

**A PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN *THE ROAD TO WIGAN PIER*
BY GEORGE ORWELL**

THESIS

Presented to

Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang

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

By:

Rizkiawan Adi Putra

NIM:17320203



**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LITERATURE
FACULTY OF HUMANITIES**

UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI MAULANA MALIK IBRAHIM MALANG

2024

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Advisor:

Asni Furaida, M.A.

NIP: 198807112023212027



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2024

STATEMENT OF AUTHORSHIP

I state that the thesis entitled “**A Portrait of Poverty In The Road To Wigan Pier By George Orwell**” is my original work, I do not include any material 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, June 25th, 2024

The Researcher,



Rizkiawan Adi Putra

NIM:17320203

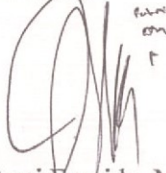
APPROVAL SHEET

This to certify that Rizkiawan Adi Putra thesis entitled **A Portrait of Poverty in The Road to Wigan Pier by George Orwell** has been approved for thesis examination at Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S).

Malang, June 25th, 2024

Approved by

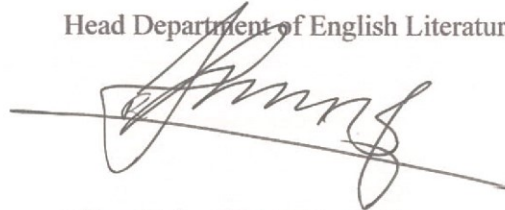
Advisor,



Asni Furaida, M.A.

NIPT 198807112023212027

Head Department of English Literature,



Ribut Wahyudi, M.Ed., Ph.D.

NIP 198112052011011007

Acknowledged by

Dean of Faculty of Humanities,






Paisol, M.Ag.

NIP 197411012003121004


LEGITIMATION SHEET

This is to certify that Rizkiawan Adi Putra's thesis entitled **A Portrait of Poverty in The Road to Wigan Pier by George Orwell** has been approved by the Board of Examiners as one of the requirements for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra* (S.S.) in Department of English Literature.

Malang, May 27th, 2024

Board of Examiners	Signatures
1. Chair Dr. Hj. Mundi Rahayu, M.Hum. NIP 196802262006042001	
2. Advisor/First Examiner Dr. Syamsudin, M.Hum. NIP 196911222006041001	
3. Second Examiner Asni Furaida, M.A. NIP 198807112023212027	

Acknowledged by
Rizkiawan Adi Putra
Dean of Faculty of Humanities



Dr. Faisol, M.Ag

MOTTO

لِكَيْ تُسَيِّطَرَ عَلَى الطَّبِيعَةِ، يَجِبُ عَلَيْكَ أَوَّلًا أَنْ تَدْرُسَهَا، فَإِنَّنَا نَسَانُ جُزْءٌ لَا يَتَجَزَّأُ مِنْ
الطَّبِيعَةِ الْمُحِيطَةِ بِهِ
"علي الوردي"

*To control nature, you have to learn it first, because humans are an inseparable part
of the natural world around them*

(Ali Al-Wardi)

DEDICATION

It's an honour to dedicate this thesis to: My loving family, my father Mr. Darto, my mom Siti Niazah, my sister Ervina Puji Lestari and my brothers Sugi Windarto and Ardi Pranawa Nugraha ,whose unwavering support and encouragement have been the driving force behind my academic journey. Your love, sacrifices, and belief in me have given me the strength and motivation to overcome challenges and pursue my dreams.

Thank you to my supervisor Mrs. Asni Furaida and all of lecturers who was always support and patient advising me.

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In the name of Allah, the All-Compassionate, All-Merciful. *Alhamdulillah*
Robbil 'Alamiin.

The researcher expresses deep gratitude for all the favours and sustenance that Allah SWT has given to the researcher, which has enabled the researcher to complete this thesis. The researcher also sends sholawat and salam to the great prophet Muhammad SAW, who became the researcher's role model in this life.

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Mr. Ahmad Wahyudi & Mrs. Rasih Setiawati (my beloved parents) and, Khoirunnisa Ananda Putri and Graycheline Jovanka Khumaira (my precious siblings) who are the biggest motivation for the researcher. This thesis is dedicated to my beloved parents, as proof of their success who have educated the researcher (their child) to be in the current position.

In addition, I would also like to acknowledge the support of and my friends, who have provided endless encouragement and motivation. Their unwavering faith in me has been a source of strength and inspiration throughout my academic journey.

Last but not least, I want to thank me. I want to thank me for believing in me. I want to thank me for doing all this hard work. I want to thank me for having no days off. I want to thank me for never quitting. I want to thank me for always being a giver and trying to give more than I receive. I want to thank me for trying to do more right than wrong. I want to thank me for just being me at all times.

The researcher realizes that the thesis still has many shortcomings. As such, the researcher will be happy to be given all criticism and input. Hopefully, this feedback will help improve both the researcher and the research in the future. The researcher also hopes that this thesis can provide benefits and enthusiasm for the wider community.

The Researcher

Rizkiawan Adi Putra

ABSTRACT

Putra, Rizkiawan Adi (2024), A Portrait of Poverty in The Road to Wigan Pier by George Orwell. Undergraduate Thesis. Department of English Literature, Faculty of Humanities, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang. Advisor Asni Furaida, M.A.

Keywords: *Social Context, Mirror of Society, Social Function, Sociology, Poverty*

Poverty, a central theme in George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan Pier*, depicts the social and economic complexity of the 20th century British industrial revolution. This work not only criticizes economic and social inequality, but also the relevance of Orwell's thinking to current global issues. This research aims to explore the impact of poverty on society in a modern social and economic context, with a focus on the strategies used by the main characters to overcome these challenges. Using qualitative descriptive methods, data from the novel *The Road to Wigan Pier* is used to identify, describe and analyze the social context described by Orwell. In his work, Orwell, through characters such as Torry and his family, expresses resilience and determination in the face of poverty, as well as highlighting social injustice and economic exploitation that reinforce the cycle of poverty. This novel is not only a critique of British socio-economic policies of its time, but also an invitation to reconsider society's views on poverty and social responsibility.

ABSTRAK

Putra, Rizkiawan Adi (2024). Potret Kemiskinan dalam Novel Road To Wigan George Orwell.
Program Studi Sastra English, Fakultas Humaniora, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik
Ibrahim Malang. Dosen Pembimbing Asni Furaida, M.A

Kata Kunci: Konteks Sosial, Cermin Masyarakat, Fungsi Sosial, Sosiologi, Kemiskinan.

Kemiskinan, tema sentral dalam *The Road to Wigan Pier* oleh George Orwell, menggambarkan kompleksitas sosial dan ekonomi pada era revolusi industri Inggris abad ke-20. Karya ini tidak hanya mengkritik kesenjangan ekonomi dan sosial, tetapi juga relevansi pemikiran Orwell terhadap isu-isu global saat ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendalami dampak kemiskinan terhadap masyarakat dalam konteks sosial dan ekonomi modern, dengan fokus pada strategi yang digunakan tokoh utama untuk mengatasi tantangan tersebut. Dengan menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, data dari novel *The Road to Wigan Pier* digunakan untuk mengidentifikasi, mendeskripsikan, dan menganalisis konteks sosial yang dipaparkan Orwell. Dalam karyanya, Orwell melalui karakter seperti Torry dan keluarganya mengungkapkan ketahanan dan tekad dalam menghadapi kemiskinan, serta menyoroti ketidakadilan sosial dan eksploitasi ekonomi yang menguatkan siklus kemiskinan. Novel ini bukan hanya merupakan kritik terhadap kebijakan sosio-ekonomi Inggris pada zamannya, tetapi juga sebuah ajakan untuk mempertimbangkan kembali pandangan masyarakat terhadap kemiskinan dan tanggung jawab social.

المستخلص

فوترا، رزقينا أدي (2024). صورة الفقر في رواية *Road To Wigan* لجورج أروويل البحث الجامعي. قسم الأدب الإنجليزي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية جامعة مولانا مالك إبراهيم مالانج. المشرف: أثني فريدة، الماجستير.

الكلمات الرئيسية: السياق الاجتماعي، مرآة المجتمع، الوظيفة الاجتماعية، علم الاجتماع، الفقر

الفقر، وهو الموضوع الرئيسي في رواية جورج أروويل الطريق إلى رصيف ويجان، يصور التعقيد الاجتماعي والاقتصادي للثورة الصناعية البريطانية في القرن العشرين. لا ينتقد هذا العمل عدم المساواة الاقتصادية والاجتماعية فحسب، بل ينتقد أيضاً أهمية تفكير أروويل في القضايا العالمية الحالية. يهدف هذا البحث إلى استكشاف تأثير الفقر على المجتمع في سياق اجتماعي واقتصادي حديث، مع التركيز على الاستراتيجيات التي تستخدمها الشخصيات الرئيسية للتغلب على هذه التحديات. باستخدام الأساليب الوصفية النوعية، يتم استخدام البيانات من رواية الطريق إلى رصيف ويجان لتحديد ووصف وتحليل السياق الاجتماعي الذي وصفه أروويل. يعبر أروويل في عمله، من خلال شخصيات مثل توري وعائلته، عن المرونة والتصميم في مواجهة الفقر، فضلاً عن تسليط الضوء على الظلم الاجتماعي والاستغلال الاقتصادي الذي يعزز دائرة الفقر. هذه الرواية ليست فقط نقداً للسياسات الاجتماعية والاقتصادية البريطانية في عصرها، ولكنها أيضاً دعوة لإعادة النظر في آراء المجتمع بشأن الفقر والمسؤولية الاجتماعية.

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of The Study

Poverty is a complex phenomenon that continues to receive attention in social, economic and cultural studies. One way to understand the reality of poverty is through literary works, where writers often reflect people's lives and depict portraits of poverty with various nuances and dimensions. One of the literary works that depicts the reality of poverty sharply is *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell. This non fiction provides an in-depth picture of the social and economic conditions of society at that time, especially related to the problem of poverty.

In the early 20th century, British society underwent significant social and economic transformation. This era was characterized by the industrial revolution, where technological developments and changes in economic structures resulted in increasing inequality between different levels of society. Industrial progress had a positive impact but also created an imbalance in the distribution of wealth, worsening the living conditions of the majority of lower-class workers.

Poverty is a bitter reality faced by many individuals and families. High levels of unemployment, poor working conditions, and minimal access to education and housing make poverty a real challenge. This creates social injustice and tension in society, which is reflected in literary works such as *The Road to Wigan Pier*.

George Orwell, a famous writer and journalist, lived during this tumultuous period. His works reflect a deep concern for social and political issues. *The Road to Wigan Pier*, published in 1937, specifically examines the living conditions of industrial workers in the North of England. Orwell not only presented fictional stories, but also created sharp social criticism through his personal observations and experiences.

In this research, the researcher is eager to dive deeper into how Orwell involved himself in the social reality of the time, detailing the portrait of poverty through the narrative of his novel. By understanding the context of Orwell's life and the conditions of society at that time, we can appreciate the complexity and depth of his analysis of social problems.

It is important to note that the theme of poverty raised in Orwell's non-fiction is not only relevant at that time, but also has a strong connection to contemporary social challenges. Problems of economic inequality, changes in the structure of employment, and injustice in the distribution of wealth are still global issues that demand attention.

By understanding the portrait of poverty in a historical context, this research seeks to open insight into the roots of the problem and its impact in society. Therefore, this research has the potential to contribute in providing a valuable perspective on solutions and policies that can overcome the challenges of poverty today.

Through an in-depth understanding of the social, economic and literary context, this research aims to bridge our understanding of the portrait of poverty in *The Road to*

Wigan Pier. Thus, it is hoped that the background presented can summarize the urgency of this research and provide a solid foundation for understanding the social, economic and literary impacts of the reality of poverty in the past and its relevance to today (Fajrina, 2015).

The Road to Wigan Pier is actually Orwell's personal account after being commissioned by The Left Book Club to investigate the lives of mine workers in the north of England. The first part of the non-fiction book describes in great detail the dire conditions of the mine workers, while the second part creates a space for deep reflection on the poverty and social inequality faced by the workers (Ni'mah, 2021).

Interestingly, even though Orwell was a believer in socialism, the reflection section of his non-fiction book shows sharp criticism of the practice of socialism in England. Orwell highlighted the weaknesses in the implementation of socialism, especially among the middle class, where he considered there were still class biases and motivations that were not entirely sincere (Wellek & Austin, 1993, pp. 20-25). Orwell's critical thinking about socialism, which feels sharp but also objective, makes his non-fiction book very interesting to study (Adyanto, 2018, p. 157).

In *The Road to Wigan Pier*, Orwell not only explains the essence of socialism, but also makes a comparison between ideologies such as fascism and authoritarianism with socialism. His critical and analytical approach makes this book a valuable source of insight, especially for readers who want to understand more deeply the concept of socialism without blind worship.

Although readers do not have to agree with Orwell's ideology, his critical perspective and solidarity with those who are oppressed are values that need to be appreciated. *The Road to Wigan Pier* invites us not only to care about humanity, but also to be critical of the beliefs we hold. In understanding Orwell's works, we not only gain ideological insight, but also a call to question and improve the world around.

Research by Hubbi Saufana Hilmi and Achmad Sultoni, explores how poverty is depicted in the characters' residence, profession, consumption habits, purchasing power, and their role within the short stories (Hilmi & Sultoni, 2019). In the study conducted by Dwi Nur A'ini and Memet Sudaryanto, internal factors causing poverty were identified, particularly the need for food among the community. Moreover, people do not pay much attention to their poverty as long as their basic needs are met (A'ini & Sudaryanto, 2024). Salsabila Sofiyani Fiqti conducted a thesis research aiming to uncover poverty depiction in the novel. The study identified 43 instances, including cases of basic needs deprivation, physical constraints, social factors, low community resources, individual vulnerability, limited access, and lack of elderly security (Fiqti, 2021). Research by Nur Inayah, Nensilanti, and Hajrah on the novel *Coastal Girl* reveals portraits of poverty including inability to meet basic needs, lack of access to essential services, insecurity about the future, vulnerability to individual and mass shocks, and low quality of human and natural resources (Inayah, Nensilanti, & Hajrah, 2022).

Rini Widiastuti conducted a study in the Novel *Laskar Pelangi* by Andre Hirata. The research focuses on depicting poverty in the novel, particularly highlighting the educational challenges faced by the impoverished (Widiastuti, 2021). Research by Eka Apriliana Hasibuan in the novel *Orang-orang Biasa* by Andre Hirata identifies three portraits of poverty among marginalized groups, a small and marginalized group. The poverty issues they face include educational, moral, and material poverty (Hasibuan, 2021). Another study was conducted by Hamidah with the the Novel *Sandiwara Bumi* by Taufiqurrahman Al-Azizy. The results depict forms of poverty, causal factors such as resource limitations and government policies, and their consequences such as crime and school dropout (Hamidah, 2023).

Aldiana Sekar Pitaloka's study found diverse social portraits such as poverty, warfare, societal norm violations, and bureaucratic issues during the revolutionary period, representing expressions of independence (Pitaloka, Pandanwangi, & Ryolita, 2023). Eta and Sukarjono's research identifies powerlessness, vulnerability, dependency, and alienation as factors contributing to poverty. Rural communities face chaotic lives due to persistent poverty, compounded by limited solutions due to their circumstances (Angesty, Nurulhady, & Waluyo, 2024). Inung Setyami's research in *Jala* highlights urban-traditional disparity on poverty perception: traditional societies accept it as fate, while in cities, it's seen as a social problem due to basic needs difficulty amidst higher living standards (Setyami, 2021).

These studies investigate various aspects of poverty in literary works, be they non-fiction, novels or short story collections. Each study identified factors that contribute to poverty, such as limited resources, access to basic services, and the need for food. They also describe the impacts of poverty, both individually and socially, such as lack of access to education, security, and the quality of human and natural resources. However, there are variations in the approaches used in analysing poverty, as well as the objects of study and focus of each research, enriching understanding of the complexity of poverty problems in the context of literature.

B. Problem of the Study

Based on the research background above, the research questions proposed are mentioned below:

1. What are the problems of poverty faced by the characters in *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell?
2. How do the characters solve the poverty problems in *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell?

C. Scope and Limitation

It is hoped that this research provides benefits to students, academics, or other researchers. The benefits of this research are:

1. Theoretically
 - a. Contribute ideas regarding related issues

- b. Providing scientific contributions in solving problems regarding the analysis of non-fiction using theory of poverty
 - c. As a stepping stone to obtain references for further research related to poverty research
2. Practically
- a. Can add insight for researchers or academics regarding the analysis of literary works, especially non-fiction
 - b. As reference material about poverty theory to increase learning motivation for students to the maximum in order to get good results.

D. Significance of the Study

The significances of this research are mentioned as below.

1. To identify the problems of poverty faced by the characters in *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell using sociological approach and poverty theory
2. To elaborate the way how the characters solve the poverty problems in *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell using sociological approach and poverty theory.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW ON RELATED LITERATURE

A. Sociology of Literature

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) claim in their work *The Sociology of Literature* that sociology and literature have a similar perspective. Sociology is a scientific and objective discipline that focuses on the study of human behaviour within society. It examines social structures and processes, aiming to understand how society functions, why it continues to exist, and the factors that enable its existence. This pertains to a certain process in which society undergoes gradual changes, such as a revolution, transitioning from one form of society to another, and the impact these changes have on the social structure (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

Additionally, literature explores man's social sphere, his ability to adjust to it, and his aspiration to transform it. Non-fiction, a prominent literary genre in industrial society, can be defined as a meticulous endeavour to depict the social dynamics of human interactions within the realms of family, politics, and the state. Non-fiction symbolizes its position within the family and other social institutions, as well as the conflicts and tensions among different groups and socioeconomic strata (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

Furthermore, literature, as an art form, surpasses mere description and objective scientific analysis by delving into the depths of social life. It reveals how individuals perceive and interact with society on an emotional level. While literature and sociology

share certain areas of study, they really serve to enhance each other's understanding of society and humanity. The field of sociology of literature has been somewhat slow to develop compared to other areas such as sociology of religion, education, politics, and social change. Currently, there is a lack of an established body of knowledge specifically dedicated to the sociology of literature.

Sociology of literature and general sociology, two different fields of study, offer different focuses in analysing social aspects. General sociology is more general in nature, focusing on social structures, institutions, and social change in society. This approach involves a variety of research methods, such as surveys and statistical analysis, to understand and explain more general social phenomena.

On the other hand, sociology of literature focuses on the relationship between literature and society. Focused more on the analysis of literary works, the method involves interpreting texts and historical context to explore how literature reflects social norms, values and dynamics. By applying sociological principles to literary works, sociology of literature opens up space for a deeper understanding of the social meaning contained in literary narratives.

Although both operate within the realm of sociology, general sociology provides a general understanding of social structure and human interaction in society, while sociology of literature explores the social dimensions manifested in literary works, opening a window of insight into how literature reflects and shapes understanding of society.

B. Poverty

Poverty refers to the state or circumstance in which an individual or a collective is unable of leading their lives at a standard that is deemed to be dignified and humane (Parwoto, 2001). These circumstances result in the failure to meet fundamental human requirements, including clothes, nourishment, housing, affection, security, cultural identity, protection, creativity, freedom, participation, and leisure (Fernandez, 2000).

Ala (1981) stated in Arsyad (2004), poverty is characterized by multiple dimensions. Consequently, due to the wide range of human requirements, poverty manifests itself in various dimensions. From a broad policy perspective, poverty encompasses fundamental elements such as limited assets, socio-political structures, and knowledge as well as skills. It also involves secondary factors including inadequate social networks, financial resources, and access to information. The facets of poverty encompass malnutrition, inadequate access to clean water, substandard housing, insufficient healthcare, and limited educational attainment. Development policy makers strive to ensure that resource allocation is accessible to the majority of community members. However, due to the limited strength of the features and circumstances of a diverse community, as well as the amount of economic advancement in the country, the national strategy primarily focuses on addressing immediate issues.

According to Mukhopadhyay (1985), the government strategy has failed to effectively address the economic issues at the lower level. From an economic standpoint, poverty is characterized by a scarcity of resources that are necessary to fulfil basic necessities and enhance the well-being of a certain population. Politically, poverty can be observed by the extent of power access and comprehension of the political system, which ultimately influences a group's capacity to get and utilize resources. From a social perspective, poverty manifests itself through a dearth of information and a lack of social infrastructure that hinders the ability to enhance productivity.

Poverty is the state of being unable to satisfy one's own requirements in line with the prevailing quality of living, and lacking the capacity to effectively utilize one's mental or physical abilities (Rachmat, 2018). Therefore, poverty can be defined as the state of individuals within a community who have not engaged in the process of transformation due to their lack of capacity, both in terms of selecting productive resources and the quality of those resources. The incongruity between the development strategy and the capacity of the affected community leads to ineffective outcomes (Arsyad, 2004).

C. Type of Poverty

In Nasikun's (2001) study, poverty is described as a comprehensive concept consisting of five dimensions: 1) adequacy, 2) powerlessness, 3) condition of crisis, 4)

reliance, and 5) geographical and sociological isolation. Living in poverty entails not only a scarcity of financial resources and a meagre income, but also numerous other hardships, including compromised health, limited access to education, unjust treatment within the legal system, susceptibility to criminal threats, helplessness in the face of authority, and a lack of agency in determining one's own life trajectory. Poverty can be categorized into four distinct forms, as identified by Suryawati (2005). These types include:

1. Absolute Poverty refers to a situation when individuals have incomes that fall below the poverty line or are inadequate to cover the basic needs of food, clothes, healthcare, shelter, and education required for survival and employment.
2. Relative poverty refers to the adverse living conditions caused by the impact of development policies that have not benefitted the entire community, leading to income inequality.
3. Cultural Poverty: pertains to the mind set and behaviour of an individual or community influenced by cultural elements, resulting in a lack of motivation to improve their standard of living, a tendency towards extravagance, laziness, and a lack of creativity, despite the availability of assistance from external sources.
4. Structural Poverty refers to a state of deprivation resulting from limited access to resources within a social and political system that fails to address poverty effectively, often exacerbating its prevalence.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

The research method is a process of scientific analysis to obtain data in order to solve a problem or aim to scientifically prove a hypothesis based on existing facts (Jensen, 1991, p. 96; Mami, 2019, p. 67). Research methodology is composed of research types, data sources, data collection techniques, data validation techniques, and data analysis techniques. So that readers can clearly understand the methodology of this paper, the author will explain it in detail as follows:

A. Reserch Design

This research is classified as literary criticism due to non-fiction belong to literary works. The focus of the investigation of literary criticism revolves around poverty content in the non-fiction, which delves into human sociological issues. Through the lens of literary criticism, the researcher conducts a critical interpretation of the literary work, aiming to uncover deeper insights into the complexities of poverty portrayed within the story. The researcher uses sociological approach using Nasikun's theory to investigate poverty.

B. Data Source

The importance of data sources in research cannot be overstated; errors contained in it can invalidate the entire research (Kurniawan, 2018, p. 34). This research uses two primary data sources: primary data. Primary sources, including

George Orwell's non-fiction *The Road to Wigan Pier*, provide firsthand opinion and interpretation, offering a rich narrative portrait of poverty (Pillai & Kaushal, 2020, pp. 1-8; Patil, 2019, p. 112). The novel, the road to Wigan Pier consists of 215 pages and was published on January 1 2001 by the Pinging Classic publisher in England and is currently the best seller novel.

C. Data Collection

The researcher uses certain data collection techniques to overcome the problems in this study (Seni, 2012, p. 43). This technique involves two main methods: reading and note-taking. Reading techniques require a thorough examination of various documents such as papers, newspapers, or books to extract target data (Seni, 2012, p. 47). The steps taken include reading of non-fiction *The Road to Wigan Pier* to understand its essence and analysing sentences related to the poverty. Next, the sentences are marked using a pencil and highlighter. Complementing it is the note-taking technique, an advanced method for recording post-reading data (Mami, 2019, p. 100). The first step is to note down the words or sentences that describe the poverty in the non-fiction. After that, how does the main character deal with it.

D. Data Analysis

After data collection, the researcher proceeds to data analysis through three stages. First, data reduction involves simplifying and selecting data, focusing on poverty data from *The Road to Wigan Pier*. Second, presenting data requires systematic

organization, often using visuals such as tables and graphs, and categorizing data by category. Third, drawing conclusions involves condensing the data into concise insights, aligning it with the perspective the researcher uses, and providing a brief overview of the portrait of poverty.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This section explains in detail the research objectives, namely analysing the portrait of poverty in the novel *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell, namely: (1) poverty which means not being able to meet basic needs (2) powerlessness (powerless) which means poverty makes it difficult for a person to gain strength or even social justice (3) vulnerability to face emergency situations (state of emergency), for example when there is a disaster and so on so that he cannot survive well; (4) dependence on other parties in resolving problems, especially income issues; (5) alienation (Chambers, 1983).

A. The Problem of Poverty Faced by the Characters in George Orwell's *The Road to Wigan*.

In non-fiction entitled *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell, there are several diction or word choices that show the problem of poverty which is difficult to handle. Robert Chambers' theory of poverty provides a relevant insight into this analysis, they are:

(1) poverty which means not being able to meet basic needs is a deeply entrenched socio-economic condition characterized by severe deprivation and lack of access to basic necessities. Defined primarily in terms of insufficient income or resources to meet fundamental needs, poverty extends beyond mere financial hardship. It encompasses broader dimensions such as inadequate housing, limited access to

education and healthcare, and exclusion from social and economic opportunities. This multifaceted nature of poverty underscores its complex origins, which can stem from systemic factors like unequal distribution of wealth, economic inequalities, discriminatory practices, and geopolitical instability. Moreover, poverty's impact reverberates widely, affecting individuals, families, and entire communities with consequences ranging from malnutrition and poor health to diminished educational and economic prospects.

The Great English Revolution, with all its success, still did not bring success to its farmers. Farmers remain marginalized and constitute the largest single population in the world without political representation. Because they are isolated from access to adequate education and trapped in poverty.

The quote above explains that the state is responsible for the education of its citizens, regardless of social status or his job. But in reality, the English government always has obstacles and reasons for not reaching basic needs make Its citizens, especially children, are hungry for a proper education.

The Road to Wigan Pier which is used in the title of George Orwell's non-fiction not only just a name. Behind the title it means that *The Road to Wigan That Pier* shows that the character *Torry* He is said to have a dream of getting a decent education. The author describes the life of a character who cannot afford to go to school. The author's theme is the life story of a poor little girl who has dreams and struggles to achieve education. It is a truly realistic depiction of the lives of British people who in the interior do not have a decent life.

The author in his writing seems to understand the inner turmoil of the character he is telling about, that in fact the little girl also wants to get a proper education from the government as part of a country. This can be seen from the conversation of the character who wants a better life and education and a better place to live. worthy. Orwell takes so many different sides to the characters he depicts from the beginning to the end of the story. Starting from a mother who is willing to be married is a community tradition, father Torry a member of the Korean War veterans who is poor due to misfortune. Like the following quote:

“If you reject this match, you will have to find your own future husband," he said flatly. "Can you bear this kind of disgrace? Bearing such disgrace is worse than whatever (Orwel, 2014:19)

The quote explains how Torry's mother was very stressed about the arranged marriage his family due to the traditions of the village community, he must choose a family match or refuse. Torry's mother chose to marry according to her family's choice, the man came from a poor family which led her to suffering (Chambers, 1983).

War veterans bear many problems foradapt with life outside the military. Without the ability to read and write, my husband got less land than he should have. My husband was fooled easilyBecause illiterate. (Orwel, 2014:35)

Based on the quote above, Torry's mother felt cheated by the match made by her family, the man who married a poor veteran poorer than him. His life is not lift degree but inversely proportional to the disadvantage of being illiterate and being deceived by farming companies (Chambers, 1983).

From the quote above, the novel *The Road to Wigan Pier* set in England. Orwell begins this non-fiction with a narration of the background of English society as a supporter of the story which tells about the struggles and dreams of a poor little girl in the interior of England to achieve an education. The overall topic that frames the non-fiction *The Road to Wigan Pier* is the life story of the English people should be guaranteed by the state a life worthy (Chambers, 1983). The author describes the lives of these characters directly and firmly. As in the story, in the following quote:

I went to school in England, a small town that was a major trading centre for the surrounding area. From home to school is twenty kilometres. The route consists of hilly inland fields, dangerous routes close to ravines (Orwell, 2014: 40)

Based on this quote, it illustrates Torry One person little girl who has determination to go to school even though he has to walk twenty kilometres to get to school, meaning that education is very important for him (Chambers, 1983).

Next in the picture of poverty. Poverty is a group whose income is below the poverty line and is not enough to meet their basic living needs. The depiction of poverty that occurs in the non-fiction *The Road to Wigan Pier* Orwell's work. Here's the quote:

Hunger is no longer something foreign to my children's stomachs, especially for my husband and I. Hunger and poverty seem to be true friends who accompany us always, even though we really don't want that "friendship" (Orwell, 2014: 30).

The quote above explains that poverty is very familiar to them so that hunger is a common thing they feel, fortitude, tough who survived by betting on life.

From an early age my in-laws participated in begging with their parents. At the age of four my in-laws were sold for two kilograms of rice and a handful of seeds. The buyer was a wealthy English landowner, who had no descendants (Orwell, 2014:32).

Based on Quotations, poverty is depicted and felt by Torry's mother-in-law feels that poverty has been hereditary and ingrained in his family. Hoping that the landlord who bought it would change the fate of his family (Chambers, 1983).

Is poverty inherited or hereditary? Who knows. But I'm sure to myself, that I will not pass that poverty on to my descendants. I will not place my children on the path of poverty that I have gone through (Orwell, 2014:37).

Quotation above explained that Torry's father felt that poverty was a legacy that had existed in his family or descendants, so he had it determination for his children to escape the poverty he has experienced. He tried to open a different life path for his children to escape poverty (Chambers, 1983).

The inhabitants of the sky are not always so kind. In fact, the rain we have been waiting for for so many years has not been given. I don't know where the inhabitants of the sky store the water we need. They still have the heart to hide the rainwater, even though our fields are so dry that we no longer grow anything that we can eat (Orwel, 2014:59).

In the quote above, it is described as an inhabitant of the sky who has the power to send down rainwater, rain that has been awaited for years hoping to fall to wet the dry fields so that they can get rice for them to eat (Chambers, 1983).

Several friends have various stationery. They are lucky to have sufficient pocket money to buy all of this. Unfortunately, I was not one of those lucky children, who easily received gifts from the inhabitants of the sky. (Orwel,2014:60)

I'll never forget what I had to do to get my first pen. One thing that brought me to an awareness of how familiar poverty really is with me and poverty. (Orwel, 2014: 60)

I really know and am aware that my family is very poor. But I never knew how painful poverty was. (Orwel, 2014: 60)

Based on the quote above, it explains the lack of luck among his friends who have the ability to buy school equipment, to buy a pen he made a business that allowed him to have his first pen. Realizing that he came from a poor family so poverty was very painful for him.

I did the calculations carefully. The pen cost two dollars. If I happen to have money, Mom and Dad will give me a dollar as pocket money, which is my supply for one week. With that money I can pay for extra vegetables for meals Afternoon at school. If I have leftovers, I will buy books and pencils. (Orwel, 2014: 67)

I kept the one-dollar pocket change neatly. The money will remain intact. I won't spend this week. This one dollar will remain intact until the next dollar comes to complete it so that the pair of dollars is ready to pick up my pen. (Orwel, 2014: 67)

I knew the consequences of not spending that one dollar, certain that I wouldn't buy whatever because he couldn't pay whatever. Including paying one spoonful of vegetables for a meal Afternoon just a bowl of rice. Really just rice. Without vegetables, even without salt. Only rice. (Orwel, 2014:67)

No problem, I said to myself. I'm ready to eat that rice. With or without vegetables, rice is still rice, a stomach filler that is useful for the body. (Orwel, 2014: 67)

Based on the quote above, Torry tries to save his school pocket money to buy a pen he wants, by calculating not to spend his pocket money. By not spending a week's money on every meal. In dorm just eating tasteless rice, without even the taste of salt. He thinks there is no problem if he only eats rice without vegetable dishes, for him rice is still rice to fill the stomach for the body (Chambers, 1983).

I stick with riceJapanese cold without taste. I drank a lot of water to help me swallow the rice, even though I felt nauseous afterward because of too much watertossed me.

The nausea would subside after I urinated many times. Then replaced by hunger, because what is hunger really? it is an unbearable pain... (Orwel, 2014:76)

Based on the quote above, Torrie trying to survive on the rice he ate by trying to drink water does not feel tasteless food that went down his throat. The unbearable feeling of pain every day is not enough to deal with efforts to forget that feeling.

One day I will seriously get my dream job. Something good and makes me able to give a better life to my father, mother, grandmother and younger siblings. That's my hope. That is my life's goal (Orwel, 2014: 85).

Quotation above explained that Torry's determination to escape poverty and provide better for his family was Orwel's dream. He didn't want his family to experience poverty forever.

Orwel implicitly seems to think that limited education and economic problems are almost the case in all parts of the world because of the economic crisis that hit English at that time. More victims are children and women. As told, mother Torry which matched by the man who Work as a war veteran but does not guarantee a decent life. Torrie have limitations in education and problems economy continues trying to get out of the life that makes him suffer. One of the different storytelling styles that Orwell wants to highlight is that he is set in English, a large country full of luxury, but Orwel tells of characters who are isolated and perhaps not considered to exist at all by most people. The figures who are used as inspiration The author in telling his novel which is

based on a diary represents how English still has many poor people who experience a lot suffering (Chambers, 1983).

B. The Characters Solve the Problem of Poverty in George Orwell's The Road to Wigan Pier

The social function of literature, meaning how far literary values are related to social values. In this connection there are three things that must be considered (1) the extreme viewpoint of the Romantics who considered literature to be on the same level as the works of priests or prophets. Therefore, literature must function as a reformer and reformer, (2) literature as an entertainer only, and (3) literature must teach something in an entertaining way.

Criticism can be conveyed directly to the authorities by sending letters, demonstrations, speeches, interviews, SMS, social media, email and other media. In the current era of openness, everyone is free to convey criticism and aspirations to the government. But it is different from the time when the novel was written. If you look at the condition of English at the time of this novel written, namely in 2009, the period officially referred to as the "transition to socialism" was the period of England's First Five Year Development Plan (1953 -1957). Period this is characterized with business venture hard to achieve industrialization, agricultural collectivization, and political centralization. Repelita I emphasized its emphasis on developing heavy industry according to the Soviet model. Economic aid and help Soviet engineering were expected to play an important role in implementation this plan so that both parties sign

technical agreement in 1953 and 1954. For economic planning purposes modern sense the first was held in 1953. Results of that census show that the population of Mainland England is 58.3 million, a figure that is bigger than previously estimated.

The social inequality that occurred in England in 1953-1957 created Orwell's work as a sign of a new wind. Orwell writes non-fiction, novels and short stories about social life. Orwell's non-fiction entitled *The Road to Wigan Pier* is a genre of literary work that is interesting and different from another non-fiction. This non-fiction has an attraction that can be seen when we read the title. The plot shown in this non-fiction is very easy to understand because the author uses an interesting and continuous touch about social life which is a reality in England.

The non-fiction created in 2009 has a social theme about poverty. Use of characters Torry showing the lower classes, the poor and suffering. This novel seems to be a satire on the socio-economic conditions in England at that time. This novel also provides a lot of social criticism that occurred at that time. Even today, the social criticism in this novel is actually still quite relevant. In simple terms, social criticism is a response or criticism of existing conditions in a society. Below are several quotes that contain social criticism.

Inevitably, it is from them that the generation that can be sacrificed, because they are isolated from access to adequate education. A generation trapped in poverty, some of them sometimes gender to make up for a decent level of education. The state should be responsible for the education of its citizens, at least until young citizens are nine years old (Orwell, 2014: 6).

From the quote above, it is clear that the author criticizes the government's attitude of not providing proper education to the community. In fact, their job is to provide proper education regardless of gender or social status. The state's obligation to educate society.

That misfortune was passed on to my husband. In the early 1980s when farming companies were closed and land was relocated, my husband got less land than he should have. My husband was fooled easily because he was blindletter (Orwell, 2014:35).

The quote above responds to the suffering experienced by the father Torry Which deceived by the English government, so that much of his land was taken by the government. The author seems to want to show readers how cruel life is faced by people like them. They actually also desire a decent and better life, which is illustrated by getting the rights they have.

Poverty seems to most often bring a person closer to hunger. Maybe I'm so familiar with hunger that I almost forget the feeling of fullness, because I almost never get the chance to get it. How could I achieve that feeling of fullness if my food ration at school was only a bowl of rice a day and a piece of steamed bread prepared by my mother as dinner (Orwel, 2014: 61).

From the quote above, the author wants to illustrate the difficulty of getting a bite of rice, by dividing his food rations so that he can endure hunger.

The farming profession is not just a profession that is not dear, but even often becomes an ingredient of mockery. City people, let alone metropolises, treat farmers as regional people, country bumpkins and stupid (Orwel, 2014:36).

The quote above further emphasizes the author's satire and criticism of the perception that exists in urban society which considers farmers to be the most despicable and lowest caste, who are considered hicks and stupid. Such perceptions are indeed in accordance with the social reality that exists in English, often people who are more fortunate look down on people who are poor and live in villages. Perceptions like this actually feel very painful for them, if You can choose, of course no one wants to have that fate. Overall, in terms of explicit and implied social criticism, it can be said that this novel is an extraordinary literary work. The author is able to capture existing social realities accurately, then responds to them by making the allusions contained in this novel.

The theme of the novel, which discusses the struggle of a little girl and her dream of achieving an education and the poor, is also enough to satirize the bad consequences of the economic crisis in 1958-1962 which made people really suffer. Readers are also invited by the author to be more caring and attentive, and not to look down on poor people. The uniqueness of this work is that the social criticism contained in it is still relevant to the current situation, even though this work was created almost 6 years ago. Although modernization has slowly changed the mindset of today's society. Ian Watt's concept of thought is found in the non-fiction *The Road to Wigan Pier*. George Orwell wrote conventional works as a sign of a new wind. Orwell wrote this non-fiction about social life. George Orwell's literary work *The Road to Wigan Pier*. This is a non-fiction genre literary work that is interesting and different from others. This non-fiction is the life story of a poor little girl who has a dream and struggles to get an education.

It is truly a true depiction of the reality of life in the British people who in the interior do not have a decent life. Overall, in terms of explicit and implied social criticism, it can be said that this novel is an extraordinary literary work. The author is able to capture existing social realities accurately, then responds to them by making the allusions contained in this novel. The theme of the novel, which discusses poverty, is enough to satirize the bad consequences of the economic crisis in 1958-1962 which made English society really suffer. Readers are also invited by the author to care and pay more attention, and not demean poor people. The uniqueness of this work is that the social criticism contained in it is still relevant to the current situation, even though this work was created almost 6 years ago. This means that it can be said that the attitude of society today is not broadly different from 6 years ago, although it is slowly changing the mindset of today's society.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Based on the results of data analysis, the following can be concluded. The things that have been explained in this analysis strengthen George Orwell's social background in creating the non-fiction and clarify it in conveying the social conditions that George Orwell wants to express. As well as the social function in *Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell novel towards the social life of society.

Furthermore, there are many views on English society, at the time of writing *The Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell, it gave awareness that limited education and economic problems were something that almost happened to all nations, ethnicities and religions. In every part of the world, limited education and poverty are universal problems that all nations in the world experience, and women and children are more likely to experience this. The majority of English people are rich, but in fact that is only a superficial appearance. The reality of what is happening in English is that there are an extraordinary number of poor people, and they are experiencing suffering and there has even been murder and abandonment of baby girls because of the existence of one child in each family. The social problems of society are quite big, in fact that is what is stated in his work. Sanie is so imaginative in his work. In writing he started from inspiration made him look like *Road to Wigan Pier* by George Orwell and was realized in the text.

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusions from the data analysis above, researcher provides contributions that can build further research. Suggestions that can be given to future researchers are to use the basic concepts of the author's social context, literary works as a mirror and the social function of literature. There are still many shortcomings in this research, so criticism and suggestions from readers are needed. Research that raises similar issues still needs to be carried out. This statement is related to the essence of research, which is essentially a refinement.

It is hoped that the research carried out in this thesis can be the first step for undergraduate (1) Language and Literature students towards further research that takes data sources from Indonesian language novels, especially novels by George Orwell. Future researchers are also advised to prioritize deepening and understanding of the theories and study objects used

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Rizkiawan Adi Putra was born in Kediri on August 22th, 1998. He graduated from SMAN 1 Ngadiluwih Kediri in 2017. He started his higher education in 2017 at the Department of English Literature Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang and finished in 2024.