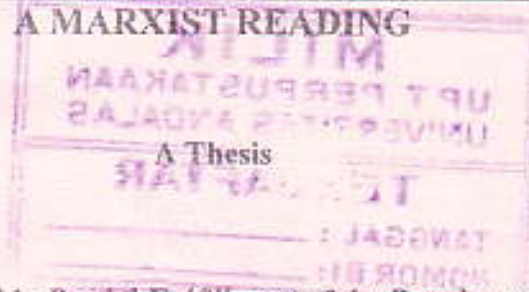


**THE CAPITALISTIC IDEOLOGY FOUND IN THOMAS  
HARDY'S FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD:  
A MARXIST READING**



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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas nilai Marxist yang terdapat dalam novel Far from the Madding Crowd karya Thomas Hardy. Analisa dalam skripsi ini membahas tentang ideologi kapitalis yang terkandung dalam novel dengan berlatarkan kehidupan sosial dan ekonomi di Inggris pada abad ke-19. Skripsi ini membahas ideologi yang muncul akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme, yang erat kaitannya dengan revolusi industri yang terjadi mulai pertengahan abad ke-18 di Inggris. Lebih lanjut, skripsi ini membahas bagaimana ideologi tersebut membentuk cara pandang masyarakat yang tergambar di dalam novel.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan teori Marxist secara umum berdasarkan pemikiran Karl Marx dan Friedrich Engels dimana fokus terhadap istilah kajian Marxisme 'ideologi' yang terbentuk akibat sistem kapitalisme. Dengan melihat ideologi sebagai alat bagi para kapitalis untuk membentuk pola pikir masyarakat, kritik Marxist ingin memperlihatkan bagaimana ideologi dibentuk untuk mengaburkan realita dan memperlihatkan ideologi kapitalis sebagai yang benar dan lumrah, sehingga masyarakat akan menerima ideologi tersebut sebagai sesuatu yang tak terelakkan.

Dari hasil analisa tersebut, penulis menemukan adanya ideologi kapitalis di dalam novel Far from the Madding Crowd. Ideologi ini terbentuk akibat sistem ekonomi kapitalisme yang dilatarbelakangi oleh revolusi industri di Inggris. Munculnya sistem ekonomi kapitalisme membuat masyarakat saling berkompetisi demi memperoleh keuntungan materi. Dengan menganalisa pembentukan karakter di dalam novel, ditemukan cara pandang yang mengagung-agungkan properti seperti uang dan harta, dan kelas sosial sebagai hal yang lumrah di dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat.

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Research

There are so many literary works that have been produced through history. There was one English literary era in 19<sup>th</sup> century so called the Victorian era. It was dealt with the reign of Queen Victoria in England since 1837 until 1901. Abrams states that "In its value-neutral use, "Victorian" simply identifies the historical era in England roughly coincident with the reign of Queen Victoria, 1837-1901" (328). In that era, England was a leading industrial power. It could not be separated from industrial revolution occurred in the late of 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Furthermore, it promoted the emergence of capitalism in England, the economic system which there was little government's intervening. Since many machines were invented and applied, it improved the development of industrial factories and caused heavy cost for the company. Fulcher states that the usage of machinery enabled employers to replace craft workers with unskilled workers and cheapen their wages (6). Then, it made gulf between employers and workers. Furthermore, it promoted the emergence of a social class in England. As Guy puts "The Victorian Age saw the emergence of a new tier of social class, wealthy businessmen who made vast fortunes from the new advances in technology, though often at the expense of the working classes who were forced to work in appalling conditions for low wages." (6). Thus, it polarized the classes between the capitalists as the owner of the means of production and their labors. This

condition did not only affect the politic and economic aspects, but also the literary works.

In this research, I analyze Far from the Madding Crowd by Thomas Hardy. He was one of British famous authors in 19<sup>th</sup> century. He depicted the story of rural life and its residents like farmers, land owners, servants etc. His works are known as true representations of the society at the time when novels were written. Far from the Madding Crowd was one of Thomas Hardy's novels which succeeded to take both readers and critics' attention. The novel was written in 1874. The story tells about the rural life of the 19<sup>th</sup> century England, like the life of farmers, shepherds, bailiffs, etc. The emergence of social class in 19<sup>th</sup> century of England also influenced the story of the novel. It is related with issues like social status (between farmers and workers) and people's attitude toward properties especially money. Considering how crucial properties and social status are in affecting people's life and the way it affects literary work, thus, these issues will be analyzed in this research.

Furthermore, by analyzing the characters' actions in the novel, it can be found some perspectives of the society about social status and properties. People perspectives can be formed and shaped by the environment for certain purpose. In this case, I assume people's ideology shown in the novel is due to capitalism. Based on this assumption, I am interested in analyzing the work by using Marxist Literary Criticism by observing ideology seen in the novel. The basic of Marxist thought is well-known based on Karl Marx's thought along with Friedrich Engels'. It is aimed at analyzing and changing the inequalities and injustices in which we live. (Roberts 1).

Marxist critics believe that literary works hold a role in applying ideology which is aimed at supporting bourgeoisie interests. It is related with the emergence of the capitalist economic organization in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The ruling ideology was made to fit in the interests of the dominant and exploitative class. The ideology is made as if it is inevitable and natural in seeing, explaining, and dealing within society, but actually it hides implied function to legitimize and to maintain the position, economic, and power interests of the ruling class.

I assume that there is capitalistic ideology as false consciousness related to the social status and properties in the novel. It is related with capitalism as economic system occurred in 19<sup>th</sup> century in England. Thus, the emergence of industrial capitalism could not be separated from industrial revolution which promotes it. One of its results was people's ideology in regarding social status and properties were important issues in people's life.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

The way the characters behave in the novel shows implied ideology about the importance of social status and properties. This condition is inevitably related with industrial revolution starting from the middle of 18<sup>th</sup> century in England. It had influenced many aspects such as socioeconomic and culture in England.

When people talk about 19<sup>th</sup> century England, it cannot be separated from Victorian era. It is related to the reign of Queen Victoria in England starting from 1837 until 1901. In this era, England became one of big nations which held important role for the world. Yet, the emergence of social class and the chance to gain social and economic advantage were also about to happen in this era.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing Far from the Madding Crowd by using Marxist literary criticism, I found there is capitalistic ideology in the novel. Those are depicted from character's actions. The analysis covers the glorification of properties and social status. I see that certain characters depict their perspective to regard properties hold important role. This is seen through characters of Gabriel Oak, William Boldwood, and Frank Troy. The actions cover Oak's enticement, Boldwood's demand and Troy's ideology of money as a convenience assurance and redemption.

Then, the novel also regards social status as an important aspect. In Marxist's perspective, people will keep in their mind that this assumption is inevitable and common thing that they will defenselessly accept it. The ideology spreads as if it is natural in seeing or explaining. It is built, and then the ideology is made as if it is the truth. In fact, the ideology obscures the truth, so people have no awareness to change it. The novel also shows justification of capitalists' ideology.

In conclusion, I found that there is capitalistic ideology in Thomas Hardy's Far from the Madding Crowd. After analyzing the novel by using Marxist literary criticism, it is seen that the ideology is capitalists' effort to make up people mind in order to give certain advantage for capitalists. By finding in society under capitalism in 19<sup>th</sup> century in England, it is seen that there is glorification of properties, money, and social status. Those things hold big role in society.

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