

ABSTRACT

VINO ALBERTO. **The Depth Representation of Victorian Era Working Class Through the Characterization of Stephen Blackpool in Dickens' *Hard Times*.** Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2009.

Hard Times tells about a story of working class in industrial revolution era in England. Stephen Blackpool, one of the main characters in the novel is a worker in industrial town. He is representing the working class in Victorian era, and through his characterization and representation of working class, we may see that there are several social issues in that time.

There are three problems formulation to see how Blackpool depicts the social issues in the novel. First, how Stephen Blackpool is described. Second, how the Victorian era working class is represented by Stephen Blackpool. Third, What are the depth representations that can be seen through Blackpool's characterization.

The method of the study is library research. All the supporting data are taken from books and internet. The primary resource is the novel and the secondary resources are books such as books on theories of literature, *The World of Charles Dickens* by Angus Wilson that gives the important information about Charles Dickens and his work *Hard Times*, and *Society in the Novel* by Elizabeth Langland which describes about the society in the novel that might represent the real society of its age. The approach of this study is socio-cultural-historical approach.

Stephen Blackpool is described as an honest worker, a man with honour and gratitude. He works as a loom weaver in an industrial town. He is uneducated and considered as the unskilled worker. He is poor and also well known for his misfortune. He represents the Victorian Era working class in five ways. First, he lives in a lodging, in a slum area where most of the workers' houses are concentrated. Second, he is uneducated; most of the workers of that time are uneducated. Third, he is considered as unskilled worker, therefore he uses both his hands to labour. Fourth, he is poor although he works in a factory; his salary is adequate only to fulfil his basic needs. Fifth, he is obedient to the employer; the workers are powerless towards their employer because they can be easily discharged without any consideration. Through the depth representation, we may see several social issues, such as: other classes – the rich, oppress the workers of that time. Besides, social prejudice also happens in the story. Moreover, injustice toward the workers of that time can be seen in the novel.

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Hard Times bercerita tentang kisah kelas pekerja di zaman revolusi industri di Inggris. Stephen Blackpool, sebagai salah satu tokoh utama di novel tersebut adalah seorang pekerja di kota industri. Dia merepresentasikan kelas pekerja di zaman Victoria, dan melalui penokohan dan representasinya, kita juga dapat melihat masalah-masalah sosial di zaman tersebut.

Terdapat tiga pokok permasalahan untuk melihat bagaimana Stephen Blackpool merepresentasikan masalah-masalah sosial tersebut di dalam novel. Pertama, bagaimana Stephen Blackpool ditokohkan. Kedua, bagaimana kelas pekerja di zaman Victoria direpresentasikan oleh Stephen Blackpool. Ketiga, apa saja masalah-masalah sosial yang bisa dilihat dari penokohan dan representasi Stephen Blackpool sebagai kelas pekerja.

Metode yang digunakan adalah penelitian perpustakaan. Data-data pendukung diambil dari buku-buku dan internet. Sumber utama adalah novel itu sendiri dan sumber kedua adalah buku-buku seperti buku-buku tentang teori sastra, *The World of Charles Dickens* oleh Angus Wilson, buku ini berisi informasi tentang Charles Dickens dan karyanya *Hard Times*, *Society in the Novel* oleh Elizabeth Langland yang menjelaskan tentang masyarakat di dalam novel dapat merepresentasikan masyarakat yang sebenarnya di zaman tertentu. Pendekatan yang digunakan adalah pendekatan *socio-cultural-historical*.

Stephen Blackpool ditokohkan sebagai seorang pekerja yang jujur, seseorang dengan kehormatan dan rasa syukur. Dia bekerja sebagai seorang penenun di sebuah kota industri. Dia termasuk dalam golongan pekerja yang tidak berpendidikan dan tidak mempunyai keahlian khusus. Dia miskin dan dikenal dengan ketidakberuntungannya. Dia merepresentasikan kelas pekerja di zaman Victoria dengan lima cara. Pertama, dia tinggal di pondokan, di daerah kumuh dimana di daerah-daerah tersebut para pekerja tinggal. Kedua, dia tidak berpendidikan, kebanyakan para pekerja tidak berpendidikan di zaman itu. Ketiga, dia termasuk dalam golongan pekerja tanpa keahlian khusus, karena itu dia bekerja sebagai buruh. Keempat, dia miskin walaupun bekerja di sebuah pabrik, gajihnya hanya cukup untuk memenuhi kebutuhan utama saja. Kelima, dia patuh terhadap tuannya, para pekerja tidak berdaya terhadap tuannya karena mereka dapat diberhentikan kapan saja tanpa pertimbangan. Melalui *depth representation*, kita dapat melihat beberapa masalah-masalah sosial seperti penindasan yang dilakukan oleh orang-orang kaya terhadap kaum pekerja. Prasangka terhadap kaum pekerja juga terjadi, terlebih ketidakadilan terhadap kaum pekerja bisa dilihat di novel tersebut.