

**MATERIALISTIC WAY OF LIFE AS AN IMPACT OF FALSE  
CONSCIOUSNESS AS FOUND IN EMILY BRONTE'S *WUTHERING*  
*HEIGHTS***

**A THESIS**

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## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisis novel karya Emily Bronte yang berjudul *Wuthering Heights*. Analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa revolusi industri di Inggris tidak hanya menunjukkan perjuangan kelas pada kaum buruh (pekerja) tapi juga kesadaran berkelas yang pada akhirnya menimbulkan kesadaran yang salah. Kesadaran yang salah itu tergambarkan melalui kebiasaan hidup yang materialistik. Selain itu, melalui skripsi ini penulis juga menggambarkan peranan uang pada masyarakat Inggris pada abad ke-18.

Untuk menganalisis permasalahan yang dikemukakan pada skripsi ini, penulis menggunakan kritik Marxisme yang didukung oleh Tyson. Analisis ini juga mengaplikasikan pendekatan mimetik yang mana dalam analisis ini penulis mengaitkan data fiksi dengan data non fiksi. Penulis menerapkan metode kualitatif yaitu pengumpulan data bentuk tulisan, opini, kritik atau argumen. Penulis juga mengutip beberapa bagian dari novel sebagai data primer.

Hasil analisis menunjukan bahwa peranan uang pada zaman industri revolusi di Inggris cenderung memberi dampak buruk pada masyarakat Inggris seperti yang tergambar pada novel *Wuthering Heights* karya Emily Bronte. Uang membentuk pribadi manusia. Tingkah laku manusia dalam menghasilkan uang cenderung salah sehingga disebut juga dengan kesadaran yang salah. Bentuk-bentuk kesadaran yang salah disebabkan oleh uang yang tergambar dalam novel tersebut yang juga refleksi dari keadaan masyarakat pada ke abad 18 di Inggris adalah: adanya kebiasaan hidup yang materialistik. Kesadaran yang salah yang mengakibatkan hidup yang materialistik bisa terlihat dalam dua hal, yaitu: menjadikan manusia sebagai objek komodifikasi (commodification) dan memperlakukan manusia berdasarkan harta yang dimiliki (classism).

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

The result of Industrial revolution in England in the eighteenth century has shown progress everywhere. It has produced drastic social and economic changes. An agricultural nation is changed into industrialization state and people move to town by doing great urbanization. A new class, bourgeoisie, endeavours to create themselves as the master of industry, subjugates the working class (proletariat) while opposes the old aristocracy for power (Moore, 1999).

Here, the bourgeoisie class are busy to earn property as many as possible, while proletariat are also busy to strive to get freedom from exploitation, slavery and poverty and to get fairer treatment in economic. England really seems like a dilemmatic problem because of this industrial revolution. Groups of people compete each other to gain materialism, so its impacts are class struggle. Bryant sketches out that this is not bringing them into class struggle at all, but vice versa class-consciousness (1974:179). It means that people search for their identity through the existence of private property. England had three important social classes before (Upper class, middle class and the lower class people), meanwhile industrial revolution just introduces two social classes. They are bourgeoisie and proletariat that in the end bring them into conflict. Bryant adds that class struggle was the expression of class conflict had affected class-consciousness and in the end affected False Consciousness (1974:269-271)

Thus, Emily Bronte is one of the great female authors of Victorian age who brings this issue into her work, *Wuthering Heights*. If the other authors of Victorian age endeavour to show their audience about the impact of industrial revolution in their work in which it has been the typical of Victorian authors, here, in *Wuthering Heights*, Emily Bronte also pictures it but in a different way. She does not only discuss about classes and poverty. Above all, through the figure of Heathcliff, she also shows the audience that there is false consciousness in people because of material possession. False consciousness is represented through a bad conduct. This makes the writer interested to do the research. Through the research, the writer wants to examine that the presence of private property has emerged false consciousness.

In practice, the writer uses Marxist theory that is proposed by Karl Marx as a tool to analyze the novel due to this theory supports the analysis. Through the term of Historical Materialism, Marx strives to give a fact that in creating materialism aspect, people tend to false in the consciousness so in the end it can be seen in the bad conduct. Later on, the writer is also supported by Tyson who introduces some Marxist terms in relation to false consciousness in literary work. The writer applies those terms into her analysis. Here, the writer beholds that Emily Bronte strives to criticize the social condition indirectly in her work, so she represents some terms which appear because of social condition in England in the eighteenth century and the writer names this terms with false consciousness. Hence, it would be exact calculation if the writer analyzes the novel by using Marxist theory supported by Tyson.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

In accordance with the analysis, the writer sums up that the revolution that happens in England in the eighteenth century not only shows the success of bourgeoisie to overthrow the old aristocracy (feudal). Above all, it also pictures the revolution that is done by the lower class to gain freedom from exploitation and to get fairer treatment in economic. So, the effects are class struggle and simultaneously class consciousness. People become conscious about their existence and try to access money as much as possible to improve their life. Unconsciously they used to live materialistically. In the ways of accessing money as much as possible, they tend to do false ways, so that they do bad conduct. Thus, it can be best understood as false consciousness.

The emergence of private property in England in the eighteenth Century tend to lead a bad contribution toward human consciousness as reflected in the novel *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte. Through the novel, Bronte brings the issues that social conditions in England in the eighteenth century make people hard to define the nature of life. People face the fact that they need to struggle and do everything to exist in life by having property. But, in the end, people fail to know about true nature and they instead do a false thing.

The addiction of money makes people unconsciously enslaved by money. It can answer why the materialistic way of life grows up rapidly. Thus, false consciousness makes people to be materialistic and in the end it brings

people into classism and commodification. Through the novel, Heatcliff can be judged to sell out her son by marrying him to young Catherine. Heatcliff thinks he will get property of Young Catherine's father after he dies. Then, the bad treatment that he gets in lifetime before makes him to pay back to everyone. When he is top end, he tries to do the same bad treatment to everyone. It means that he seems to be deceiver and deceived by situation.

To sum up: the research depicts how money becomes the prime motive of actions, it causes bad conducts and uncomfortable action. Materialism can interrupt the balanced attitude of people towards money. That is why In the way of producing private property or money, people have tendency to do, even to be trapped in the bad conduct. Materialism leads to class-consciousness in which people begin to be conscious toward their identity. In society, they believe they need to have much money to exist in life. Here, both of two layers of society will struggle to gain this purpose. In the end, this interest brings them into the unstable social life. Then, materialism drives them into commodity-conscious in which they will treat other as object of their commodity. Treating people based on how much their material possession and doing commodity action are bad conduct that marks false consciousness.

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