

ABSTRACT

HARIO ADI NUGROHO. **The Criticism on Upper Class' Attitudes Towards Social Stratification in Victorian Era through Frederick Fairlie's Characterization in Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2013.

Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White* is a suspense novel of which story is coordinated on Walter Hartright's tale in struggling for his love, Laura Fairlie's striving for her life, and Marian Halcombe accompanying them both through sadness and joy. This study concentrates its analysis on Frederick Fairlie, Laura Fairlie's uncle, as he is significant to the status and class related problem in the story. He was a part of Victorian upper class society. In the novel, he demonstrated the ways of living which were regarded as degrading the characteristics of a nobleman—a man with a noble rank—which was supposed to be honored by their noble actions through his ignoble characteristics; therefore, he degraded the substance of being a gentleman.

There are three problems formulated in this thesis. The first problem is how Frederick Fairlie is characterized in the story. The second problem is how the upper class' attitudes towards social stratification in Victorian era is represented by Frederick Fairlie's characterization. The last problem is about the criticism on upper class' attitudes towards social stratification in the era which is revealed through Frederick Fairlie's characterization.

The approach applied in this thesis is sociocultural-historical approach. The method used in this thesis is library research. The primary data were taken from the novel, Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*. The other data were taken from books, journal, and references dealing with this thesis.

The result of this study shows the criticism on upper class' attitudes towards social stratification in Victorian era which is veiled in Frederick Fairlie's characterization. He is characterized as a nobleman who is willing to do anything to monopolize his leisure time, as in this case it represented the non-material resources which were normally fought for by the upper class society in the social stratification system like in the Victorian era. The upper class society made use of the social stratification system in the era to benefit their selves in monopolizing the resources provided by it. As the consequence, the lower classes had been barred from accessing the resources. The method used by the upper class society in barring the resources is similar to the method used by Frederick Fairlie to secure his leisure time, including the fact that he had to make the people that were supposed to be dear to him suffered. People around Frederick Fairlie were suffering because of him, so was the lower class society suffering from upper class' attitudes towards the social stratification in Victorian era.

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*The Woman in White* berkiblat pada Walter Hartright dengan perjuangan atas cintanya, Laura Fairlie dengan perjuangan bertahan hidupnya, dan Marian Halcombe yang menemani mereka dalam suka dan duka. Tapi, studi ini berkonsentrasi pada analisis terhadap karakterisasi Frederick Fairlie, paman dari Laura Fairlie, karena karakter ini berhubungan dengan masalah status dan kelas dalam cerita. Ia adalah bagian dari kelompok masyarakat kelas atas di era Victoria. Dalam novel ini, ia mendemonstrasikan gaya hidup yang dipandang telah menurunkan nilai daripada karakteristik seorang ningrat—seseorang yang berderajat tinggi—yang seharusnya terdandang juga tingkah dan lakunya; jadi Frederick Fairlie telah menodai arti dirinya sebagai seseorang yang terdandang.

Ada tiga permasalahan yang dirumuskan dalam skripsi ini. Masalah pertama yaitu bagaimana Frederick Fairlie dikarakterisasikan dalam novel. Masalah yang kedua ialah bagaimana sikap masyarakat kelas atas terhadap stratifikasi sosial di era Victoria direpresentasikan oleh karakterisasi Frederick Fairlie. Masalah yang ketiga adalah tentang kritik Wilkie Collins yang tertuju pada sikap masyarakat kelas atas terhadap stratifikasi sosial di era Victoria yang diungkapkan melalui karakterisasi Frederick Fairlie.

Skripsi ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiokultural-historis. Metode yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini adalah studi pustaka. Jadi, data utama yang digunakan dalam skripsi ini diperoleh dari novel *The Woman in White* karangan Wilkie Collins. Data-data lainnya diambil dari buku-buku, jurnal-jurnal, dan referensi lain yang berhubungan dengan skripsi ini.

Hasil studi menunjukkan bahwa kritik yang ditujukan pada sikap masyarakat kelas atas terhadap stratifikasi sosial di era Victoria diungkapka oleh pengarang lewat karakterisasi Frederick Fairlie. Karakter ini dikarakterisasikan sebagai seorang ningrat yang siap melakukan apapun untuk memonopolisir waktu luangnya, yang pada kasus ini merepresentasikan sumber daya non-material yang diperjuangkan oleh kelompok masyarakat kelas atas dalam sistem stratifikasi sosial seperti dalam era Victoria. Kelompok masyarakat ini menggunakan sistem tersebut untuk menguasai sumberdaya yang tersedia untuk keuntungan kelompok mereka sendiri. Konsekuensinya, kelompok masyarakat kelas bawah kesulitan untuk mengakses sumberdaya tersebut. Frederick Fairlie telah membuat orang yang seharusnya penting dalam hidupnya menderita; seperti halnya masyarakat kelas bawah yang menderita akibat sikap masyarakat kelas atas terhadap stratifikasi sosial di era Victoria.