



**THE CRITIQUE TOWARD MIDDLE CLASS FAMILY OF
VICTORIAN ERA THROUGH CONSTANCE'S CASE IN THE
NOVEL; *A DARK MOON RAGING***

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 Study

Written by:

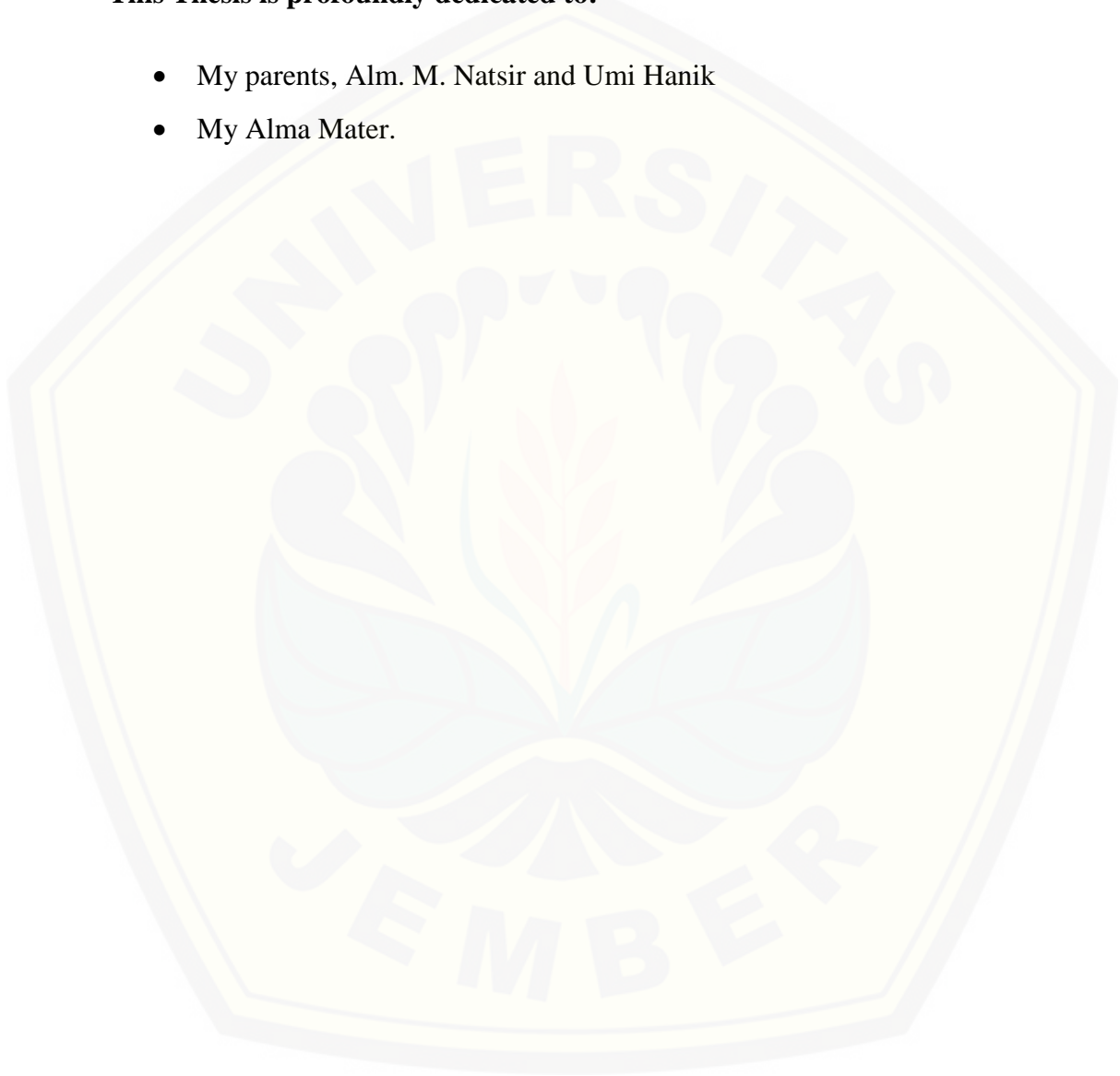
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DEDICATION

This Thesis is profoundly dedicated to:

- My parents, Alm. M. Natsir and Umi Hanik
- My Alma Mater.



MOTTO

There are no perfect parents, and there are no perfect children but there are plenty of perfect moments along the way.*)



*Willis, Dave. www.davewillis.org (accessed on January 13rd, 2016 at 13:26)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that the thesis entitled “The Critique toward Middle Class Family of Victorian Era through Constance’s Case in the Novel; *A Dark Moon Raging*” 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 and any helps received in the preparation of this thesis have been acknowledged.

Jember, 10 March 2016

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On occasion, I want to convey my gratitude to:

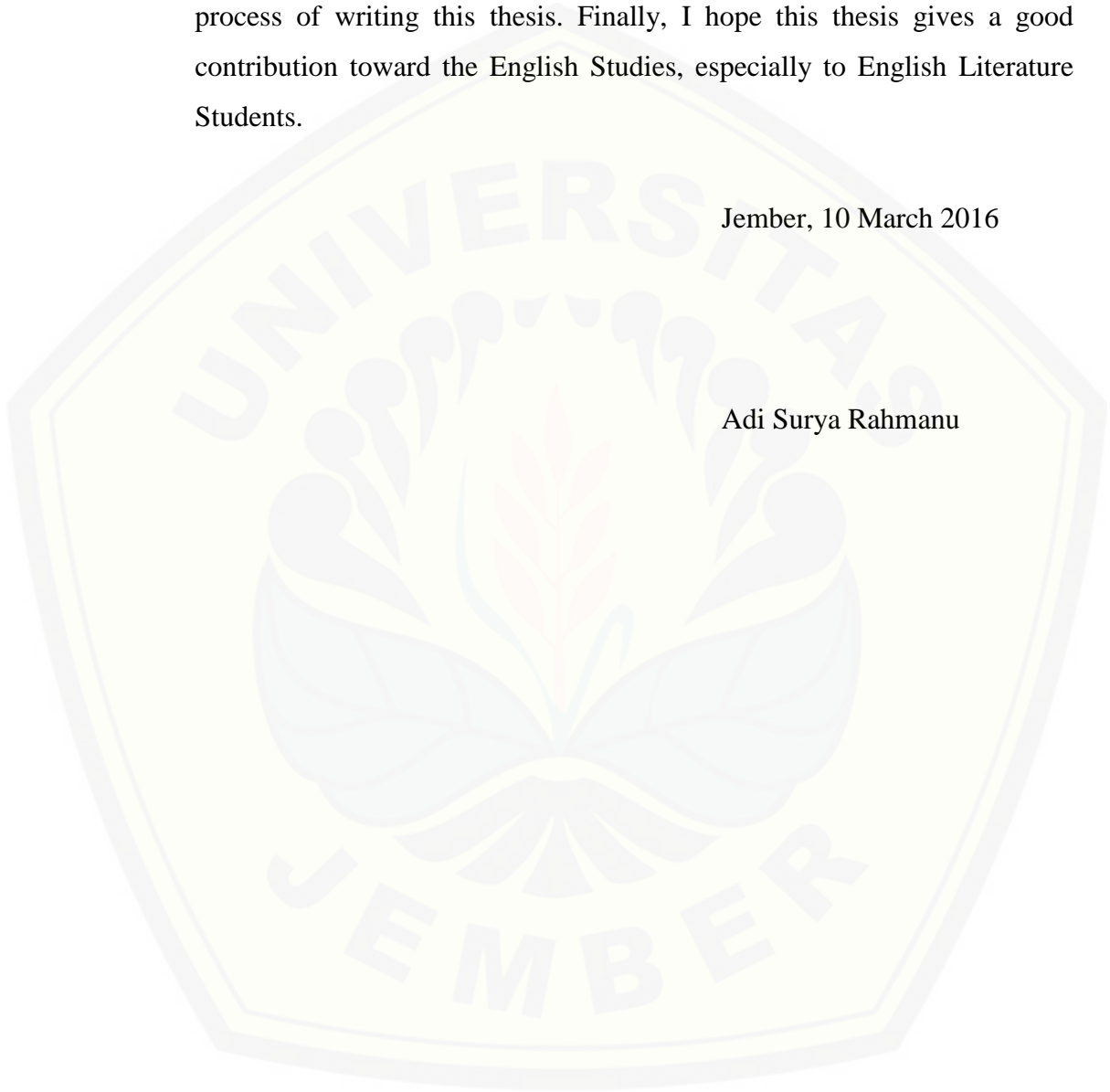
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SUMMARY

The Critique toward Middle Class Family of Victorian Era in the Novel; *A Dark Moon Raging*; Adi Surya Rahmani; 100110101008; 2010; English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University.

This research intends to show how Constance's case depicted in Aileen Armitage's novel, *A Dark Moon Raging*, becomes a representation of a critique towards middle class family in Victorian Era. It uses Lucien Goldmann's paradigm of Genetic Structuralism which sees literature as a significant structure created by the author to influence, to object, and to change the social condition. Therefore, the analysis needs to deal with the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements of *A Dark Moon Raging*.

The analysis begins with collecting and deciphering events that imply the rigidity of Constance's family. At this point, this research finds out two main events; the first event shows Samuel Lumb as the Representation of Victorian Middle Class Father while the second event exposes social class issues within Constance's family. Furthermore, this research also sees that Armitage uses Constance as a symbol of freedom and the character of Constance uses to confront the rigidity of her family. Then, the research observes the social background of Aileen Armitage as the author. The phenomenon of crisis of England in 1970s and the personal experiences of the author give an influence toward the creation of *A Dark Moon Raging*. Thus, this research can draw a conclusion that Aileen Armitage uses her novel as a form of critique to the rigid ideology of Victorian middle class family in managing the family.

This research is qualitative research which concerns on exploring the data that is non-numeric through the detail as depth as possible. Data used in this thesis are in the form of words as it involves explanation, interpretation, and exploration without calculation. The relation between the novel and the actual condition of middle class family in Victorian era leads this research to reveal the Aileen Armitage's intention in adapting the real murder case of Constance Kent into a

novel entitled *A Dark Moon Raging*. The condition of Victorian middle class family is represented in Constance's family. The rigidity of Constance's family is regarded as the main factor which influences Constance in killing her half-brother. The problem that occurred within Constance's family as a result of rigid ideology of middle class parents has made the children feels ignored. Therefore, it indicates that Aileen Armitage as the author tries to convey an opinion that people should not blame Constance but her family who has failed in bringing a good condition and providing love and care to their children.

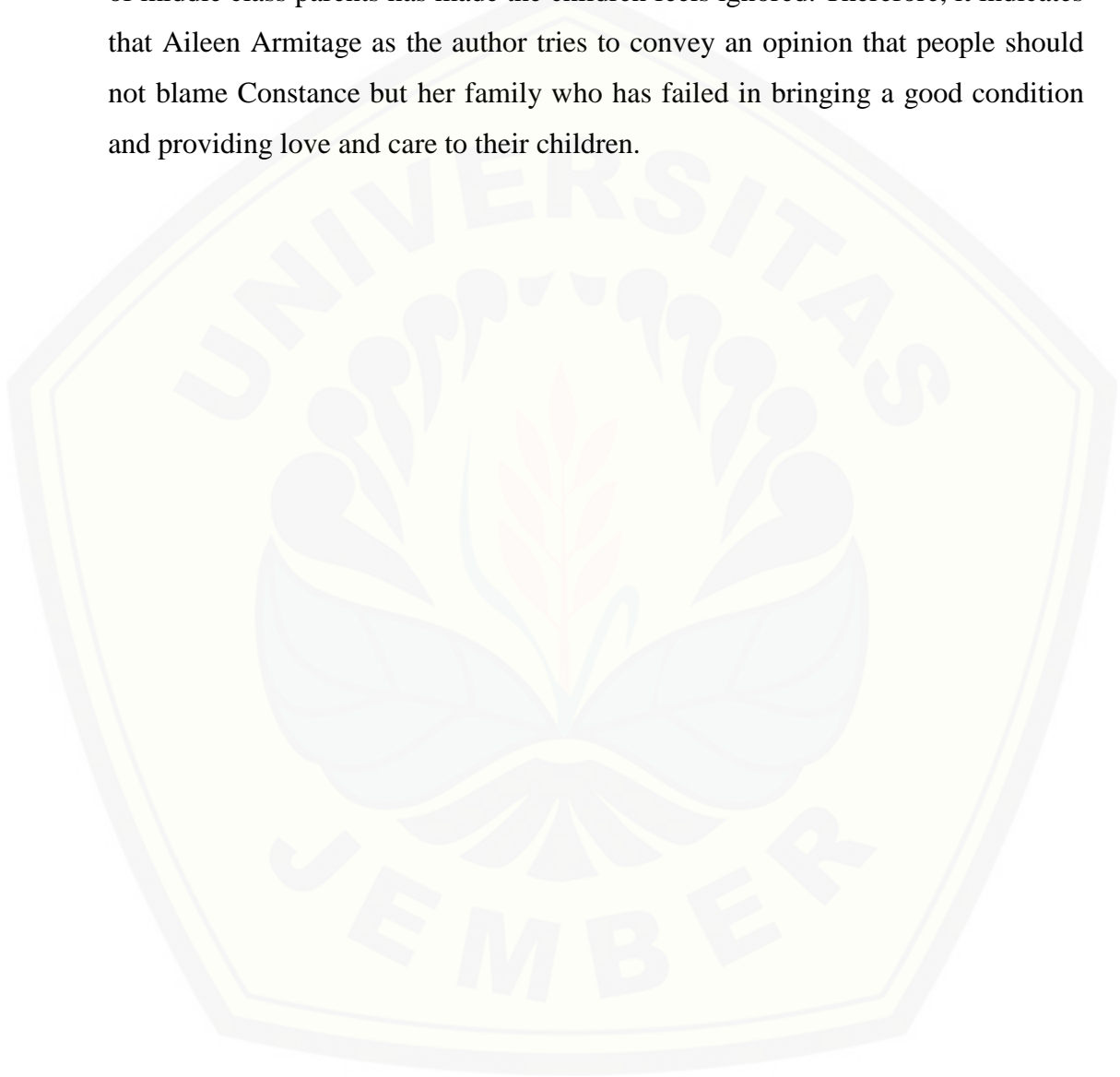
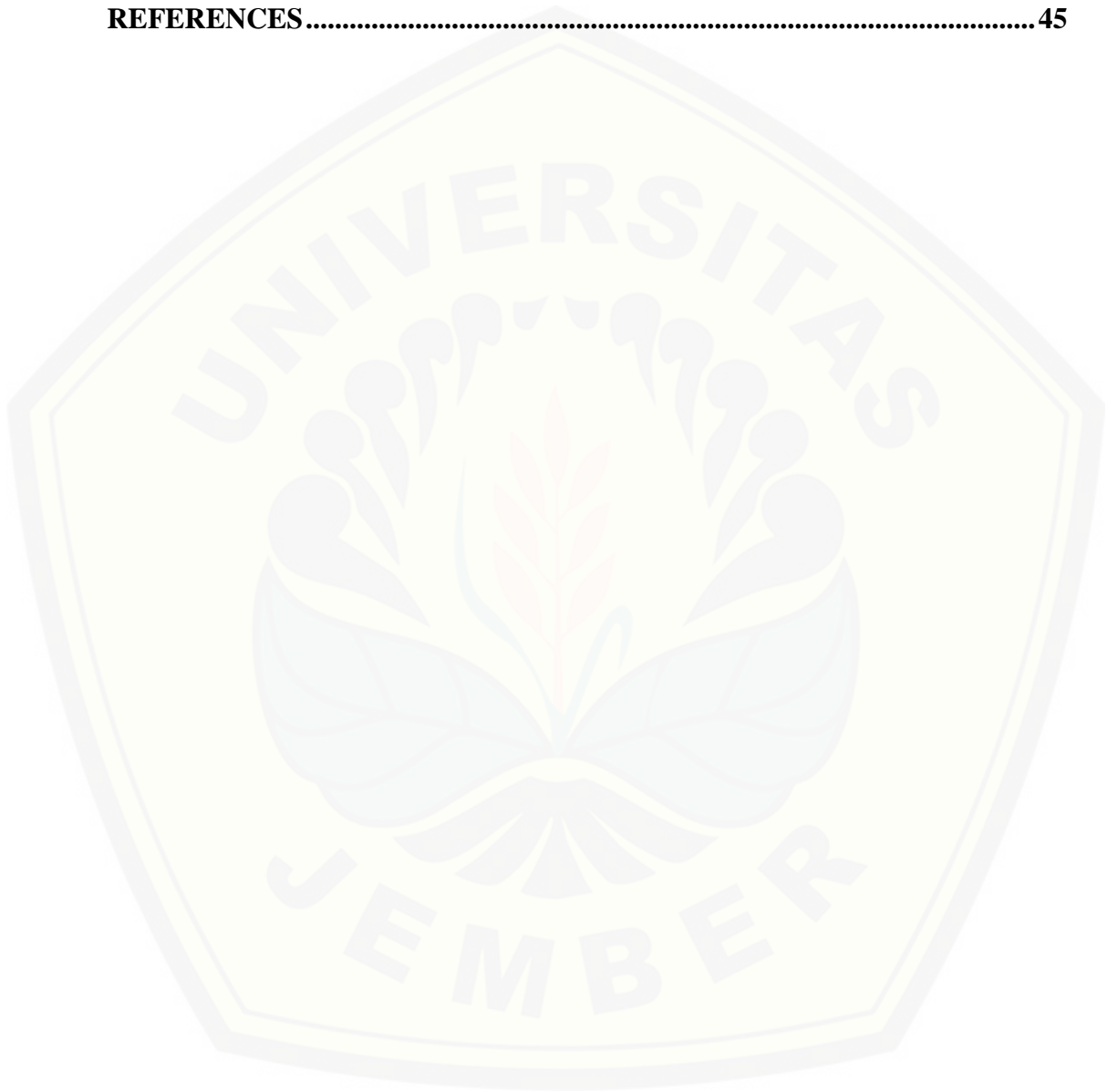


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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Victorian era is known as the era where the development of technology and science grows rapidly in England. Under the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901), England transforms to be the world's imperial leading and powerful country. It is also known as the age of transition from a feudal and agricultural society to industrial society (Sally, 1937:2). The invention of machine to substitute human resources in every aspect gives some impacts to social and economic condition of England in Victorian era. The principle of machine that is more economic and cheaper becomes the reason of the transition. It also gives a positive impact to British economic condition at that time such as the increasing of income and profit for government by exporting the product overseas.

Meanwhile, the growth of industry in England also shows significant influence toward social class of England society. In 1840s, there is phenomenon called *Hungry Forties* which stands for the crisis of Europe as the impact of industrial revolution. The bad harvest during industrial revolution has made the price of food higher (White, 1967: 254). In England, this phenomenon has forced the working class to move from rural to urban society in order to find a job since there are many factories that fire their worker since the manufacturer cannot pay their salaries. The high price of food has made people can only buy food but not for other commodities. As a result, the factory significantly decreases their production and most of factories collapse. It is worsened by the regulation of *Corn Law* which makes the social class become more obvious. The *Corn Law* that regulates a policy to import and export grain has made the standard of food price raises significantly. This policy makes the working class experiences a misery of

hungry while the upper-class which mostly consist of aristocrats and land owners are benefited. The upper-class gets a big income from the high tax that need to be paid by the local manufacturer who needs to export their products. During this condition, most of people in England are jobless and the rate of crime widely increases.

The social phenomena of Victorian era also give another impact to the development of literary work. The social condition of society as an impact of industrial revolution has indirectly stimulated the writer to bring literary work into broader function.

Novel as one of literary works has become the most influential medium in Victorian era. Public is pleased by the story of novel which makes the production of novel significantly increase. In addition, the writer obtains a great income due to the mass publication. Victorian literature which tends to expose the bad condition of urban society and the growth of poverty in England is considered as one of the author's ways in conveying opinions, criticizing the spirit of era and even against the age (Alexander, 2000:169). The writer as the creator realizes that literary work is not only as public entertainment but also as a medium to express an opinion or even a critique towards social condition. The change of social condition as the effect of industrial revolution has inspired the author to adopt it into literary work, especially novel. The emergence of Victorian literature which is based on real occurrence and inspired from social issue has emphasized the author's position, not only as entertainer but also as a critic. The Victorian novels that live today also contain various moral values. It indicates that industrial revolution has brought the literary work into broader function,

Victorian era is a period when middle class posses a significant growth in population. The Victorian middle class is also considered as the most benefited social class. The middle class which consists of professional (Upper middle class), working class (who earn their living by physical labor) and white collar (people who work on governmental offices) have a good prosperity in developing their financial condition. Unlike the working class, the middle class has certain skill to work in every sector. In this case, the role and condition of middle class in

Victorian era has affected the structure and parent's role of middle class family. The father as the only person who earns money for his family and the ability of middle class family to hire many servants has indicated that their financial condition has developed. Furthermore, Victorian era also creates particular patterns of middle class family, such as: mother at home, father at work and family as the center of children's live considered as a symbol of morality, stability and comfort (1937:146). However, the case of Constance Kent which occurred on June 29th 1860 has showed the weakness of middle class family in presenting morality, stability and comfort. Therefore, the popularity of Constance case inspires an author named Aileen Armitage to create a novel based on the incident.

A Dark Moon Raging is a novel written by Aileen Armitage that adapts the murder case which is committed by Constance Emily Kent. The popularity of the case occurs after some speculations about ambiguous motive lying behind the murdercase. Most of speculation points to her father, Samuel Kent, who is considered as the person who causes Constance killing her half brother. However, Constance remains silence about the motive of the murder which makes the parliament decide to conclude it as a common crime(<http://murderpedia.org/female.K/k/kent-constance.htm-09:4311/03/2015>).

In this case, the problem of middle class family and parental role are strongly related to the committal of Constance. Therefore, this research is conducted to examine the critique towards middle class family represented in Constance's case in the novel *A Dark Moon Raging*.

A Dark Moon Raging shows some resemblances with the actual story. The similarity of the chronology and the name of some characters which occur in the novel cause some problems that can be discussed. The portrait of middle class family structure, member and role are also clearly defined in the novel. Even though there are also some novels that are written and published based on this crime story, most of the novel only intends to appeal the motive of Constance in killing her half-brother. The Constance's case which regains its popularity in 1970s has stimulated Aileen Armitage to adopt it into a novel. The Constance's case occurred in 1860 while *A Dark Moon Raging* was published in 1980. It

emerges an indication that the author adopts the murder case as a critique toward the Victorian Middle class. Therefore, this research aimed to give depth understanding about Constance case and author's intention in adopting the murder case.

1.2 Problem to Discuss

The main discussion of this thesis is the critical analysis of Constance's case in the novel *A Dark Moon Raging* which used by Aileen Armitage to criticize the middle class family of Victorian era. Therefore, there are three questions which conduct this research, as follows:

- 1.) How does *A Dark Moon Raging* depict middle class family?
- 2.) How does Constance Kent's case construct a criticism toward middle class family?
- 3.) How does Aileen Armitage present the world view through the novel?

1.3 The Goals of The Study

There are several goals of this research in order to give depth understanding about the critique toward middle class family represented in the novel. The first goal is to inform the reader about middle class family condition in the Victorian era by analyzing and connecting the data from novel and the background of the novel. The second is to reveal the author world view represented in the novel. Third, this thesis aimed to give contribution for the next researcher as an additional material related to Victorian middle class issue since the issue of Victorian middle class is rarely taken as a research topic.

CHAPTER 2. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Theory is needed to give further understanding about the analysis toward the problems. Thus, Lucien Goldmann's genetic structuralism is the compatible theory which conducts this research. There are three previous researches which are used as the contributor to the completion of this research. Yuliana Puspitasari's "*Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition: Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Buchi Emecheta's The Bride Price*" and the journal entitled "*The Study of Genetic Structuralism, Gender, Values of Education in Trilogy Novel Gadis Tangsi By Suparto Brata*" conducted by Sutardi et. Al are the sources related to Genetic Structuralism study. Whereas, "*The Critique of Victorian Morality Implied in Oscar Wilde's the Importance of Being Earnest*" by Ahmad Naufal is the study relate to the description of Victorian era society contributes to this research.

2.1 The Previous Research

The first previous research that contributes to the completion of this research comes from Yuliana Puspitasari; a student of Jember University, English Department entitled "*Negotiating Modernity, Resisting Tradition: Genetic Structuralism Analysis on Buchi Emecheta's The Bride Price*". The writer uses theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldmann in analyzing the novel. The aim of the thesis is to find the binary opposition between modernity and tradition thought in Africa. The result of the thesis is that the main male and female character is considered as the representation of the people who live in 1950s to 1970s. Due to their education they tend to reject the African traditional culture. It influences the structure of thought both male and female character in seeing modernity and tradition. The difference perspective between modernity and

tradition is disclosed by analyzing the world view of the writer and Nigerian society. This thesis give contribution to this research since it is also use genetic structuralism theory by Lucien Goldmann in approaching the object material while the different object material is used. The world view of the author and society applied in this thesis gives additional information to the completion of this research in the case of implementing the theory.

The journal entitled "*The Study of Genetic Structuralism, Gender, Values of Education in Trilogy Novel Gadis Tangsi By Suparto Brata*" written by Sutardi, Herman J Waluyo, Retno Winarni, and Nugraheni Eko Wardani is the second previous research that I use in this thesis as the relation toward Genetic structuralism. This research tries to uncover the gender equality and also the educational values gained from the novel. There are 5 result gained from the research.

First, the world view of author is social humanism depicted in the main character named Teyi. It relates to Suparto Brata's world view that he wants to fight for the fates of *Wong Cilik* (common people), especially the position of women in the patriarchal society. *Second*, the structure depicted in the novel shows degradation of noble Javanese culture understanding. *Third*, it describes that there are two major categories of the social structure of the Java community when Dutch and Japanese occupation takes place, the community of priyayi and the wong cilik. Both prove the concubinage practice. *Fourth*, the novel also depicts the struggle for gender equality through the exposure of gender relation injustice, stereotype, marginalization, violence, and excessive work. *Fifth*, educational values relate to the learning about Javanese women characteristics, Javanese women work ethic, attitudes and morality of Javanese women and their noble mind. After all, the brief explanation of the theory to use and its application give a significant contribution to this research since it also uses same theory. However, this research uses different novel as the object material.

The last previous research comes from Ahmad Naufal who is the student of English Department University of Jember entitled "*The Critique of Victorian Morality Implied in Oscar Wilde's the Importance of Being Earnest*". The thesis

use Nietzsche's theory of morality to find the concept of morality and the decadence of Victorian morality. The thesis criticizes the Victorian morality through the Wilde's drama. In the novel, the main character named Jack who comes from lower classes struggled with his marriage since his love comes from upper classes. In this case, the upper classes of Victorian era tend to look people from their financial condition before engaging relationship. The thesis gives contribution to this research since it also analyzes the Victorian era society especially upper classes. The critique toward morality of upper classes in Victorian era help me to enrich the information about Victorian morality and thought applied in the thesis since this research is also criticize the occurrence that happen in the Victorian society.

2.2 Sociology of Literature

The definition of literary work as a result of author's creative process often constrains the literary work only as work of fiction. Since creative process of the author is closely related to the process of imagination. Thus, such paradigm emerges and considered as a normal. Yet, it is also closely related to the function of literary work itself; to entertain and please the reader. Recently, literary work such as novel, poetry, drama and etc. regarded as a medium to entertain and please the reader. The entertaining story and the beautiful word within the content makes literary work merely recognized as a work of art. Those aspects also determine the quality of literary work, most of author or poets also hope that his or her work become popular. Author is also an ordinary people who need an appreciation for his hard work. The more literary work becomes popular, the more profit or benefit that author get. However, out of the aspect of popularity, the idea of the author in creating the literary work can be observed.

The study of literary work allows people not only to see literary work as a work of fiction and entertaining devices but also as a complex work that contain some aspects such as moral, education and etc. Based on Rene Wellek and Austin Warren in the "*Theory of Literature*" that as same as human being, literature also has its own characteristic and shares common things with other work of art, so in

order to characterize individuality of each work, of an author, of a period or of a national literature, literary study is needed (1948:7). In short, sociology of literature is a branch of knowledge that study about the literary works' creation which is influenced by the environment. Therefore, sociology of literature as a field of literary study can be an option for the researcher especially student of literature to do a research.

According to Jacques Leenhardt in the Peter Lengyel's "*Sociology of Literary creativity*" that there are two distinct aspects which cover sociology of literature, literature as a consumer product and literature as an integral part of society, means that society is the subject of literary creation (1967:517). In this case, sociology of literature as a study sees a literary work not only as a product but also as part of society. As a product, literary work is regarded as a public consumption which is appreciated by the reader due to its characteristic. While, literary work regarded as a part of society since sociology of literature asserts that literary work created from author's idea which is influenced by his environment or society. Thus, sociology of literature as a study intends to discover the reason of literary work creation, whether influenced by author's social, political condition and etc. There are some scholars who have developed the sociology of literature and merely have their own concept and method on approaching the literary work. One of them is Lucien Goldmann, a French sociologist who has developed the concept of genetic structuralism as one of theories which used to approach the literary work. Hence, this research uses Lucien Goldmann's genetic structuralism in order to find the critique towards Victorian middle class family implied in Constance's murder case in the novel *A Dark Moon Raging* by Aileen Armitage.

2.3 Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism

Genetic structuralism is a theory proposed by Lucien Goldmann. Genetic structuralism is a theory which combines the concept of structuralism and Marxism. Structuralism believes that literary work only as a structure which has autonomous characteristic and can only be studied by analyzing its intrinsic elements. In this case, literary work is considered only as a work of art which

created from creative process of author. One of Russian formalist figures Viktor Shklovsky in the Terence Hawkes' "*Structuralism and Semiotics*" stated that literary works as an art are explainable only by the laws of art (1977:46). Thus, the importance of the study of literature lies in its aesthetic value (Swingewood et. al, 1972:59-60). Meanwhile, genetic structuralism emerges as a theory which rejects the conception of literary work that can only described by finding its aesthetic value. Goldmann combines the concept of literary work as a structure with Marxism concept which explains that literary work is a response of an author toward their social condition. At this point, genetic structuralism asserts that literary work is not only as an ordinary structure but also a significance structure, a structure which has a meaning. By the concept of significance structure, Goldmann proposed that literary work is considered as an author attempt to create a change in his society. Goldmann states in the "*Method in the Sociology of Literature*" that in order to understand the literary work's sociality and communicability, it must be connected to the history (1980:11). At this point, genetic structuralism provides a way in understanding literary work not only from its intrinsic but also extrinsic element to find author's intention in creating the text.

In understanding genetic structuralism in general, Goldmann use the basic concept of human behavior. Naturally, human are always tries to give responses toward social problems to create a balance. Based on this concept, the latter concept of genetic structuralism is generated as follows:

a. Human Fact

The first concept of genetic structuralism is human fact. It is the result of human behavior as an attempt of human to create balance between him and world. In this case, literary work is regarded as a human fact because it is written as an author act or response toward social problem of society. Goldmann proposed that every human act is meaningful, means that literary work is written with a purpose or functional (1980:40).

There are two processes contributes to the creation of human fact, assimilation and accommodation. Assimilation is a process in which human tends to adjust himself to the environment. While, accommodation is a process in which human tends to adjust the environment to be suited with his point of view (1980:15). These two processes are based on human effort in creating balance with his environment. These processes indicated that literary work as a human fact is a reflection of human's tendency to create balance with his environment.

b. Trans-individual Subject

Genetic structuralism proposed two kinds of subjects which relate to literary work as a result of human effort in creating balance with society, individual and trans-individual subject. Individual subject is a subject who tends to do an effort only to fulfill his own needs. Whereas, trans-individual subject is the subject which is tends to do an effort in fulfilling the needs of a group, community or even social class to give a significance impact to society. By the collective effort of trans-individual subject literary work not only become the medium in conveying a critique but also create a history (Goldmann, 1980:19). In this case, trans-individual subject considered as a subject that can create a history.

At this point, literary work is considered as a product of trans-individual subject since it represents the effort of author in fulfilling the needs of his social class. The social class refers to the peoples who have the same view with the author. In other words, the author has unconsciously creates literary work as a medium to wake the peoples within its social class to realize and do the same thing as what has author done. At this phase, the change becomes possible.

The concept of trans-individual subject used to understand the social condition of author's society when the novel is created, since author's is also the part of society. Thus, the position of the author remains as individual subject, but the author's view represents his or her trans-individual subject's character.

c. World View

Goldmann in the *“Method in the Sociology of Literature”* states that:

“By 'world view' we mean a *coherent* and *unitary* perspective concerning man's relationships with his fellow men and with the universe. Since the thought of individuals is rarely coherent and unitary, a world view rarely corresponds to the actual thought of a particular individual.”(1980:111)

The statement above explains that the concept of world view is a thought which result from the interaction between human and his society. In addition, world view can only formed in the level of trans-individual subject since its unitary and coherent characteristic. However, in order to understand the world view, at first, understanding the mental structure of individual is needed. Because, the individual subject provides a structure of thought that represents his or her trans-individual subject. Goldmann illustrates that world view as an instrument or view of several people in solving a big problem which occurred in society. For example, it is impossible to lift a big stone by only one man. It needs several people with the same understanding and purpose to lift the big stone. Therefore, world view is a totality, unitary and coherent perspective of trans-individual subject who act collectively in the same direction and purpose (1980:112).

Literary work is considered as an expression of world view. On the other word, author use literary work as a medium in expressing his world view through his work. Meanwhile, the author's position is in the level of trans-individual subject since he is the member of particular group or social class. In addition, the author is the representative of his group in presenting its world view. Then, the role of world view is that, it becomes the bridge which connects literary work, author and society. Therefore, genetic structuralism provides the concept of world view in order to get better understanding in analyzing literary work in its social context.

CHAPTER 3. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHOD

3.1 The Type of Research

This research uses qualitative research. it is concerned with gathering and analyzing information in many form, especially not in numeric, and it tends to focus on exploring by seeing through the detail as depth as possible (Blaxter et al,2006:64). By using qualitative, the data can be analyzed through the detail in order to get general truth about the critique that implied in the novel.

3.1 Data Collection

The method in collecting the data in this thesis is library research. The data are divided into primary and secondary data. The form of data used in this research written as quotation. The quotations are derived from several sources that have been divided into two kinds of data, primary and secondary. The primary data come from quotation, and utterances that relate to Constance's case in the novel entitled *A Dark Moon Raging* by Aileen Armitage. Then, the secondary data are collected from several books, journals, and also internet sources which explain about the theory of genetic structuralism by Lucien Goldman, Aileen Armitage and England social condition in Victorian era. The secondary data is also in the form of quotation derived from some experts, and significance utterances.

3.2 Data Processing and Data Analysis

This thesis intends to investigate Constance's case through Aileen Armitage's novel, *A Dark Moon Raging*, in order to get general truth about critic toward middle class family. Therefore, inductive is the appropriate method for this research. This method used to build a general truth from the specific to the general one. In order to understand step of analysis, I provides a diagram, as follows:

Diagram I. Step of Analysis

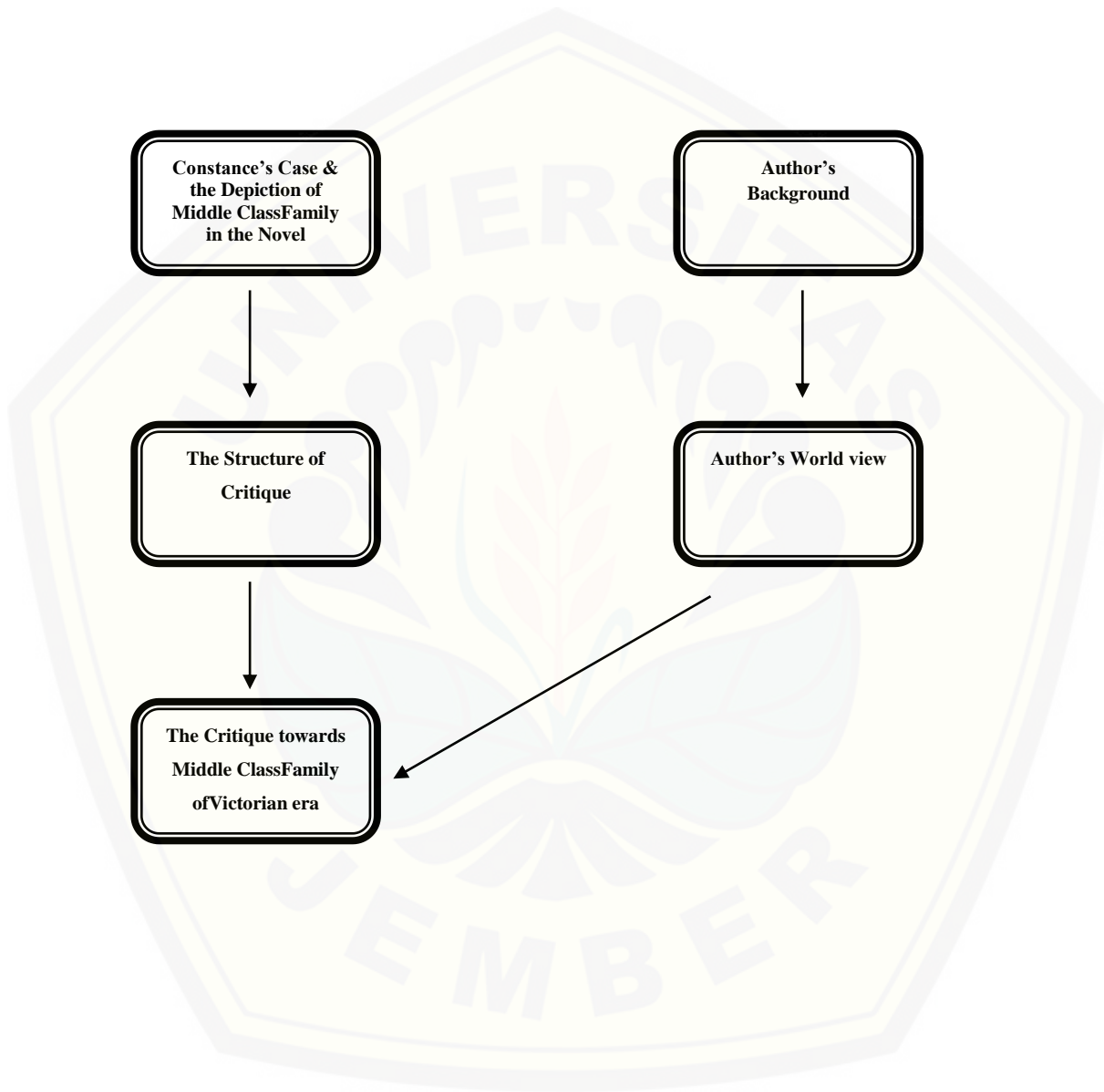


Diagram I:

There are two steps of this research's data processing. Firstly, I collect and categorize the data which relate to murder case and the depiction of Victorian middle class family in the novel *A Dark Moon Raging*. The data relate to the murder case includes some quotations and utterances which explain Constance Lumb's motive in killing her half brother. Meanwhile, the data relate to the depiction of Victorian middle class family includes some data which explain about Victorian middle class family's structure, regulation and parent's role. Secondly, I collect and categorize the data from external sources relate to the author's background. The data relate to Aileen Armitage's background consist of some significance occurrences and political condition of England in 1970 to 1980.

The analysis of data starts from the primary data. In this stage, the data about the murder case and the depiction of Victorian middle class family is analyzed. Through this process, the first and second question of this research problem is answered. Then, the secondary data is used. The data of England social condition from 1970 to 1980 and England social condition in the Victorian era is also analyzed. On this stage, the world view of Aileen Armitage is discovered. Finally, the primary data and secondary data analyzed. By thorough analysis, the critique toward middle class family of Victorian era through Constance's case in the novel; *A Dark Moon Raging* is revealed.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

This research has found the existence of a discourse about critique toward middle class family in Victorian era in Aileen Armitage's novel entitled *A Dark Moon Raging*. To reveal the discourse, this research observe three events that mainly contribute in establishing a critique toward middle class family in Victorian era through the novel; the depiction of Victorian middle class family in the novel, the construction of critique, and the ideological position of Aileen Armitage. These events relate each other and form a significance structure. Genetic structuralism regard that literary work as a significance structure means literary work as a structure is a result of author's creative process which is created to change social condition.

This research has found *A Dark Moon Raging* depicts Victorian middle class family as a family which is rigid and sees a man as the center of the authority. Father as the main role in the family has the biggest role while mother only remain as 'angel of the house' or a servant for the husband. It is reflected in the character of Samuel who is represents the Victorian middle class father. The condition of Samuel's family represents the real condition of Victorian middle class father in dealing with the problem of family; to deal with the family's financial condition in industrial society and the responsibility as a father for his children. The failure of Samuel in dealing with those problems has brought the family into unstable condition. As a result, children as the family's future become the victim.

This research has also found that the discourse about the critique was constructed through the Constance's murder case. The murder case which is depicted in the novel shows some similarity of chronological order and condition with the real occurrences. Therefore, Aileen Armitage as the author also poses her-self as a critic

since *A Dark Moon Raging* as an imaginative work give similar chronology relate to the real murder case. Moreover, the character of Constance and Samuel are used by Aileen Armitage to show the reader about two different sides that construct the critique. In this case, Samuel as a father has failed to provide love and care for the children especially Constance as the murderer of her half-brother, Franciss. Therefore, Constance case which is represented in *A Dark Moon Raging* constructs a criticism toward Victorian middle class family.

Lastly, *A Dark Moon Raging* is written based on the opinion of Aileen Armitage that the rigidity of Victorian middle class is the main factor which makes Constance kills her half-brother, Franciss. At this point, Aileen Armitage tries to build a structure that is homologous with her mental structure. The condition of Aileen Armitage has made her to see the murder case in the point of view that Constance as an ordinary human being needs more than an attention but also loves and cared from others, in this case from Samuel as her father. Therefore, this research proves that the ideology circulating within Victorian middle class family has made the children ignored and the parents have failed in fulfilling their children's needs.

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