



**THE SURVIVAL OF INGALLS FAMILY IN SOCIAL CHANGES OF
AMERICA IN THE ERA OF 1882S IN LAURA INGALLS WILDER'S
*LITTLE TOWN IN THE PRAIRIE***

THESIS

Written by:

ELDIAN AGUSTINA

Nim. 080110101046

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2015



**THE SURVIVAL OF INGALLS FAMILY IN SOCIAL CHANGES OF
AMERICA IN THE ERA OF 1882S IN LAURA INGALLS WILDER'S
*LITTLE TOWN IN THE PRAIRIE***

THESIS

**A Thesis Presented to the English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember
University as One of the Requirements to Get the Award of Sarjana Sastra
Degree in English Studies**

Written by:

ELDIAN AGUSTINA

Nim. 080110101046

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

FACULTY OF LETTERS

JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2015

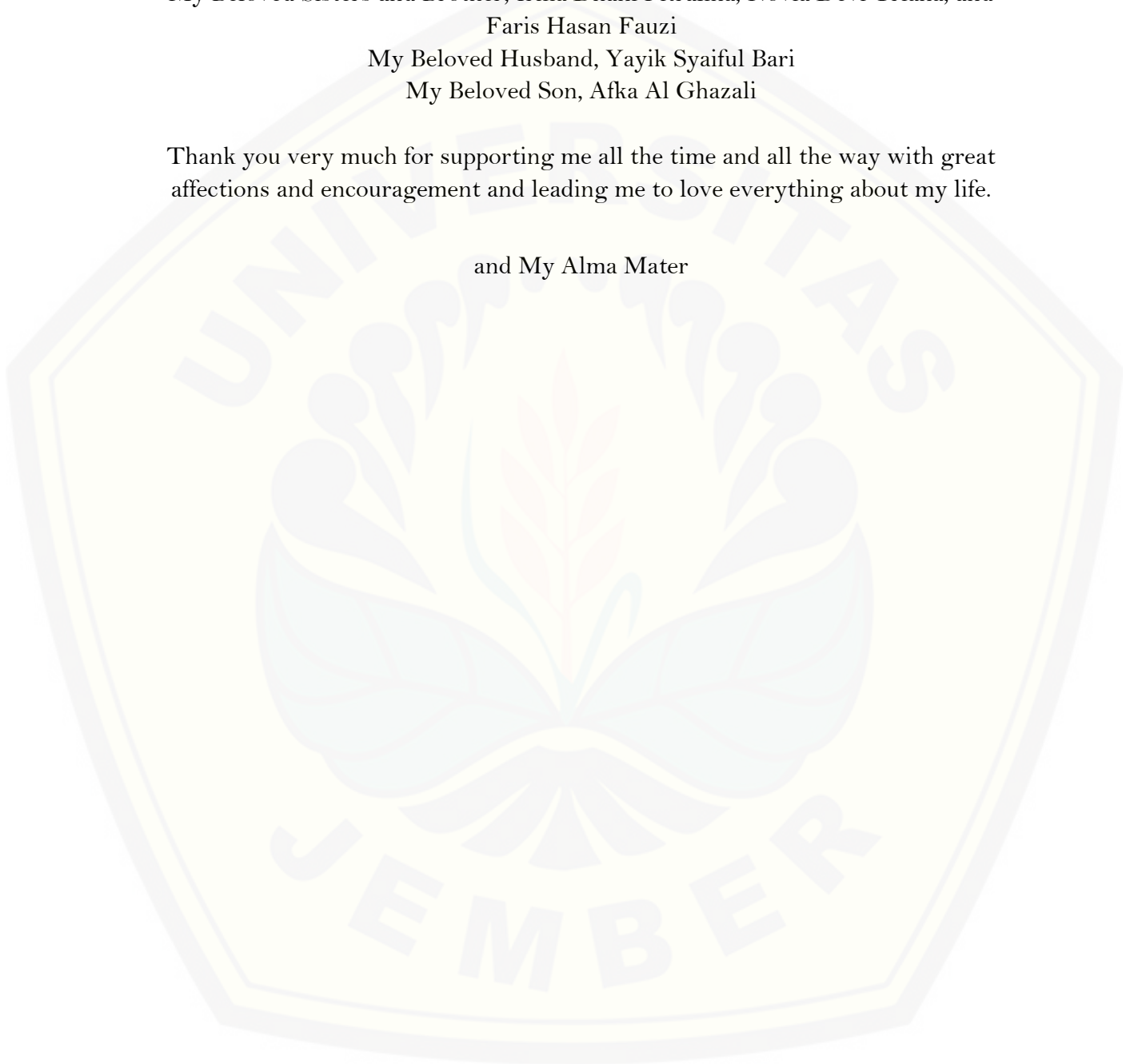
DEDICATION PAGE

This thesis is dedicated to:

My Beloved Parents, Gusnadi and Nur Rochayati
My Beloved Sisters and Brother, Irma Dhani Fitralina, Novia Devi Triana, and
Faris Hasan Fauzi
My Beloved Husband, Yayik Syaiful Bari
My Beloved Son, Afka Al Ghazali

Thank you very much for supporting me all the time and all the way with great affections and encouragement and leading me to love everything about my life.

and My Alma Mater



MOTTO

*“It is not the strongest or the most intelligent who will survive but those who can
best manage change.”*

(Charles Darwin)



DECLARATION PAGE

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “*The Survival of Ingalls Family in Social Changes of America in the Era of 1882s in Laura Ingalls Wilder’s Little Town in the Prairie*” is an original piece of writing. I declare that the analysis and the result described in this thesis have never been submitted for any degree or any publications.

I certify to the best of my knowledge that all sources used any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, March 11th, 2015

The Writer,

Eldian Agustina

080110101046

APPROVAL SHEET

**Approved and received by the Examination Committee of English
Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.**

Name : Eldian Agustina
Student Number : 080110101046
Title : The Survival of Ingalls Family in Social Changes of
America in the Era of 1882s in Laura Ingalls Wilder's
Little Town in the Prairie
Day/Date : Wednesday, March 11th, 2015
Place : Faculty of Letters, Jember University

The Examination Committee,

Chairman,

Secretary,

(Dra. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd.)

(Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum.)

NIP. 195105211981032002

NIP. 196511061993031001

The Members:

1. Dr. Ikwan Setiawan, S.S., M.A. (.....)

NIP. 197806262002121002

2. L. Dyah Purwita Wardani S W W, S.S., M.A. (.....)

NIP. 197109282005012001

Approved by,

The Dean

(Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed.)

NIP. 196310151989021001

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Above all, I would like to express my best praise to Allah SWT, the Almighty God who has given me mercy and blessing, so that, I am able to accomplish this thesis.

The achievement of this thesis will not be reached without the guidance and invaluable assistance from many people. Therefore, I would like to express my best gratitude to the following people who have supported me in writing and completing this thesis:

1. Dr. Hairus Salikin, M.Ed., as the Dean of Faculty of Letters and Dra. Supiastutik, M.Pd., as the Head of English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University, who have permitted me to write this thesis.
2. Dra. Meilia Adiana, M.Pd., as my first advisor and Dr. Eko Suwargono, M.Hum., as my second advisor, who have provided me their times and guidance during the process of writing this thesis and supported me to achieve the perfect writing of this thesis.
3. All of the lecturers of the Faculty of Letters, who have taught me invaluable knowledge during my study in this faculty and all the staffs of English Department, who helped me for the administration service in finishing this thesis.
4. All of the librarians of Faculty of Letters and the Central Library of Jember University, who have helped me to get the appropriate references books.
5. My best friend, Rofiatul Hasanah, who has helped and encouraged me all the time, my beloved friends, Apri, Yunika, Reti, and all of my friends in English Department student of 2008 to 2009, who have given me support.

Jember, March 11th, 2015

Eldian Agustina

SUMMARY

The Survival of Ingalls Family in Social Changes of America in the Era of 1882s in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie*: Eldian Agustina, 080110101046, 2015, 42 pages, English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University.

Little Town in the Prairie is the seventh novel of Laura Ingalls Wilder which was first published in 1941. This American author expresses her real experiences with her family in Dakota Territory in the era of 1882s in the novel. This novel is the reflection of Wilder's biography when she is in fifth. The novel as a literary work reflects the author's life and the era surrounding her. In the novel, Wilders shows the picture of American social condition in the era of social change occurred as the impact of the Industrial Revolution in the United States of America, specifically in the era of 1882s, through Ingalls family's life. The advancement of technology and science stimulate the economic growth and many social changes. This thesis entitled "The Survival of Ingalls Family in Social Changes of America in the Era of 1882s in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie* discusses the phenomenon of social change in the era of 1882s that influences the life of American people in reaching a better life. The Ingalls family as the representation of American people tries to survive in the era of social change that emerges many problems and challenges.

The sociology of literature is applied in this thesis to comprehend the reflection of the author's life and the era surrounding her that influence the creation of the novel. This approach is used to show that literary work is the result of social phenomena and social reality. This approach will conduct to understand the depiction of the American social condition in the era of 1882s that is described by Wilder in the novel through the Ingalls family's life. The Janet Wolff's theory is used in this thesis to explain and comprehend the social change as a social phenomenon which influences human's thinking and action. The human creativity theory will help the reader to understand how social reaction appeared as the expression of a certain person toward something. Through this novel, Wilder

shows how Ingalls family survives facing social changes of America that affect the life of American families in the era of 1882s in reaching their dream to make a better life.

Qualitative research is used in this thesis as a method of this research. The writer collects data from the conversations and narration in the novel that focus on the social changes of America and its influences, and the survival and efforts of the characters in that era. The data are also collected from quotations in another appropriate references. Moreover, this thesis will help to comprehend the real American social condition in the era of 1882s and how Americans survive in social changes occurred at that time to achieve their dream and pursue happiness in realizing a better life and a better future. This phenomenon is also experienced by Ingalls family.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FRONT PIECE	i
DEDICATION PAGE	ii
MOTTO	iii
DECLARATION PAGE	iv
APPROVAL SHEET	v
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	vi
SUMMARY	vii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	ix
CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. The Background of the Study	1
1.2. The Problems to Discuss	5
1.3. The Goals of The Study	5
CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	7
2.1. The Previous Research	7
2.2. The Approach to Use	10
2.3. The Biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder	11
2.4. Janet Wolff’s Theory	12
CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	15
3.1. The Type of Research	15
3.2. Data Collection	15
3.3. Data Processing	16
3.4. Data Analysis	16
CHAPTER 4. THE SURVIVAL OF INGALLS FAMILY IN SOCIAL CHANGES OF AMERICA IN THE ERA OF 1882S IN LAURA INGALLS WILDER’S <i>LITTLE TOWN IN THE PRAIRIE</i>	18

4.1. The Background of America in the Era of 1882s as Reflected in the Novel	18
4.1.1. The Social Changes of America	19
4.2. The Survival of Ingalls Family Facing Social Changes of America in the Era of 1882s as Reflected in the Novel	23
4.2.1. Through Jobs	23
4.2.2. Through Education	29
4.2.3. Through Social Relation	34
4.2.4. Improving Family Life Better	36
CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION	41
BIBLIOGRAPHY	43
APPENDICES	45
1. The Biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder	45
2. The Synopsis of <i>Little Town in the Prairie</i>	46

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of this thesis is the introduction which contains the background of the study, the problems to discuss and the goals of the study. Chapter one deals with the discussion of the thesis which conducts the research to reach the best understanding of the topic. This chapter gives the readers an easy way to understand the following discussion in the next chapters.

1.1. The Background of the Study

Little Town in the Prairie is a novel written by Laura Ingalls Wilder, an American author who writes about the realities of her daily living with her parents and three sisters in the late of nineteenth century. The author has the similar name with the main character in the novel, Laura Ingalls Wilder, because the novel is a biography of her childhood memories. This thesis only uses the seventh of the eight Wilder's novels. She writes *Little Town in the Prairie* novel as a picture of her family life in South Dakota, in the era of 1882s. This novel is framed by a historical perspective. Wilder shows how history and literature are related through the novel by describing many aspects of nineteenth century life and general illustrations of people, place and a lot of events. The novel of *Little Town in the Prairie* as a literary work reflects human's real life in a certain era. The story of the novel portrays the American social condition, especially in the era of the Gilded Age. In the novel, Wilder does not tell about the term of the Gilded Age in specific explanation but her novel portrays the real condition of American society in that era, specifically in the era of 1882s.

The Gilded Age is the greatest period of economic growth and reconstruction in the United States of America as the impact of the Industrial Revolution at that time. This history of America is marked by the advancement of technology and science. The development of industrialization makes many great fortunes and problems, and changes the life of American. The changes include the changes in technology, economy, science, family life, social action and social

relation. It can emerge various actions of people in facing their new condition and makes them to be creative. During this era, waves of immigrants come from Europe move to the United States of America to seek several chances to make a better life. Millions of villagers are also ready to work by moving to the city to get success to improve their life. The progress is used to improve transportation, supporting manufacturing industry, and developing American agricultural products. Technological advances support railroad construction development, a wave of immigrant, a city life and political change (Gabriel, Ralph H., 1974:186).

American, however, still has the spirit as described by Wilder in *Little Town in the Prairie* novel through the characters' experiences. The real condition of American society in the late of nineteenth century and its social changes are clearly reflected in the novel. The story of the novel tells a family life, called Ingalls family, as rural community on agricultural frontier in Dakota prairie in the era of 1882s. They are Pa, Ma, Mary, Laura, Carrie and Grace. The story of this novel shows in the spring season after the long winter. Ingalls family is all so busy and happy in the homestead claim in the springtime. They have to prepare their provisions when they move to town. They have to live in town again next winter therefore they intend to be ready when it does come. They cannot live through the worst last winter again in the homestead. The family has the garden, oats and the corn. All provisions can be raised from the land. They can sell the corn and oats to fulfill their needs and savings, and pay taxes. They all need to buy dresses, shoes, culinary, coal etc.

They are back to town and prepare for the worst. Laura and Carry attend to school there after the springtime. Laura has to know how to teach and has a teaching certificate as soon as she grows old enough. Then, she can take a job in town as a schoolteacher when she turns sixteenth years old. Laura also tries to get a part time job in the city during summer. Laura wants to help Mary to study at a school for the blind. Mary is Laura's elder sister who is blind. Mary wants to be a schoolteacher. Mary likes so much to read and learn but she can never teach at school. Laura has to help Pa and Ma to get money for Mary's tuition. She knows that Ma is often worried about how they are going to earn more money if the crop

is gone. Although, Pa also works in town, however, his wages are not enough to keep Mary there until she finishes the full seven years' college.

Laura, actually, hates the work. She does not want to work in town. She can imagine what kind of a job there for a girl in town. She does not want working in a hotel among of kinds of strangers. She also gets a lot of problems during schooldays in town but she must study hard to be a schoolteacher and get her own certificate, then she is able to help Pa for Mary's education.

Life is changing fast for this family because Laura only has one year left before she can apply for a teaching certificate. In fact, Laura still enjoys helping Ma and Pa at home and finds time to enjoy herself although her family has many problems in daily life. At the end of the story, Laura earns a teaching certificate and employs at the Brewster settlement, 12 miles away. Then, she prepares to teach.

Pa, Ma and Laura hope that Mary will be a skilled person by studying in a school for the blind, no matter how they have to earn much money to keep her there. By getting a teaching certificate and being a schoolteacher, Laura will earn enough money to help Mary's education. The members of Ingalls family are in mutual understanding to reach a better life. They support each other in work and education.

Janet Wolff in her book, *The Social Production of Art*, mentions that "Where social influences are indirect, the work itself may not be affected, but the conditions surrounding its production, distribution and reception will still be." (1981:34). The real condition of American society with their issues, especially its social changes, affects Wilder in creating her novel. Lived in the era of 1882s, Wilder was an American author who experienced the era of technological and educational advance as the impact of industrial revolution, that has changed social life. Certainly, *Little Town in the Prairie* novel portrays the era of Wilder's lifetime. It means this literary work is the reflection of certain time and society, which occurs as the result of social phenomena happened in the real life.

Most of American society deals with an idea of American Dream. Wilder shows this idea in the novel.

“Pa answered, “It’s Fourth of July, Carrie.” The air shook again. BOOM!

It was not great guns. It was gunpowder exploded under the blacksmith’s anvil, in town. The noise was like the noise of battles that Americans fought for independence. Fourth of July was the day when: the first Americans declared that all men are born free and equal...

(Wilder, 1941:63-64)

Palludan Philip states, “American Dream means a dream that had come true for many people.” (in Basuki, 2011:7). It is about hope and potential for change and giving the possibility of living better. This idea based on the Declaration of Independence of the United States written by Thomas Jefferson that all men are created equal (Gabriel, Ralph H., 1974:154). It explains that men and women have the same opportunities in making a better life. It is obvious that the idea of American Dream hopefully gives motivation and spirit to everybody in reaching aims.

Wilder also experienced the spirit of American dream. The real story of Wilder’s family life in the era of 1882s as expressed in the novel shows the depiction of American people in persuing happpiness. The experiences of Ingalls family as the representation of the real Wilder’s family life in the novel are described in an endless spirit in facing social changes at that time. Getting a job and making attention in education are the main ways in improving family life better for survival in the era of social changes. Ingalls family tries to go through the hardships in their daily living.

Janet Wolff states that “People have ability and potential to act, consciously and with the use of abstract thought and imagination, to change nature and their surroundings” (Wolff, 1981:14). Ingalls family has to face many hardships during their daily life. Through it all, they struggle and persevere together as a family. They always optimize to fulfill their needs and gain satisfaction during social changes of America as a result of the industrialization during the era. According to the sense of American Dream, they want to change their life in a better condition. In the era of industrialization, millions of people also hoped to get chances to improve their life. Certainly, they have different thought and ability, and the same opportunities to make a better life. The

advancement of technology and science supports the emergence of many new vacancies for people to work and earn money. At that time, Ingalls family also used their opportunities in getting some jobs in town and the children studied at school to get better education for a better future. Education was very important at that time because technological advance in line with the development of knowledge. Getting education will make somebody to be a skilled and trained person, so he or she can get more chances to seek a job and makes place for himself in society. Ingalls family tried hard to fulfill their dream came into being and kept them away from difficulties at that time. This thesis will discuss the reflection of American social condition in the era of 1882s and the depiction of Ingalls family' survival in facing social changes occurred at that time, as described in *Little Town in the Prairie*.

1.2. The Problems to Discuss

Laura Ingalls Wilder describes the phenomena and problems related to the issue of social changes of America in the era of 1882s through the character's experiences and such events in her novel *Little Town in the Prairie*. The greatest period of economic growth and reconstruction as the impact of industrialization changed the social condition of American society. Many of them hoped to get good chances in making a better life by moving to the cities to working and studying. Wilder also describes that condition in her novel. Wilder shows the American social condition in *Little Town in the Prairie* in the era of 1882s through the depiction of the Ingalls family's experiences as the representation of American people that had to face many hardships in going through the challenges of social changes. The changes brought Ingalls family into a deep spirit to survive to make their dream come into being. They optimized to make themselves a better life, improved their condition and be successful people.

As the explanation mentioned above, the two main problems of this thesis are formulated as the following:

1. What social changes of America occurred in the era of 1882s as reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie*?

2. How are Ingalls family' survival in social changes of America in the era of 1882s as described in *Little Town in the Prairie*?

1.3. The Goals of the Study

There are several purposes of writing this thesis. First, it is to describe the social changes of America, which occurred in the era of 1882s as reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie*. Then, the readers will get an understanding about the history of America at that time. Second, it is to describe the American people' survival as represented by Ingalls family in social changes of America as reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie*. Therefore, the reader will know about the social condition of American society in the era of 1882s reflected in the novel through the character's experiences. Another goal of writing this thesis is to understand the author's life and era in creating her novel because *Little Town in the Prairie* portrays the story of her childhood memories in the era of 1882s. Nevertheless, it will enrich our knowledge and deep understanding about literary works, especially about literary work as the representation of the real fact of certain time, place or society.

CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The second chapter of this thesis will be divided into four subchapters. The first subchapter discusses about the previous researches that share some similarities with this thesis are found in Utami, Kurnia and Nanik's thesis. The second subchapter is about the approach to use in the process of analyzing the novel. The writer uses the sociological approach to literature to analyze the data about the author's lifetime and the character's lifetime in the work. The third subchapter will give a view about the biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder as the author of *Little Town in the Prairie* novel. The last subchapter will discuss Janet Wolff's theory of Human Creativity which has an important role to conduct the research and helps the writer to get the deeper understanding of the discussion.

2.1. The Previous Research

Several researchers have done the same topic with this thesis but the writer only takes three previous researches which are relevant in discussing the history of a certain era in a certain place and its social changes.

The first previous research written by Utami Anggraeni with the title *American Social Condition in the Late of 19th Century Found in Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of The Street* (2007) analyzes the condition of American society in the late of 19th century. The similarities of *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* and Utami's research are both of them explaining the history of America in the late of nineteenth century and the depiction of its social condition. First, Utami explains the condition of city life, the settlement houses, the railroads construction and the Irish immigrant in the United States as the background of America in the late of 19th century. Then, she analyzes power, alcoholism, violence and moral hypocrisy and slum life as the depiction of American social condition in the late of nineteenth century in *Maggie: A Girl of The Street*. Utami wants to prove that *Stephen Crane's Maggie: A Girl of The Street* novel is the

reflection of the real condition of American society in the late of nineteenth century. *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* dose not focus only on the analysis of American social condition in 19th century, but also specifically on the social changes occurred that time.

The next previous research written by Kurnia Indrastuti, *The Influences of Gilded Age toward Rationality in Margaret Sidney's The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew* (thesis, 2012), analyzes the American social condition during the Gilded Age occurred in 1870-1914. Kurnia explains urbanization, social classes, education, family life and Christianity. Then, she analyzes the influence of American social condition toward rationality as social action and relation related to Marx Weber's explanation about four types of rationality. The similarity of *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* and Kurnia's research is both of them discussing the American social condition in the late of nineteenth century, especially in the era of the Gilded age. However, *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* focuses on the social action of American people in facing the social changes occurred in that era.

The last research is Nanik Agustin's thesis, entitled *Jane Austen's Persuasion as the Reflection of Social Changes in the British Society in the Early Nineteenth Century* (2004). She discusses about the social changes in the British society through the differences of the character's thought and attitude towards others. She explains the social account on British in the early nineteenth century and the reflection of social changes in the clash generations. *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* does not discuss the social changes in the British society like Nanik's thesis but the social changes in American society.

The Industrial Revolution in Europe came earlier than Industrial Revolution in the United States of America. The industrialization first began in England, specifically in the middle of 1700s. Then, England became the most important colonial power in the world. The industrialization rapidly spread to

America. Driven by Northern and Western Europe, America is being an industrial country. The population of American people increased by the arriving of the immigrants came from Europe, including British people. Afterwards, American thinking and behaviors were affected by the arrival of skilled British colonies in the United States of America, notably in the city. They could produce many new machines that made changes in transportation, agriculture and every kind of industrial activities; therefore, they could increase the production of many different kinds of goods. Those changes encouraged American people to do the same things. Certainly, the American social condition during the industrialization era is almost same with the social condition of British society, and the social changes occurred in British society as the impact of the industrialization at that time also appeared in American society. So, the American social changes can be said as the reflection of the British social changes. Therefore, *The Survival of American in Social Changes in the Era of 1882s Through Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little Town in the Prairie* uses Nanik's thesis as the previous research to show the differences between them although the main topic about social changes is similar. Nanik focuses on the analysis of social changes in belief and attitude. This previous research also conducted this research to develop and get a new idea in writing this thesis.

This thesis is the research development based on the previous research. I focus on the depiction of American social changes in the late of 19th century, and how Ingalls family as the representation of American society as rural community in *Little Town in the Prairie*, survived facing social changes in 1882s. This research will show that Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie* novel is the reflection of American social condition in 1882s in the era of social changes as the impact of industrialization. Then, I develop the topic about the survival of American in social changes in the era of 1882s in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie*.

2.2. The Approach to Use

It is necessary to use sociology of literature to analyze *Little Town in the Prairie* novel to get a clear description and detailed explanation in this thesis. As stated by Janet Wolff in her book, *The Social Production of Art*, “Sociological approaches to literature attempt to link novel form and content to social-structural features” (Wolff, 1981:20). The sociology of literature is used to find the relationship between fiction and reality. This approach is applied to study the society in the novel that can be analyzed through the social action and also social relation of human being as described by the Wilder in *Little Town in the Prairie* through the characters’ experiences. The use of sociology of literature is to know that the novel of *Little Town in the Prairie* portrayed the American people condition in the past and show how American social changes occurred at that time. By understanding the novel, it will also understand about the author’s himself not only about the social and historical influences in creating a work. There are some factors that influenced the creation of an author’s work, for instance such as biography, personal facts, and family life. (Wolff, 1981:20).

Harry Levin suggests that “literature is not only the effect of social causes; it is also the cause of social effects” (in Elizabeth and Burns, 1973:63). It means that literary work is the reflection of certain society, which occurred as the result of social phenomena happened in the real life. The society can be observed by understanding the literary text that contains of social phenomena such as the existences, values, or problems of social group, then, the past of American social condition especially in the era of 1882s can be seen by analyzing the Wilder’s novel of *Little Town in the Prairie*. It can be said that Wilder wrote the novel because of his particular condition surrounding them directly influenced the creating of her work. It is clear that a social phenomenon effects the creation of literary work.

Wilder shows the reality of American social changes as the impact of industrialization through the novel, especially in era of 1882s. She describes how Americans, through the experiences of Ingalls family, survive in that changes that emerge many problems, challenges, happiness and sadness. Therefore, sociology of literature is needed in this thesis to view the condition of American society in

the past that was reflected in the Wilder's novel, therefore, it can be reached detailed explanation and clear depiction related to the research problems.

2.3. The Biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder

Laura Ingalls Wilder was born on February 7th, 1867 in Wisconsin. Before Wilder was two years old, she and her family which consists of her parents and her sister, Charles Phillip Ingalls, Caroline Quiner Ingalls and Mary moved to Kansas from Wisconsin in 1869. Wilder was growing up and her younger sister, Carrie, was born in 1870. This family returned to Wisconsin in 1871-1874. They moved again to Minnesota when Wilder was seven years old. When Wilder's youngest sister, Grace, was born in 1877, they next moved to Iowa and back again to Minnesota in 1878. The Ingalls' life in Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa was not an easy one. The last move of Wilder's family when they left Minnesota and moved to De Smet, South Dakota. Wilder attended to school and made many friends there. She also worked for several part time jobs. Wilder accepted her first teaching certificate on December 10th, 1882 before she was sixteen years old. She taught at school until 1885 in South Dakota. She ended her teaching career and studied when she married Almanzo Wilder in 1885 and made their new home at De Smet, South Dakota. In 1886, she had a daughter named Rose Wilder.

Wilder had many challenges living at Rocky Ridge Farm during 1910-1932. Rose Wilder encouraged her mother to write her wonderful memories of childhood living as an autobiography. Then, Wilder attempted to write *Little House* books in her sixties that told about all Ingalls family's journey in 1867-1886 in fictional form. At first, she wrote *Pioneer Girl* but rejected by publisher. In 1920-1932, she had written some articles for magazine. In 1932-1943, she had published all series of *Little House* books; *Little House in the Big Woods* (1932), *Farmer Boy* (1933), *Little House on the Prairie* (1935), *On the Banks of Plum Creek* (1937), *By the Shores of Silver Lake* (1939), *The Long Winter* (1940), *Little Town on the Prairie* (1941), *These Happy Golden Years* (1943).

Her husband, Almanzo died at Rocky Ridge Farm on October 23th, 1949, therefore Wilder lived alone in Missouri. In 1953, Wilder's *Little House* books were reissued by Garth Williams with new illustrations. Wilder had been awarded

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award. In February 10th, 1957, Wilder died at Mansfield, Missouri. Following Wilder's death, Rose Ingalls edited and published several works based on Wilder's diary and incomplete manuscripts.

This research uses the seventh of eight Wilder's novel in *Little House* books, *Little Town in the Prairie*, because the contents of the novel reflected the history of America in the late of 19th especially its social changes that occurred at that time. Through the novel, Wilder portrays the reality that existed in the past by the story of her family's experiences in the era of 1882s and how the social phenomena of industrialization occurred at her era had changed the society. Therefore, by analyzing the seventh novel will be known the depiction of American's survival in facing social changes occurred at that era.

2.4. Janet Wolff's Theory

Janet Wolff in her book, *The Social Production of Art* shows how comprehending art from a sociological point a view. She demonstrates that art and literature have to be seen as historical, situated, produced and not only coming from an inspiration of genius people (1981:1). This thesis uses one of Wolff's concepts of the social production of art. In her concept, she elaborates the relationship between social structures and individual action. She tries to show a mutual interdependence between practical activity and creativity with social structure (Wolff, 1981:9)

Wolff notions that "Everything we do is located in, and therefore affected by, social structure" (1981:9). Her statements means that the condition faced by the writer or artist affects him or herself to describe it in a fiction, therefore, a work can be a product of historical records of certain time and specific conditions of particular society. Society in literary work is a reflection of society where the writer lives. The writer is directly influenced by the society around him or her. Therefore, the creativity itself is affected by the conditions surrounding its production. The social context is reflected in the literary work. So, literary work is a representation of the real fact. Then, the reader gets the effects of it that have emerged social actions and thoughts.

Janet Wolff mentions a statement about human action and creativity. She says that “People have ability and potential to act, consciously and with the use of abstract thought and imagination, to change nature and their surroundings” (1981:14). This statement follows with the argument of Marx about creative practical activity. It is about creativity, which expresses human freedom. People have, of course, different thought and ways to obtain their needs and achieve their intentions.

“As human natural being, man continuous to live in the realm of necessity; more precisely, the more human becomes, the greater the number of his human needs. These needs are either natural needs (hunger, sex, etc.)... Human needs characterize man as an active being, and his activity consists of creating a human word that does not exist by itself, outside of him.”

(Vazquez in Wolff, 1981:60-61)

Those statements mean that men are free, and have chances to do anything appropriate with what they would have. Everyone is able to change a condition and the world surrounding them that faced him or her to realize their dream by their creative activities. Some actions are to be free for everyone in creating or producing works that express him. Everyone has his own right and freedom to make a choice.

Wolff concentrates on the relationship between creative human agency, human activity and social interaction. Through her writing, Wolff shows that anything, which happens, is caused by human action and all human action is affected by social factors. In the novel of *Little Town in the Prairie*, the characters are also experiencing this creativity. Social changes as the major issue in the novel happened because of the development of science and technology in the nineteenth century that influenced the rise of many new invention and reconstruction. These changes, absolutely affect the characters to be free and creative in facing that condition, and then, gives major effects in their action and relation in society. Most of people try to change their life in a better condition.

Literary work is the reflection of the real life. *Little Town in the Prairie* is a product of human creativity that reflected the reality of certain era and social life in America in the late of 19th century. By creating the *Little Town in the Prairie*

novel, Wilder tried to show the real condition of American society in her period, especially her childhood memories with her family in a fictional form. She depicted the phenomena and problems related to the issue of social changes of America that followed her family's journey in the era of 1882s. She focuses on how her family survived in going through all the challenges at that time. It means that the creation of this novel imitates the real events in life. It is clear that Wilder's creativity is affected by the condition surrounding her in creating the novel. As stated by Wolff:

“A more thorough investigation of the creation of an author's work involves not only locating him or her in the appropriate social and historical structures, but also examining the specific personal, familial, and biographical influences which turned that person to writing in the first place, and determined the focus of the work”

(Wolff, 1981:20)

The Wolff's concept about human creativity is closely related to the problem to discuss in this thesis. The American social changes encouraged people to be creative. Therefore it is important to explore about social changes occurred in the era of 1882s and how the American as represented by Ingalls family in facing that changes.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The third chapter of this thesis will discuss the method of analysis. The writer follows the procedure of the research in analyzing Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie*. The procedure includes the type of research, data collection, data processing and data analysis. Therefore, research methodology is used to get an accurate result in doing this thesis.

3.1. The Type of Research

Qualitative research is used as a type of this research. "Qualitative research refers to intensive interviews, participant observation and depth analyses of historical materials and relies on discursive methods"(Singleton and Straits, 2005:75). From the statement above is known that qualitative research focuses on comprehending the sources of the data. Hence, qualitative research deals with library research that has many sources in identifying several historical events in the novel. Library research is used to complete some information from several books or other written sources related to the content of the novel and the topic of this thesis. It is to collect the description of the social changes in the era of 1882s and the survival of American as represented by Ingalls family in American social changes during that era according to *Little Town in the Prairie*.

3.1 Data Collection

Qualitative data are used as the type of data in this thesis. "Qualitative variables have discrete categories, usually designed by words or labels, and non-numerical differences between categories" (Singleton and Straits, 2005:75). The data are collected in order to analyze the topic of this thesis. The data can be information and facts about the social changes in the era of 1882s and the description of the survival of the American as represented by Ingalls family in American social changes in that era in the novel, *Little Town in the Prairie* as the source of data.

This thesis uses primary data and secondary data as types of data. “Primary sources are eyewitness accounts of the events described, whereas secondary sources consist of indirect evidence obtained from primary sources.” (Singleton and Straits, 2005:367). *Little Town in the Prairie* as source of this research contains some important facts and information about social changes and the survival of the American as represented by Ingalls family through several events in the novel, such as character’s actions or setting. The secondary data are taken to support the analysis and answer the problems concerning with the discussion that are collected from many sources such as books, internet website related to the novel and also the information and facts about social changes and the survival of the characters.

3.1 Data Processing

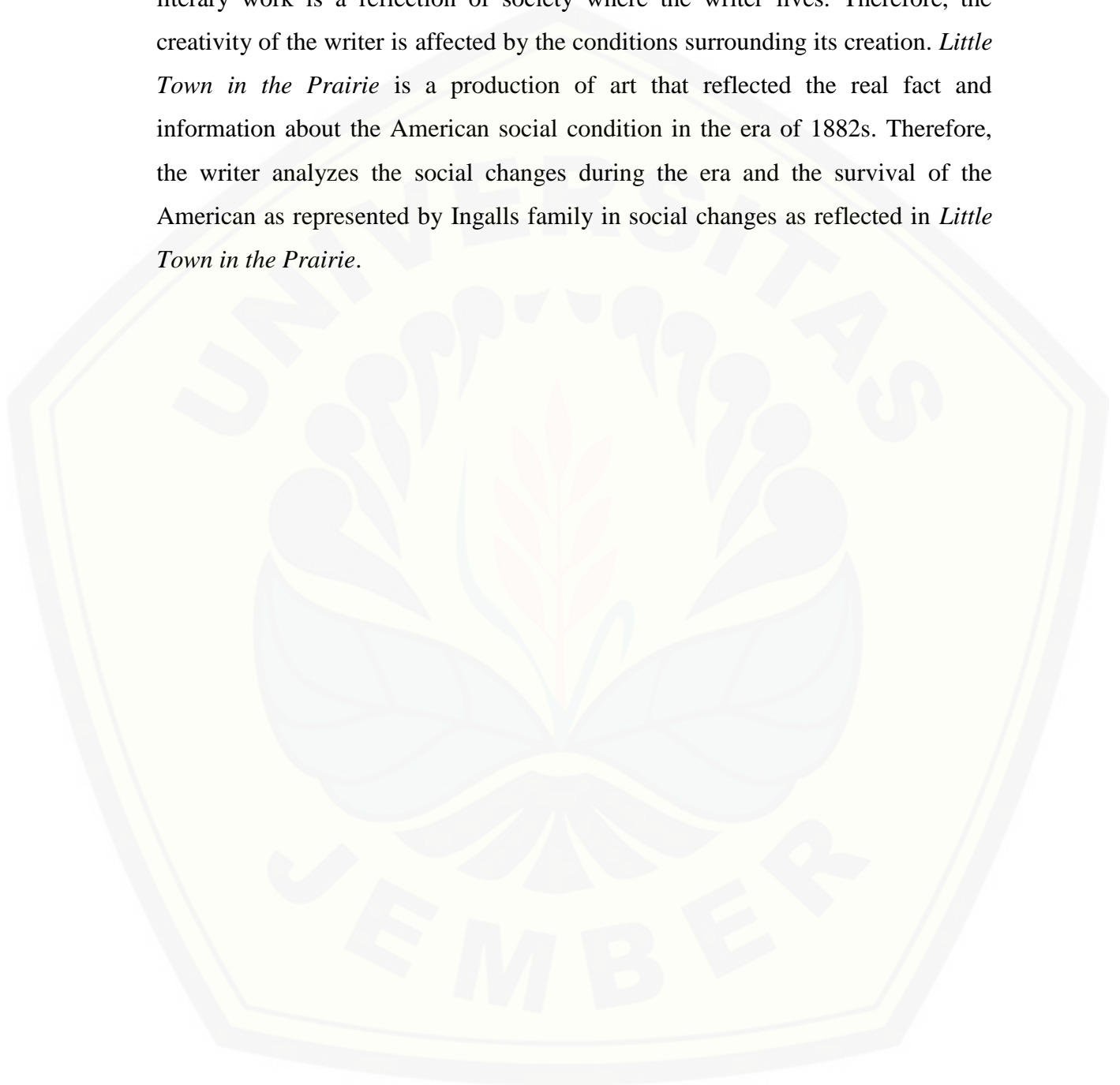
Little Town in the Prairie and all resources used in this thesis are collected to find the complete data for this research and analyze the data in order to understand the novel better in describing the social condition of American society in the late of nineteenth century, especially in the era of 1882s and the existence of social changes during that era. Then, the theory of Janet Wolf in her book, *The Social Production of Art* is applied to analyze the influence of social change toward the American’s way of thinking which encouraged people to be creative as represented by Ingalls family’s life. The portrait of the life of American society in facing social changes in the era of 1882s is reflected by the experiences of Ingalls family in *Little Town in the Prairie* novel.

3.2 Data Analysis

This thesis uses deductive method as the method for analyzing the data. Deductive method is taken from general one to the specific one. In this research, the writer begins with the analysis of the novel related to the issue of American social changes and the fact that actually happened in America in the era of 1882s. Then, the writer analyze the survival of Ingalls family of the novel in American social changes during that era which uses Wolff’s theory. It can be proven that

Little Town in the Prairie represented the reality of American social changes in the era of 1882s.

This research uses the perspective of Janet Wolf in *The Social Production of Art* that art is a product of human creativity influenced by society. Society in literary work is a reflection of society where the writer lives. Therefore, the creativity of the writer is affected by the conditions surrounding its creation. *Little Town in the Prairie* is a production of art that reflected the real fact and information about the American social condition in the era of 1882s. Therefore, the writer analyzes the social changes during the era and the survival of the American as represented by Ingalls family in social changes as reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie*.



**CHAPTER 4. THE SURVIVAL OF INGALLS FAMILY IN SOCIAL
CHANGES OF AMERICA IN THE ERA OF 1882S IN LAURA INGALLS
WILDER'S *LITTLE TOWN IN THE PRAIRIE***

The fourth chapter is the main discussion of the thesis contains of two subchapters which will analyze about Ingalls family' survival as the reflection of the life of American in facing social changes in the era of 1882s, in *Little Town in the Prairie* novel. This chapter will discuss the implementation of Wolff's Human Creativity theory expressed in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little Town in the Prairie*. This analysis will begin with the depiction of the real condition of America in the era of 1882s and its social changes as reflected in the novel. Then, the second subchapter is about how Ingalls family as the portrait of American society survives in social changes of America in the era of 1882s as described in the novel.

4.1. The Background of America in the Era of 1882s as Reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie*

Goldmann states that "Human behavior is always a response to the problems with which the environment faces man, and this response points towards significance." (in Elizabeth and Burns, 1973:116). *Little Town in the Prairie* novel is Laura Ingalls Wilder's reaction and expression to the social facts of America in the era of 1882s. The novel portrays the real American social condition existed in the past through such events experienced by the characters. America, in the history, has become a greater industrial country since the late of nineteenth century after the civil war especially in the era of the Gilded Age. It was the era of reconstruction and economic growth as the result of industrialization. It emerged many social changes especially in various actions of American people facing their new condition.

Wilder shows some phenomena of the social changes specifically in the era of 1882s. In the novel, Wilder does not tell about the term of the Gilded Age in a specific explanation but her novel portrays the real condition of American society in that era of 1882s. This subchapter will discuss about the depiction of social changes of America, according to several history books and the description from the novel.

4.1.1. The Social Changes of America

The rapid growth of national economy in the United States of America after the Civil War was a major impact of Industrial Revolution in the late of nineteenth century.

Amazing as agricultural expansion was after the Civil War, the growth of American industry and commerce was even more astonishing. By the end of nineteenth century, American industrial production was greater than that of any other nation in the world. Despite the spread of agriculture across the nation, the value of manufactured goods produced exceeded the worth of the fruits of the soil for the first time; thereafter, the gap between them widened constantly...

(Alden, 1963:507)

Alden describes that the industrialization influences many American industrial productions, technological inventions and commerce. This development of the industrialization is used to improve transportation, supporting manufacturing industry, and developing American agricultural products. It, of course, influences the increase of national income, includes personal income, operating income, and other income.

Hagen states that "Income in society may rise because of the spread of the use of tools and machines even the absence of technological progress" (Hagen, 1962:4). Hagen means that the development and advancement of technology and science stimulates many productions of human needs and goods. The technological progress influences the growth of American industrial, agricultural, and commercial production. Many factories will be built to support industrial production and many vacancies will be opened. People can do any kinds of job to

improve their economic condition and raise their income. The technological progress is also shown by Wilder in the novel through these texts below,

Pa had a new plow, a breaking plow. It was wonderful for breaking the prairie sod. It had a sharp-edged wheel, called a rolling coulter that ran rolling and cutting through the sod ahead of the plowshare...

“By jingo, that plow can handle the work by itself,” he said. “With all these new inventions nowadays, there’s no use for a man’s muscle...

(Wilder, 1941:8-9)

“You bet! There’s no flies on Clancy,” said Pa, “He’s got a machine to sew the shirts.”

Ma was interested. “A sewing machine. Is it like that picture we saw in the Inter-Ocean? How does it work?”

“About like I figured out it would,” Pa answered. “You work the pedal with your feet, and that turns the wheel and works the needle up and down. There’s a little contraption underneath the needle that’s wound full of thread, too. Clancy was showing some of us. It goes like greased lightning, and makes as neat a seam as you’d want to see.

...

(Wilder, 1941:36)

Wilder shows technological advance in the era of 1882s that is depicted in the novel by many new inventions, such as a plow and a sewing machine that support agricultural and commercial activities to make easier in working. People can fulfill their necessities by growing plants in their land to support their economic life. Ingalls family feels the spread of agricultural progress in the era of 1882s. Pa, like other American families, works in his own land during summer. Through the quotation above, it is clear that Pa is the representation of American villager who lives in the era of technological advance that supports agricultural activities. His family is all so happy about that new plow because Pa will not too tired to work in the garden and their horses also do not spend a whole day’s work to plow up the ground (Wilder, 1941:9). It shows that technological advance supports the American families’s activities. The growth of American industry, commerce and agriculture are the social changes of America as the developing

country. The development will affect American people, especially Ingalls family, to struggle in making a better life and realizing the dreams.

A wave of new immigrants also came from Europe, such as Italian, Greek, Jews, move to the United States to get some opportunities to change their life. It was in line with technological advance, which stimulates economic growth. Many vacancies and opportunities were available in the United States of America, especially in the city. They tried to move to industrial area, which contributes many chances in getting jobs and earning money. Certainly, the city became a very important destination for many strangers in making a better life. Millions of American villagers also move to the city to make a better life. As it is explained by Alden in his book that,

With this extraordinary bursting of industry came a continuing increase in population---

In 1870 there were about 38,500,000 Americans; thirty years later there were almost 76,000,000. Contributing heavily to this increase were waves of immigration, especially from southern and eastern Europe. Toward the end of the century Europeans who sought new homes in the United States steadily numbered more than 500,000 persons annually. Commerce flourished along with industry and agriculture, and the city became ever more important in American life.

(Alden, 1963:507)

Wilder also depicts those conditions in the novel. She describes the arrival of some strangers in America, especially in Dakota, are so busy making their new shanties in the prairie. It shows that they will stay there, working in their new claim. Many of immigrants move to town when the summer comes. Some of them also come to agricultural land in the prairie to work in the garden. Any kinds of agricultural products can be raised from the land, such as corns, oats, potatoes, etc. (Wilder, 1941:29). As those are described in the novel,

People were coming from the East now, to settle all over the prairie. They were building new claim shanties to the east and to the south, and west beyond Big Slough. Every few days a wagon went by, driven by strangers going across the neck of the slough and northward to town, and coming back...

(Wilder, 1941:8)

Those words describe the process of immigration and urbanization as the way to pursue happiness as written in the novel. It shows the social change of America as the impact of industrialization. Millions of people want to get a better life and they have to move to the right place, such as the city as the central of industrial and commercial activities. Some of them leave their farm to get good opportunities in the city. As many factories are opened in the cities to produce any kinds of new invention, for instance: manufactured goods, transportation facilities, agricultural products. The factories will of course need a lot of employees to handle some kinds of jobs which also support the city life. Automatically, the new arrivals increase the population of the city. As it is shown through the text below,

The cities grew rapidly because of the city was so intimately related to the new economic structure of big business. Because of the availability of labor, transportation facilities, and the ever-necessary banks, most of the factories were located in the cities.
(Harlow, 1961:453)

Wilder also describes a new condition of the city in the novel. The city as the central of industry area becomes an important destination for million of new strangers to stay and to earn money. It gives many chances for the people who want to change their life in a better condition by taking a job or studying to increase their skill, although almost some of them are unskilled and low quality. As the result, the population of the city grows rapidly. The city is so crowded. There are so many new buildings belong to many strangers. They come to the city and build their new shelter there. Then, they can take a job in town and make place for them in society. Here below the text that explains those conditions,

Pa said that the new town was growing fast. New settlers were crowding in, hurrying to put up buildings to shelter them. One evening Pa and Ma walked to town to help organize a church, and soon a foundation was laid for a church building. There were not carpenters enough to do all the building that was wanted, so Pa got carpenter work to do.

(Wilder, 1941:27)

The rapid increase of city's population shows the change in American life. American people know the right place for them in improving family life better by moving to the city. Although, the city grows rapidly and being so crowded, people have to face this condition to survive there. Through *Little Town in the Prairie*, It is clear that the experiences of Ingalls family as described by Laura Ingalls Wilder reflect the real condition of American life in the era of 1882s.

4.2. The Survival of Ingalls Family Facing Social Changes of America in the Era of 1882s as Reflected in the Novel

This subchapter will discuss further about an American family's life as represented by Ingalls family facing social changes of America in the era of 1882s through *Little Town in the Prairie*. The novel describes Laura Ingalls Wilder's reaction to the social problems. The impact of industrial revolution in the late of 19th century influences American social condition, for instance: the rapid growth of city's population, the emergence of waves of immigrants, many reconstructions. As the reason, these changes affect Ingalls family's life as the portrait of American social condition in the era of 1882s to survive through it all.

4.2.1. Through Jobs

Getting a job is evident expressed in *Little Town in the Prairie*, which shows the struggle of American people to earn much money. This struggle is motivated by the desire to create a better life and survive in going through the difficulties and any challenges in the era of social changes. The novel reflects that American families can bring it into reality using their opportunities in working. Working will make them to be a creative person because they will learn something new and they will use their ability to do it. Then, by using their way of thinking, they hopefully can handle such a job and change their condition better than before. That is one of very significant purposes in American life in going through the era of social changes caused by Industrial Revolution. Therefore, the sense of getting job agrees with the Wolff's explanation about human creativity that people act appropriate with their abilities and opportunities using conscious thinking to change something (Wolff, 1981:14).

Wilder shows the illustration of American's attention in working through Pa, Laura and other characters in the novel. Many of Americans decide to go to the city because there are so many jobs there but the other works at their own homestead are growing plants. Ingalls family has the land in the Dakota prairie. During summer, Ingalls family has to prepare all provisions raised from the land that can be sold to fulfil their needs. Occasionally, they have to face failed harvest. In the next winter, they cannot work at the land and stay in their shanties there because there will be a hard winter with the storm and blizzards. Most of Ingalls family's times are used to work in their garden and stay there during summer time. They always back to the land after facing hard winter in the town. Wilder depicts that all people at that time experienced those conditions.

The boys and girls that Laura had met in town last winter were not there now. They had gone out to stay on homestead claims. The storekeepers stayed in town to run their stores and back in the rooms behind them, while wives and children lived all summer out on the prairie in claim shanties. For the law was that a man could not keep a homestead claim unless his family lived on it, six months of every year for five years. Also he must keep ten acres of the sod broken up and planted to crops for five years, before the Government would give him a title to the land. But nobody could make a living from that wild land. So the women and girls stayed all summer in claim shanties to satisfy the law, and the boys broke the sod and planted crops, while the fathers built the town and tried to make money enough to buy food and tools from the East.

(Wilder, 1941:49-50)

It can be identified from the text above that some American people, especially men, give up their farm to get more chances in the city. Most of women and children stay at home in the prairie. As the central of the industrial and manufactured production, the city becomes the most important destination to take such kinds of jobs that can increase the personal income for American villagers and millions of immigrants. The city is so crowded because of the existence of many new building made by new strangers. Pa as the head of the family knows that he has some responsibilities to fulfill all the family's needs. Often times, he tries hard to earn money by taking a job in the town as a carpenter. This means

that many new vacancies were available in the city at that time which attracted them to get such kinds of jobs related to their ability, such as a carpenter, to build some new shops, houses or churches. As it is shown by Wilder in the text below,

One evening Pa and Ma walked to town to help organize a church, and soon a foundation was laid for a church building. There were not carpenters enough to do all the building that was wanted, so Pa got carpenter work to do. Every morning he did the chores and walked to town, taking a lunch in a tin pail. He began working promptly at seven o'clock, and by taking only a short nooning he was through work at half past six, and home again for a late supper. And every week he was earning fifteen dollars.

(Wilder, 1941:27)

Pa's wages, actually, are not enough as a carpenter. He cares of Mary, his first daughter. Mary is blind because she got fever when she was a little girl. She wants to be a schoolteacher, but she cannot. Instead of that, she always tries hard to study and does not care of her blindness. She hopes to get more knowledge and any kinds of skill in a college for the blind in Vinton, Iowa. Her daughter, Laura thinks that she has to help her Pa to keep Mary in college until she will pass the full seven years' college. In the era of social changes, people have to be a skilled person to get a kind of job, therefore, they can take themselves in society. There are many kinds of job in the town but it is difficult for a girl like Laura to get one, appropriate with her ability. As it is reflected in this conversation below,

One evening at supper, Pa asked, "How would you like to work in town, Laura?" Laura could not say a word. Neither could any of the others. They all sat as if they were frozen...

"A job? For a girl? In town?" Ma said. "Why, what kind of a job?" Then quickly she said, "No, Charles, I won't have Laura working out in a hotel among all kinds of strangers."

"Who said such a thing?" Pa demanded. "No girl of ours'll do that, not while I'm alive and kicking."

"Of course not," Ma apologized. "You took me so by surprise. What other kind of work can there be? and Laura not old enough to teach school yet."

(Wilder, 1941:1-2)

The conversation shows that men have more opportunities to get a kind of job in the era of 1882s. They are able to do what they want to do, because they are more capable rather than women. Mostly, the existences of new vacancies are available for men. Laura really wants to run from her problem that she is always afraid of new strangers and in a strange place. She knows that city life can be difficult and dangerous place for the girl such her to take any kind of job. In the conversation above, it is shown that Pa suggests his daughter to work in the city and Ma disagrees with him. Laura as the member of the family has to obey her parents whatever they want or suggest. In her fifth, Laura always optimizes that she can take a job in town although she often worries about what kind of job she can take. Commonly, no one, at that time could imagine a job for a girl in town, otherwise she might take a job as a hired girl in the hotel. Most of jobs are assigned for men. Ma and Pa actually do not want her daughter working in a hotel in town, because there are so many kinds of strangers. In fact, Laura is still not old enough to be a schoolteacher, she has to turn sixteenth years old, and then she can teach at school. Fortunately, Pa and Ma always support and give the solution for Laura working in town if she imposes to help her family improving the daily condition. From those, it is known that the difficulties of getting a job for Laura do not affect her. She still optimizes to take a job to improve her family's life. Laura's desire indicates that she tries to survive in facing those conditions surrounding her.

Most of new comers in the city live in their new building and some of them live in rented houses. They all try to survive, living in the city by seeking jobs or vacancies. Wilder through Mr. Clancy, who has a new idea to create trading business, shows it. He makes his new clothing shop. Pa has worked in his shop building. Pa always takes any chances to work in the city. As a new merchant, Mr. Clancy has a new sewing machine. Then, Mrs. White, his mother in law will make shirts for newcomers. She asks Pa if he knows such a girl to help her making shirts. Pa offers Laura to take that job, but she does not want to work among strangers. Ma also worries about that but she makes sure that Laura does not go alone. Pa also works in the town as a carpenter for strangers' new building. Mrs. White will pay her twenty-five cents a day and the dinner. Immediately,

Laura imagines that if she works hard during summer and Mrs. White likes her hand sewing, she will earn a lot of money. Then, she will help Pa and Ma for Mary's tuition. By earning twenty-five cents a day, Ma can buy some Mary's necessity in the college. As those are described below,

"It's a new idea of Clancy's," Pa said. Mr. Clancy was one of the new merchants. Pa was working on his store building. "We've got the store pretty near finished, and he's moving in his dry goods. His wife's mother's come West with them, and she's going to make shirts."...

"Oh, no, Mrs. White's going to run it," Pa replied. "She wants a good handy girl to help with the hand sewing.

"He said to Laura: "She was asking me if I knew such a girl. I told her you're a good sewer, and she wants you to come in and help her. Clancy's got more orders for shirts than she can handle by herself. She says she'll pay a good willing worker twenty-five cents a day and dinner."

(Wilder, 1941: 35-37)

The novel shows how Laura struggles in earning a lot of money by getting a job as a hand sewer in Mr. Clancy's shop. She gets any difficulties in the first time when she tries to get a job before being a teacher in her sixth. She always optimizes she can take such a job to improve her family condition. In fact, she does not want to work in the city. She feels that the city is so crowded with many new buildings belong to new strangers. However, she tries hard to ignore her fears about city's life and keeps her mind to focus in work. It shows that Laura tried to survive at that time by struggling to realize her dream. She hopes that Mary will use her opportunities to realize her desire in learning everything that she wants and makes place for her in society. After Laura gets the job as a sewer, she tries hard to finish her work although she gets some troubles. "Laura had never sat still so long. Her shoulders ached, her neck ached, her fingers were roughened by needle pricks and her eyes were hot and blurry. Twice she had to take out bastings and do them over." (Wilder, 1941:46). Laura has never felt so tired liked that before. It shows that Laura survives in going through the difficulties when she is working. Laura always tries to enjoy her job. She is still able to think that nine dollars are not enough at that time, she wants to take a job again and again to earn much money. The novel describes that Laura has a deep spirit to implement her

responsibility. She optimizes to change her family condition, however, she hates to work. She desires to support Mary's education, her elder sister, to get more knowledge and skill at the college for the blind in Vinton, Iowa. Ma gives support to Laura, that those nine dollars, of course, helps Mary to get some goods, such as Mary's dresses. (Wilder, 1941:62)

It is known from the explanation above that the struggle of Pa and Laura doing a part time job in the city and also working in the garden are two of good examples of American spirit. It is related to the sense of Declaration of Independence of the United States of America that life should be better for everyone, and women have the same opportunities to pursue happiness like men. It is obvious that Laura as an American woman is still confident to seek a job because she really wishes to aid her Pa for Mary's education and help Ma to fulfil some necessities. All Pa's wages and the disposal of their harvest are not sufficient to fulfil all the family's requirements. Laura's firmness in doing a part time job shows the creativity of Laura. She really respects to her family and has a good thinking in improving the condition of her family. It is indeed that in the era of social changes she is complicated to seek a job related to her ability but finally, she takes a job as a hand sewer that can increase her ability to survive in going through the difficulties doing a job. Pa and Ma are described to support Laura's decision intensely in getting a job to help them although there are so difficult to be around many new strangers. Related to Wolff's theory of human creativity (Wolff, 1981:14), Pa, Ma and Laura's actions express human freedom. Pa and Ma allow Laura to get experience in working appropriate with her ability. Their support and trust for Laura, automatically, will bring this family to realize the spirit of American to pursue happiness to change the family's life in a better condition. Laura is also free to use her opportunities and potential in working and then she can increase her quality of life and socialization by her participation in the bustle of the city. As the result, Laura gets much money and gives it to her mother.

4.2.2. Through Education

Education is an important aspect that supports economic growth of the country, especially in the late of 19th century. The advancement of science was a major issue that influenced the social changes of America at that time. The role of education for human being life is significant to clutched attainment in making a better life. The development of the country is affected by the quality of life of the society. The increase of population and facilities of the city is also influenced by the existence of creative and skilled person with many new ideas. Without education, someone has no a certain quality and he just has little chances to get place for him in works, moreover in the era of social changes. Education makes people learn how to produce things. An educated person can be a creative person because he has more knowledge and skill to make innovation. Certainly, he has many ideas to develop science, then, stimulated the creation of such things. It means that education can make human life more modern.

Wilder shows those problems clearly through the novel. In the era of 1882s, some of strangers were in low quality because they did not have any special skill. Automatically, they would get any difficulties to get chances in taking such kind of job. Ingalls family who lived in the era of industrialization had to keep their spirit and togetherness since they faced many hardships in facing social changes at that time. Ingalls family cares of education. Education has important roles in their life. As it is shown in the text below,

Often while Laura worked in the garden, she thought of Mary's going to college. It was nearly two years since they had heard there was a college for the blind in Iowa. Every day they had thought of that, and every night they prayed that Mary might go. The sorest grief in Mary's blindness was that it hindered her studying. She liked so much to read and learn, and she had always wanted to be a schoolteacher. Now she could never teach school. Laura did not want to, but now she must; she had to be able to teach school as soon as she grew old enough, to earn money for Mary's college education.

(Wilder, 1941:28)

Being a blind person is not a big problem for anybody to get more knowledge. Mary believes that she has the same opportunities like her sisters

although she is blind. Laura always supports her to realize it. Laura optimizes that Mary can finish her education without any obstruction. Therefore, she hopes to be a teacher to help her parents for the tuition fee. Without education, Mary and Laura will feel unconfident with their ability and cannot make place for themselves in society. They also cannot realize their dream comes into being.

Those are closely related with the Wolff's theory about human creativity (Wolff, 1981:14). Human creativity concerns with the sense of freedom that everyone can choose the way of life, and do that they want to do. By using their rights to get proper education and understanding its benefit, these two sisters will have ability and potential to bring their hope into reality. They can be skilled person through getting more knowledge in a school or college. They will be a competent person and can use their chances to take a job in town related to their capability. Knowledge actually will influence the way of thinking of a person. Laura has a deep spirit to be a teacher. As Mary will go to the college for the blind, Laura seems that she must study hard at school, therefore she can get a teaching certificate in her sixth and then taking a job in the city as a schoolteacher. It is clear that her desire and her action will change the future of her life. In line with Mary's wish in getting education, she will change the quality of her life as the blind person. It is possible that those American spirits will change the condition of the family and surroundings. Their actions also will give inspiration for Mary and Laura's younger sisters, friends or anybody else. By knowledge through education, people will also be taught how to make a good relationship with another and how people survive in social life. In fact, Laura hates to work. She does not want to be a schoolteacher but she does when she turns sixteenth years old. She always makes herself sure about teaching and tries to study hard until she feels so bored,

Friday night came again. Laura and Carrie washed the dishes as usual. As usual, they brought their books to the lamplit table. Pa was in his chair, reading the paper. Ma was gently rocking and her knitting needles were clicking as they always did. As usual, Laura opened her history book. Suddenly she could not bear it all. She thrust back her chair, slammed her book shut and thumped it down on the table. Pa and Ma started, and looked at her in surprise. "I don't care!" she cried

out. "I don't want to study! I don't want to learn! I don't want to teach school, ever!"

(Wilder, 1941:211)

The text above shows how Laura survives through the days by studying hard although she does not like to do that. In the schooldays, she always tries to attend to school with her little sister, Carry, although she has to face a few problems there. Laura begins to study at school in the winter. Nevertheless, she just meets the female students. Until the winter, the boys still work at their family's land in the prairie. They do not move to town because they have to help their family to prepare all the provisions for the winter. It can be known that in the era of social changes, there are still children who do not use their opportunities in getting education because they have to help her parents. They focus on work to change their family condition for a better future. As it is written in the novel, "On the boys' side, all the back seats were empty because the big boys would not come to school until the winter term. They were still working on the claims now." (Wilder, 1941:161).

The novel describes that men go to the city to earn money and the women live in the prairie. If the boy can work in the garden, he will grow plants there and makes them do not care about education. It is different with the girls' condition that they always have opportunities to attend to school. However, the boys show that they work to help her parents. This is appropriate with the theory of human creativity (Wolff, 1981:14). In the era of social changes, all of people were ready facing many challenges and do what they are able to do. By working in the garden, the boys think that they will help their family to fulfil the needs. Without education, they are still confident to do anything to change the family's condition. This spirit shows that they survive to reach a better life by working.

Laura also survives to pursue happiness with her family like the boys. During schooldays, Laura spends the days with her activities. She helps her parents in the garden and at home. Every morning, she is always happy to go to school with her little sister, Carrie, although they have to walk far away to town hurriedly. After she learns at school, she hurries into her home to do the household chores helping her parents. Until Pa remembers that, the family has to

go back in town in the next winter. The family has had all the provisions, which are prepared during summer, are quite enough. They do not stay in their shanties in the prairie, because they do not want to pass through the hard winter as the last season.

Laura faces many hardship during the schooldays, meeting her unpleasant old friend at school and facing unfairly teacher and passing through the hard winter with her family. Actually, Laura does not want back to town, a crowded place. Nevertheless, she thinks that it will be easy to go to school if she stays in town during winter. By moving to the city, she needs not walk far away. The school is also closer to reach for Carrie who has never been strong since she is a baby. That condition supports them to get better education at school. By attending school, Laura hopes to realize her dream to be a teacher. However, she has to pass through several annoyance made by her friends and teacher. The enthusiasm of Laura in attending school shows that she is able to face any condition in the schooldays. She survives there to realize her dream being a schoolteacher. Without education, she cannot get that job in the city. All of teachers must have their own certificate, then, they are permitted to teach at school.

One of the problems during school time that must be passed through by Laura is when Carry, her little sister tries so hard to memorize several words in her spelling lesson, but she missed three words. It is the same with Mamie, Carrie's classmate. Miss Wilder as their new teacher is disappointed about them but she lets Mamie take her seat. On the contrary, Carrie is punished by Miss Wilder. Laura is so angry and thinks that she is not fair. Then, Carrie goes to the blackboard and keeps on writing the missed words as her punishment. Laura can do nothing. She hopes she is able to control her emotion although she always says that Miss wilder is not fair and a bad teacher. Then, Laura jumps up her hand and shouts that Carrie is not strong to do that. Therefore, Miss Wilder turns to Laura, asks her to go to the blackboard, and writes the missed spelling words because she does not want Carrie to write them. At the evening, Laura tells her Pa and Ma about Miss Wilder's punishment. She cannot explain why Miss Wilder hates them. Laura feels that Nellie has influenced Miss Wilder. As those are described by Wilder in the text below,

Laura tried to control her temper, but she could not. She was furious. It was meant as a punishment for poor little Carrie, to make her stand ashamed before the whole school. It was not fair! Mamie had missed words, too. Miss Wilder let Mamie off, and punished Carrie. She must see that Carrie did her best, and was not strong. She was mean, mean and cruel, and she was not fair!

(Wilder, 1941:152)

Then Miss Wilder turned to Laura. "Since you do not want Carrie to write her misspelled words, Laura, you may go to the board and write them." The whole school was frozen silent, looking at Laura. It was a disgrace for her, one of the big girls, to stand at the blackboard writing words as a punishment. Miss Wilder looked at Laura, too, and Laura looked straight back.

(Wilder, 1941:156)

Laura and Carrie still get some problems but they keep her mind to focus studying hard and attend to school as usual in the next school day. Although, she still hates Miss Wilder about the punishment, Laura always keeps her mind to face and finishes the problems without any doubt because she has nice dream. She always optimizes to get a teaching certificate when she turns sixteen years old therefore she is able to help her Pa and Ma keep Mary in the college for the blind. Laura and Carrie try to obey with Pa's advice that they have to show good attitude at school. Pa convinces Laura that she has to study hard therefore she will get a teaching certificate.

It is described from the explanation above that Laura and Carrie do that they want to do. According to the theory of human creativity that people have the ability to act using their thought (Wolff, 1981:16). Laura is able to conduct her little sister to be a strong student in facing the problems at school. She thinks that she has to handle any obstruction that influences her struggle in learning. Pa and Ma always support them to be good students, therefore, they can easily realize their dreams come into being. Laura and Carrie always optimize that they can go through the difficulties during the schooldays. They keep their mind enjoying schooldays. By studying hard and being a good student at school, it can support her to realize her dream comes into being to change her family life better. Those

reflect the struggles and spirits of American children in getting education as represented by Laura, Carrie and Marry that stimulate the development of human skill and ability. Then they will know their potential to do anything through their knowledge.

4.2.3. Through Social Relation

Social relation in a certain community is a very significant aspect to support the fluency of communication and togetherness for each other. In fact, human being needs mutual understanding and mutual assistance in social relation. There will be a good relationship in a society if everyone desires to create good interactions. Without the presence of interactions, someone, of course, has a little chances to make place for him in society. He will live in a desolate condition. Moreover, in the era of industrialization, people have to face many social changes. They have to choose the way of their life in going through many challenges which will influence their future. Surely, people will live peacefully by creating a good relationship and a good interaction.

Wilder shows the life of Ingalls family in the novel to have time to experience a saturation when they have to face the hard and unpredictable winter in the city. In the wintertime, the activities of people is decreasing. The blizzard obstructs their activities in work, school and social interaction. Laura feels the boredom during winter as described through the text below,

It seemed that the winter would never begin and never end. Nothing would ever happen but going to school and going home, lessons at school and lessons at home. Tomorrow would be the same as today, and in all her life, Laura felt, there would never be anything but studying and teaching school.

(Wilder, 1941:210-211)

After a while, Laura is bored continually doing the same activities in the wintertime. Laura says that she is so tired of everything. She wants to do something new to go through the days. She feels that she just wants to play but she is aware that she is too old to play. Laura likes playing in the prairie. She often imagines the cheerfulness of her family's life in the prairie during

summertime. However, Laura has to focus in realizing her dream (Wilder, 1941:212)

The existence of new activities during wintertime in the city will stimulate the enthusiasm of the people in going through the saturations and difficulties during wintertime. The new activities also influence the sense of coalescence and confraternity of people. Pa understands about the situation and the condition of the city every winter. Pa and all of the head of the family in the city take the initiatives to make a social organization and its members. They have met to discuss such changes. The purpose of the meeting is to organize a literary society. The member of organization will arrange several events, such as drama, literary exhibition (Wilder, 1941:214). As it is showed by Wilder through these sentences below,

In March the snow was melting, and final examinations were near. Still Laura did not study as she should. All the talk now was about the last Literary of that winter. What it would be was a secret that everyone was trying to guess

(Wilder, 1941: 256)

The man in the middle was clog dancing. Back against the wall stood the four raggedy black-faced men...

The cheering started; it couldn't be stopped. Feet could not be kept still. The whole crowd was carried away by the pounding music, the grinning white-eyed faces, the wild dancing.

...

When the five darkies suddenly raced down the aisle and were gone, everyone was weak from excitement and laughing. It did not seem possible that the whole evening had gone. The famous minstrel shows in New York surely could not be better than that minstrel show had been....

(Wilder, 1941: 258-259)

There will be a literary exhibition every Friday evening. Every Sunday, there are two church services and Sunday school. Then the Ladies's Aid has planned a great celebration of Thanksgiving and a supper ala New England (Wilder, 1941: 214). Pa and the others always give their ideas to makes any kinds of performances every evening. All of those activities influences the changes of

the city's condition. Those social activities are very important to support social relation. Pa's contribution in making some ideas for the association related to the concept of human creativity that people use their thought in doing anything to change something. All of those quotations above reflect the hope of the city's families to pursue happiness. Many challenges and several difficulties during wintertime do not affect them to live happily. They do not give up and try to join all the organization's programs (Wolff, 1981:14). The ideas of daily activities of city's people change the situation of the city being a comfortable place to live during wintertime. The comfortable condition of the city will influence them to keep struggle in realizing their dream and improving their family's life.

4.2.4. Improving Family Life Better

Furthermore, this subchapter discusses the result of the struggle of Ingalls family in going through many challenges in the era of social changes depicted in the novel. Throughout the struggle, it is shown that the family tries to survive in that era. The family is aiming to get a better life and always survives living in two different places, the city and the homestead in the prairie. Both of two places are very dangerous in the winter season and very important for working and studying in summer time. Working and studying are both as the way to realize Ingalls family's dream in changing the life condition. Wilder shows through the text below,

After the October Blizzard last fall, they had all moved to town and for a little while Laura had gone to school there. Then the storms had stopped school, and all through that long winter the blizzards had howled between the houses, shutting them off from each other so that day after day and night after night not a voice could be heard and not a light could be seen through the whirling snow. All winter long, they had been crowded in the little kitchen, cold and hungry and working hard in the dark and the cold to twist enough hay to keep the fire going and to grind wheat in the coffee mill for the day's bread. All that long, long winter, the only hope had been that sometime winter must end, sometime blizzards must stop, the sun would shine warm again and they could all get away from the town and go back to the homestead claim.

(Wilder, 1941:4)

It can be known from those sentences that American family has to face the winter and the summer with no fixed condition, but there are not obstacles for them doing activities. In the winter, all of Ingalls family has to move to the city because they have to prepare for the hard winter. Commonly, the existing of blizzard is undetected and their shanties in the prairie are not quite strong and comfortable to stay. They have to live in the city. During summer, they all are ready to work in their garden and in the city. They had to prepare all of the provisions for the next winter.

Ingalls family is still able to use their opportunities to develop and improve their abilities in order to have a better life through the different and undetected condition of the season that influenced the people's activity. They survive facing those difficulties conditions and focus to be alive. This family has their own decision regarding their future and happiness. In the summer, Pa works at his garden frequently and takes some part time jobs in the city. Pa earns a lot of money by working as a carpenter in the city, but his wages is not quite enough to fulfil all the family's needs. His main priority is working in the garden because all the provisions yield from the land. Ma and Laura sometimes help her Pa working in the garden. Oftentimes, the crop is gone and they have to accept failed harvest. He cannot send Mary to the college but he still optimizes to take it in hand. Ma and Laura are also worried about Mary's education and hope the failed harvest is not a hindrance for Mary to increase her quality of life at the school for the blind. As the solution, Pa and Ma decide to sell the heifer calf. Then, Mary goes to the college. It depicts that Pa and Ma support Mary's education. They care of education. Here below as Wilder describes in the novel,

... He said to Ma, "Tomorrow's Saturday. If you'll plan to go to town with me, we can pick out Mary's trunk."

Mary gasped. Laura cried out, "Is Mary going to college?"

Pa was astonished. He asked, "What's the matter with you, Laura?"

"How can she?" Laura asked him. "There isn't any corn, or any oats."

"I didn't realize you're old enough to be worrying," said Pa. "I'm going to sell the heifer calf."

Mary cried out, "Oh no! Not the heifer!"

In another year, the heifer would be a cow. Then they would have had two cows. Then they would have had milk and butter all the year around. Now, if Pa sold the heifer, they would have to wait two more years for the little calf to grow up.

“Selling her will help out,” said Pa. “I ought to get all of fifteen dollars for her.”

“Don’t worry about it, girls,” said Ma. “We must cut our coat to fit the cloth.”

“Oh, Pa, it seats you back a whole year,” Mary mourned.

“Never mind, Mary,” said pa. “It’s time you were going to college, and now we’ve made up our minds you’re going. A flock of pesky blackbirds can’t stop us.”

(Wilder, 1941:106-107)

Laura optimizes to help Pa through getting a part time job as a sewer to buy some Mary’s necessities. Laura earns much money and she gives it to Ma. It proves that Laura cares of her sister’s education and her parents’ condition. Nevertheless, she does not stop until that. She also tries to study hard at school to realize her dream to be a schoolteacher to continue to help her parents for Mary’s education. Laura gets her certificate in her fifth.

Laura still stood in the middle of the room, holding that certificate, when Pa came in.

“What is it, Laura?” he asked. “You look as if you expect that paper to bite you.”

“Pa,” Laura said, “I am a schoolteacher.”

“What!” said Pa. “Caroline, what is this?”

“Read it.” Laura gave him the certificate and sat down. “And he didn’t ask me how old I am.

” When Pa had read the certificate and Ma had told him about the school, he said, “I’ll be jiggered. “He sat down and slowly read the certificate again.

“That’s fine,” he said. “That’s pretty fine for a fifteen year old.” He meant to speak heartily but his voice had a hollow sound, for now Laura was going away.

She could not think what it would be to teach school twelve miles away from home, alone among strangers. The less she thought of it the better, for she must go, and she must meet whatever happened as it came.

“Now Mary can have everything she needs, and she can come home this next summer,” she said. “Oh, pa, do you think I can teach school?” “I do, Laura,” said pa. “I am sure of it.”

(Wilder, 1941:307)

Getting a teaching certificate and being a schoolteacher is a noble achievement for Laura. It is a result of her survival in going through the difficulties and defiance during schooldays and daily living with her family in the prairie and also in the town.

The social activities are also very important to support social relation which influence the changes of the city's condition. It reflects the togetherness and the harmony of the American families. The comfortable condition of the city influences them to keep struggle in realizing their dream and improving their family's life.

Living in town was so exciting that fall that Pa said there was no need of Literaries. There was church every Sunday, prayer meeting every Wednesday night. The Ladies' Aid planned two sociables, and there was talk of a Christmas tree. Laura hoped there would be one, for Grace had never seen a Christmas tree. In November, there was to be a week of revival meetings at the church, and Mr. Owen, with the school board's approval, was planning a School Exhibition.

(Wilder, 1941:273)

The survival as represented by Ingalls family focuses on how they struggle in going through the difficulties and challenges in social changes of America in the era of 1882s as the impact of industrialization that demands them to create a better life. They use their ability and potential in working as the solution and the way to earn much money to change their condition. They also make attention to education to get more knowledge, be skilled persons and increase the quality of life by studying and learning at school or college. Education supports them to make place in society and have more chances in working to earn much money for a better future. They live happily ever after.

The story of the novel actually represents the way of life of American that happened a long time ago. American who thinks for change and chooses effective action to survive in facing new conditions through education, working and making a good relationship are shown clearly in the novel. The survival of Ingalls family becomes the most important things in improving family life better. It is true that in

the era of 1882s, the progress of knowledge and technology of the nation is influenced by the way of thinking. People think that they can do anything, related to the ability and it stimulates the creation of something. They can change anything what they want to change. It needs struggle to make someone reach his dream.

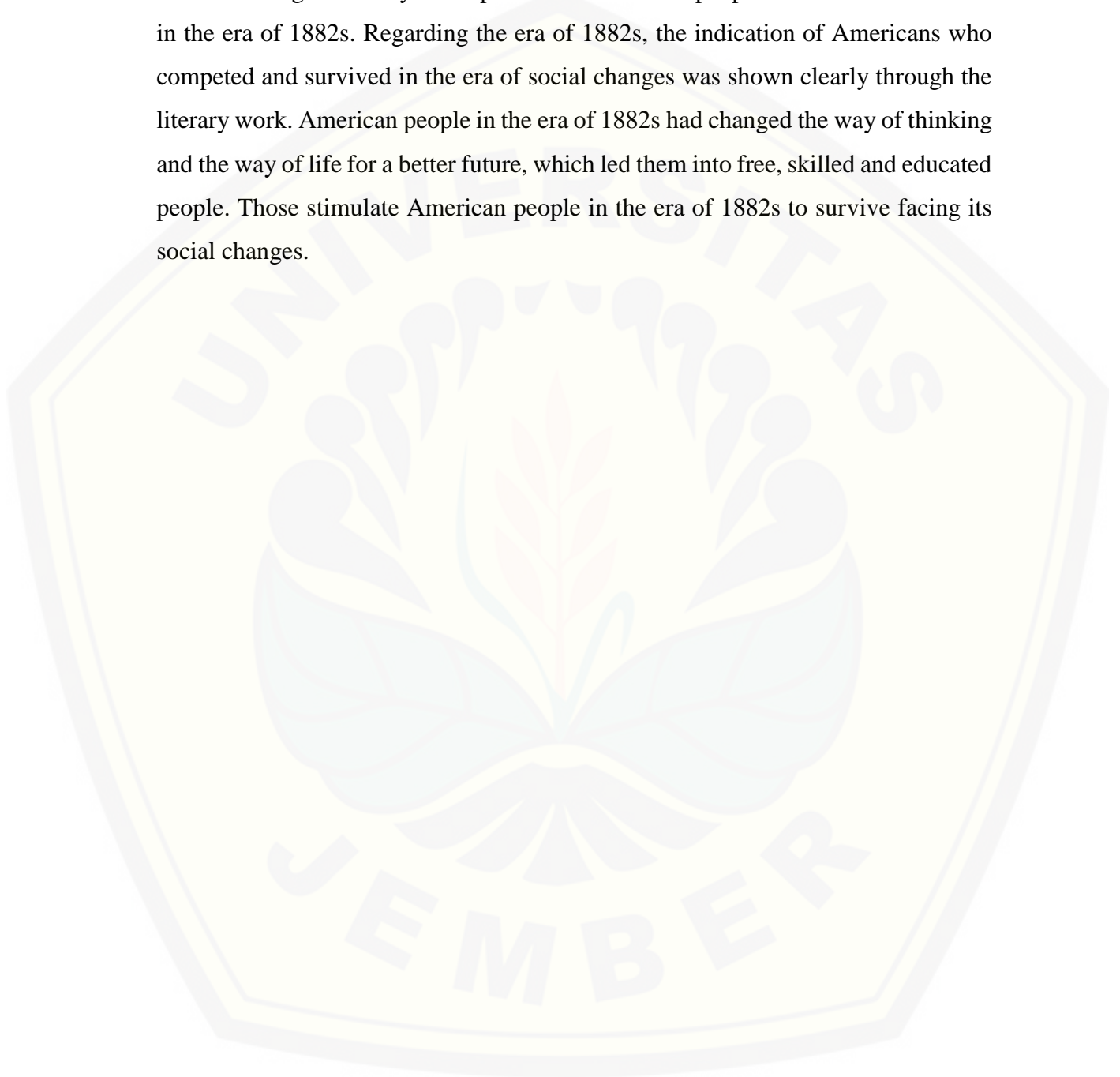


CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

The history of American life in the era of 1882s is vividly reflected in *Little Town in the Prairie* novel. The condition of American society in the era of 1882s is shown by the experiences of Ingalls family. The struggle of Ingalls family in facing the phenomenon of social change as the impact of Industrial Revolution is shown clearly in this literary work. The novel describes the society, which is dominated by immigrants and American villagers. The dream of millions of strangers in improving life better by moving to the right place, especially in the city, is shown by the struggle in going through any difficulties at that time. It means that, in the era of social changes, people try to survive facing the condition. The survival is related to sense of freedom for everyone to act and equality for men and women in taking place in society.

The member of Ingalls family, Pa, Ma, Marry, Laura, Carrie and Grace represent the American people of the era of 1882s who experienced the process of social changes as the impact of the advancement of technology and science during industrialization, such as the economic growth, the process of immigration and urbanization, and the development of city life. Pa and Laura reflect the people who have the spirit in getting a job to improve the family's condition. Marry, Laura, and Carrie reflect the attention of the American people in education. Getting a job and education, actually, bring them to be a solid family to survive in going through the difficulties in the era of social change. As the result, they are successful in realizing their aims for a better future. By working in the city and the land, Pa can fulfill the family's needs, although, sometimes he has to face failed harvest. Pa is able to send Mary to go to the college for the blind. Laura gets a part time job, earns enough money, and helps her Ma to buy some Mary's necessities. She also always attends to school with Carrie and tries to study hard to be a good student to realize her dream to be a schoolteacher. As the result, she gets a teaching certificate and teaches. She can help her parents to keep Mary there until she finishes the full seven years' college.

Laura Ingalls Wilder is successful in expressing her idea about American social changes occurred in the era of 1882s that emerge various actions and many challenges of people through *Little Town in the Prairie* novel. The novel as a literary work reflects the real condition of American society in the era of 1882s. The life of Ingalls family is the portrait of American people who lived and existed in the era of 1882s. Regarding the era of 1882s, the indication of Americans who competed and survived in the era of social changes was shown clearly through the literary work. American people in the era of 1882s had changed the way of thinking and the way of life for a better future, which led them into free, skilled and educated people. Those stimulate American people in the era of 1882s to survive facing its social changes.



BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books:

- Alden, John Richard. 1963. *Rise of the American Republic*. New York: Harper & Row, Publishers.
- Elizabeth and Burns. 1973. *Sociology of Literature and Drama*. Great Britain: C. Nicholls & Company Ltd.
- Gabriel, Ralph H. 1974. *Nilai – nilai Amerika: Kelestarian dan Perubahan*. Yogyakarta: Gadjah Mada University Press.
- Hagen, Everett E. 1962. *On the Theory of Social Change*. Illinois: The Dorsey Press, Inc.
- Harlow, Ralph Volney. 1961. *The United States: From Wilderness to World Power*. New York: Syracuse University.
- Scott, Wilbur S. 1986. *Five Approaches in Literary Criticism*. New York: Collier Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc.
- Singleton, Jr. and Straits. 2005. *Approaches to Social Research*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Universitas Jember. 2011. *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah Universitas Jember*. Jember: Jember University Press.
- Whitney, Francis. 1950. *The Outline of American History*. New York: United States Information Agency.
- Wilder, L. I. 2011. *Kota Kecil di Padang Rumput*. Jakarta: Penerbit Libri.
- Wolff, Janet. 1981. *The Social Problem of Art*. New York: St. Martin's Press, Inc.

Unpublished:

- Agustin, Nanik. 2004. “*Jane Austen’s Persuasion as the Reflection of Social Changes in the British Society in the Early Nineteenth Century*” Unpublished. Thesis. Jember: Jember University.
- Anggraeni, Utami. 2007. “*American Social Condition in the Late of 19th Century Found in Stephen Crane’s Maggie: A Girl of The Street*” Unpublished. Thesis. North Sumatra: Faculty of Letters University of North Sumatra.
- Basuki, Imam. 2011. *Introduction to American Studies*. Jember: Fakultas Sastra-Universitas Jember.

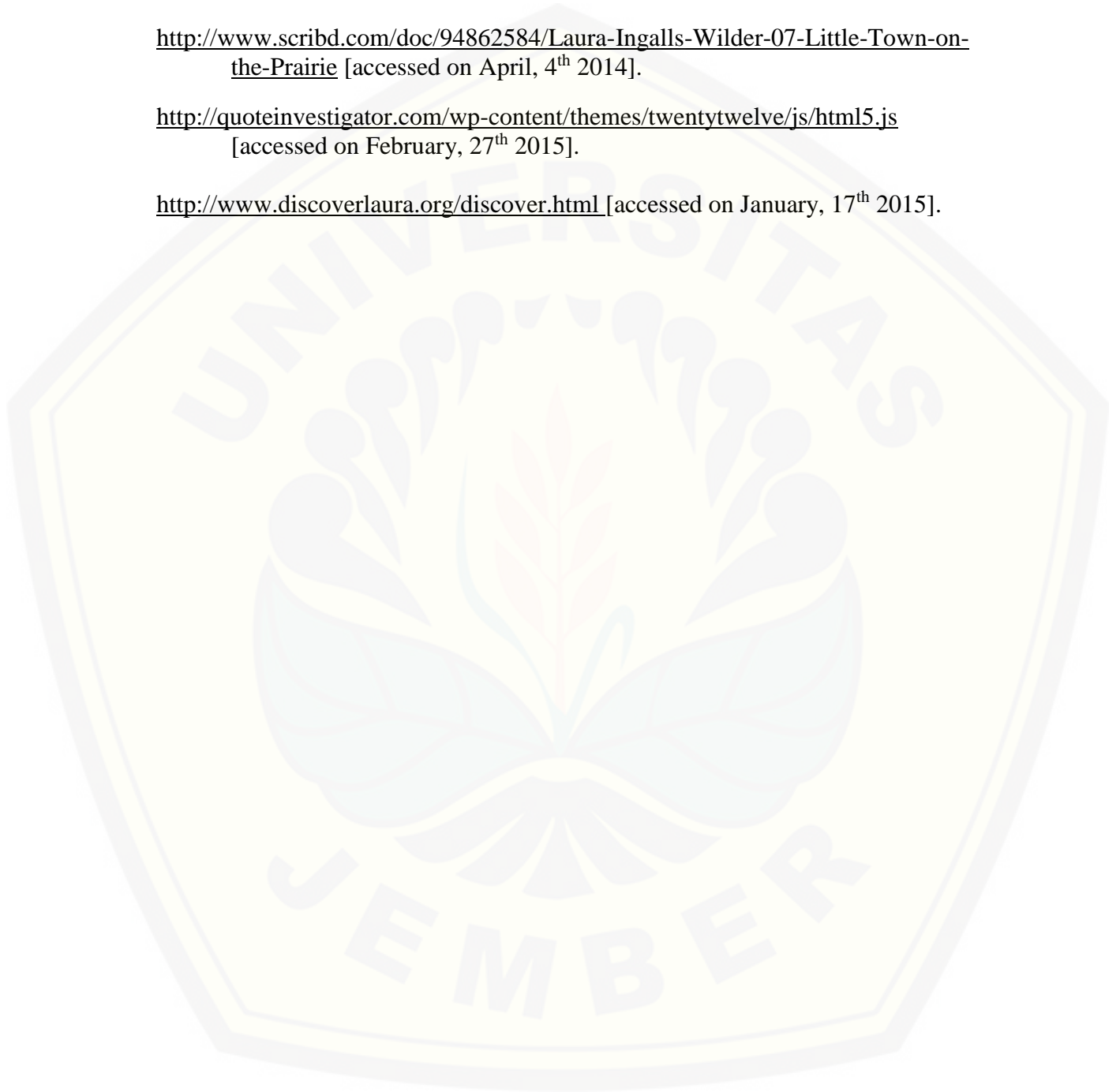
Indrastuti, Kurnia. 2012. *“The Influences of Gilded Age toward Rationality in Margaret Sidney’s The Five Little Peppers and How They Grew”* Unpublished. Thesis. Jember: Jember University.

Website:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/94862584/Laura-Ingalls-Wilder-07-Little-Town-on-the-Prairie> [accessed on April, 4th 2014].

<http://quoteinvestigator.com/wp-content/themes/twentytwelve/js/html5.js> [accessed on February, 27th 2015].

<http://www.discoverlaura.org/discover.html> [accessed on January, 17th 2015].



APPENDICES

A. THE BIOGRAPHY OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER

Laura Ingalls Wilder, complete name Laura Elizabeth Ingalls Wilder, was born on February 7th, 1867 in Wisconsin. She was an American author who wrote *Little House* series contained of ten novels which based on her childhood. She knew that she had have wonderful memories with her family. Hence, her daughter, Rose Wilder encouraged her to write all of her memories of her living in *Little House* books.

She and her family which consists of her parents and her sisters, Charles Phillip Ingalls, Caroline Quiner Ingalls and Mary Ingalls moved to Kansas from Wisconsin in 1869, before she was two years old. Wilder was growing up and her younger sister, Carrie, was born in 1870. This family returned to Wisconsin in 1871-1874. When Wilder was seven years old in 1878, her family moved again to Minnesota. They next moved to Iowa and back again to Minnesotain, when Wilder's youngest sister, Grace, was born in 1877. The Ingalls' life in Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa was not an easy one. The last move of Wilder's family when they left Minnesota and moved to De Smet, South Dakota. Wilder attended to school and made many friends there. She also worked for several part time jobs. Wilder accepeted her first teaching certificate on December 10th, 1882 before she was sixteenth years old. She taught at school until 1885 in South Dakota. She ended her teaching career and studied when she married Almanzo Wilder in 1885 and made their new home at De Smet, South Dakota. In 1886, she had a daughter named Rose Wilder.

Wilder had many chalanges living at Rocky Ridge Farm during 1910-1932. Rose Wilder encouraged her mother to write her wonderful memories of chilhood living as an autobiography. Then, Wilder attempted to write *Little House* books in her sixties that told about all Ingalls family's journey in 1867-1886 in fictional form. At first, she wrote *Pioneer Girl* but rejected by publisher. In 1920-1932, she had written some articles for magazine. In 1932-1943, she had published

all series of *Little House* books; *Little House in the Big Woods* (1932), *Farmer Boy* (1933), *Little House on the Prairie* (1935), *On the Banks of Plum Creek* (1937), *By the Shores of Silver Lake* (1939), *The Long Winter* (1940), *Little Town on the Prairie* (1941), *These Happy Golden Years* (1943).

Almanzo, Wilder's husband, died at Rocky Ridge Farm on October 23th, 1949. Therefore, Wilder lived alone in Missouri. In 1953, Wilder's *Little House* books were reissued by Garth Williams with new illustrations. Wilder had been awarded *The Laura Ingalls Wilder Award*. In February 10th, 1957, Wilder died at Mansfield, Missouri. Following Wilder's death, Rose Ingalls edited and published several works based on Wilder's diary.

B. THE SYNOPSIS OF *LITTLE TOWN IN THE PRAIRIE*

One day, Pa asks Laura whether she will take a job as a sewer in Mr. Clancy's clothing shop. He is one of the new merchant in the city. Some strangers need a service to make clothes such as this. Actually, Laura hates to work, but she continues to accept this part time job because the money will help her parents to send Mary to a college for the blind in Vinton, Iowa. Mary is Laura's elder sister who is blind because she gets fever when she is a little girl.

Pa plans to sell the crops of corn and oats in the summer to pay Mary's tuition then she can go there as fast as possible but many blackbird destroys both of the crops. Hence, Mary has to wait. Pa has an initiative to sell one of their cows therefore Mary gets ready to go after all. In the autumn, Pa and Ma escort Mary to the college. They leave Laura, Carrie, and Grace alone for a week. Fulfilling the loneliness, the three sisters do some household chores to give surprise for Ma and Pa when they return.

In the autumn, the Ingalls family moves to the city for the coming winter. They cannot stay at their shanty in the prairie facing the unpredictable winter because their homestead is not weatherproof. However, they hope that the coming winter will not bring the blizzard with it and not be as hard as the previous one. Pa thinks that it is best to stay in the city. In the city, Laura and Carrie attend to school. Laura meets her friends Minnie Johnson and Mary Power. She also meets a new friend, Ida Brown. Nellie Oleson, Laura's old friend is also attending the school.

During schooldays, Nellie creates some problems. She influences her new teacher, Miss Wilder, againsts Laura and Carrie until she loses control sending them to home. Pa and Ma advice Laura and Mary to be good students and keep study hard therefore they can achieve their dreams as fast as they hope. The problems end with the visit of the school board to school and the resign of Miss Wilder. Miss Wilder is replaced by Mr. Clewett in the next schooldays. During winter time in the city, Laura and Carrie never miss a day of school. Laura sets herself for studying. She hopes she can get a teaching certificate to help Mary's education. Ingalls family can enjoy living in the city when the city begins having meetings to show literary performance for fun every Friday night such as singing, play and another literary. Near Christmas, Mr. Owen organizes a school exhibition. Laura and her classmates become friendly after a Ben Woodworth's birthday party, one of her classmate. The city, automatically, becomes a comfortable place during the winter with any new activities of city's people.

Life is changing fast for Laura because she only has one year left before she can apply for a teaching certificate. In fact, Laura still enjoys helping Ma and Pa at home and finds time to enjoy herself although her family has many problems in daily life. At the end of the story, Laura earns a teacher's certificate and employs at the Brewster settlement, 12 miles away. Then, she prepares to teach.