



**A GENETIC STRUCTURALISM ANALYSIS ON
UTILITARIANISM IN CHARLES DICKENS' *HARD TIMES***

THESIS

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JEMBER UNIVERSITY

2015



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THESIS

A Thesis is presented to the English Department Faculty of Letters Jember University
as one of the requirement to get Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree in English Study

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DEDICATION

- My Beloved father, Budi Susanto who inspires and advices me to be a success woman
- My Beloved mother, Umi Kulsum who always prays for me everytime and supports me. Thanks a lot mom.
- My little brothers, Moh.Ainul Yaqin and Raihan Baruna Ahmad who also support me
- My big family include my Grand father, my grand mother and all of my relatives who always pray for my success.
- My friends in English Department. Thanks for accompanying me during my study.
- My friends of Tibaren in Jember.

MOTTO

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone self.”

-Charles Dickens-



DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled A Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Utilitarianism in Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* is an original piece of writing. I certify that the analysis and the research 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 and any help received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, 25 May 2015

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SUMMARY

A Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Utilitarianism in Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*; Lailatul Muthmainnah; 100110101110; 2015; 41 pages; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

Hard Times is one of Charles Dickens works which becomes the satirical novel in eighteenth century. This novel criticizes the British social condition in England in the late of Eighteenth Century which is set in industrial revolution. The british society struggle to get advantages in their life. They live and do activities to reach things materially. Thus, an ideology appears among british society which is called as "Ideology of Utilitarianism". This ideology influences the society's idea to get more advantages in their action without thinking the consequence. I use qualitative research method for this research to examine the analysis. This research begins with the analysis of the novel and uses genetic structuralism theory. I analyse the structure of *Hard Times* which shows the binary opposition between some characters who apply the ideology of utilitarianism and another characters who do not apply it in their lives, the worldview of the author towards the ideology of utilitarianism and the socio-cultural condition in Britain in Eighteenth century.

One of characters in *Hard Times*, Thomas Gradgrind applies this ideology in his daily life. Gradgrind as the utilitarian in the novel by considering his attitude and his thinking of fact in life. He instill his students the ideology to measure this life by getting some advantages. Dickens' worldview as the author of *Hard Times* abuses the ideology of utilitarianism. He thinks that it gives the bad impacts for the society's lives. they measure their actions give them benefits by getting some advantages. He explores how this ideology of utilitarianism applies through the main character in the

novel *Hard Times*. Dickens explores the impact of the ideology of utilitarianism towards some characters in *Hard Times*. Especially, it gives bad impact in their social life. This utilitarianism shows the negative impact in applying it.



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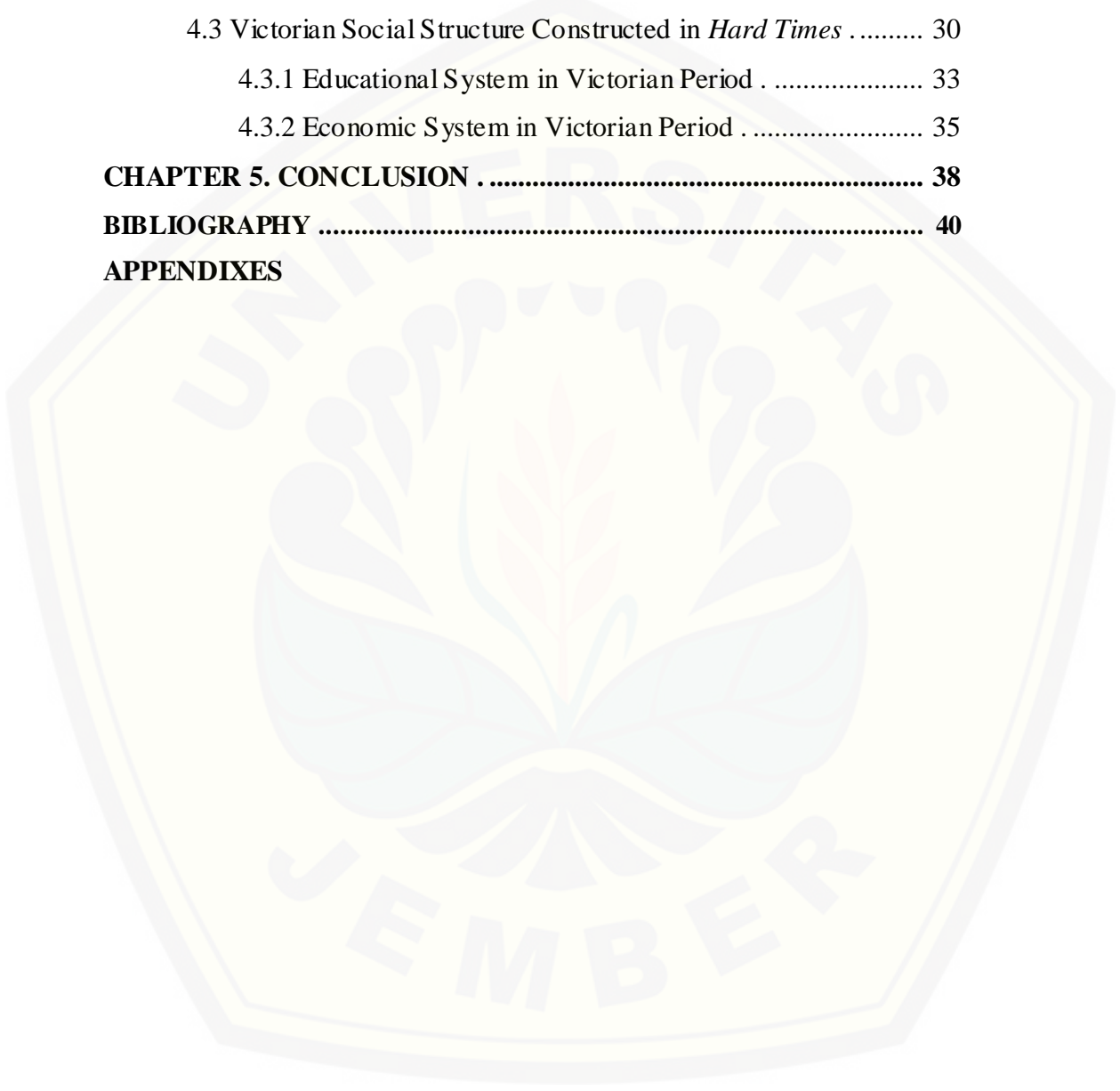
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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Rationale

Utilitarianism is the main philosophical ideology in Victorian period which consider human being action are weighing the profit, advantages, benefits and happiness. Utilitarianism is often presented as a philosophy of calculation, assigning precise values to different pleasures and calculating their exact probabilities (Mulgan, 2007:11). It means that utilitarianism tends to apply everything based on calculation and fact which give benefit for people who implant it.

This utilitarianism appears in the late of eighteenth century which is set in industrial revolution. Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill are the early utilitarian who have ideas about the principle of utilitarianism.

Formulated by Jeremy Bentham and his followers in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, utilitarianism was one of the first rational and systematic attempts to address the vast social, economic, and cultural problems caused by the impact of the Industrial Revolution on British society. Bentham's philosophy was based on the belief that human institutions should serve all elements of society, and that such institutions should be useful by providing for "the greatest happiness of the greatest number (Bradley:1999:1).

Utilitarianism is defined as the aspiration to be a movement of social reform. It can be called as political aspirations. Its ideology dominates as form of government's idea to evaluate the productivity and utility for a number of people. The government should allow the economic situation to adjust itself naturally through the laws of supply and demand. This system makes some people millionaire. On the other hand, the other people become poor.

Feldman (1997:21) states that historically, utilitarianism has been associated with the idea that the only intrinsic good is pleasure and the only intrinsic evil is pain. The idea of utilitarianism has influenced many of the social reforms in Great Britain during the early half of the nineteenth century. The British people want to get more prosperous life. Since the productivity and materialism become their every day life. It proves that utilitarianism influences people. This utilitarianism becomes an ideology around society which considers everything is good when it is useful for them.

Hard Times is a novel written by Charles Dickens. It is one of Charles Dickens' works which becomes a masterpiece. It was written in the mid eighteenth century in England. Because this was the time of Queen Victoria, this period is usually called as the Victorian era. He writes *Hard Times* as utilitarianism which is applied during British industrialization. This industrial revolution gives impacts to the society's life. such as poverty, jobless, and moral decadence. Most employees fire the employers. In the economic of the Industrial Revolution capitalism prevails and social equality is more rhetoric than practice. Some factory owners pushed up their own profits by pushing down the wages of their workers. Besides, there are children labors that are influenced by the existence of industrial revolution which demand some children to work hard in some factories.

Hard Times offers a critique of the Utilitarian ideology in British society. It influences the society's economic system that most of them live prosperously. They want to get more material. It also influences the educational system that make some children have worse future. They are forbidden to develop their imaginative thing to be a creative children. In *Hard Times*, the main character, Thomas Gradgrind is the utilitarian that Dickens explores. He applies the ideology of utilitarianism in his everyday life. He thinks that all his actions have to give some benefits for him. However, he does not think the consequence of his own action whether it is good or bad.

The purposes of Charles Dickens as the author in writing *Hard Times* are to satirize the utilitarian philosophy that recognized only the value of human reason, neglecting the values of the human heart. Dickens also wants to highlight the harsh, monotonous lives of factory workers and to criticize the economic injustice of the marketplace. It proves in the novel *Hard Times*, this concept of utilitarianism applies in some characters. Charles Dickens explores the utilitarianism in some characters' personality who tend to reject fancy and imaginative thing. They just consider everything based on fact. He wants to express emotion or care after realizing how flawed logic can be when applied to human nature.

The position of Charles Dickens as the author resist this ideology of utilitarianism in his society. Dickens presents us with some children raised and educated under this system. Their emotions are repressed, their imaginations starved, and their creativity discouraged. As a result, they grow into adults that do not know how be moral and are unable to understand or emotionally connect with one anyone.

I choose the utilitarianism on Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* as my topic since this philosophy becomes the main problem in the novel. Most characters believe and apply this philosophy in their life. Especially, for the main character Thomas Gradgrind who applies it not only for students in his school but also for his two children. As the author, Charles Dickens criticizes the existence of this philosophy in his own society in the eighteenth century which negates people to think imaginatively and his societies tend to be hedonism in life style. The world view of the author is explored in his novel to prove how this philosophy influence the life of societies in his own environment. Thus, this topic is interesting to discuss.

The basic theory in this reseach is genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann. This theory goes from text and context. The text is the literary work and the context is the historical background. It tries to find the structure constructed in the literary work and the worldview of the author depicted in the novel.

1.2 The Scope of The Study

The scope of the study is needed to limit the problems to discuss in this research. It also has the function to avoid the uncontrolled discussion so as to gain better understanding of the topic discussion. Therefore, this research focuses on the analysis of Utilitarianism in *Hard Times* based on the Genetic Structuralism concept.

1.3 The Problems to discuss

This thesis discusses about the ideology of utilitarianism which is shown in the *Hard Times* novel. This ideology has affected some character's way of thinking in the novel that the author wants to explore. Some characters apply this ideology to construct their society to have the same world view about the utilitarianism. Therefore, this research will explore three problems in the novel. Those are :

1. How does *Hard Times* novel describe the utilitarianism ?
2. How is the author's world view toward utilitarianism in *Hard Times* ?
3. Why does Victorian society apply the ideology of utilitarianism?

1.4 The Goals of the Study

Regarding the problems to discuss previously, there are some purposes of this reseach. Those are :

1. To understand the structure of *Hard Times* which constructs the ideology of utilitarianism
2. To understand the author's worldview towards the ideology of utilitarianism that is constructed in *Hard Times*
3. To analyze the reason of Victorian society who apply the ideology of utilitarianism

CHAPTER 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 The previous research

The previous research gives contribution in writing this research to support some informations relating this research. There are two previous researches in this research.

The first previous research is a thesis written by Yuliana Puspitasari with title “ Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition : Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Buchi Emecheta’s *The Bride Price*. Puspitasari tries to analyzes the negotiation of modernity and resistance towards Buchi Emecheta’s novel *The Bride Price*”. She uses the Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann as the theory to breakdown her analysis. She tries to find the structure of the novel *The Bride Price* and particularly the binary oposition between modern and traditional thoughts.

She finds the structure of the novel is about the modernism which exists in the society of Nigeria especially in post-colonial society by using Genetic Structuralism theory. *The Bride Price* has the structure that represents modernism of intellectual middle class that is influenced by European thoughts and traditional cultures existing in Nigeria post-colonial society (Puspitasari, 2013:21). She proved that the structure of novel can be influenced by the certain society when the novel is written. Besides, in particularly the binary opposition between modern and traditional thought. She wants to explore the opposition thought between Nigerian and African. To know the modern and traditional thoughts, she analyzes the conflict between the traditional Nigerian and those young people, such as Aku-nna and Chike (slave descendent) in the novel who expose to the colonizers’ new discourse and tend to reject the African traditional culture (Puspitasari, 2013:21).

The second previous research is a journal written by Ali Taghizadeh with title "The Paradox of Utilitarianism in *Hard Times*" (2005). Taghizadeh analyzes the utilitarianism which is found in Charles Dickens' *Hard Times*. This utilitarianism becomes abusive in educational system of England and in the social system of Victorian era. The subject of *Hard Times* is abused utilitarianism. He discusses about utilitarianism as abused in its different aspects. Firstly, it will shed some light on the novel as a criticism on the English educational system. A criticism of the Victorian social system, as traceable in the novel, will follow the discussion on education (Taghizadeh:2005). He focuses on the educational system in the novel which the utilitarianism ideology exists in it. This ideology influence the educational system in Gradgrind school which applies this ideology to construct the characteristic of the students in his school. He also describes how Charles Dickens as the author of *Hard Times* who criticizes the ideology of Utilitarianism in his society. Charles Dickens also rejects this ideology in writing the novel of *Hard Times* to resist the utilitarianism.

The previous researches and this research are different. The first previous research conducts the research by using genetic structuralism approach which analyzes the binary opposition between modern and traditional discourse and the world view of the writer. Although the previous research also concerns with the genetic structuralism analysis, this research uses different material. I use genetic structuralism analysis to analyze Charles Dickens' *Hard Times* based on the social structure that is constructed in Dickens' *Hard Times*, the world view of the writer who tends to criticize the idea of utilitarianism in the society around him and the social condition when *Hard Times* was written. This previous research as the source of analysing the novel in using genetic structuralism which analyze the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements of the novel. The second previous research analyze the paradox of utilitarianism based on social perspective. He analyze the utilitarianism which is abused in educational system and social system in Victorian period. This previous

research as the source to prove that the idea of utilitarianism is resisted by Charles Dickens as the author of *Hard Times*. This idea also affects some characters in the novel. However, I analyze the idea of utilitarianism in the novel by genetic structuralism to know the structure, world view and the social condition behind this idea of utilitarianism appearance.

2.2 The Theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldmann

Genetic structuralism is a theory first developed by Lucien Goldmann. He believes that literary work is like a structure. This structure is not something static, but as a product of history, structure progress and restructure process. He also explains that this approach can reconstruct the world view of the author in writing his literary works. Genetic structuralism is a combination between Structuralism and marxism. As structuralism, genetic structuralism understand everything in this world, include literary work, as a structure. Thus, the effort of Genetic Structuralism to understand literary work is guided to the effort to find the structure of the work (Faruk :2012:159).

The genetic structuralism theory aims at analyzing the character of the work or the author's world view through a character that is created by an author in every situation in the novel. This theory attempts to analyze the literary work from two elements. Those are the intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The intrinsic element includes the text as the structure of the literary work and the extrinsic one includes some factors out of the text. such as : the author as the collective subject in certain society and the social condition around the author.

Goldmann (1981:11) states the foundation in understanding genetic structuralism as the fundamental characteristic of human behavior which includes:

1. The tendency towards adapting realities of the environment and its characteristics form in relation to that environment, through rationality and by rendering the significant.

2. The tendency towards overall consistency and towards creating structural forms.
3. Its dynamic nature, i.e. the tendency towards modifying and developing the structure of which it forms part.

The explanation above means the three tendencies influence human being. These are the basic concept of genetic structuralism theory. The fundamental characteristic of human behavior cannot be separated from the environment. There is relation between human and environment. Human beings adapt in every realities of environment where they exist. The human tendency above creates some dynamic patterns and structures in their thought, behavior and feeling as their responses to all the problems in their environment.

Faruk In *Metode Penelitian Sastra* writes the basic of genetic structuralism into four concepts. Those are : human fact, transindividual subject, significant structure and world View. (2012 : 159).

2.2.1 Human Facts

Human fact is similar to human behavior. Faruk says that human fact means all human activities and behaviors, both the verbal and the physical ones, which sciences try to understand (Faruk, 2010:70). Activity or human behavior must be certain social and political activities which the individuals come together to form a community. With society, humans can adapt to the environment. Humans and the surrounding environment are always in a process of reciprocal structure conflicting but complementary at the same time. Therefore, the fact about humanity is a meaningful structure. Because, human facts are as the responses of individual or collective subject. This human fact also defines as a structure which related to social condition and the historical background of the literary work. When the author writes his work. He is inspired to write his work based on the condition in his own

environment. Goldman also says that human transforms the world around him in order to achieve a balance between themselves (as subject) and the world.

Human fact can be distinguished into two, first is individual fact such as someone libidinal behavior which is connected with social class. Individual facts are only as individual facts results, such as dream, insolent attitude, etc. And social facts are related to history because everybody has to assimilate and accommodate the environment to be in human fact (Eagleton : 2002:12). This assimilation is a kind of human's adaptation with the environment. Besides, there is some obstacles that must be passed. Goldmann (1981 :61) states that there are three kinds of obstacles :

1. The fact that certain sectors of the external world do not lend themselves to integrate into the structure being elaborated.
2. The fact that certain structures of the external world are transformed in such a way, that although they may have been able to be integrated before, this integration becomes increasingly difficult and finally impossible.
3. The fact that individuals in the group who are responsible for generating the process of equilibrium, transform the surrounding social and physical environment, thereby creating situations that hinder the continuation of the structuring processes generating them.

Every human being gets those obstacles in the assimilation process. Human being should adapt with the environment. He can make some relationship among society and the problems around him. He need to effort to solve the problems in modifying the situation to be suitable with his aspiration.

2.2.2 Collective Subject

Collective Subject is a social group whose ideology and culture to create union view of their social life. collective subject can define as a social class since it is collectively to create a coherent structure of society. Cohen (1994:33) states that it must be a collective subject, the working class. By joining their struggle, the young

intellectual Lucien Goldmann declares, individuals will fulfill themselves by transforming an ideology that would otherwise remain a lovely museum piece into a living reality. the class means as the indicator in limiting humans facts which the author wants. Goldmann (in Faruk , 1999:15) specifies them as a social class in the Marxist sense , because that's the group that is proven in history as the group has created a complete and comprehensive view of the life and that has influenced the development of human history .

Collective subject also has methodology implication with sociological research which views that literary work cannot separated from the author as a community. The author is a subject that is in the middle of society which involve as a community less or more will give a motivation in writing his work and applies the tendency of his group on his work. Therefore Literary works created by the author . Thus the literary work is more of a duplication of the fact that humanity has been mixed by the author. All ideas can be regarded as a representative author of a social group .

2.2.3 Significance structure

Goldmann stresses in genetic structuralism that such structures must be understood in terms of their origin in the historical process. The significant structure represents both a reality and a norm. The concept of significant structure is the principle reseach tool to understand the human sciences and based on the virtual and actual tendencies of human reality (Goldmann, 1981:14-16). The literary work is seen as a structure and it must be related to historical subjects, not to some sphere outside history. However, there are relationships between literary work and society (Puspitasari :2013:14). It means that a structure of literary work cannot be separated from the historical background.

Literary work structure relates real social structure by using the concept of homology. Goldmann (via Faruk 2010:64-65) describes the concept of homology

between literary work and social structure is different from the concept of reflection. The concept of reflection means the literary work structure is reflected the real social structure directly. However, the concept of homology relates the literary work structure and the real social structure in different way. The literary work does not represents the real society directly. In fact, both has the same structure.

Goldmann (1981:83) states that there are seven concept of significance structure. Firstly, the concept of significance structure constitutes research of past and present facts. Second, in every concrete analysis, the specific significance structure clarifies the facts of two problems, which are difficult to resolve. Third, the most important scientific procedure for resolving these problems in the insertion the significance structure. Fourth, the concepts of significance structure have a primary importance taken together of the historical, social sciences, and reinforce in the area of philosophical, literary ad, artistic works and are characterized not only by the virtual but also by the world views. Fifth, literary criticism takes structuralist orientation to relate the works and the basic structure of historical and social reality. Sixth, there is the present limitation on psychological knowledge and insertion into the historical and sociological structures of its part. Seventh, the numbers of historical situations, literary philosophical and artistic works are incomparably greater than the numberof world views.

The explanation above means the literary work cannot be separated from the real society. Since the concepts of significance structure have taken from the historical background as the setting in the literary work. There are three ways to investigate the significance structure as a historical area. Firstly, learning the internal structure of great philosophy that says the literary work is due to the fact that they express the basic problem of human relation and between man and nature. Secondly, world view is a result of concrete situation based on the history. Third, the sructural coherence is not static reality but dynamic virtually. The author expresses this world view on the artistic by creating an imaginary universe of character, objects, and relations (Goldmann, 1981:66-75).

2.2.4 World View

World view is the goal in Genetic Structuralism. Goldmann (via Faruk, 2010:65-66) describes the world view is a kind of ideas, aspiration that relate the members of certain society and appose to another society. The world view should provide the correct “prescription” for making sense of the world just as wearing the correct prescription for our sight brings things into focus. When a group society has the same ideology and culture, they will integrate to create a world view in their society. The way to understand and to experience collectively. It will become a binding that integrate those societies into the equal class and distinguished them to other social class (Faruk :2012:162). The world view becomes a unity to integrate among people in certain society.

Goldmann explains that world view as psychological expression via relation of collective dialectic with social and physic, and being in a long period in history that represent its value of time. This world view becomes the concept of structure to understand the structure of literary work whose structure of social and ideology. The concepts are based on world view must dig up in a group consciousness through involving indicator of belief system, history of intellectually and culture.

There are three steps to analyze the literary work by using Genetic Structuralism. First, analyzing the intrinsic elements of literary work as the basic data. Second, analyzing the background of the author includes the author’s personalty, life, ideology and norms that influence his work. Third, analyzing the socio-cultural and historical background of the place where the literature is created by the author.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

In conducting a research, method is needed. This chapter discusses the methods which are used in this research, namely the type of research, data collection, data processing, and data analysis. Each item will be discussed as follows.

3.1 Type of Research :

This research uses qualitative research. According to Bryman (1989:112) in *Research Methods and Organization Studies*:

Qualitative research is a research design which reveals many different emphases from quantitative research. Probably the most significant difference is the priority accorded the perspectives of those being studied rather than the prior concerns of the researcher, along with a related emphasis on the interpretation of observations in accordance with subjects' own understandings.

The qualitative research analyzes data based on interpretation of observation. The data and information take from many books, dictionaries, and references to support the analysis. Warren and Wellek (1977:50) state that since the majority of students can find their source materials in libraries, knowledge of most important libraries, and familiarity with catalogues as well as other reference books in undoubtedly an important equipment of almost every student of literature. This qualitative research employs to collect data and information which is related to the topic discussion. The data from internet are also considered to complete the data in order to make the analysis accurate.

I use qualitative research to analyze *Hard Times* novel for knowing the structure, the author's world view in the novel and the social condition at that time. Therefore, I use genetic structuralism from Lucien Goldmann as the theoretical foundation to break down the analysis.

3.2 Data Collection :

Data collection is one of the most important stages in conducting a research. The data are in form of written materials. *Hard Times* is qualitative data since the data are in the form of sentences or words. The term of qualitative data is a type of data that deals with collecting and analysing information in a form of non-numeric (Blaxter, et al, 1996:60). The data in *Hard Times* is written in the research as quotations. It can be direct quotation, indirect quotation and paraphrasing.

There are two kinds of data to support this research. Both are primary and secondary data. The primary data includes some narratives and quotations in the novel *Hard Times*. I collect the data in the *Hard Times* novel by doing close reading to know the problem that I find in the novel. Then, the data are related each other. The secondary data include facts and informations that can support the analysis of primary data. The data are taken from other textbooks, journals and websites related to the topic discussion.

3.3 Data Processing

In the data processing, the data are collected then categorized based on the topic of discussion. I classify the data from the novel of *Hard Times* and the social condition at that time in order to understand the problem that I found in the novel which is about the ideology of Utilitarianism and the world view of the author towards the Utilitarianism as he explores in his novel. Then it processed by the theory of Genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann into four major aspects to understand the structure of *Hard Times* which construct the ideology of Utilitarianism. Then I explain in descriptive method to analyze the data.

3.4 Data Analysis

In analyzing this research, I use deductive method to analyze data. This deductive method is a form of discussion from general to the specific topic. I describe the analysis of utilitarianism in *Hard Times* novel as the problem that I find in the novel. Then I analyze the utilitarianism by conducting genetic structuralism to understand the structure of the novel which constructs this utilitarianism, the world view of the author towards the utilitarianism in the novel and the social structure, especially in Victorian society when the novel was written.

