will not be included in the analysis because of the time difference that occurred between the history of 1632 and the year the novel was released. So the historical context in the novel will be used as reinforcing material to provide a picture that union society, which is usually looked down upon by people, actually has the potential to become more powerful and superior at a different time. So, through this background, this analysis was carried out to look more deeply at the meaning contained in the character's social reflection as the author's interpretation in this novel. So the key to analysis in this novel is in the author afterwords section.

At the beginning of the author's afterword, it is explained that the setting used is a fictional setting. However, some things take reference from several objects in their environment.

*“The town of Grantville and the characters who populate it are purely fictitious. But Grantville, along with the nearby consolidated high school, is inspired by the real town of Mannington, West Virginia, and its surroundings.” (p.363).*

The text explains how the author, in getting an image as a reference in his novel, took an object from the city where he once lived. Grantville is indeed a

fictional town. However, the image of the city is taken from a real life city. Grantville is the town where the main character and its residents live. The town is suddenly thrown into the past, changing the social conditions of Grantville residents to adapt to their new life.

All the characters in this novel were created fictionally. However, some of these characters were inspired by several residents who came from the city where the author lived. More precisely in the West Virginia.

*“Many years ago, I lived in northern West Virginia (Morgantown, to be precise), and I revisited the area in preparation for this novel. I'd like to thank the many people there who provided me with their help. I'd especially like to single out Paul Donato and Dave James for the hours they gave me, both at the time of my visit and in many phone calls later.” (p.364).*

In this quote, it is explained that the author came back to his homeland only as material for his novel. Of course, this is related to Goldman's (1964) thought that in a literary structure, even the setting can also be a factor influencing the social conditions of the creator (Goldmann, 1964, p.159)

In the novel, the main character is described as the head of a mine and is the head of a workers' union. Where throughout his journey when he was in 1631-1632, Mike Stern, as the main character, made many adjustments to the rules so that he could live side by side with neighboring kingdoms. Because if they want to survive in a different year when they were born, then they also need to carry out a revolution of their own to improve the prosperity of the nation and its people. And we can see in this big pattern that Mike Stern's role is so big, even though he is just a miner. This cannot be separated from the influence of the author who takes references from

the environment in which he is located. Previously, Eric Flint had joined this mining union. So he already knows the ins and outs and culture that exists in the community. This is proven by the explanation through the dedication on the last page of the novel.

*"I never had the honor of being a member of the United Mine Workers of America. But in my days as a trade-union activist, I had many occasions to work with the UMWA and its members. I know the union and its traditions, and those traditions are alive and well. That is as true of the Navajo miners in the southwest and the strip miners in Wyoming as it is of the Appalachian core of the union."* (p.365).

From this explanation, it gives an idea of how mining workers can get their big role in a different universe, with a different timeline too. Because as is well known, the picture of life will not be reflected if someone has never felt like they were in that position. Because according to Goldmann (1964) humans live in various experiences. This experience will shape a person's identity. And a person's identity will shape who he is now (Goldmann, 1964, p.160).

The previous sub-chapter discussed the teacher characters in this novel, as well as the school which is described clearly as if the school had already been explored by the author. If we look at the author afterword, then of course this is a reflection of the school near the author's house.

*"Greg was shaking his head before he even reached the podium's microphone. "I don't think there's the proverbial snowball's chance in hell." He gripped the sides of the podium and leaned forward, giving emphasis to his next words. "Whatever happened was almost certainly some kind of natural catastrophe. If you ask me, we're incredibly lucky we survived the experience. Nobody suffered any serious injuries, and the property damage was minimal."* (p.53).

School teachers were also one of Eric Flint's observations while he was in West Virginia. He was even willing to observe the structure of the school building, just to make the story more interesting.

*“Into a room now, buried somewhere within the labyrinth of that huge building. The building was a school, she realized. She had never heard of a school so big.*

*The equipment was odd, dazzling. Rebecca realized that she was in the presence of a people who were master mechanics and craftsmen—far more so, even, than the burghers of Amsterdam.” (p.40).*

He has also expressed this in the author afterword session on the final page of the novel, where he explains that all the images contained in the novel are the result of the author's experiences in exploring his social group.

*“In a day when public high schools never seem to get any notice or attention until something goes wrong, let me take the time here to remind everyone that the vast majority of America's high schools are alive and well. As a boy, I attended a consolidated rural high school—Sierra Joint Union, near Tollhouse, California—and it was much of a piece with North Marion in West Virginia. Public schools, and high schools in particular, remain the principal forges of America's youth. Let others whine about their shortcomings and faults, I will not. You can have your damned playing fields of Eton, and all the other varieties of that exclusionary "vision." I'll stick with the democratic and plebeian methods which built the American republic, thank you.” (p.364).*

In this statement, the author explains how he took references from several places near where he lives just so that his work could be more realistic. Detailed observations made by the author provide a world view of the social conditions that existed at the time this work was created. All the background has been explained in the author afterword. However, what remains unanswered here is what the author



actually wants to convey to his readers? According to Goldman (1964) that in a process of understanding a text in a literary work, and connecting it with the author's message, it is necessary to look at the background of the writing of the work (Goldman, 1964, p160). In this context, Eric Flint's work departs from his concerns regarding most works of science fiction or alternative history, which always treat American workers as mere extras. If we examine it further, a character who takes the perspective of a American worker has even greater potential than just an armored hero who is often found in fictional stories.

If we look at this context, and then look interpretively, Eric Flint feels that the figure who should be appointed is a figure who has made a contribution to supporting the country. Such as teachers, farmers, blue collar workers, power plants, some of these workers should have their own qualifications on the literary side. This can be seen in several of the character descriptions that have been explained previously, that even in American workers, if they are faced with a condition that is contrary to what has previously occurred, what will happen and what will be the impact? and this question seems to have become a complete pattern in understanding the structure of meaning in literary works.

So Eric Flint, in his work, tries to explore more deeply the potential of these American workers. Because after all, Eric Flint has also been in that position. In a media outlet that explains the author's short biography, it is explained that after graduating and obtaining his master of history degree in 1971, Eric Flint, who already had the title of committed socialist, sought experience by working as a laborer. Be it factory workers, blue collar workers, or truck drivers (Locus, 2022).

If we look at the several characters that have been described, then of course there is one big pattern that has a common thread that connects to the meaning in this 1932 novel. The first is a focus on characters that are applied from the social conditions at the time this work was written. This can also be seen from several character descriptions that have been described, such as Mike Stern who serves as chairman of the mining union, which describes the mining American workers in his area. This then creates a real perspective, that the author deliberately tries to eliminate the existence of social classes in his social life. Where this was obtained from his impression of American workers. And of course it has been expressed in the author's afterword, which is the second reason why he wrote this literary work.

*“The second is the pervasive cynicism which seems to be the accepted "sophisticated" wisdom of so many of today's writers. (Not all, thankfully.) I will have no truck with it. Of all philosophies, cynicism is the most shallow and puerile. People may choose to believe that no young man like Jeff Higgins would ever make the decision concerning Gretchen which is portrayed in the novel. Yet that episode, like many in the book, was inspired by real life. A young American infantryman, who encountered a prostitute caring for her family during the Italian campaign in World War II, made exactly the same decision—and, like Jeff, made it within hours. Do not ask me his name, or where he came from, because I do not remember. I ran across the story in a history book which I read as a teenager. The specifics I forgot long ago, but I never forgot the incident. He may have been a boy from West Virginia or Kansas—but he could just have easily have come from the mean streets of New York. If there is one human characteristic which truly recognizes neither border, breed nor birth, it is the courage to face life squarely.” (p.365).*

The reasons given by the author provide a clear picture that the author criticizes several people with cynicism thinking. Or to be more precise, he

specifically criticized several writers who had cynicism in mind. What this means is that someone at this time (at the time this work was created) believes that something must be based on logic and is realistic and romantic. This is proven by Flint's statement regarding "*People may choose to believe that no young man like Jeff Higgins would ever make the decision regarding Gretchen which is depicted in the novel.*" where in his statement, Eric Flint seemed to want to change the general stigma that is often used by people as the correct stigma. In the novel, Jeff Higgins, who is a young educated figure, wants to marry an old woman (who is not too old) and a former prostitute. Of course, this is often considered impossible, but here Eric Flint confirms that during World War II, there was a story similar to that told by Flint in his novel. Even though he himself forgot about the specific history because he last read it when he was little.

Returning to the initial concept of social class, Eric Flint actually tried to create a condition where there were no gaps caused by social class. This is proven by how much he cares for American workers, who are often considered inferior by those above. Because on the one hand, Eric Flint is also a labor activist, so from his concern, he creates an idea that is specifically and consistently generated by his social group, so it is revealed that this is the background for the creation of this novel. And of course we can see how the roles of each character in this novel, the majority of whom are American workers, then have important roles equivalent to government officials in a country. Eric Flint is not only trying to highlight the workers who work a lot in his city, but is also appreciating the performance that is truly carried out sincerely by these workers.

Apart from that, the value of solidarity is also highlighted in this novel. What about Mike Stern as the president of the New United state, who is trying to ensure that his people do not starve to death, and that they have enough resources to survive in the future.

*"Mike seized the moment and drove on. "The worst thing we could do is try to circle the wagons. It's impossible, anyway. By now, there are probably as many people hiding in the woods around us as there are in the town. Women and children, well over half of them."*

*He gritted his teeth, speaking the next words through clenched jaws. "If you expect mine workers to start massacring unarmed civilians— you'd damn well better think again."*

*He heard Darryl's voice, somewhere in the crowd. "Tell 'em, Mike!" Then, next to him, Harry Lefferts: "Shoot the CEO!"*" (p.55).

In the statement made by Mike during negotiations regarding several refugees who were thought to be carrying the plague, Mike was actually trying to find out how to protect his citizens at this time. Because Mike knows that there are still many killers hiding behind the forest and no one knows what will happen next. So if we look at this highlight, morals are actually more prioritized when we talk about American workers or ordinary workers. Because this is naturally ingrained in each individual and has even been attached as a guideline.

*"Mike built on that anger and drove on. "His whole approach is upside down and ass-backwards. 'Seal off the town?' And then what? " He swept his hand in a circle. "You all heard what Greg said earlier. He estimates the disaster—the Ring of Fire—yanked an area about six, maybe seven miles in diameter with us. You know this countryside, people. We're talking hills,*

*mostly. How much food do you think we can grow here? Enough for three thousand people?"* (p.55)

Mike's expressions in the novel provide an illustration of how social solidarity must be built from its leaders. Because many leadership collapses are due to a lot of egoism who is greedy for everything, so this breaks the good leadership algorithm. The attitude of helping each other is also highlighted when the murderer's prisoner escapes and hides in a toilet full of feces.

*"Almost violently, Jeff thrust his arm into the hole. The woman crowded alongside him was holding the girl's hands. He seized the girl's wrist. Between them, heaving, they hauled the girl out in seconds. Jeff, flinching from the smell, almost threw her out the door. But he managed to transform the motion into a simple toss. The girl landed on her knees, gasping for breath. Then, almost immediately, she began vomiting alongside Larry. Her tattered dress was crawling with spiders.*

*Eddie and Jimmy were staring at him. Jimmy was still muttering. "I can't believe this, I can't believe this." Angrily, Jeff pointed at the girl. "Help her, goddamit! At least get the spiders off of her!"*

*He didn't wait to see if they obeyed. He turned back into the outhouse and took his place alongside the woman. Another girl, another heave— out. This one didn't vomit, judging from the sounds coming from behind him. Just gasped and gasped, before breaking into sobs." (p.117).*

In the text, Jeff Higgins, who was trying to help several women who were trapped in a well full of feces, immediately helped them out even though he was holding back nausea because of the smell of feces. This represents how moral values are emphasized in this novel. Even in unpleasant times, we are required to always do good to our fellow humans. Because this is a moral ethic that must be applied in all aspects of life. The relationships between characters are also depicted here.

Where this happens when the characters are discussing water supplies for the next few days.

*"Porter ran fingers through his thinning hair. "I don't know how much anybody here knows about power plants. The truth is, the design of steam-water cycle power plants hasn't changed much in a long time. They're simple machines, when you get down to it. As long as we're provided with water and coal, we can keep running until we use up our small stock of critical spare parts. That'll probably happen somewhere between a year and a half and two years from now. After that, we're shut down for good." (p.63).*

Porter explained the mechanism of the water pump machine which has not changed for several years. Which gives one opinion that as long as the water is still flowing, then at least it is enough to support the community. To which Mike then responded:

*"The gesture was both rueful and half-amused. "We've got enough coal stockpiled to last for six months. Water's not a problem at all. We used to get it from the Monongahela. The Ring of Fire cut the pipes, of course, but it turns out—talk about blind luck!—that there's another river pretty much right in the same place. Not as big, but it'll do." (p.63).*

However, after this conversation, a conversation took place which explained the relationships between characters who need each other.

*"I don't understand about the spare parts," said Frank. "Can't we make them? We've got three machine shops in town."*

*"Porter shook his head. "That's not the problem, Frank. I wish it was! We've got four machine shops in town, actually. We have a maintenance shop in the plant itself." He glanced at Piazza. "And now that I think about, I just remembered the high school's technical training center has a pretty good shop, too." (p.63).*

In this novel, Nat Davis plays the role of the owner of the largest machine shop which provides a variety of complete machine tools. So in this dialogue Nat Davis responded to the conversation.

*"Nat Davis was a pudgy man in late middle age. When he puffed out his cheeks, he bore such an uncanny resemblance to a frog that Mike almost laughed.*

*"Not a chance, folks. Bill's right." He shrugged. "Oh, sure, I could make lots of parts. Shafts, you name it. But some things—like gears, and bearings, and mechanical seals—are specialty work. I don't think there's a job shop in the country that could handle that stuff. Not without spending years at it. We just don't have the tooling."* (p.63).

In the situation that occurs in the novel, they actually discuss empowering resources because of course they have to adapt to situations that are no longer like they used to be. Power Plants, Mechanical Shops, as well as several technological treasuries that are useful for mankind, will become useless if there is no energy to fill the resources. From these conditions, it can be seen how in certain conditions and situations, social groups are often faced with problems relating to community rights. According to Goldmann (1964), a reflection of social groups can be seen from the interactions between characters in novels. Because in this interaction, there is an activity that requires someone to think. And a person's way of thinking will reflect a social condition that significantly arises from the problem being discussed. Social conditions will be formed in the reader's interpretation, if they can understand the background of the novel. It has been explained before that the connection between this novel and the author's life is found in the authors afterword section. This section explains many things.

*“In addition, I'd like to thank Herb Thompson, the manager of the power plant near Grant Town, for his explanation of the workings of a modern power plant. Also: Billy Burke, the WV State Executive Director for the USDA's Farm Service Agency; David Adams and Amy Harris, respectively the manager and a pharmacist at one of Mannington's largest drug stores; and Mike Workman, a former coal miner and currently a professor at West Virginia University.” (p.364).*

If we look at the statement in the quote, it will relate to several characters that appear in the novel. So this image provides an interpretation from the author of his work which was inspired by these workers. Such as the mechanic who maintains the power plant, as well as the history teacher and science teacher who have their respective roles in forming a world view of the author which is reflected in the history presented in the novel.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this section, we will describe some of the results obtained from the analysis that has been carried out using the several methods listed in the previous chapter. And this chapter will also provide suggestions for further research.

#### **A. Conclusion**

The reflection of the author's social group is reflected in every character that appears in the work. The characters in this novel are described well. Starting from the introduction of the characters, their roles in the story, as well as the relationships that occur between the characters in the novel. And this novel describes the characters that appear in its fictional context, most of whom are American workers. Such as farmers, teachers, blue collar workers, machine workers, even miners. And all these characters are not just extras who only complement the story, but also have an important role in the story. And the reason why the characters in this novel are American workers is because this is taken from the author's social life where most of the people are American workers. Even the author himself, before releasing a work, had also worked as a member of a labor union. He has traveled like a truck driver, mechanic, and even a longshoreman. And because he is also a member of labor activists, his appreciation for labor workers is also great. And this novel exists as one of his dedications to the workers who built this country. This novel also actually teaches us to appreciate other people's work more. Even though they look trivial in our opinion, they are strong figures who never give up and are persistent in their work. And also how they play an important role in our life cycle, of course

it cannot be denied that even though a worker is seen as an ordinary figure and has nothing special, it is thanks to them that a country lives.

### **B. Suggestion**

This novel has its own uniqueness in terms of concept. Where the concept used is the transfer of time, or what we usually refer to as time travel. Which happened due to natural phenomena, not because of man-made machines. However, the problem is that there are still few, or even none, researchers who have examined this novel in the realm of literature. So the hope is for further research so that it can be re-analyzed from a literary perspective. And this novel can also be analyzed from the point of view of Marxism. Because as already mentioned in the discussion, that the weak human rights to freedom in this novel seem to be taken away by those who have power over everything. Like how American workers are featured in the novel, it is certainly not without reason that this concept was raised by the author. Because this concept originates from the author's view of American workers who are underestimated. Where workers themselves have an important role in all aspects. Such as development, production of goods and basic needs, as well as economic turnover resulting from domestic production. Because a country will die if there are no workers.

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## CURICULUM VITAE



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