

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature is an imaginative of the author which reflects life. This kind of life is reflected through true experience of the main character such as sadness, happiness, war, and even social life. Generally, literature can be divided into three genres: poetry, prose and drama. Prose, as a genre of literature tells a story and portrays people in the society. As a form of prose, novel can be defined as a long fictional story in book form that express the idea of man's life experience through the skill of novelist. Novel can be considered as work of imagination in prevailing social problems, such as gender, race, or class prejudice, and dramatized through its effect on the characters of a novel.

Literary works usually talk about some problems in society. The problems are called social problems. Social problem is a form of behavior, which is considered from social norms. It is a concept of the social sciences and political theory centered on models of social stratification in which people are grouped into a set of hierarchical social categories, the most common being the upper, middle, and lower classes. The problem is called social because it is against social norms.

The novel *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, deals with social class. This novel shows us the differences between people according to their social class. In this case, the class differences are clearly visible between the two societies, the Capitol and Districts. Wealth is heavily concentrated in the hands of the rich, particularly those people living in the Capitol, and the result is a huge disparity

between their lives and the lives of the poor. *The Hunger Games* is actually an annual event which one boy and one girl aged 12 to 18 from each of the twelve districts surrounding the Capitol are selected by lottery to compete in a televised battle to the death. The games that put on by the Capitol are meant to punish the 12 districts of Panem as well as to remind them of the Dark Days. Panem is the name of the country that under the control of the Capitol. The Hunger Games present the tributes suffering as mass entertainment, and the more the tributes suffer, ideally in battle with one another, the more entertaining the Games become. The problem is about the differences of social class level and the struggle of the poor through the games. There are some similarities between the level of today's social class and the future as in this novel. As nowadays the class differences are clearly distinguish the state of people's life, by seeing where they live, the clothes they wear and other material possessions.

The main character discussed here is a girl who starts to fight for her life and her family through the games. The protagonist as well as the narrator of the novel, Katniss Everdeen is a strong, resourceful sixteen years old who is far more mature than her age would suggest. Katniss is the main provider in her family, who has responsible for her mother, and her younger sister, Prim. Katniss is fiercely protective of her younger sister, and she volunteers to take Prim's place in the Hunger Games to protect her. In fact, Katniss is more responsible than anyone else for her family's live. Katniss lives with her mother and sister in the poorest area of District 12, nicknamed "The Seam". She supports her family through hunting and gathering roots in the woods. In the games, she does not begin to seek attention once she becomes a

celebrity and begins doing television interviews. Rather, she always tries to figure out how to get through the interviews so she can go back to her life.

In the social sciences, social stratification is about social classes of the people based on factors like wealth, income, social status, occupation, and power. Stratification is the relative social position of people in a given social group, category, geographical region or other social unit. Stratification is often broadly divided into three main divisions of social class: upper class, middle class, and lower class. According to *Karl Marx's* theory: "class" is determined entirely by one's relationship to the means of production, the classes in modern capitalist society being the "proletarians", those who work but do not own the means of production, and the "bourgeoisie", those who invest and live off of the surplus generated by the former, and the aristocracy that has land as a means of production.

In this novel the writer will discuss two types of class divisions, upper and lower class. Upper class is rich. They have more money than they could possibly spend, which leaves them with much leisure time for cultivating a variety of interests. They live in exclusive neighborhoods, gather at expensive social clubs, and send their children to the finest schools. As might be expected, they also exercise a great deal of influence and power both nationally and globally. The upper class as seen in the novel is the Capitol. The lower class is typified by poverty, homelessness, and unemployment. People of this class, just few of them have finish high school, suffer from lack of medical care, adequate housing and food, decent clothing, safety, and vocational training. As seen in the novel, lower class people work for the upper class

(Capitol). They provide the needs of the Capitol by working in the industry in their district.

In this research the writer uses the Hermeneutical Interpretation to analyze the novel. The system of analysis in hermeneutics is to reveal, explain and translate. Thus the activities of interpretation shows on three basic things: an oral recitation, a reasonable explanation, and a translation from another language. This analysis begins when the data is collected. This theory explains about how to understand structure and pattern from the data. Also, the writer use sociology of literature, both sociology and literature have the same object, which is human being. However, the essence of sociology and literature is very different. Sociology is the objective knowledge. It limits to what happen in recent times. But literature is evaluative, subjective and imaginative.

In this research the writer is also using a dynamic structuralism theory. Structuralism is an understanding of elements of the structure itself with mechanism of interrelation, the interrelation of one element with the others, and the interrelation of one element with the totality. Dynamic structuralism was first found by Mukarovsky and Felik Vodicka. They said that literary works are the process of communication, fact of semiotic, consists of sign, structure, and values. Definitively, structuralism gives attention to the analysis of elements in literary works.

In this study, the writer wants to explain that novel is one of the most effective tools in presenting certain problems or ideas. Novels can also bring certain messages and hidden intentions from the author or certain social situations. *The Hunger Games* is one of the most read modern novels that discuss social class and the

struggles that people face. This research means to analyze human struggle, especially lower class struggle. This study is hoped to send a message or a picture for people living in society, that class stratification has always divided people apart from time to time, and is often a cruel human judgment.

1.2 Problem of The Study

In this analysis, there are questions that need to be answered:

1. What are the types social class found in the novel?
2. What is the struggle of the main character (KatnissEverdeen) from the lower class?

1.3 Objective of The Study

Based on the problems of study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To identify types of social class found in the novel.
2. To describe the struggle of the main character from the lower class.

1.4 Scope of The Study

In doing an analysis, it necessary to limit the focus that is going to analyze to make sure that the study is not out of the context. Social class is divided into three parts: upper class, middle class and lower class. In this thesis, the writer will identify the types of social class as portrait in the novel as well as discuss about the struggle of lower class people through the main character's life. The study will only be discussed around KatnissEverdeen's life, how did she survived to make sure to win the Games also how she fought for the existence of their district and the impact of the

social class that is affecting her life. Social class is reflected into living, health and nutrition, and employment.

1.5 Significance of the Study

One of the significance of this study is that the writer wants to explain the knowledge of social class and the struggle of the lower class toward the higher class, so that it becomes a reference for students who are learning about struggle of lower class based on *The Hunger Games*'s novel. I especially discuss about the struggle of the lower class people, because class is one of the biggest phenomena and main problem that still exist in our lives. The novel is set in the future, yet the problem found is mainly about class struggle.