THE IMPACTS OF THE VICTORIAN SOCIAL CONDITION TOWARD THE LOWER CLASS REPRESENTED BY MR. AND MRS. JONES IN GALSWORTHY'S THE SILVER BOX

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Sarjana Sastra in English Letters

By

MM Anggoro Dwi Ambarsari
Student Number: 994214005

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
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Defended before the Board of Examiners on February 22, 2005 and Declared Acceptable

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WHEN YOU BELIEVE

Many nights we've prayed
with no proof anyone could hear
in our hearts a hopeful song
we barely understood

Now we are not afraid
Although we know there's much to fear
we were moving mountains
long before we knew we could

There can be miracles
when you believe
though hope is frail
it's hard to kill

Who knows what miracles
you can achieve
when you believe
Somehow you will
you will when you believe

(Taken from Mariah Carey & Whitney Houston's song)
IF YOU DO NOT THINK ABOUT THE FUTURE

YOU CAN NOT HAVE ONE

=*/ JOHN GALSWORTHY */

With Love I dedicated this thesis to

♥ JESUS CHRIST & MOTHER MARY ♥

♥ My MAMA in heaven ♥

♥ My RAPAK ♥

♥ MBAK IKA & My little brother BONDAN ♥
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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I am grateful to Him for giving me a wonderful “Mama” in heaven. I thank her for loving and caring us when she was still with us. My special thank is dedicated to my “Bapak”. I thank him for the unconditional love, prayers and supports. I thank mbak Ika and my little brother Bondan for the joys and tears we have shared all these years.

I would like to thank Eyang Maria Wiro Martono, Eyang Merto Dimeja (Alm) and my big family in Jogja, Jakarta, Surabaya and East Borneo for the great supports and prayers. It has been wonderful to be a part of these big warm families.

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bule, Mbak Mety and her little princes: Yossa and Dicky, Mas Ony, my Mudika friends and all of the 99ers of E1.D. Thanks for the great support and nice friendship. Neither time nor distance can break what we have gone through.

Finally, my thanks go to all people who have colored my days. I apologize for not being able to mention their names one by one. However because of them I can be the person I am now. They are my heroes who always have a special place in my heart.

May love always be with us, all the time!

MM Anggoro Dwi Ambarsari
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ABSTRACT

Anggoro Dwi Ambarsari, MM. 2005. The Impacts of the Victorian Social Condition toward the Lower Class Represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

This thesis discusses a play by John Galsworthy entitled The Silver Box. John Galsworthy (1867-1933) is an English novelist and playwright that was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1932. The Silver Box, which was published in 1906, was the first play that Galsworthy wrote. The play illustrates the gaps and discrepancies between the upper middle class and the lower class in the Victorian society. The Silver Box reveals the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

The thesis focuses on three problems. The first problem is the characterization of Mr. and Mrs. Jones as the representation of the lower class. The second problem is the description of the Victorian social condition in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box, and the third problem is the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the living of the lower people represented by Mr. And Mrs. Jones.

Library research was applied as the method of the study. The data were taken from the play of The Silver Box, books, dictionaries, encyclopedia and websites on the related topic. The approach used in this thesis is sociocultural-historical approach, as the aim is to find the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box.

The result of the research shows that there are five main characters in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box who come from the different social classes. Mr. and Mrs Jones are the main characters who come from the lower class in the Victorian society. Although they are husband and wife that come from the same social class and have the same problems in the society, Mr. and Mrs Jones have different characteristics. Mr. Jones is a drunkard, highly temperamental and irresponsible man that cannot seriously fight against the problems in his life. Mrs Jones is typically a strong woman who can work hard for her family’s life and struggle against the problems that surround her life. The setting of the play represents the social condition of the Victorian era. There are gaps and discrepancies between the upper middle class and the lower class. The society of the play places the upper middle class as the important class. They can do everything to defend their pride and self-respect. On the contrary, the lower class is considered as the unimportant class and is always placed in the lower position. Moreover the lower class is often used as the tool to defend the upper middle class’s pride. The social condition of the Victorian era creates many difficulties for the lower class. They lose their opportunities to find job, to get awowal from the society and to find justice. Generally, they lose their opportunities to get their rights as human being.
ABSTRAK

Anggoro Dwi Ambarsari, MM. 2005. The Impacts of the Victorian Social Condition toward the Lower Class Represented by Mr. and Mrs Jones in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box. Yogyakarta: Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

Skripsi ini membahas drama karya John Galsworthy yang berjudul The Silver Box. John Galsworthy (1867-1933) adalah penulis novel dan drama yang berkebangsaan Inggris yang mendapatkan anugerah Nobel di bidang sastra pada tahun 1932. The Silver Box, yang pertama kali diterbitkan pada tahun 1906, adalah drama pertama yang ditulis oleh Galsworthy. Drama ini menggambarkan adanya jarak antara kelas atas menengah dan kelas bawah dalam masyarakat pada jaman Victorian. The Silver Box menguak dampak-dampak keadaan sosial pada masa Victorian terhadap kelas bawah yang diwakili oleh Mr dan Mrs Jones.

Skripsi ini menitikberatkan pada tiga masalah untuk dianalisa. Yang pertama adalah bagaimana karakteristik-karakteristik dari dua tokoh utama yang berasal dari kelas bawah yaitu Mr. dan Mrs Jones dalam drama ini. Yang kedua adalah bagaimana penggambaran keadaan sosial masa Victorian yang digambarkan dalam The Silver Box karya Galsworthy, dan yang ketiga adalah apa dampak - dampak yang timbul dari keadaan sosial pada masa Victorian bagi kehidupan masyarakat kelas bawah dalam The Silver Box karya Galsworthy.

Study pustaka diterapkan sebagai metode studi. Data diambil dari drama The Silver Box, buku-buku, ensiklopedia, kamus-kamus, dan jaringan situs internet yang berhubungan dengan topik. Pendekatan yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini adalah pendekatan sociokultural dan sejarah, karena tujuannya adalah mencari dampak-dampak dari keadaan sosial pada masa Victorian terhadap kelas bawah yang diwakili oleh Mr dan Mrs Jones dalam The Silver Box karya Galsworthy.

Hasil pencarian menunjukkan bahwa dalam The Silver Box karya Galsworthy terdapat lima tokoh utama yang berasal dari kelas sosial yang berbeda, Mr dan Mrs Jones adalah dua tokoh utama yang berasal dari kelas bawah dalam masyarakat Victorian. Meskipun mereka adalah pasangan suami istri yang berasal dari kelas sosial yang sama dan mempunyai masalah – masalah yang sama dalam masyarakat, Mr dan Mrs Jones memiliki karakteristik yang berbeda. Mr Jones adalah seorang pemabuk, emotional dan kurang bertanggung jawab, yang tidak mampu berjuang dengan masalah – masalah yang ada dalam kehidupannya, tetapi Mrs. Jones adalah tipe wanita tegar yang mampu berjuang dengan berbagai masalah dalam hidupnya dan bekerja keras untuk kehidupan keluarganya. Seting dalam drama ini merepresentasikan keadaan social pada masa Victorian. Masyarakat dalam drama ini memposisikan kelas menengah atas sebagai kelas yang penting dan berpengaruh. Mereka bisa melakukan apapun untuk mempertahankan harga diri mereka. Sebaliknya kelas bawah dianggap sebagai kelas yang tidak penting dan selalu ditempatkan pada posisi terbawah dalam masyarakat, lebih dari itu mereka sering digunakan sebagai alat kelas menengah atas untuk mempertahankan harga diri dan nama baik mereka. Keadaan social pada masa Victorian menciptakan berbagai macam kesulitan bagi kelas bawah. Mereka mendapatkan kesulitan dalam memperoleh pekerjaan, dalam memperoleh pengakuan masyarakat, dan dalam pencarian kehidilan. Secara umum, mereka kehilangan kesempatan untuk mendapatkan hak-hak mereka sebagai manusia seutuhnya.
CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Drama is a literature that has its own peculiar elements. Lacking narratives, drama relies on the dialogues through which the characters develop from act to act or scene to scene and the plot generates the climax and goes down to its resolution. In drama opposing characters in the course of the dialogues and physical actions is used to make the conflict more alive.

Galsworthy’s *The Silver Box* attracted the writer of this thesis because this play presents the author’s opinion on many real problems in the Victorian Era through the characteristics of main characters and the setting of the play. *The Silver Box* gives portrayals of the author’s opinion towards the social condition at that time. Galsworthy describes the bad condition of his society in this play because he wants his society to become aware about discrimination between classes that happens surround them and then to realize that basically every human has a right to be free, no matter that he or she is a poor or rich person.

*John Galsworthy (1867-1933)* was an English novelist and playwright. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1932. Born in Surrey, Galsworthy was educated at Harrow and studied law at New College, Oxford. However, he soon began to put his writing first, especially after forming a friendship with Joseph Conrad. Galsworthy had written a considerable number of novels, short stories and plays. His
plays often took up specific social grievances. His first and successful play was *The Silver Box*, which shows the double standard of justice as applied to the upper and lower classes (http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/jsp/db/author at 14.32).

Victorian Era refers to the reign of Queen Victoria of England. The literature in the 19th century in England is said to be the Victorian age of English literature because Victoria became Queen of England since 1837 and there was rapid growth of democracy and splendid progress in all branches of art and science. Literary activity in Victorian England was intense and prolific with much of the writing concerned with social problems. Beside John Galsworthy, the outstanding Victorian authors are D.H. Lawrence, William M. Thackeray, Thomas Hardy, Robert Louis Stevenson and the like. The outstanding Victorian authors illustrate the real happenings of social problems during the Victorian Era but each of them has his own way and ideas toward the age. Seen from their works, the Victorian writers seem disappointed with the reality at that time.

The Victorian Era was characterized by rapid change and developments in nearly every sphere - from advances in medical, scientific and technological knowledge to changes in population growth and location. Over time, this rapid transformation deeply affected the country's mood: an age that began with a confidence and optimism leading to economic boom and prosperity eventually gave way to uncertainty and doubt regarding Britain's place in the world. Today we associate the nineteenth century with the Protestant work ethic, family values, religious observation and institutional faith. For the most part, nineteenth century families were large and patriarchal. They encouraged hard work, respectability, social
deference and religious conformity. (Edited from http://www.history.ac.uk/ihr/focus/victorians/index.html # two)

This thesis is attempted to find out the impacts of the social condition in Glasworthy's *The Silver Box* toward the lower class represented by Mr. and Mrs Jones. The writer of this thesis tries to dig up the real happenings and the social condition of British society during the Victorian era and then to find out the impacts of that social condition toward the lower class in this play through the everyday life of Mr. and Mrs Jones who are the main characters. Actually, the Victorian Era was regarded as the period of confusion of the coming of modern and traditional ideas, also confusion of social and political life.

**B. Problem Formulation**

Based on the background of the study above, the problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. What are the characteristics of Mr and Mrs Jones as the representation of the lower class people described in Glasworthy's *The Silver Box*?
2. How is Victorian social condition described in Glasworthy's *The Silver Box*?
3. What are the impacts of Victorian social condition toward the lower class people in the play?

**C. Objectives of the Study**

This study is aimed at finding out the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class people in Glasworthy's *The Silver Box*. Based on the problems
formulated in the problem formulation, this study focuses on how far the Victorian social condition gives impacts to the lower class's life, which is represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones as the main characters in this play. Through this thesis, the writer will also examine the social issues or problems that arise in the play.

The first purpose is to find out and dig up the characteristics of Mr. and Mrs. Jones in Galsworthy’s *The Silver Box*. Second, the writer will observe the social condition of this play and the writer will also observe the existence of the Victorian social condition on this play. Third, the writer intends to find out the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class’s life in this play.

D. Definition of the Terms

There are three words that become the key words of this study. Those three words are: Impact, Victorian Era, and Social Condition. Those three words are described as follows:

1. Impact

Impact in *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary* is strong impression or effect on somebody or something. In this study, the Victorian social condition brings effects for the main characters that come from the lower class in society of the play (1989: 621).

2. Victorian Era

According to *Webster’s Dictionary New Twentieth Century: Unabridged Edition*, Victorian Era is described into two understanding, which are:
a. Of or characteristic of the time when Victoria was the queen of England.

b. Showing the middle class respectability, prudery, bigotry, etc are generally attributed to the Victorians (McKechnie 1979:2037).

The term Victorian is used to evoke the attitudes of moral earnestness, complacency, respectability, prudery and hypocrisy, typical of the Victorian middle class (Morner, 1991: 234).

3. Social Condition

Social has to do with human beings living together as a group in a situation requiring that they have dealings with one another (McKechnie, 1979: 1722).

Condition is anything called for as a requirement before the performance, completion, or effectiveness of something else, anything essential to the occurrence of something or external circumstances of factors (McKechnie, 1979: 379).

Therefore, social condition can be interpreted as the circumstances of human beings that live together as a group in a situational condition that requires them to deal with one another.
CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL REVIEW

A. Review of Related Studies

Since The Silver Box is one of John Galsworthy's early works, the writer only finds some reviews and comments that are related to the work. All of the reviews were taken from the Internet.

In The Silver Box Galsworthy clearly shows the discrimination in the Victorian society. "He proceeded at once to set up his pair of sales upon the stage and to test the social values. In one pan a Liberal member of Parliament and his son; in the other Mrs. Jones, the charwoman and her husband. Every play of his has a strongly marked individual atmosphere; his characters are distinctive without being distinguished. He understands the limitations of the theatre as well as its advantages, and he has never sacrificed drama to dialectics. At the beginning of the newer movement the English stage was out of touch alike with ideas and with actual life" (http://www.knowledgerush.com/kr/jsp/db/author).

"Most of Galsworthy’s works may be seen as social commentary, focusing especially on the British class system. The Silver Box is an indictment of society, although not one of its characters would accept it as such. It is more than an indictment a complete trial, in which Mr. Galsworthy appears both for the prosecution and the defense. The Silver Box like Justice and Strife is interplay of forces rather than
of persons. The collective will resist concentrates upon either hand in the strongest individual” (Http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John-Galsworthy).

“Galsworthy became known for his portrayal of the British upper middle class and for his social satire. Galsworthy was a representative of the literary tradition, which has regarded literature such as drama, fiction and poetry as a lawful instrument of social propaganda. He believed that it was the duty of an artist to state a problem, to throw light upon it, but not to provide a solution. The Silver Box (1906) stated that there is one law for the rich and another for the poor” (Http ://www.biblion.com/lit web/biogs/galsworthy-john-html).

George P Landow, Professor of English and art History of Brown University explained “the term Victorian, which literally describes things and events in the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), conveyed connotations of prudish, repressed, and old fashioned. Although such associations have some basis in fact, they do not adequately indicate the nature of this complex, paradoxical age that was a second English Renaissance. Like Elizabethan England, Victorian England saw great expansion of wealth, power, and culture” (http://www.victorian web.org/vn/victor4.html).

All of the reviews that were taken in the Internet above indicate that Galsworthy’s play The Silver Box exposes and shows the real social condition of the British society in the Victorian era, which is full of discriminations between classes. Therefore through this thesis, the writer tries to analyze the impacts of Victorian social condition toward the lower class in Galsworthy’s the Silver Box in order to know the discrimination of the Victorian society especially the upper and middle class in the society toward the lower class.
B. Review of Related Theories

1. Theory of Setting

Kenney in *How to Analyze Fiction* states that the setting is composed by elements. They are as in the following: (1) The actual geographical location including topography, scenery, even the details of a room’s interior. (2) The occupation and modes of day-to-day existence of the characters. (3) The time or period in which the action takes place. (4) The religious, moral, intellectual, social and emotional environment of the characters (1966:40).

According to *Fiction: An Introduction to Reading and Writing* by Robert and Jacobs, setting refers to the natural and artificial scenery or environment in which characters in literature live and move (1987: 29).

The setting may be allowed a moment of intensity and depth. It may give an impact to the main character(s). Social setting is one of the most important of all human contexts in which there is “a complex web of individual relationship”. (Harvey, 1965:56).

Setting of a story can make the readers understand the situation or environment that the author creates in a story. Setting gives the readers depiction or portray about the environment or society in a story. The setting of time can give the description about when characters live and relates with the year at that time. It is important for the readers to know the setting of a story, because they can decide whether the setting is based on actual event or just a creation (fictional). In *The Silver Box*, the readers, although not directly, are shown on the description of Victorian
social condition. Therefore, the readers will understand and get a better understanding about the social condition of England especially in the Victorian era.

2. Theory of Character and Characterization

M. H. Abrams defined character as "the person presented in a dramatic or narrative work, who is interpreted by the readers as being competent with moral and disposition quality, that are expressed in what they say in the form of dialogue and what the form of action" (1981: 20).

Both Abrams and Milligan have the same idea in defining character. Abrams categorizes the characters as the main or major characters and minor characters. He stated that the major character is the most important character in the story and the acts of the story are focused on the character from the beginning to the ending parts of the story. Milligan in his book *The Novel in English: An Introduction* also divides characters of the story into two parts. These are main or major character and minor character (1983: 155). The major or main characters are the characters, which appear more often than the other characters in a story.

The process of an author in characterizing his fiction character is called characterization. The author uses his or her imagination to present the character more lifelike. Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods, Jr. in *Reading and Writing About Literature* (1971; 20) pointed that there are two principal ways an author can characterize his/her creation of character in two ways:

1) The author describes the character by using direct presentation.
The author directly describes the physical appearance of the character or its personality.

2) The author describes the character by the dramatic presentation. The author by this way placed the character in his story into a situation where the character describes his own character or the other character by the way he behaves or by the way he tells about the others.

3. The Relation between the Society and Literature

Since the topic of this thesis is about social condition of the Victorian Era, the values of the Victorian Society influence the play.

Ruskin explained that someone could discover the social condition through the study of art. He stated that ideas of truth are the foundation in art and the ideas of imitation are destruction of all art. Art is meant to him as an outward expression of the inward beauty hat haunts the imagination of artists. Ruskin's values of art are the appreciation of natural phenomena. Beauty may be the concrete final expression of rightness (Westland, 1950: 189-200).

Literature can be a medium to critize the society. Bender in Modernism in Literature says that: "we have been used by the public to teach the children how to survive in society". He chooses to complete his idea by offering writers to attack the social standards (Bender, 1977: 6). Moreover, that literature is a criticism of life that affects men in society and that great literature should express the values of order, restraint and human dignity (Rohrberger, 1971: 10).
Langland in *Society in the Novel* states that, society is "an animation of an outside world which have tended to obscure the formal variety of social presentation in the novels" (Langland, 1984: 4). Society is understood not only peoples, and their classes but also their medium and physical environment. The medium of a society in a fictional work can be expressed as a house, a city, a country, an institution, an object, or a group of people. Langland adds that a society "may also be revealed through human relationship through character's patterned interactions and their common expectations of one another" (1984: 6).

Readers of literature such as a novel can take some educations that are related to the continuity themes of the novels are about society. Allen says that the great theme of *European novel* has been man's life in society for example the education of men and women, in the sense of their inescapable involvement in society, the true from the false both in themselves and in the world about them (Allen, 1964: xiii).

**C. British Society in the Victorian Era**

The reign of Queen Victoria was between 1837 until 1901 and the term of Victorian was firstly used in 1851. In this Victorian era, Britain economically and politically had a great power in the entire of Europe. The life of Victorian society, its speed, its progress, was symbolized by the coming of the railway. Carrying passenger, freight, newspapers and mails, the railways helped create a national consciousness by linking remote parts of the country into a single economy and culture. As the consequence of its high progress, England remained aristocratic with its distinction between classes and social statues. The first class was the upper class or the aristocrat.
It was the richest class that had power upon the economic, politic, military, and intellectual policies. The class had the best houses, food, clothes, education, and entertainment that enabled them to develop an exclusive style of life. This class emerged as the basis of the possession of political and administrative power that determined the course of the society's development. The second class was the middle-class. The members of the middle-class were successful industrialists and merchants, professional prestige. This class also included property owners, shopkeepers, small businessmen, teachers, and nurses as its members. The third class was the lower class. There was about four-fifths of the population belonged to the lower class. This class as a whole suffered from a lack of property and associated relatively with low level of living and education (Hill, 1983: 846-852).

Beside the growing condition, there were some flaws in the life of the Victorians. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, only one fifth of the British population lived in cities, but by the end of the century, more than three quarters did. Such vast numbers of people crowding into the cities created hideous problems of housing, sanitations, and disease. For the poor, living and working conditions were terrible. Industrial workers labored six days a week, for fourteen or sixteen hours a day. Drinking water often comes from rivers filled with industrial pollution and human waste. (http://www.oceawonline.pearsoned.com/ blindbook/pubbooks).

Every generalization about the Victorian comes with a contradiction; they were materialist but religious, self-confident but insecure, and monstrous exploiters who devoted themselves to humane reforms. They were given pronouncements about the essential nature of sexes and race, the social order, and the Christian universe, but
they relentlessly probed the foundations of their thought, and in all these matters they were constantly concerned with rules, codes of duty and behavior, and also their places in a complex and frustrating social order.

The contrast between social unrest with related movement towards change and the affirmation of values and standards that were still referred to as Victorian’s values, was an essential part of the paradox of the age. The Victorian’s compromise is one way of seeing this dilemma. It implied a kind of double standard between national success and the exploitation of lower class workers at home and colonies overseas, a compromise between Philanthropy, tolerance, and repression the literature of Victorian Era often reflects these concerns from the very beginning (Carter, 1997: 272).

Great Britain in the nineteenth century of Victorian era saw a fast growth in the population. The reason for this increase is not altogether clear. Various ideas have been put forward; larger families; more children surviving infancy; people living longer; immigration and the unemployment situation in their own country. By the end of the century there were three times more people living in Great Britain than at the beginning. The article taken from Http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/poverty.html by Barbara Daniels below gives an overview about the condition of the lower class people and children in the Victorian era of Great Britain:

a. Growth of the Cities

In Victorian era of Great Britain, towns and cities were increasing by leaps and bounds. This was due to the effects of the industrial revolution; people were
flocking into the towns and cities in search of employment. For some it was also the call of the unknown, adventure and a better way of life.

b. The Search for Employment

The population explosion and immigration both foreign and domestic were added up and resulted in a scramble for any job available. Large numbers of both skilled and unskilled people were looking for work, so wages were low, barely above subsistence level. If work dried up, or was seasonal, men were laid off, and because they had hardly enough to live on when they were in work, they had no savings to fall back on.

c. The Housing Shortage

Low wages and the scramble for jobs meant that people needed to live near to where work was available. Time taken walking to and from work would extend an already long day beyond endurance. Consequently available housing became scarce and therefore expensive, resulting in extremely overcrowded conditions.

d. Slum Housing

All these problems were magnified in London where the population grew at a record rate. Large houses were turned into flats and tenements and the landlords who owned them, were not concerned about the upkeep or the condition of these dwellings.
e. Overcrowding

Many people could not afford the rents that were being charged and so they rented out space in their room to one or two lodgers who paid between two pence and four pence a day. Great wealth and extreme poverty lived side by side because the tenements, slums, rookeries were only a stones throw from the large elegant houses of the rich. The name rookeries were given to these dwellings because of the way people lived without separate living accommodation for each family. The analogy being that whereas other birds appear to live in separate families, rooks do not. Neither did the very poor in the tenements of London.

f. Poor Sanitary Conditions

Henry Mayhem was an investigative journalist who wrote a series of articles for *The Morning Chronicle* about the way the poor of London lived and worked. In an article, *The Morning Chronicle* that published on 24th September 1849 he described a London Street with a tidal ditch running through it, into which drains and sewers emptied. The ditch contained the only water the people in the street had to drink, and it was the color of strong green tea, in fact it was more like watery mud than muddy water. This is the report he gave: “As we gazed in horror at it, we saw drains and sewers emptying their filthy contents into it; we saw a whole tier of doorless privies in the open road, common to men and women built over it; we heard bucket after bucket of filth splash into it”. Henry Mayhew’s articles were later published in a book called *London Labour and The London Poor* and in the introduction he wrote: “The condition of a class of people whose misery, ignorance, and vice, amidst all the
immense wealth and great knowledge of the first city in the world, is, to say the very least, a national disgrace to us.”

g. Destitution

Many cases of death caused by starvation and destitution were reported. One example of such a report will suffice. In 1850 an inquest was held on a 38 year old man whose body was reported as being little more than a skeleton, his wife was described as being the very personification of want and her child as a skeleton infant.

h. Society’s Attitude towards the Poor

It does appear that many people and various agencies were becoming aware of the problem, but the sheer scale of it must have seemed overwhelming. One of the difficulties in dealing with it were contemporary attitudes: the poor were improvident, they wasted any money they had on drink and gambling. God had put people in their place in life and this must not be interfered with because the life after death was more important. Those are some of the comments people might have made.
D. Theoretical Framework

This thesis is based on the Victorian social condition. It means that this thesis uses Abram’s theory in *The Glossary of Literary Terms* that literature is an imitation of life (Abrams, 1981: 36-37). Since the play is a reflection of the Victorian Era, this thesis employs the history of England in the eighteenth and nineteenth century. To obtain the data about the history of the Victorian era, the writer uses some books as the references. The book entitled *A History of Western Society* by Hill, *The Routledge History of Literature in English, Britain and Ireland* by Carter, *The History of English Literature: The Victorian Age* by Westland and some data from the Internet are used to analyze the play.

There are three problems in the previous chapter in order to discuss about the impacts of Victorian social condition toward the lower class as represented by Mr and Mrs. Jones in Galsworthy’s *The Silver Box*. The first problem is about the characteristics of Mr. and Mrs. Jones characters. In order to answer the problem question, the writer takes Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods’s theory about characterization in their book *Reading and Writing about Literature*. Abrams, Milligan and Murphy’s theories of character also support it. The second problem is about the description of the social background or social condition of the play, in this case Victorian social condition. The third problem has a purpose to find out and share what do the impacts of Victorian social condition toward the lower class people in this play. The theory of setting in the book entitled *How to Analyze Fiction* by Kenney, *Fiction: An Introduction to Reading and Writing* by Robert and Jacob, Harvey’s theory, and the socio-historical background of Britain in the Victorian era is used to answer problem formulation number 2 and 3.
The theory of relation between literature and society is used as the reason of why the writer tries to make an analysis. Through this theory, the writer intends to analyze the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class people in Galsworthy's *The Silver Box*. 
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

The object of this study is *The Silver Box*, a play written by John Galsworthy. *The Silver Box* is Galsworthy’s first play; it is a comedy play in three acts. This play was firstly published by Harley Granville-Barker and Bernard Shaw in 1906. The story takes place in England during the Victorian Era.

In this thesis the writer used Galsworthy’s *The Silver Box*, which was published in 1962 by Van Goor Zonen in Den Haag. This play consists of 77 pages that are divided into 3 acts. The first act is divided into three scenes. All scenes of this first act take place in Rockingham Gate especially in John Barthwick’s house (dining room). Scene 1 is a conversation between Jack Barthwick and Mr. Jones in drunk condition. Scene 2 is a conversation between Mrs. Jones and the other servants in Barthwick family about Mr. Jones. Scene 3 describes the complex problems that arise in Barthwick family when the unknown lady came to their house to get back her purse that was stolen by Jack (the only son of Barthwick family). After all the situation became more complicated with the losing of the silver box that was stolen by Mr. Jones.

Second act is divided into two scenes. Scene 1 which takes place in The Jones’s lodgings in Merthyr street describes the Jones family’s life with their poverty and also about *The Silver Box* that was found in Mr. Jones’s pocket. The scene 2 takes
place in John Barthwick’s dining room. The core of scene 2 is about the complex condition on the losing of the unknown lady’s purse and the silver box. Jack Barthwick became one of persons who should be responsible for the lost of those two things. Because of that Barthwick family was afraid if their good reputation will be sullied. The entire of the third act happens in London Police court. The third act begins with the court session between Barthwick family and Mr. Jones to find out the thief of The Silver Box. This act is ended by the decision to imprison Mr. Jack.

From this play, the writer mainly focuses the study on the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward Mr. and Mrs. Jones’s life as the representation of the lower class in Galsworthy’s The Silver Box.

B. Approach of the Study

The sociocultural-historical approach was applied in conducting this research. The significant idea of this approach is that the only way to look at the real work is in the reference to the civilization that produces it. Rohrberger and Woods pointed that since the author is the member of the society, his experiences and knowledge will influence his works. The author background, such as: his birth, family, education, environment, will effect the kind of work he writes. More over, literature is not created in a vacuum and embodies ideas significant to the culture that produced it (Rohrberger and Woods, 1971: 9).

They also explained that the socio cultural-historical approach sees literature as the representative of an age and a society. The author of literary works conveys this socio historical truth in an artistic form of fiction. This approach holds a view that
literature is primarily an imitation of social reality from an era when the author lives (Rohrberger and Woods, 1971: 10-11).

C. Method of the Study

There were some steps taken in observing this play. The first step was reading and trying to understand the whole content of the play. The writer read the play several times in order to understand the subject of the study deeply by concentrating more on the main character’s life and the setting of the play and also the social condition of the story in this play. The second step was deciding what topic that was going to be analyzed in this play. The writer decided, the social condition or the social background and its impacts toward Mr. and Mrs. Jones as the main topic to be analyzed. The third step was observing firstly both Mr. and Mrs. Jones character in the play and explaining it from his or her appearance and conversation with other characters in this play, and then the writer was taking some quotations. The forth step was describing the Victorian social condition in this play. The fifth step was finding out the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward Mr. and Mrs. Jones’s life as the representation of the lower class in this play. The last step was finally drawing conclusions from the analysis above.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

Galsworthy’s *The Silver Box* is a typical Victorian Literature that criticizes the Victorian social condition and its impacts toward the lower class. Thus, in this chapter, the writer goes into the play in detail to see how Galsworthy describes the Victorian social condition and its impacts toward the lower class.

A. The Characteristics of the Main Characters as the Representation of the Lower Class

This discussion deals with the characteristics of the main characters of the play who come from the lower class in the play’s society. Actually, this play has five main characters, but the writer only discusses the main characters who come from the lower class in order to have a focused analysis; they are Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones.

1. The Characteristics of Mr. Jones

a. Ugly

Mr. Jones was characterized as a young husband from the lower class society who was not interesting at all. His performance looked older than his real age that was 30 years old. The difficult life as the poor man had made his physical appearance changed badly. Mr. Jones also had a very bad style in clothing. He wore rumple
clothes. That was logic because considering his economic condition, it was impossible for Mr. Jones to wear stylish new clean clothes liked what Barthwick family (the person from the upper class) wore.

*Jones, about thirty years of age, has hollow cheeks, black circles round his eyes, and rusty clothes. He looks as though he might be un-employed, and enters in a hang-dog manner* (The Silver Box, p. 7).

The attitudes and the behaviors of Mr. Jones were rude and uneducated. He never got a proper education. Before losing his work, he only worked as a groom and unskilled worker. It meant that his last work did not need any skill that forced him to use his mind.

MRS. JONES By profession, sir, of course he's a groom (The Silver Box, p. 28).

**b. Irresponsible**

An ideal father should be able to be the protector of his family. He must give the protection and fulfill the life necessities for his wife and children. However Mr. Jones never placed himself as a good father in his family. His responsibility and loyalty to his family almost disappeared, especially after he lost his job and after that he was fallen into a bad habit as a drunkard. He was only busy with himself such as looking for a job without certain destination. That was his every day activity, when he felt down he would try to get drunk and in drunken condition he became wild and rude.

MRS. JONES As a rule, Mr. Marlow, he goes out early every morning looking for work, and sometimes he comes in fit to drop...and of course, I can't say he doesn't try to get it, because he does. Trade's very bad. (*She stands quite still, her pan and brush before her, at the beginning and the end of long vistas of experience, traversing them with her impersonal eye*). But
he’s not a good husband to me... last night he hit me, and he was so dreadfully abusive (*The Silver Box*, p.12).
The quotation mentioned on the previous page showed that Mr. Jones was a figure of a husband and father who did not have enough responsibility for his wife and children. He did not really care for his wife because he had such psychological problems in his personal life.

Normally, people had an opinion that children became their main purpose of building a family, but Mr. Jones had not thought of that. In the quotation below Mrs. Jones asked her husband to realize that children needed their parent’s love and responsibility. Unlike Mrs. Jones who could do everything for her children’s life, Mr. Jones did not bother to care for their children. According to Mrs. Jones his neglect to their children was because he had other women in their marriage life. That was one of reasons why Mr. Jones rarely focused himself with his duty to be the head of his family.

*MRS JONES* Of course it would have been better for us if we had never met. We weren’t meant for each other. But you are set against me, that’s what you are, and you have been for long time. And you treat me so badly, James, going after that Rosie and all. You don’t ever seem to think of the children that I’ve had to keep them, and what’ll become of them when you are gone (*The Silver Box*, p.37).

c. Alcoholic

In every day life of the Victorian era, drinking and gambling were denounced as vices. Total prohibition of alcohol became a doctrine in Victorian era. They believed that drinking was a source of crime because when someone got drunk, he might do anything. Crimes and violence were begun by drinking (*Derry*, 1963: 201).
According to his wife, Mr. Jones started to drink after he had been fired from his work. When drunk he became so cruel and unstable. Particularly when drunk, he liked to hit and torture his wife. Mr. Jones became a drunkard as a way to runaway from the problems of life that he faced. He preferred to get drunk and never realized that alcoholic beverages could never solve his problems.

MRS. JONES He has a very hard time...he's been out of work two months, and it preys upon his mind. When he's in work he behaves himself much better. It's when he's out of work that he's so violent. It was nearly two last night before he come home, and he wasn't himself. He made me get up, and he knocked me about; he didn't seem to know what he was saying or doing. Of course I would leave him, but I'm really afraid of what he'd do to me. He's such a violent man when he's not himself (The Silver Box, p.10)

Mr. Jones was a man who could be easily influenced by someone. It was shown with his agreement when Jack invited him to get drunk together in Jack's house. Although the time shown that the night was late, he followed Jack entering the house and after all they drunk.

JONES (slowly and with many pauses) Well... I 'elped 'im to find it... drunk as a lord 'e was. He goes on, an' comes back again, and says, I've got nothin' for you, 'e says, but come in an' 'ave a drink. So I went in just as you might 'ave done yourself. We 'ad a drink o' whisky just as you might have 'ad. 'nd young Mr. Barthwick says to me, "Take a drink 'nd a smoke. Take anything you like," 'e says. And then he went to sleep on the sofa. I 'ad some more whisky... an' 'ad a smoke.... And I 'ad some more whisky... an' I can't tell yer what 'append ated after that (The Silver Box, p.69)

The alcohol made Mr. Jones could not be thought clearly and logically when he took the silver cigarette box. Mr. Jones told his wife that he was not conscious in taking the things in Barthwick's house. He did not want to be called a thief because he did not mind to take anything from Galsworthy's house. Everything happened because he was under the influence of alcohol. Briefly, Mr. Jones did not want any one to call
him as a thief. He even threatened his wife if she kept boxing him into a corner. When he was questioned in the court he had been trying to make the Magistrate believe that he had done unintentional action. He did not have any desire to steal any things in Barthwick house. All merely happened because he was drunk.

Sometimes the attitude of a person under the influenced of an alcohol could be different with his or her personality. His or her actions could be out of his or her usual life. This was what happened to Jack, when drunk he became so polite and confidential even in front of poor people like Mr. Jones. His invitation for Mr. Jones to come to his house for drinking whisky and his polite behavior to Mr. Jones was merely due to alcohol influence. Of course, in normal condition, Mr. Jack who felt that he was a respected and educated person would never have any intention to invite and talk with such a poor person like Mr. Jones.

JONES (dropping the box on to the table) You mind what you’re sayin’! When I go out I’ll take and chuck it in the water along with that there purse. I ‘ad it when I was in liquor, and for what you do when you’re in liquor you’re not responsible... and that’s Gawd’s truth as you ought to know. I don’t want the thing... I won’t have it. I took it out o’ spite. I’m no thief, I tell you; and don’t you call me one, or it’ll be the worse for you. (The Silver Box, p.38).

All the explanation and quotation above showed that the power of alcohol was quite great toward someone who consumed that. The attitude of someone who was drunk could be so different with his or her every day life. Someone who previously did not wish to act a crime could be evil when he was drunk. An arrogant person could be a good person, while a smart and respected person could be stupid and did not know what shame was, when he or she was drunk.
d. Desperate

A Desperate person was a person who could not logically think when he or she was in difficulty. He or she did not have enough courage to try something useful for his or her life. He or she would even do stupid actions in order to get out from the difficulty of his or her life. A desperate person also did not have enough confidence to face the reality of his or her life.

Mr. Jones's desperate action could be seen when he was out of work and started to drink alcohol. Actually if he got up and tried hard to find a job, he would get it although the job would not be really good and give much money. His family's bad condition also made him desperate and low before the rich ones (such as educated people from the upper and middle class in society).

JONES (in a thick, sardonic voice) I'm a bloomin' Conservative. My name's Jones! My wife works 'ere; she's the car, she works 'ere (The Silver Box, p.8).

Through the quotation above, Mr. Jones indirectly showed to Jack that he was unimportant and poor person who had no authority in the society. He also placed himself below Jack when talked about his wife who worked as a servant in Jack's house.

Mr. Jones desperate act could also be seen when he and his wife were in the court. He answered badly when the Magistrate questioned him about the missing silver box. He had no strategy to answer every question in the court. It seemed that he had no hope to get free from that case. On the other hand, Barthwicks was rich, educated and had a wide connection in society. They had an experienced solicitor in solving the cases in the court.
2. The Characteristics of Mrs. Jones

a. Simple

Mrs. Jones was Mr. Jones’s wife who was characterized as a very simple woman. She wore only usual clothes and worn-out boots, which indicated that she had a very bad economic condition. Her physical appearance and her behavior reflected that she was a patient and simple woman.

MRS. JONES (slim, dark-eyed, and dark-haired; oval-faced, and with a smooth, soft, even voice; her manner patient, her way of talking quite impersonal; she wears a blue linen dress, and boots with holes) (The Silver Box, p.10).

b. Hard Worker

Mrs. Jones was typically a woman who could never say “no” to do something to earn some money to sustain her family’s life. Mrs. Jones worked as a servant in some rich people’s houses in order to cover daily needs; to pay the rent of their house, to pay the children’s school fee and so on. She also worked at Barthwick’s house. She was there at Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. She worked from morning until evening. After that she went home to do her household chores and take care of her children. Their bad economic condition had force her to work steadily. She realized that she was the only one in her family who could earn some money for living.

MRS. JONES Well, sir, I have a day in Stamford Place, Thursdays. And Mondays and Wednesdays and Fridays I come here. But to-day, of course, is a half-day, because of yesterday’s Bank Holiday (The Silver Box, p. 30).

Mrs. Jones was very depressed and sad when she was arrested by the police and should face the court. Although the court finally declared that she was not guilty she still felt sad. The reason of her sadness and depression was that the case made
impossible for her to get any job again. She thought that the society would regard herself, her husband, and even her family as dishonest people. The anxiety of Mrs. Jones was so reasonable because for a long time she had been the main figure of her family who could produce money and be responsible for the school fee of her children. Her three small children would be sad and suffer if she could not have any job again because of this case. Moreover the court finally punished her husband who pleaded guilty and should be arrested in. In this situation the burden of Mrs Jones’s life was heavier.

MRS. JONES Your Worship, it’s the children that’s preying on his mind, because of course I’ve lost my work. And I’ve had to find another room owing to the scandal (The Silver Box, p. 74).

MRS. JONES (twisting her hands) Of course I wouldn’t say I hadn’t taken it if I had...and I didn’t take it, indeed I didn’t. Of course I know appearances are against me, and I can’t tell you what really happened. But my children are at school, and they’ll be coming home...and I don’t know what they’ll do without me!(The Silver Box, p.40).

c. Loyal and Loving

With a true love, someone would want to sacrifice for those whom she or he loved. It was what Mrs. Jones did. With her unconditional love, she tried to be loyal to her family (her husband and children). Her patience in facing their hard marriage life and bad economic condition showed that she served her family without any tendency to run away from her family’s problems. She tried to be strong in facing her husband’s bad temperament. She had done all things for her family only because she loved her family and children more than anything. She wanted her family became unity although in the bad condition.
Mrs. Wheeler, one of the servants in Barthwick’s house who became a friend of Mrs. Jones to share all her family’s problems advised Mrs. Jones to ask for a divorce from her husband rather than got suffering all the time.

WHEELER (drawing the curtains) That precious husband of yours was round for you after you’d gone yesterday, Mrs. Jones. Wanted your money for drink, I suppose. He hangs about the corner here half the time. I saw him outside the “Goat and Bells” when I went to the post last night. If I were you, I wouldn’t live with him. I wouldn’t live with a man that raised his hand to me. I wouldn’t put up with it. Why don’t you take the children and leave him? If you put up with ‘im it’ll only make him worse. I never can see why, because a man’s married you, he should knock you about (The Silver Box, p.9).

The instinct as a mother made Mrs. Jones willingly faced all troubles in her married life. She was finally not decided to get divorce. The children became her main reason to stay calm in facing all of her problems. She was afraid that the divorce would make her children depressed.

MRS. JONES Of course it’s very wearing to me; I don’t get my sleep at nights. And it’s not as if I were getting help from him, because I have to do for the children and all of us (The Silver Box, p.10).

The loyalty of Mrs. Jones could be seen when she still considered her husband as a good man although her husband was often hit her. She thought that her husband liked to hit just because of alcoholic beverages.

MRS. JONES It was nearly two last night before he come home, and he wasn’t himself. He made me get up, and he knocked me about; he didn’t seem to know what he was saying or doing. Of course I would leave him, but I’m really afraid of what he’d do to me. He’s such a violent man when he’s not himself (The Silver Box, p.10).
d. Honest

Mrs. Jones was uneducated but she was an honest woman. In her daily life, she always told the truth. When she found out that her husband had stolen the purse she got mad. She tried to make her husband realize that he had done a wrong action.

MRS. JONES (laying down the purse) I can’t say what you ought to have done, James. Of course the money wasn’t yours; you’ve taken somebody else’s money (The Silver Box, p.37).

She was also shocked when she found out that her husband had stolen the silver box. She felt disappointed and angry about her husband’s action.

MRS. JONES It’s been missed; they think it’s me. Oh! Whatever made you do it, Jem (The Silver Box, p.38).

Mrs. Jones was really afraid if the lost silver box would affect her job as the servant in Barthwick family. Her husband’s acts indirectly had changed Barthwick’s perception about her personality. Her good reputation was streaked with her husband’s stupid action.

MRS. JONES (twisting her apron strings) It’s Mr. Barthwick’s! You’ve taken away my reputation. Oh, Jem, whatever made you? (The Silver Box, p. 38).

Mr. Jones gave a reason. He said that the incident happen when they (Mr. Jones and Jack) both got drunk. Actually, he helped Jack to go home from the “Goat and Bells”, and after all Jack invited him to enter the house and drink some whisky as an expression of gratitude. And under the influence of alcohol, Jack told him to take anything he liked in the house.

JONES I tell you I was in liquor. I don’t want it; what’s the good of it to me? If I were to pawn it they’d only nab me. I’m no thief. I’m no worse than wot that young Barthwick is; he brought ‘ome that purse that I picked up... a lady’s purse...’ad it off ‘er in a row, kept sayin’ e’d scored ‘er off. Well, I
scored 'im off. Tight as an owl 'e was! And d'you think anything'll happen to him? (*The Silver Box*, p.39).

Mrs. Jones told everything honestly when she was questioned in court. She did not want to lie about the thief of the silver box although she knew that her husband was the thief. On the other hand, Barthwick family took advantage of this moment to accuse Mr. Jones. The honesty of Mrs. Jones (in asking that her husband was the person who took the silver box) seemed useless, what she had asked about her husband in the court instead was exploited by Barthwicks and his solicitor to make the Magistrate more believed that her husband (Mr. Jones) was the only one who should be responsible with the two criminal acts.

**MRS. JONES** I asked him whatever came over him to do such a thing... and he said it was the drink. He said that he had too much to drink, and something came over him. And of course, your Worship, he had very little to eat all day, and the drink does go to the head when you have not had enough to eat. Your Worship may not know, but it is the truth. And I would like to say that all through his married life I have never known him to do such a thing before, though we have passed through great hardships, and (*speaking with soft emphasis*) I am quite sure he would not have done it if he had been himself at the time (*The Silver Box*, p.68).

In fact, Jack who had invited her husband to drink some whisky indirectly also had a contribution in the lost silver box. Then the unknown lady’s purse that was stolen by her husband was not merely her husband’s mistake because Jack had stolen that purse first from the unknown lady before Mr. Jones took it.

**JONES (slowly and with many pauses)** Well... I ‘elped ‘im to find it... drunk as a lord ‘e was. He goes on, an’ comes back again, and says, I’ve got nothin’ for you, ‘e says, but come in an’ ‘ave a drink. So I went in just as you might ‘ave done yourself. We ‘ad a drink o’ whisky just as you might have ‘ad, ‘nd young Mr. Barthwick says to me, “Take a drink ‘nd a smoke. Take anything you like,” ‘e says. And then he went to sleep on the sofa. I ‘ad some more whisky... an’ ‘ad a smoke... And I ‘ad some more whisky... an’ I can’t tell yer what ‘append at after that (*The Silver Box*, p.69).
The characteristics of Mrs. Jones and her husband generally had the contradiction. Mrs. Jones was tough and obstinate to all kinds of family problems. However, her husband was a person who could not really accept the circumstance that twines his family and himself. Apart from their different characteristics, both of them were the lower class people who got the unfair treatments in their society, especially from the society above them.

B. The Description of Victorian Social Condition in this Play

In order to give a clear understanding of the setting of the play, the writer refers to Robert and Jacobs's statement about setting.

They explained that setting referred to the natural and artificial scenery or environment in which characters in literature live and move (1987: 29). Then the analysis about setting was also clarify with Kenney's statement that the setting was composed by many elements such as: the actual geographical, the occupation and modes of day-to-day existence of the characters, the time or period in which the action took place also the religious, moral, intellectual, social and emotional environment of the characters (1966: p.40).

The Silver Box, the first play of John Galsworthy contained many massages or real happenings about the British society in the 19th century. Generally this play did not want to give the solution to the unfair things that happen in the society. The play only illustrated what actually happened in that society through the short comedy.

The most actions of this play took place in London police court. London was the most important city in the Victorian world with its classes of society. Like its
inhabitants, London represented the divisions within essential unity, and as a geographical and symbolical center. As the vital center of the Victorian world, London was also the great area of social and moral conflicts. There were some discrepancies and gaps in the society of the play:

1. The Discrepancy in Economic Condition

The economic condition of the Victorian society created an idea for high-class people to be the best and respected in the society. This idea produced a kind of hypocrisy in their social relationship. Their behaviors aroused unsatisfied feeling among the lower class. They became the victims of the upper and middle class's hypocrisy.

There were two families described in this play that had a very different economic condition. Those were Barthwicks and Jones families. Barthwicks family was very rich. They had everything like money and pride. On the other hand, Jones family was very poor. They did not have house. They only lived in the rent house that was really small and not proper to live.

MRS. JONES Yes, sir, to put them away. We've living in Merthyr Street...that is close by here, sir... at No. 34. we just have the one room (The Silver Box, p.29).

Jones's family also got difficulty in eating. The most important for them was not how to earn a lot of money or how to maintain pride, but how to survive. The quotation below showed that Jones family only ate what ever they found and got in that day, they did not have a certain menu to eat. The quotation also showed that they must pay their rent house in that day although they had no money.

JONES (on his back, and in a drowsy voice) Got anything for dinner?
MRS. JONES Mrs. Barthwick's cook gave me a little bit of bacon. I'm going to make a stew. (She prepares for cooking.) There's fourteen shillings owing for rent, James, and of course I've only got two and fourpence. They'll be coming for it to day (The Silver Box, p.33).

In the other hand, as the members of Parliament and part of the upper class in the society, Barthwick family lived in a glamorous condition. They owned a beautiful residence.

*The Barthwicks's dining room, large' modern, and well furnished; the window curtains drawn. Electric light is burning. On the large round dining-table is set out a tray with whisky, a siphon, and a silver cigarette-box (The Silver Box, p.7)*.

Their lifestyle was also quite elegant, for example, when they got a breakfast, they did it formally. While enjoying meals, Mr. Barthwick usually read TIMES. It showed that Mr. Barthwick and family's lifestyle belong to high class and was elegant.

*Barthwick and Mrs Barthwick are seated at the breakfast table. He is a man between fifty and sixty: quietly important, with a bald forehead, and pince-nez, and "The Times" in his hand. She is a lady of nearly fifty, well dressed, with grayish hair, good features, and decided manner. They face each other (The Silver Box, p.14).*

2. The Gap in the Society

This play described the gaps between the upper middle class and the lower class in the society. The attitude of Barthwick showed that they came from the upper class society. They were not really kind to poor people. When the silver box was missing, Mr. Barthwick even asked that this problem must be solved to maintain the justice. Actually he did not care that his son (Jack) had also stolen a purse from unknown woman.

BARTHWICK (unguardedly, and walking up and down) Tcha! ...and that infernal purse! Good Heavens! It'll get into the papers. Who on earth could
have foreseen a thing like this? Better to have lost a dozen cigarette boxes and said nothing about it. (to his wife) It’s all your doing. I told you so from the first. I wish to goodness Roper would come! (The Silver Box, p.49).

Mr. Barthwick hid Jack’s criminal act as a way to maintain their family pride in the society. He tried to prove to the court that the loss of the unknown lady’s purse to be caused by Mr Jones’s criminal act. The hypocrisy of Mr Barthwick reflected that for him a good reputation and pride was more than anything so that it was important for his family to get free from that case.

The quotation below showed that Mr. Barthwick was really afraid that his reputation would be streaked with his son’s bad act. Basically he reprimanded his son but he did not have the bravery to admit his son’s mistake to the public (the society) because it would be dangerous for his status in the society.

BARTHWICK So this is the way that forty pounds has gone! One thing after another! Once more I should like to know where you’d have been if it hadn’t been for me! You don’t seem to have any principles. You...you’re one of those who are a nuisance to society; you ... you’re dangerous! What your mother would say I don’t know. Your conduct, as far as I can see, is absolutely unjustifiable. It’s... it’s criminal. Why, a poor man who behaved as you’ve done... d’you think he’d have any mercy shown him? What you want is a good lesson. You and your sort are (he speaks with feeling) ... a nuisance to the community. Don’t ask me to help you next time. You’re not fit to be helped (The Silver Box, p.24).

Basically Barthwick’s family considered that a poor man did not have a good personality. Mrs. Barthwick told that they were uncouth and impolite. Their performances that according to Mrs. Barthwick were dirty and impolite indicated that the poor did not have good personalities.

MRS. BARTHWICK It goes all through the lower classes. You cannot tell when they are speaking the truth. Today when I was shopping after leaving the Holyroods, one of these unemployed came up and spoke to me. I suppose I only had twenty yards or so to walk to the carriage, but he seemed to spring up in the street (The Silver Box, p.43).
The upper middle class people in this play thought that the poor were the scum of society (in its rude language). Roper, the lawyer of Barthwick family, in his insulting tone, laughed at Jack and did not believe why he could permit Mr. Jones who had the rude performance and come from a different level with his family entered his house. His action was indecent and very dangerous for his welfare and wealth.

BARTHwick Yes, yes, but look here... it wasn’t the charwoman at all; her drunken loafer of a husband took the things... he says that fellow there (He waves his hand at Jack, who with his shoulder raised, seems trying to ward off a blow) let him into the house last night. Can you imagine such a thing (Roper laughs). BARTHwick (with excited emphasis) it’s no laughing matter, Roper. I told you about that business of Jack’s too... don’t you see... the brute took both the things... took that infernal purse. It’ll get into the papers (The Silver Box, p.52).

Mrs. Barthwick was such a controversial woman. She disagreed with the equality among the life of the upper, middle and lower class. She did not want the lower class to have the right to get an education, as according to her that the education would only confuse them and would also made them had no respect to the classes above them.

MRS. BARTHwick Toast? I quite agree with what this man says: Education is simply ruining the lower classes. It unsettles them, and that’s the worst thing for us all. I see an enormous difference in the manner of servants (The Silver Box, p.16).

She had the opinion that the development in the Victorian era only had made the attitude of servants change. They would not know anymore how to have a certain attitude in front of their employer.

MRS. BARTHwick Servants have too much license. They hang together so terribly you never can tell what they’re really thinking; it’s as if they were all in a conspiracy to keep you in the dark. Even with Marlow, you feel that he never lets you know what’s really in his mind. I hate that secretiveness; it destroys all confidence. I feel sometimes I should like to shake him (The Silver Box, p.42).
3. The Discrepancy in Politics

Main characters of this play often mentioned the words: liberal, socialist and conservative. There were some explanations to clarify those three words.

"The word liberal derives from the Latin liber (free) and liberals of all stripes tended to view themselves as friends of freedom, particularly freedom from the shackles of tradition. Liberalism is a political current embracing several historical and present-day ideologies that claim defense of individual liberty as the purpose of government. It typically favors the right to dissent from orthodox tenets or established authorities in political or religious matters. In this respect, it is sometimes held in contrast to conservatism. Since liberalism also focuses on the ability of individuals to structure a society, it is almost always opposed to totalitarianism, and often to collectivist ideologies, particularly communism" (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/liberalism).

The note taken from *Encyclopedia Britannica* below showed that in the 18 and 19th century, liberals that were the upper middle class of British society were afraid that the democracy would destroy their power and wealth.

Classical liberalism fell victim to ambivalence, torn between the great emancipating tendencies generated by the revolution with which it was associated, and middle class fears that democracy would undermine private property. Most 18 and 19th century liberal spokesmen feared popular sovereignty and for a long time suffrage was limited to property owners. In Britain even the important Reform Act of 1867 did not completely abolish property qualification (1983:848).

"The word socialist dates back at least to the early nineteenth century. It has been used differently in different times and places, both by various individuals and
groups that consider themselves socialist and by their opponents. While there is wide variation between socialist groups, nearly all would agree that they are bound together by a common history rooted originally in nineteenth and twentieth-century struggles by industrial and agricultural workers, operating according to principles of solidarity and advocating an egalitarian society, with an economics that would serve the broad populace rather than a favored few” (Http://socialist.exsudo.com/).

In Britain the noun “conservative” was used to describe The British Tory Party by John Wilson Croker in 1830. From its beginning, political thought contains many strains that could be retrospectively labeled conservative. In the late of 18th century conservatism began to develop as a political attitude and movement against the French Revolution of 1789. The note taken from Encyclopedia Britannica below showed that conservatives emphasized on the unity of society. They thought that religion, idealism, loyalty and commitment were very needed in building the unity of society.

Conservative typically view society as a single organism and condemn as “rationalist blueprints” the attempts of progressives to plan society in advance from pure reason instead of letting it evolve naturally and unconsciously, flowering by from the deep roots of tradition. A society, they argue, has to be rendered whole by religion, idealism, shared historical experiences, commitment to its long standing political institutions, and by the emotion of reverence, cooperation, and loyalty (1983:63).

Barthwick family considered themselves as liberals. They dared to say that liberals were all educated and could not be compared to the conservatives. In fact, their statement only showed how shallow their thought about the society.

The discrepancy in political practice that appeared in this play was not only the discrepancy of understanding in politics between the educated man versus the uneducated man represented by Barthwick family and Mr. Jones respectively, but it
also described the existence of women in politics represented by Mr. Barthwick and his wife.

Mr. Barthwick felt that the liberalist and socialist had the possibility to unite if they had the same vision and mission and supported each other. But Mrs. Barthwick strongly argued with that. She did not want the socialist to be positioned in the same rank as the liberalist, it was because she thought that all socialists were simple minded and poor who did not have a certain quality. She thought that the socialists would only gnaw to the existence of the riches and their wealth.

MRS. BARTHWICK I’ve no patience with your talk of reform… all that nonsense about social policy. We know perfectly well what it is they want; they want things for themselves, those Socialists and Labour men are an absolutely selfish set of people. They have no sense of patriotism, like the upper classes, they simply want what we’ve got (The Silver Box, p.15).

Mrs. Barthwick did not understand rightly about politics even though her husband was the member of the parliament. But she did not realize that she had a wrong understanding about politics. It was because Mr. Barthwick seemed to be reluctant to discuss the political and social issues with his wife. He considered that woman would never connect and understand him if they discuss about politics.

BARTHWICK You’re talking nonsense! How is it possible for Liberals and Conservatives to joint hands, as you call it? That shows how absurd it is for women… why, the very essence of a Liberal is to trust in the people! (The Silver Box, p.15).

The above quotation indicated that there was an unfair thing occurring in talking about politics between men and women. Women did not have a right to understanding about politic because they did not have enough political education. It was actually occurring to a respectable person like Mrs. Barthwick and also the woman from the lower class
like Mrs. Jones. Indirectly, the statement above showed that women were positioned as the second class in politic matters even in the social life.

The quotation below showed that Jack was really proud of his status as the member of a liberal. He never wanted people called him as socialist. According to him, the liberals were better than the socialists because they admitted the equality of law in the society. However, the reality showed that Jack had no consistency with his statement that liberals admitted the equality of law. When he should face some problems, he and his family were tried hard to maintain their pride not to upright the justice.

JACK: Jones? *(He Laughs)*, There’s ‘nother Jones at college with me. I’m not a Socialist myself; I’m a Liberal … there’s ve-hill difference, because of the principles of the Lib…. Liberal Party. We’re all equal before the law … tha’s rot, tha’s silly. *(laughs)* Wha’ was I about to say?… You’re a Tory … you’re a Tory Socialist. I’m Liberal myself…have a drink… I’m an excel’nt chap *(The Silver Box, p.8).*

Mr. Jones admitted that he was a conservative although he did not really know what conservative meant. This statement showed that he was truly an uneducated person and had a shallow way in thinking about politic. He had an unclear understanding about politics and felt that he was not appropriate to be called as a part of the liberals.

JONES *(in a thick, sardonic voice)* I’m a bloomin’ Conservative. My name’s Jones! My wife works ‘ere; she’s the car; she works ‘ere *(The Silver Box, p.8).*

4. The Gap Before the Law

This play described the injustice in law in the Victorian Era. The law seemed to protect the high level society because they had money to pay a personal solicitor. In
order to win the case of the missing silver box in the court, Barthwick engaged the personal solicitor named Roper.

SNOW That's best known to yourself, sir. (retreating to the door) Better employ a solicitor, sir, in case anything should arise. We shall have the butler to prove the loss of the article. You'll excuse me going, I'm rather pressed to-night. The case may come on any time after eleven. Good evening, sir; good evening, ma'am. I shall have to produce the box in court tomorrow, so if you'll excuse me, sir, I may as well take it with me. (He takes the silver box and leaves them with a little bow. Barthwick makes a move to follow him, then dashing his hands beneath his coat tails, speaks with desperation) (The Silver Box, p.48).

On the other hand, Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones did not have a solicitor who could defend them in the court. As a result they lost and Mr. Jones was punished. The defeating of Jones's family in the court was caused by: first they did not own a large knowledge so they have less understanding of legal procedures in law. They thought if they were not guilty, they would face the trial with honesty. Second, their economic condition was quite concerning so they could not hire personal lawyer like what Mr. Barthwick did.

JONES (violently) I've done no ore than wot he 'as. I'm a poor man. I've got no money an' no friends... he's a toff ... he can do wot I can't (The Silver Box, p.73).

In this case, Jack actually was the actor of the lost purse when he was on liquor. But his father had bribed the unknown lady's purse by giving her money.

UNKNOWN Oh! But I must see him...I've come on purpose... (she bursts out nervously) I don't want to make any fuss, but the fact is, last... last night your son took away...he took away my... (She stops) (The Silver Box, p.20).

Actually Jack's action in taking the purse was more or less the same with what Mr. Jones had done in taking the silver box. Both of them took those things in liquor so both of them had the same possibility to be brought into the court and be punished.
But the lady whose lost his purse did not want to bring her case to the police, because she was a poor lady and only needed her money back in order to pay her rent.

UNKNOWN (eagerly) No; now, please. Give me what was in my purse; I’ve got to pay my rent this morning, they won’t give me another day; I’m fortnight behind already (The Silver Box, p.23).

Mr. Barthwick had planned to give all accusations to Mr. Jones. He and his personal solicitor named Roper tried to accuse Mr. Jones with two criminal acts those were: stealing the silver box and stealing the unknown lady’s purse. Bartwick felt optimistic that his planning would be successful. He believed that the court would accept his family’s defenses rather than the defenses of Mr. Jones and his wife.

BARTHWICK Tcha! Of course he took it too, A man like that Jones will make the most of it. It’ll get into the papers (The Silver Box, p.51).

The above explanation showed that money played an important role in the court. The rich ones had a bigger opportunity to win in the court. The judicature-taking place in this play was actually very capable to be compromised by the riches who generally had a great influence in the society. Mr. Barthwick said to his lawyer that the evidence in the unknown lady’s purse was not included on the claim because that might be dangerous for his family’s reputation.

BARTHWICK (uneasily) One moment, please. As a matter of...er...principle, I shall settle this claim. (He produces money). Here is eight pounds; the extra will cover the value of the purse and your cab fares. I need make no comment...no thanks are necessary. (Touching the bell, he holds the door ajar in silence. The unknown lady stores the money in her reticule, she looks from Jack to Barthwick, and her face is quivering faintly with a smile. She hides it with her hand, and steals away. Behind her Barthwick shuts the door) (The Silver Box, p.24).

The process of judicature ended with very unfair. Even though Mrs. Jones was finally free, her husband remained to be punished although what they said in the court was
the truth. Both Mr. and Mrs. Jones said that Mr. Jones took the thing because the owner of the house (Jack) was in a drunken condition when asked him to take whatever he liked in his house and after all Mr. Jones in the same condition was took the silver box and the purse.

JONES (slowly and with many pauses) Well... I 'elped 'im to find it... drunk as a lord 'e was. He goes on, an' comes back again, and says, I've got nothin' for you, 'e says, but come in an' 'ave a drink. So I went in just as you might 'ave done yourself. We 'ad a drink o' whisky just as you might have 'ad, 'nd young Mr. Barthwick says to me, "Take a drink 'nd a smoke. Take anything you like," 'e says. And then he went to sleep on the sofa. I 'ad some more whisky... an' 'ad a smoke.... And I 'ad some more whisky... an' I can't tell yer what 'append after that (The Silver Box, p.69)

The quotation below showed that the Magistrate had no consistency in the implementation of justice. To Mr. Jones he said that stealing remained stealing; it did not know the drunk or conscious condition. However he did not say that words to Jack. The Magistrate never wanted to go more deeply about the witnesses of Mr. and Mrs Jones that Jack had also done the criminal act when he took the unknown lady’s purse in the drunken condition. If the Magistrate really wanted to uphold the justice he should be fair in making the final decision in the court.

MAGISTRATE Your conduct here has been most improper. You give the excuse that you were drunk when you stole the box. I tell you that is no excuse, if you choose to get drunk and break the law afterwards you must take the consequences. And let me tell you that men like you, who get drunk and give way to your spite or whatever it is that’s in you, are... a nuisance to the community. (The Silver Box, p.76)

5. The Gender Gap

The British people in the Victorian era were patrilineal. Victorian era reminded us of old-fashioned era when referring to the attitudes toward sex. They placed men as number one in society and family, while women were placed as the
second class in the society. Women were ignored and could not be placed equal with the men. In all aspects such as economy, politic and social life women did not get special treatment. Moreover, they, especially the poor women had heavy responsibilities in maintaining their family life.

Mrs. Jones was a woman who was still obedient to the patriarchal tradition in their society. She positioned herself below her husband. It meant that although she could work to fill her family’s needs she realized that the position of a wife was on the second class in the family and society. A good wife should be loyal to her husband in the sadness or happiness of time, or in every condition. As a wife, of course Mrs. Jones had all the criteria of a good wife; she never stopped loving her husband. Although her husband could only got drunk and hit her, she still appreciated him. Although her husband was unemployed, she was still patient and she even worked hard to earn some money for their family. Those statements showed that unintentionally Mrs. Jones practiced the emancipation of women in her every day life by her own way although she was uneducated.

When Mr. and Mrs. Jones violently disputed about the divorce, Mr Jones decided to be divorced and left his wife and children. He did not care with his children’s fate anymore.

JONES (fingering the purse, half angrily) Well, then, you stow it, old girl. The kids’ll get along better with you than when I’m here. If I’d never ha’had one o’ them. What’s the use o’ bringin’ ‘em into a state o’ things like this? It’s a crime, that’s what it is; but you find it out too late; that’s what’s the matter with this ‘ere world. (He puts the purse back in his pocket) (The Silver Box, p.37).
However, patiently Mrs. Jones tried to make her husband realized that the responsibility to care for the children was the duty of both husband and wife. Thus, it was unfair if the children should lose the figure of one of their parents.

MRS. JONES Of course it would have been better for them, poor little things; but they're your own children, and I wonder at you talkin' like that. I should miss them dreadfully if I was to lose them (The Silver Box, p.38).

The unparallel relationship between a woman and a man within a family did not only occur in the lower class society like Mr. and Mrs. Jones. This also happened in the upper class society like Mr. and Mrs. Barthwick. Although he had a high education, Mr. Barthwick still did not recognize the parallelism of relationship between male and female especially in politics. He regarded that his wife knew nothing about politics and was less able to think logically in facing problems.

BARTHWICK You're talking nonsense! How is it possible for Liberals and Conservatives to joint hands, as you call it? That shows how absurd it is for women... why, the very essence of a Liberal is to trust in the people! (The Silver Box, p.15)

After knowing all the facts that happened in the society of the play, the writer related the social condition of the play with the history of the Victorian era in England. The writer found out the similarities between the facts in the play and the facts in the history of the Victorian era in England. The social condition of the play clearly reflected the discrepancies and gaps in the Victorian era.
C. The Impacts of Victorian Social Condition toward the Lower Class Represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones.

Concerning the discussions above, the writer comes to the crucial point related to the second problem, which is the impacts of the Victorian social condition toward the lower class people in the society. There are some difficulties faced by the lower class represented by Mr. and Mrs. Jones:

1. The Difficulty to Find a Job

It was a difficult time where there was much unemployment. High population in the Victorian era had caused a lot of unemployment. For the lower society like Mr. Jones and Mrs. Jones, it was hard to find a good job. Mr. Jones was one of the unemployed who found difficulty in finding a job again after he was fired from his job as a groom eight years ago. At that time, he was fired because he made Mrs. Jones pregnant. Since that time, Mr. Jones kept changing jobs.

Mr. Jones had not gotten a job for two months, whereas he had to help his wife to fulfill the daily needs of their family. He was supposed to go where he liked, but unfortunately he did not know where to go. On one day, a certain day he went to a place in Edgware Road to meet a boss of a company and asked for a job. But the boss said that there had been thirty persons like Jones who came before him to ask for a job.

JONES I suppose I may go where I like. Where may I go? The other day I went to a place in the Edgware Road. "Guv'nor," I says to the boss, "take me on," I says. "I 'aven't done a stroke o' work not these two months; it takes the heart out of a man," I says; "I'm one to work; I'm not afraid of anything you can give me!" "My good man," 'e says, 'I've had thirty of you here this morning. I took the first two," he says, "and that's all I want." "Thank you, then rot the world!" I says, "Blasphemin'," he says, "is not the way to get a job. Out you go, my lad!" (He laughs sardonically). Don't you raise your
voice because you’re starvin’; don’t yer even think of it; take ‘it lyin’ down! Take it like a sensible man, can’t you? (The Silver Box, p.35).

Mr. Jones then felt disappointed with his condition. He had tried to find a job everywhere but no employer would give him a job. He once joined the demonstration to find justice for himself and for the people who had the same fate as him but it did not change anything. He was still jobless and should try again and again until the fortune came.

"Take a man on" – "Got a wife and three children." Sick of it I am! I’d sooner lie here and rot. "Jones, you come and join the demonstration; come and ‘old a flag, and listen to the ruddy orators, and go ’ome as empty as you came. "There’s some that seems to like that ... the sheep! When I go seekin’ for a job now, and sees the brutes lookin’ me up an’ down, it’s like a thousand serpents in me. I’m not arskin’ for any treat. A man wants to sweat his self silly and not allowed... that’s rum start, ain’t? A man wants to sweat his soul out to keep the breath in him and ain’t allowed... that’s justice... that’s freedom and all the rest of it. (He turns his face towards the wall) (The Silver Box, p.34)

The bad economical condition was more getting severe or oppressive for Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Mr Jones had a difficulty in getting a job. One of the factors that encouraged the numbers of unemployment was the advance in industrial tools and modern transportation. The industrial tools and modern transportation made the labors were less important again for their masters.

JONES (turning towards her on his elbow) Let ‘em come and find my surprise packet. I’ve had enough o’this tryin’ for work. Why should I go round and round after a job like a bloomin’ squirrel in a cage. "Give us a job, sir." (The Silver Box, p.33).

In the quotation below Mrs. Jones felt that now a days it was impossible for her family to live with the wage of a groom. Car as the effective and modern transportation had replaced the existence of the traditional transportation. In fact, the development of
technology in the Victorian era benefited the rich people (the upper middle class people) but on the contrary it seemed to be against the lower people.

MRS. JONES He lost his place a long time ago, sir, and he’s never had a very ling job since; and now, of course, the motorcars are against him (The Silver Box, p.29).

What her husband had faced made Mrs. Jones always thank God of her job. Although she only worked as a servant, she could finance her family’s needs. For her, becoming a servant was the only way to keep maintaining the survival of her family.

2. The Difficulty to Get an Avowal from Society

This play emphasized on the differentiated social classes in the society. The upper and middle class seemed to be appreciated in the social life. On the other hand, the lower class was always blamed if there was a problem in the society. This was all because the society had no admittance to the existence of the lower class in the society.

When Mr. Barthwick and his wife questioned Mrs. Jones about the missing of the silver box, they directly interrogated all things about her personal matters. They did not care about Mrs. Jones’s privacy and feeling. As a part of the lower society, it was hard for Mrs. Jones to be honored by others. The society had already judged lower society as a weak and unimportant people.

BARTHWICK When were you married to him, Mrs. Jones?
MRS. JONES Eight years ago, sir... that was in...
MRS. BARTHWICK (sharply) Eight? You said the eldest child was nine.
MRS. JONES Yes, Ma’am; of course that was why he lost his place. He didn’t treat me rightly, and of course his employer said he couldn’t keep him because of the example (The Silver Box, p.29).
Someone who had been arrested by the police for accusation of stealing something, although practically he or she did not steal, he or she would get a bad and impure reputation. This situation happened to Mr. And Mrs. Jones. The case of the missing silver box that brought her and her husband to the court would become a scandal in the society. People would think that Mrs. Jones and her husband were scum in the society.

MRS. JONES Your Worship, it's the children that's preying on his mind, because of course I've lost my work. And I've had to find another room owing to the scandal (The Silver Box, p. 74).

The society would assume Mrs. Jones as one who had a bad personality, and surely, it was supported by her impecunious condition. The society would progressively keep the distance and try to avoid her. Directly the case would influence her work. This circumstance made the families who employed her unable to believe her then fired her and she would have difficulties to find another job again after all.

Any kinds of efforts that Mrs. Jones did to assure the society would only do without effect, because an impecunious woman like herself was not possible to be listened. In this case, Mrs. Jones had two weaknesses in her society: first as an impecunious woman that was assumed inconsequential by the society and the second as a woman, who was positioned as unimportant and weak in her society.

3. The Difficulty to Find Justice

The law in the Victorian era had changed a lot. The law was not used as a tool to maintain justice anymore. However, in this play the law was just for the rich ones. This could be seen when Mr. Jones and his wife were taken to the court. They
did not have any chances to make qualified defenses. On the other hand, Barthwicks could say and arrange everything in order to win the case.

BARTHWICK  (*in a whisper*) The purse... the purse must be kept out of it, Roper. Whatever happens you must keep that out of the papers. (*Roper nods*) (*The Silver Box*, p.62).

Barthwick did not want to admit that Mr. Jones did it out of his purpose. Barthwick also tried to hide the fact about the purse stolen by his son.

JONES  (*stopping and twisting round*) Call this justice? What about 'im? 'E got drunk! 'E took the purse... 'e took the purse but (*in a muffled shout*) it's 'is money got 'im off...Justice!(*The prisoner's door is shut on Jones, and from the seedy-looking men and women comes a hoarse and whispering groan*) (*The Silver Box*, p. 76).

The explanations above showed the injustice in law. The questions from the judge always blamed Mr. Jones and his wife. The court did not really pay attention to their defenses.

It was important for the gentlemen of middle and upper classes to keep their own reputation. Any scandal related to them would be threatened as a threat and they would do almost anything, even paying a big amount of money, only to get rid of the scandals.

BARTHWICK  (*unguardedly, and walking up and down*) Tcha! ...and that infernal purse! Good Heavens! It'll get into the papers. Who on earth could have foreseen a thing like this? Better to have lost a dozen cigarette boxes and said nothing about it. (*to his wife*) It's all your doing. I told you so from the first. I wish to goodness Roper would came! (*The Silver Box*, p.49).

All the difficulties experienced by Mr. and Mrs Jones in their distress represented the impossibility of the lower class people in the 19th century of Victorian era (in this play) to get the recognition as a free, independent and useful person in all
aspects of living. The rapid growth of industrial sector and commerce did not go along with the flattening of the society life level. As a result, it created the contrast gaps and discrepancies among the society. It could obviously be seen in the existence of the top-kick upper middle class society and the oppressed lower class society.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

Through a thorough analysis conducted in chapter four, the writer was finally able to find the answers to the problems formulated in the first chapter. *The Silver Box* told us about the unfair treatment to the lower class in the society. John Galsworthy developed the story of this play by describing explicitly the social condition of British society at the Victorian era accompanied with the various forms of discrimination, which appeared there. *The Silver Box* was a reflection of the life in the Victorian era, which voiced the unjust acts and the hypocrisy that was done by the upper middle class society of Victorian era to the lower class.

Mr. and Mrs. Jones were the two main characters who represented the social condition of the lower class. As the representation of the lower class, they were described as those who were not educated, poor, ordinary people in performance, and had no influence in the society. More than this, personally they had the difference characteristics. Mr. Jones was characterized as the alcoholic, the irresponsible and desperate man, whereas Mrs. Jones was described as the hard worker, loyal, loving and honest woman. The different characteristics between them often made them get involved in the disputes when they got different opinions and principles. Nevertheless, as a wife, Mrs. Jones was persistent in showing her loyalty to her husband.

This play described the social condition of British society in the Victorian era through the problems faced by the main characters in the plays. The class distinction
was the important part of the social condition of the Victorian era in the play. The advance in technology, education and life style of the middle and upper class in the society of the play had created much gabs and discrepancies between the upper middle class and the lower class. The upper class in this play represented by Barthwick family live in the beautiful place with the luxurious condition whether Jones family only live in the simple rent house.

The lower class was a group of people who was underestimated by the society. They were assumed as unimportant people; even the upper middle class sometimes doubted their self-respect. The upper and middle class often placed the blame on them as the reason to defend their good name and self-respect.

The impacts of Victorian social condition represented in the play were the difficulty to find a job, the difficulty to get admittance from society and the difficulty to find justice. Mr. and Mrs. Jones, the representation of the lower class in this play experienced all the difficulties mentioned above. They must face the unfair treatments from the high-class society (society above them) and never found a better life.
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APPENDIX

SUMMARY OF GALSWORTHY'S _THE SILVER BOX_

The play of Galsworthy's _The Silver Box_ began when Mr. Jones accompanied Jack (Barthwick junior) went home. At that time, Jack was drunk and Mr. Jones fortunately knew him. Jack was the only child of Barthwick family, his wife's master. It was late at night, but Jack who was still drunk, invited Mr. Jones to come in as thanks. Then, Jack asked Mr. Jones to drink whisky and, of course, soon they were drunk. In drunken condition, they talked about everything unconsciously, Jack with full of confidence talk about liberalism and said that his father was the member of the parliament, then Mr. Jones stupidly admitted that he is a stupid and poor man.

That morning, all the servants of Barthwick family (Mrs. Wheeler, Mrs. Jones, and Mr. Marlow) were cleaning Barthwick's house. While they were working, Mrs. Jones shared to Mrs. Wheeler about his husband's bad behaviors. Mrs. Jones said that his husband had changed become harsh (liked to hit) and drunk since he was unemployed. Mrs. Wheeler suggested her to divorce with her husband rather than she felt tortured, but Mrs. Jones said that she still loved him and felt pity. Mrs. Jones said that if her husband did not lose his job, he would not become a drunkard. At the same time, Mr. Barthwick and his wife had their breakfast. While eating, he was reading newspaper. Then they were involved in a serious conversation about politics. As a member of the parliament, Mr. Barthwick of course was skillful in politics. While his wife, although she did not really understand about politics she refused strongly the
merger of poor people in the parliament. While they were debating seriously, Marlow came and said that there was an unknown and dirty lady in front of the door. She said she wanted to meet Jack. After she was invited to come in and Jack came, she was asked what her intention was. Actually, she wanted to take her purse back with some amount of money inside it, which was stolen by Jack. Mr. Barthwick was very surprised hearing that; he did not believe that his son could steal something from a woman like her. Even Jack also said that he had never met and known the woman. The woman still believed that Jack was the person who stole her purse, because that night she was with Jack and had dinner together. In drunken condition, Jack took her purse. The woman was still crying because the money stolen by Jack was her only wealth, even the money would be used for paying house rent. The woman promised that she only wanted her money back, after that she would go. As long as her money returned, she would not decide to report him to the police and would not tell this case to anyone.

Finally, to cover the ignominy, Mr. Barthwick gave some money to that unknown lady and asked her to leave. Had just a problem had gone away, once again Jack called Marlow who were confused to find the missing the silver box, Marlow replied that the thing had gone since morning. Marlow said that he had been suspecting Mrs. Jones. Then, Mrs. Jones was called and she was interrogated. Mrs. Jones was shocked; she had known anything about the missing silver box. But Mr. and Mrs. Barthwick kept asking questions to her, they even asking about her personal matters. When she was being questioned about her family and her origin of her marriage. Mrs. Jones honestly answered that before she was married, she had ever
pregnant and it was made her husband was fired. Since then, her husband took a job and another, and it had been two months he was unemployment. Mrs. Jones also said that her family is a poor family staying in a very small rent house. To earn money for her family, she worked as a servant in several houses. Hearing what Mrs. Jones said, Mr. Barthwick asked her to go home but without telling anyone he asked Mr. Snow, to investigate the case by following silently Mrs. Jones to her house.

Mrs. Jones got home. She saw her husband sleeping. Then she went to the kitchen. Mr. Jones woke up knowing that her wife had got home. He told his wife that he had some money to pay the house rent and to improve their lives. Mrs. Jones was surprised and she was curious: where did her husband get the money. After being attacked by her questions, finally he admitted that he had taken the money and the silver box in Mr. Barthwick’s house. Mrs. Jones was really angry with that. She had never thought that her husband could do it. He had adulterated her name in front of her master. Mr. Jones kept denied on what he had done; he did not steal it, and he just took it. It was Jack that had asked him to take it. In such situation, Mr. Snow shown up, knowing that there was the stolen silver box in their house. He was certain that Mrs. Jones was the one who stole the silver box. But Mr. Jones defended his wife, and he admitted that he had taken it. Finally, both of them were arrested and brought to a police station.

The case on the stolen silver box then began to be brought to the court. A personal lawyer, Mr. Roper, accompanied Mr. Barthwick and his family, while Mr. Jones and his wife did not get any defenses from anyone.
Helped by his solicitor, Mr. Barthwick freely made up the accusation. They cunningly trapped Mr. Jones for two accusations; Mr. Jones had been proved stealing money and the silver box. Mr. Barthwick with his solicitor could have covered that Jack who actually took a part in the stealing the purse with money. Mr. Jones took it because he was permitted to come in by Jack. Jack denied that he knew well Mr. Jones, even asked him to come in the house.

The process of the court kept bringing Mr. Jones and his wife to corner. The Magistrate seemingly had never considered the defense said by Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Meanwhile, Mr. Barthwick very easily made up a strategy until the Magistrate believed it. Without any lawyer, Mr. Jones was considered guilty and accused. Mrs. Jones was released.

Mr. Jones of course hardly rejected the decision, however, he could not do anything. Because the court had been underestimated poor people just like him.

Mrs. Jones also protested the court; by the scandal no one, no employer, would have received her. The Jones’s family really suffered from it.