Arabella's Struggle of Life in Georgette Heyer's *Arabella*

THESIS

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2017

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A thesis presented to the English Department,
Faculty of Humanities, Jember University
As one of the requirements to obtain
the Award of Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English study

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DEDICATION

I sincerely dedicate this thesis to:

1. My beloved parents, Abdul Muid and Djubaida, who always support me and give me their love and prayers for the best of my life, who support my financially in finishing my study;

2. My brother and sister, my big family, who always give me their support to do the best in my life;

3. My supporter in everything, FAP;

4. My friends in the Sahida kost, Ida Mahmida, Ratna Sari, Hurin'in, Weny Hidayati, Ida Nur, Agustinning Tyas, Mika Wahyuning, who always encourage and cheer me up whenever I need them;

5. My friends in English Department, Hedrin Diah Ayu, Galuh Rizky, who always cheer me up and beside me whenever I need them;

6. My Alma Mater.

MOTTO

"Your life will not be changed by fate, but be transformed by the changes
that you did"
(Jim Rohn)

DECLARATION

I hereby state that this thesis entitled **Arabella's Struggle of Life in Georgette Heyer's** *Arabella* is an original piece of writing. I state that this research and the analysis described in this thesis have never been submitted for any other 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, 12th July 2017

The Writer,

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APPROVAL SHEET

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All praises to Allah SWT, the Almighty God for every blessings and mercies given up upon me so that I can finally finish my study. I realize that this precious assistance and guidance of many people. For the reason, I would like to convey my genuine gratitude and regard to the following people who have given me great and helpful contribution in supporting my study. Thans to:

1. Prof. Dr. Akhmad Sofyan, M. Hum, the Dean of Faculty of Humanities, Jember University.
2. Drs.Imam Basuki, M. Hum and L. Dyah Purwita Wardani S.W.W, S.S., M.A, who are my first and second advisors, who have guided and helped me in conducting this research.
3. Dr. Mochamad Ilham, M.Si and Dr. Dina Dyah Kusumayanti, M.A., my examiners for suggestions and advices to improve my thesis.
4. Agung Tri Wahyuningsih, S.S., M.Pd, who has become my academic supervisor and guided me during my study.
5. All of lectures of English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Jember University, who have taught me the valuable knowledge during my academic years.
6. The librarians of Faculty of Humanities and Central Library of Jember University
7. The staffs and operators of English Department, Faculty of Humanities.
8. All of my friends in the Academic year 2012 who have given the best supports and advices during the process of writing this thesis, who I could not mention one by one.

Jember, 12th July 2017

Iftakhul Jannah

SUMMARY

Arabellas's Struggle of Life in Georgette Heyer's *Arabella*; Iftakhul Jannah; 120110101094; 2017; 46 Pages; English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Jember University.

This research studies about Georgette Heyer's novel entitled *Arabella* by using sociology of literature theory by Alan Swingewood. Sociology of literature is a study based on sociological perspective to understand the relation between social aspect and social phenomenon in a literary work. There are three approaches in Swingewood's theory, such as 1. literary work as a mirror to the age, 2. literary work deals with the social situation of the author, 3. literary work as the specific historical moment. In this thesis, I use the first perspective from Swingewood's theory "literary work as the mirror of the age". This perspective focus on literary work as the reflection of the age. In *Arabella* novel*,* there are three classes, such as upper class, middle class, and lower class, in which the upper class always in power, middle and lower class always have difficulty in financial terms. The differences of class in the novel are implying the realities in the Regency Era, in which status social is the way to get respect in the society especially for women. The main character in the novel portrays the middle class who wants to raise her family social status to get respect in the society in order to get the better life.

This research uses qualitative research method to analyze the data in the novel related to the main character's struggle in life. Then, the data are collected by using the documentary method. In this research, there are two kinds of data such as the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data are collected from the narrations, sentences, dialogues of *Arabella* written by Georgette Heyer related to the social condition of main character, her mother's ambition, and the life style in London. The secondary data are information taken from many resources such as, books, jurnals, literary work reviews, internet and other sources

that is related to the real condition of England in the Regency Era and the life of the author.

The result of this research shows that *Arabella* novel written by Georgette Heyer represents how the social condition of society in the Regency Era. In the Regency Era, social status is important for someone to be accepted in the society. Heyer successfully portrays the issue of social status especially for women as represented through the main character. Arabella as the main character in the novel is doing struggle of her life to raise her social status to get the better life. At the time, the position of women in the society is determined by a man they married. Thus, many women want to get married with a rich man in order to get better life . Through this novel Heyer expresses her dream that women also have the same rights with men. They also have rights access to law, education, and also property. It means that women have aqual rights like men. With the equality, women can live independently and do not depend on men to support their life and financial. Heyer wants to criticize that all class has the same rights in the society, so social status does not become a tool for someone to be accepted in the society.

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CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter is the overview of the whole thesis to give a description to the reader about the topic discussed in this research. The topic of this research is about the social struggle of life by the main character in Georgette Heyer's *Arabella.* It consists of the background of the study, the research topic, the research question, and the goal of the study.

1.1 The Background of Study

Literature is a form of human expression that related to thought and feeling. There are several literary works, including; poems, novels, plays, nonfiction, prose, and many others. Wellek and Warren (1956:94) state that literature represents "life" and life in large measure, in social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of individual have also been an object of literary imitation. Based on the statement above, the source of literature may come from human's life and human's experience. It means that literature is a mirror of human life. Literature shows everything in social life like issues and phenomena in the society. In other words, the source of literature is a human experience. The writer writes a literary work based on his or her experience in the social condition and social issues of the author.

Arabella is a Regency romance novel written by Georgette Heyer. She is an English historical romance and detective fiction novelist. She has written many novels, short stories, essay, and articles. She is very popular in the United Kingdom, United States, Germany and also achieved respectable sales in Czechoslovakia. She has an amazing ability to write fun, captivating stories filled with wonderful, well-developed characters. She has a precise knowledge and understanding of the Regency Era, and has a way with the language and slang of that era, as well (Houghton, 2006).

Arabella is a novel written in the Regency era. Regency era is the reign of the Prince of Wales from 1811 to 1820. It occurred at the latter end of the Georgian period when King George III was declared unfit to rule for reasons of insanity and his son, George IV was appointed as Regent to govern the country. At the time, Britain was engaged almost without cease in the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars of 1793–1815, one of the most significant conflicts in British history. Among the effects of England's foreign wars during this period were great financial instability and monetary volatility. The instability of the late eighteenth-century was followed in the 1810s and 1820s by what is known as the Regency period. Social class was a huge factor in Regency era life (Sheehan, 2009). Birth played a huge factor in determining one's social standing. For some, especially the eldest son and heir, their standing was established with an inherited title and fortune. For others, especially younger sons, inheritance of land or fortune and occupation played a primary role. For most women, their place in society was determined by the status of the man they married. In the Regency Era, marriageable young people were introduced to society, and matches were made. Especially for the upper classes, they could see and be seen, creating new and solidifying old connections with one another the upper class. Besides, shopping, dancing, and gambling were popular activities for the upper class in the Regency Era (Grace, 2013).

Arabella tells about a girl named Arabella. She wants to raise her family social status to get the better life and to make her mother's ambition into a reality. She believes if she goes to London, she will meet with a nobleman and her expectation to get married with a nobleman comes true. There, she lives with her godmother for the spring season. She believes London serves a good nobleman for her. On Arabella's journey to London, she meets Mr. Beaumaries, a famous nobleman from London. Furthermore, She asks for permission to stay at Beaumaris's home because of the rain. Then, she is hearing that her carriage accident is her planned to get his fortune. After hearing that, she is lying to Mr. Beaumaris that she is a daughter of the richest man in her village because she is

angry with him. In London, she becomes famous girl and many gentlemen want to be her husband. They believe that she is a wealthy girl and has a fortune. When everyone believes that she has a fortune, she has no idea what to do about it. She just keeps silent and hopes that the public does not know the social status of her family. She only wants to be accepted in the society, so she lies about her social status to the public. She is afraid that Mr. Beaumaris knows her lies and tells everything in the public. However, he never tells to the public about Arabella's social status. One day, she falls in love with Mr. Beaumaris that he is not a man which she imagines that he has the same feeling to her. Otherwise, he also falls in love with her. When Arabella has a problem, he always helps her. In the end, she and Mr. Beaumaris get engaged.

The novel shows that social status is important for someone to be accepted in society. It makes many people especially lower and middle classes want to be the upper class, so they can be accepted in society. Furthermore, they struggle to raise their social status by doing marriage to a rich man. It also happens to Arabella as the main character in the novel.

Aristotle says that there are three classes of the society such as upper class, middle class and also lower class (Febriani, 2013). We know that in the society, the social condition and social status affected to person's life. A rich person has an authority, she or he can do anything, enjoy her or his life. In another point, the upper classes are always in power and always get respect in the society. Meanwhile , the lower classes tend to have difficulty in their life. In other words, the power, wealth, and title are very important for someone especially for Arabella and her family, she is doing anything to get her expectation. Based on the issues about social status, I focuss my discussion about Arabella's Struggle of Life to get better life. This thesis uses sociological approach to analyze the problem in the novel.

1.2 The Research Topic

This research will be focused on discussing the main character's struggle of life in the novel. She wants to raise her family status in order to get the better life. She uses marriage as the way to get her expectation. She believes that if she gets married to a nobleman, her family will get a better life. This research tries to show that social status is very important in the society. At the time, for most women, their place in society was determined by the status of the man they married. However, Arabella wants to find a nobleman in order to get the better life.

1.3 The Research Question

Social status is important for someone to be acceppted in the society, so many lower and middle classes want to be an upper class in order to get the better life and to be accepted in the society. At that time, there had been trend of any people to raise their social status by doing marriage with a nobleman. It also happens to Arabella as the main character in the novel, she wants to raise her family social status to get the better life for her family. Then, she uses marriage as the way to get her expectation. She believes if she can get married with a noblemen, she can get the better life and raise her family social status.

Based on the background of study above, here the questions which are formulated as follows are:

1. How is the social condition of Arabella described in the novel?
2. How is social condition of London in the Regency Era?
3. How is the criticism about social status in the Regency Era?

1.4 The Goal of Study

Based on the question above, the goals of the study are:

1. To explain how the social condition of Arabella described in the novel.
2. To explain how social condition of London in the Regency Era.
3. To find the criticism about the social status in the Regency Era.

CHAPTER 2. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

In this chapter, there are two subchapters. The first one is the overview of previous research. The second one is the explanation about the sociology of literature theory by Swingewood.

2.1 The Previous Research

The first previous research is explained to the reader that this research is originally a 1st different from the previous research. The first research was done by Arya Desta P.Y, 2013, English Department, Faculty of Letter, Jember University, the title "Beyond Emma Bovary's Life Style in Madame Bovary". This thesis discusses the Emma Bovary's lifestyle since it represents the social condition of French's 19th century and represents the beginning of the modern era. In this thesis, there are two problems to discuss, such as; Emma's reasons to increase her social status and Emma's attempts to increase her social status. This thesis uses Alan Swingewood's Sociology of Literature and Veblen's Theory of Leisure Class to analyze social problems that happen to Emma's life. He uses the descriptive interpretative method to analyze his thesis. His thesis shows that at the time, social status is a birth gift, and Emma tries to rebel that way of thinking by spending her money and becomes consumptive to show the people that she can also be a part of higher class of society. In other words, Emma Bovary reflects the idea of modernism.

I use this thesis as my previous research because I find that we have the same theory, it is Sociology of literature theory by Swingewood. His thesis focuses on the reasons why Emma wants to increase her social status and Emma's attempts to increase her social status in the novel Madame Bovary. My thesis has same focus with his thesis about the reason why the main character want to raise her family status in the novel *Arabella*. In other words, His thesis has the same topic with my

thesis. So, his thesis is very useful to help me in order to study and get deeper my understanding the sociology of literature theory by Swingewood.

The second previous research is done by Wahyuningtyas Pratami from the faculty of letter Jember university 2011, titled "The Impact of Social Stratification to Frank McCourts Angela's Ashes". This thesis tells about social stratification that happens in Europe, especially in Ireland. This thesis explains about wealth, power, and prestige. In this thesis also discusses the aspects influenced by social stratification as a social rejection to Frank's life in Angela's Ashes as a lower class. This thesis uses sociological approach to analyzing social problems that happen to Frank's life. Inductive method is applied to her thesis. Her thesis shows that in Ireland there are some social stratifications such as wealth power and prestige. The social stratification influences someone's life, especially Frank in *Angelas's Ashes* as a lower class. He has rejection's experience in his life because he comes from the lower class. However, the social stratification in Ireland made him stronger and survive in his life.

I use this thesis as my previous research because I find that we have the same theory, it is a theory of sociology of literature by Swingewood. Besides, her thesis focuses on the social stratification in Ireland that influence to Frank's life in Angelas's Ashes as a lower class. However, her thesis is very useful to help me in order to study and get deeper my understanding the sociology of literature theory by Swingewood. On the other hand, her thesis give me contribution. Then, the contribution is about to know how to apply the theory of sociology of literature, especially about literary work as a mirror of the age in analyzing the data.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

Theoretical framework is presented briefly in this subchapter. It is important not only to clarify the meaning of the term but also to give a clear definition and explanation related to the theories. In this chapter will be divided into several parts, such as; sociology of literature, and the major principle of

sociological theory which is appropriate to analyze the problem in *Arabella* by Georgette Heyer.

2.2.1 Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood's Sociology of literature

Sociology is a branch of the science of human interaction. It means that sociology as a scientific and objective study of man in society, and also the study of institutions and social processes. Sociology studies about human economically, politically, religiously, family and social institutions.

> "Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man's in the society, the study of social institutions and social of processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists. Through a rigorous examination of the social institutions, religious, economic, political, and familial, which together constituate what is called social structure, a picture emerges, not always clearly, of the ways in which man adapts to and is conditioned by particular societies; of the mechanisms of 'socialization', the process of cultural learning, whereby individual are allocated to and accept their respective roles in the social structure" (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 11).

Based on the statement above, sociology is the interaction of human being with the human's society, including; the social institution, religious, economic, politic, family and social structure. It means that sociology is a social relationship, they are related to each other, among individuals accept social institutions that are considered necessary and correct. Sociology is not only discussed the sustainability of the social structure and the interaction, but sociology also discusses the symptoms of social change in society, both individually and revolutionary.

> "Literature as sociology is pre-emenently concerned with man's social world, his adaptation to it, and his desire to change it. Thus the novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as a faithful attempt to re-create the social world of man's relation with his family, with politics, with the State; it delineates too his roles within the family and other institutions, the conflicts and tensions between groups and social classes"(Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 13).

Literature is the product of human experience based on when and where it is created, including; environment and society. Literature concerns with man's social world, the conflict with family, social classes, and the solution to solve the conflict in the society. Swingewood states that literature and sociology are not completely as disciplines but literature and sociology are complementing each other in our understanding of society, historically, they have tended to remain apart (1972: 13). There is an overview of sociology and literature that they have similarities in terms of objects or targets being discussed. The object is a man in society and all aspects related to the society. Literature is the various faces which happen in human's life, including a social structure in the society, family relationship, class conflict, and others. In other words, literature is the textual form of society and reflects the various aspects of human's life such as; social structure, family relationship, and population composition in the society.

> "The sociological study of literature is thus a fairy late arrival, for although there are today well developed sociologies of relagion, education, politics, social change, even of such an imprecise area as ideology, there is virtually no established corpus of knowledge called the sociology of literature. It is also unfortunate that the small amount of knowledge and research which does exist is on he whole exceedingly dubious in quality, lacking in scientific rigour, banal in the quality of its sociological 'insights', and frequently consisting of the crudest correlations between literary text and social history" (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 13).

Based on the statement above, sociology of literature is a study based on sociological perspective to understand the relation between social aspect and social phenomenon in a literary work. There are several aspects of the sociology of literature such as the social class, social status, ideology, condition of economics, education, religion, and social change in the society. Furthermore, in basic principle of sociology of literature of Swingewood's theory, there are three approaches to handle the sociology of literature, they are:

1. Literary work as a mirror to the age.

   This approach deals with the time when the literary works are created. Laurenson and swingewood (1972: 13) state that "literature as the mirror to age". It is indicating that the readers can discuss the social phenomenon which happens to the society in a certain period and certain place through the literary work. It means that literary work reflects the situation and condition of social life in the society.

2. Literary work deals with the social situation of the author.

   The writer is influenced by the situation and condition where the literature is written because the writer is also the member of society. However, the author should be more sensitive toward the social phenomena surround them. According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 17), the second approach to literary sociology moves away from the emphasis on the work of literature itself to the production side and especially to the social situation of the writer.

   According to Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 18), "The writer's position in a mass society is extremely important as a contrast to his earlier social situation, and clearly likely to affect his creative potential in many ways; the links between this historical background and the development of literature constitute a key area in any literary sociology". Based on the statement, literary sociology concerns on the relation between historical background when the writer lives. It means that the author writes a literary work based on his experience in his life. Finally, he can produce a novel. On the other hand, a novel tells about the experiences of author based on the his experiences in the society . Therefore, a literary work deals with the historical background of the writer. Besides, the author has inspiration, not from his own imagination but it comes from the outside world social life, so there is the collaboration between author and his social life. As we know that the author is a part of society and the inspiration of the author must be from the society. In other words, literary work is dealing with the situation of the author.

3. Literary work as the specific historical moment.

        This approach deals with the condition of society in a certain time in accepting and understanding a literary work. The literary work is certainly received by a particular society at a specific historical moment. This perspective focuses on the literary work as the real condition of the age. In the other words, literary work is a reflection of the historical moment. Swingewood and Laurenson state that,

> "It is interesting to note that on this point most sociologist of literature and literary critics are agreed: one studies great study writers and their texts precisely because their graetness implies deep insinghts into the human and the social condition but bring into doubt the nature of sociology of mass culture, popular culture, and so on, which, on this view, does not have message for posterity on contain deep insights into man's social and human condition"(Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 22).

        In this thesis, I use the first perspective such as literary work as the mirror of the age to analyze the social condition in the novel and the real social condition of London in the Regency Era. The first perspective states that the researcher views a literary work is written. According to Laurenson and Swingewood state that "The most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror to the age" (Swingewood, 1972: 13). It means that the mirror is a reflection of itself. On the other hand, a literary work is a reflection of a mirror of society. The researcher analysis a literary work as a reflection of society and social life. We must pay attention to the literary itself as a reflection of the social reality.

CHAPTER 3. THE RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter will explain about the method of doing the research. The methodology is a method used to collect data in the research. In this research, there are three sub-chapters, including; the data collection, data processing, and also data analysis.

3.1 Type of Research

The type of this research uses the qualitative data, which the collected data are in the form of words or nonnumerical data. Qualitative research is nonnumerical data and qualitative data could be much more than just words or text or sentences. According to Blaxter (2006: 64), "Qualitative research, on the other hand, is concerned with collecting and analyzing information in as many forms, chiefly non-numeric, as possible". It means that this research uses nonnumerical data to analysis this topic. It analyzes the form of words, sentences and also the narrations that are taken from the novel Arabella. In this research, the data is mostly taken from the novel, articles, and document. It is also taken from the book, dictionaries, and from the internet which is related to the topic of this thesis as the supporting data.

According to Denzin and Lincoln (2003: 3), "Qualitative research is a situated activity that locates the observer in the world". It means that all of qualitative research's data are taken from all happens in the world, like society, economic, culture and others. In other words, it is interpretation the reality of human's society. Qualitative research is taken related novel, articles, documents, journals and many others related to this thesis.

3.2.1 Data Collection

In this thesis, I use qualitative data. Qualitative data is nonnumerical data and it can be formed of word, text, and sentence. The data of this research are

collected based on documentary method. Blaxter (2006: 154) states that documentary data collection uses written material as a basic of research. It means that the data of this thesis are taken from the written materials.

In collecting data, this research uses the data taken from many resources such as novel, books, jurnals, internet, and other. Then, the technique to collect the data is called documentation. According to Blaxter (2006: 154), there are four ways to collecting the data. They are documents, interviews, observations, and questioners. In this research, I use documentary method in which the data are taken from the written materials. In this research, there are two kinds of data such as primary data and secondary data. The primary data are taken from *Arabella* by Georgette Heyer. They are taken from all narrations, dialogues, and statements about social economy of her family, her mother's ambition which leads Arabella to find a rich husband, and finally I also search the data about London society's behavior to Arabella. The secondary data in this research are taken from many resources, they are; the internet, books, and journals related to the topic of this research about Arabella's struggle of life to raise her family social status.

3.2.2 Data Processing and Data Analysis

In the next step of this research are data processing and data analysis. In this research, there are several steps in doing research, including close reading, categorizing, classifying, and analyzing. The first step is close reading. In this step, I read the novel more than once to find out the problem in the novel. Then, data are taken from the novel Arabella by Georgette Heyer. I collect data from the dialogues, sentences, paragraphs, or phrases about the social economy of her family, her mother's ambition which leads Arabella to find a rich husband, and London society's behavior to Arabella . After reading the novel, the next step is reading the theoretical book.

The second step is categorizing and classifying data in the form of sentences, dialogues, and narrations from the novel which relating to the theory. In this thesis, there are three parts of data. The first data is talking about the social

condition of Arabella in the novel about the social economy of her family, her mother's ambition leads Arabella to find a rich husband, and how the London society's behavior to Arabella. Then, the second is about analysing the social condition of London in the Regency Era. The third is analysing the criticism of the author about social status.

After categorizing and classifying data, the next step is analyzing. It aims to answer the research questions. There are three problems to discuss in this research. The first is started from finding out the social condition of the main character in the novel which makes the main character wants to raise her social status by collect all the data from the character's dialogues and narrations about the social economy of her family, her mother's ambition leads Arabella to find a rich husband, and also how London society's behavior to Arabella in *Arabella*. The second is to find out the social condition in London in the Regency Era related to how the economic condition in Regency Era, how the woman position in Regency era, and the life style in the Regency Era. It is done to find that the novel reflected the real events happened in London in the Regency Era or not. The third is finding out the criticism of the author about the social status. It is done to know the critical position of the author; she is agreeing or disagrees to the issue of the social status in the society especially for women in Regency era. Alan Swingewood's theory "sociology of literature" is used to analyze how social struggle of Arabella's life in the novel and the reason why she wants to raise her social family status.

According to Swingewood, literature is the textual form of the society, reflecting various aspects of social structure, class conflict, social institutions and other aspects which happen in society. In Swingewood's sociology of literature concept, there are three perspectives that can be used to look at the social phenomenon in literature. The first perspective is literary work as a mirror to the age. This perspective focuses on the attention of the literary text as an object of study with the basic assumption that the literary work is a reflection of the times. The second perspective is literary work deals with the social condition of the

author. In the second perspective is the focus of research directed at the author as the creator of a literary work. This second perspective starting from the basic assumption that the literary work is a reflection of the social situation of authors. The third perspective is literary work as the specific historical moment. This perspective is focused on the attention of public acceptance to the literature associated with the historical moment. The basic assumption is literature as a reflection of historical events. In this thesis, I use the first perspective of Swingewood to analyze the problem in the novel, which is literary work as a mirror of age. It helps to find that all happens in the novel are reflected the social condition of London in 1817.

After solving all the problems, the last step to do is a conclusion. This conclusion contains the brief overview of the whole my assumptions as the result of all process. It is aimed to make the better explanation for the readers. Hopefully, this research can be received and understood by the readers. Then, this research will be a reference for the next researcher in sociology of literature study.

CHAPTER 5. CONCLUSION

After analyzing Arabella by Georgette Heyer using the theory sociology of literature, I find Heyer's novel *Arabella* portrays the reality about the important of social status in the society. It shows that in the Regency Era, one is judged on their social status. In the society, there are three class, such as upper class, middle class, and lower class. If we have a higher social class, we can get respect in the society. On the contrary, if we come from lower class we get unrespect from the society. It means that social status at the time is the way to get respect in the society. The issue of social status is represented through the main character in the novel.

Arabella is a novel which describes about the main character Arabella. She comes from middle class, who has a dream to raise her family social status. She tries to find a rich husband as the way to get her expectation. For her, marriage with a rich man is the best way to raise her family social status to get the better life. She believes if she gets married with a rich man, her husband can support her financial. Of course, she can enjoy her life without afraid about her future. At the time, the position of a woman is determined by the position of her husband. Many women want to get married with a rich man in order to get the better life and also support their financial. However, in this case *Arabella* novel reflects the reality of the social condition in England in the Regency Era.

In this novel, Heyer focusses on the issue about the social status. She wants to become an inspirator who represents the social status, especially for the women. The women during Regency Era do not have access to law, education, and the property. Women do not have equal rights like men. But they are dominated. It makes women always depend on men. Besides, the social status of women in the society are determined by social status of their husband. Because of this reason, women struggle in their life to find a rich husband to get the better life. Therefore, Heyer portrays clearly this social condition of London in the Regency Era through her novel.

Heyer dreams that women have the same right with men in the society. Wowen also have rights to access law, education as human being. She hopes that they have higher education like men, so they have a chance to become successful women. Thus, women can live independently to support their life. On the other words, they do not depend on men to support their financial. Heyer wants to criticize that all class has the same rights in the society, so social status does not become a tool for someone to be accepted in the society.

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