

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature was born from the anxiety of the author to see various social problems that occur in the people in their environment. Literary works, which are social portraits, can reflect various aspects of life in society, describe the psychological state of society, and provide input for solving various problems that occur; all of this is certainly a source of thought, inspiration and community readiness in dealing with social conditions that occur in society. In addition, literary works also act as entertainment media (Derrida, 2015; Eagleton, 2017; Attridge, (2017). Literary work which is a reflection of cultural values cannot be separated from social culture and the life of the people it describes because it presents a picture of life, and life itself is largely composed of social reality. In this sense, life includes the relationship people in a society. Thus, viewing literary works as depictions of the world and human life, the main criterion imposed on literary works is the truth of the depiction or what is intended to be described. Literature as a mirror of society examines the extent to which literature is considered a reflection of the state of society. The social function of literature, in this case, is examined to what extent literary values are related to social values and to what extent literature can function as a means of entertainment and at the same time as community education for readers.

Social problems are problems in society that make it difficult for people to reach their full potential, and social problems usually tend to develop when people become negligent and fail to take matters seriously. Social problems and social critics are two things that are interrelated because social criticism usually arises due

to social problems that occur in society and have not been resolved; while social problems are certain things that always occur in all societies. Kristen, et al. (2017) argue that social problems arise owing to the inconsistency of relations between individuals and groups and if not resolved can give a negative impact on social life, such as hampering peace and comfort of the community in all forms of social interaction. Social problems that occur in society generally occur due to social inequality which is usually the result of uneven levels of education in society where not all scientific developments can be enjoyed equally by all levels of society. This is in line with the opinion proposed Mooney, et al., (2021) who argues that social problems can be caused by changes in individual or group attitudes due to the development of science and technology, social systems, cultural shock and cultural and social gaps. Zaitov & Teshayev (2022) claim that poverty, crime, gender discrimination, family disorganization, environment, population, belief system and bureaucracy are problems always visible in society.

As a creative work in the form of fiction which is the mirror of the social life, and whose reality or facts are made up in such a way by the author, literary works not only display beauty and contain moral messages and normative advice, but literature can also be used as a powerful weapon for social criticism. Therefore, if literary works are used as a medium to convey criticism of social reality, then literary works actually play its social function. It functions as a social criticism to the social problems that exist in society. The social function of this literary work is expected to be able to give awareness to humans to do actions that are beneficial to the interests of many people. In line with this view, Endraswara (2013) states that social criticism will show readers that every literary work is the mirror of social and cultural life.

Apart from the press and physical movements in the form of demonstrations, literary works are an effective means of conveying social criticism, and one of the literary works that is often used by writers as a medium for social criticism is novel. Novel which is a reflection or the mirror of social life usually contains educational, social, cultural, economic, and political aspects of social life; therefore, at the same time novel is always used to criticize those aspects. Hasibuan, Efendi, & Margana (2021) state that social criticism is the author's response to the phenomenon of the problems that exist around him. In line with this statement, Wibowo (2018) claims that social criticism that exists in literary works can be in the form of criticism of social life that exists in real life, namely in the form of social inequality which often causes social problems.

Farida & Andalas (2019) argue that in human life there are many social phenomena, especially poverty and crime that characterize the journey of human life. Social criticism occurs because of an imbalance in social conditions in the reality of life. The problem of social criticism often occurs in income distribution and development differences in people's lives (Farida & Andalas, 2019: 75). Wibowo (2018) further argues that the discrepancy between reality and expectations tends to lead to dissatisfaction and this feeling of dissatisfaction gives rise to social criticism expressed through various media. Literature is one of the media for conveying social criticism. If literary works are used as a medium to convey criticism of social reality that is not in favor of the interests of society, then literary works are actually carrying out their role as social control. Social criticism is a form of communication in society that functions as a control over the course of a social system or social process. Social criticism in literature is a form of communication in society that aims to control the course of a social system or social process. Literature is seen as the most effective in

carrying out social criticism of power and an order that deviates from the norm. Therefore, literary works as social criticism is an important thing that is useful for maintaining the existing social system.

One of the Indonesian novels that presents interesting social criticism is a novel entitled *Orang Orang Biasa* written by Andrea Hirata. This novel talks about the social problems of the marginalized, small and middle class people who are able to do something extraordinary. They are ten characters who befriend well, namely Debut, Salud, Tohirin, Rusip, Handai, Sobri, Honorun, Nihe, Dinah, and Junilah. They are going through a difficult life, and are experiencing acts of social discrimination in the form of persecution because they come from different backgrounds family background with lacking economy and also does not have good academic ability.

Apart from that, there are also social problems depicted by the character, Aini who is a poor, but smart child who cannot continue studying at the medical faculty due to financial constraints. This novel is based on the true story of a child named Putri Berlianti who in 2015 was accepted at the medical faculty state university but cannot continue studying due to constraints cost. The culmination of the problem in this novel is when the ten characters are forced to commit an act of robbing a bank in order to help pay for Aini's college tuition fee. Aini is Dinah's smart daughter. They committed a bank robbery which is a criminal act, but it is forcedly done due to circumstance.

The social problems described in the novel *Orang Orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata are very often encountered in the real life in society. It is also the reason for the researcher to choose this topic as his research because the researcher is very sure that this research can be an afterthought for the government or parties who have the

capacity to make policy changes, especially related to opportunities for ordinary, intelligent people to have the opportunity to study at the Faculty of Medicine. The description of social problems in this novel is fitting with and relevant to the social problems in the real life. The forms of social problems in this novel would be studied further using the sociology of literature.

1.2 Problem Identification

From the discussion above, the writer identifies the problems as follows:

1. What social problems are found in the novel *Orang Orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata?
2. How are the social problems reflected in the novel under the research?

1.3 Objectives

The objectives of this research are based on the identification of the problems presented above, which are formulated as given in the following.

1. To reveal the social problems in the novel *Orang Orang Biasa* by Andrea Hirata.
3. To analyse how the social problems in the novel reflected in the novel.

1.4 Scope

Based on the background of the research above the scope of this research is limited to the analysis of social problems covering poverty, inequality in education, and crimes reflected in Andrea Hirata's novel entitled *Orang Orang Biasa*. The researcher would not discuss other things other than the focus of this research so that

other researchers, especially those who are interested in discussing Andrea Hirata's novel, *Orang Orang Biasa*, have broad opportunities to carry out their researches on other topics found in the novel.

1.5 Significance

The significance of the study is formulated into two kinds, namely theoretical significance and practical significance. Theoretically, the results of this study can be useful to contribute to developing social criticism theory, adding insights about social criticism and its forms of delivery, and improving critical thinking skills in studying a literary work using application literary sociology approach.

Practically, this analysis is expected to give some recommendations to the readers or other researchers in order to understand literary works as there are many good lessons they can get from reading any forms of literary works. This research is also expected to give some contributions to people in general that a lot of life guidance as well as moral values can be learned from this topic. Moreover, it is intended to train the readers to learn more about stories about social criticism, its existence and the moral lessons represented. This study also provides information about literary works of the novel type used as a social criticism. Readers can gain knowledge and social values from one of the best works written by Andrea Hirata. This is in line with the function of literature where in addition to functioning for entertainment, it is also to provide moral lessons because the social problems presented in literary works are those that are relevant to human life in the present time, and are a portrait of social reality.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Sociology of Literature

At the most basic level, that of content, sociology and literature share a similar conspectus. Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persists (Laurenson and Swingewood, 1972: 11). The social institutions, also known as social structures, cover religion, politics, marriage, economics, education, social changes, etc. in which human beings adapt to and is conditioned of the mechanism of the socialization. Wiyatimi (2013) states that sociology of literature is an approach in literary studies that understands and evaluates literary works by considering social or societal aspects. Based on the definition it can be said that sociology of literature is an attempt to understand literary works through a combination of literature and sociology. In this discourse, literature stands as a societal phenomenon which is studied in the eyes of literature in relation to sociology. Sociology of literature, which understands literary phenomena in relation to social aspects, is an interdisciplinary approach or way of reading and understanding literature that involves sociology.

Sociological studies of literature and literary practice seem to have bloomed during the 1970s and crested in the 1980s, with the publication of a collection of essays on the subject (Desan, Ferguson, & Griswold, 1989). Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) further argue that as with sociology, literature too is pre-eminently concerned with man's social world, his adaptation to it, and his desire to

change it. In this respect, novel, which is the major genre of literature in the industrial society, plays important roles as a means of faithful attempt to re-create the social world of man's relation with his family, with friends, with politics, with economics, with religions, with the State, etc. It also outlines its roles in other social structures as in the conflicts and tensions between groups, parties or social classes. In this case, literary works, like sociology, are closely related to social, political, economic and religious aspects of society. If sociology analyses these aspects of life scientifically and objectively, literature conducts a more in-depth analysis to penetrate the deepest recesses of social life and reveal various human experiences with various social problems in social life by using feelings.

Griswold (2000) used novels to explore the impact of production systems on the content of literary work. Her research suggests that British publishers are more likely to publish Nigerian novels with a 'traditional' village theme than those with an urban theme, even though Nigerian novelists write greater numbers of books that focus on contemporary urban social problems. She argues that because publishers are selecting books for British and American audiences in this specific way, the impression that these readers have of Nigeria is of rural communities struggling with problems of tradition and modernity. Griswold (2000) and Radway (1991) suggest that there are valid and productive reasons to think sociologically about works of fiction.

In general, sociology of literature is a representation of society in literary texts, and the relationship between literature and other social structures. Sociology of literature theorizes that literature is part of the social system at the time when the literary work was written. It is something valuable because it is believed to be able to help to obtain social aspects, environmental, economic, and political lives through

literary studies so that literary researchers or literary critics can use the sociology of literature as a valuable source of knowledge for determining society in terms of the collective structure of human behaviour.

Ushie (2008) claims that literature must serve society by steeping itself in politics, by intervention, and writers must not merely write to amuse or to take a bemused, critical look at society. They must play an interventionist role. Literature helps us make meaning social problems and understand everyday events. In addition, literature has an important role in describing social, political and religious lives. It is more than just a creative ornament. It provides the necessary critical perspective on everyday experiences, and educates us about the meaning of our actions and offers us greater control over our social and personal lives.

Therefore, the study of the novel, from the sociological point of view, is relevant since the sociology of novel has been observed to show a deep and important concern for society. There is a rigorous homology between the literary form of the novel and the everyday relation between man and commodities in general, and by extension between men and other men, in a market society. In other words, the novel form can be a literary representative of everyday life of any given society.

From the above description, it can be summed up that the sociology of literature is a method for analyzing literary works based on a sociological perspective to understand social aspects and phenomena in the society in which the literary work is written. In this research, the social problems revealed in Andrea Hirata's *Orang Orang Biasa* would be analysed based on the sociological perspective.

2.2 Sociological Approaches of Literature

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972) brought up the theory of the sociology of literature, and stated that there are three approaches to dealing with the sociology of literature, i.e literary works as a mirror of the times, literary works as the author's social situation, and Literary work as a specific historical moment

1. Literary works as a mirror of the times

This approach relates to the time when literary works were created and defined. In this approach it is stated that "literature is a mirror of the times". This shows that readers can discuss social phenomena that occur in society at a certain time and place through literary works. This means that literary works reflect the situation and conditions of social life in society at the time the work was written.

2. Literary works as the author's social situation

In this approach, the writer is influenced by the situations and conditions in which the literature is written because the author is also a member of society. This approach is related to the social background of the author and how the author himself reacts and responds to the system that has been built by the community in which he lives. In the literary works produced, the author is always inspired by events that occur in his community. So the writer must be more sensitive to the social phenomena that surround him. This second approach moves from an emphasis on the literary work itself to the production side and especially on the social situation of the author.

3. Literary work as a specific historical moment

This approach relates to the condition of society at a certain time in accepting and understanding a literary work. It reflects the essence, summary and summary of all history. Sociology of the reader tries to explore the ways in which a literary work

is actually accepted by certain people at certain historical moments. The work has special issues in history that make it an interesting work.

In line with Laurenceon and Swingewood's approaches of literature sociology, Ratna (2004: 60) states that the philosophical basis of sociological approach is the intrinsic relationship between literature and society. Relationships are meant caused by: a) literary works are produced by authors, b) the author himself is a member of the society, c) the authors use the wealth that exists in society, and d) the results of the literary work are used again by the society.

The description of social problems and values in Andrea Hirata's *Orang Orang Biasa* are in accordance with reality. The forms of social problem can be studied further in a scientific study, namely the sociology of literature. Wellek and Warren (1990: 110) state that the sociology of literature, namely linking literature with certain situations, or with certain political, economic and social systems which are divided into three qualifications, namely: (1) Sociology of the author; it covers the profession of the author and literary intuition. The issues related here are the economic basis of literary production, background of the author's social status, the author is a citizen that he can be studied as a social being. (2) The sociology of work; in this case it is concerned with the literary work itself and in relation to social issues, which are the subject of its study or what is implied in the literary work and what the goal is. The common approach taken by sociology is to study literature as a social document. (3) Sociology of readers and the social impact of literary works; in this point, authors influence society as well as are influenced by society; art not only imitates life but also shaped it

Based on the description above, the writer decides to apply Laurenceon and Swingewood's (1972) first and second sociological approaches of literature as the focus of this research constitutes the representation or mirror of the social problems in a society. Besides, the background of Hirata, as a member of the community, to write the novel *Orang Orang Biasa* because he is influenced by the situations and conditions taking place in his living area. Moreover, it is also due to Hirata's social background in which he reacts and responds to the system that has happened in the society where he lives. It was the events that occurred in his environment that inspired Hirata, who is sensitive to what is happening around him, to write the novel *Orang Orang Biasa*.

2.3 Social Problem

Social problem is a dysfunction in the social institution which needs an urgent intervention from the appropriate agents in society (Kallen, Miller & Daniels, 1989). Social problems usually occur when certain social phenomena or conditions disturb the social order. In the early stages, such conditions usually do not become a serious concern for those dealing with or related to the problem because they usually do not or have not caused serious adverse effects on the social system. But gradually, they accumulate and begin to affect normal social life. Such conditions will only be recognized as a social problem. As soon as social problems take root and develop beyond the limits of tolerance, hatred arises against them and there are demands for improvement in the interest of social harmony.

Social problem is crucial to sociological study; hence, it cannot be underestimated in substantiating the knowledge of students of the world around them. This is due to the fact that problems exist in all societies; from the dawn of

time till date with different gravity, causes and implications on the sustenance of the society. A social problem can either be seen at the individual or societal levels. A problem is social if and only if the issue(s) affects a larger percentage of persons. However, an issue that affects an individual or a group of people without any worthy implication on the social system is rather described as an individual issue as conceptualised by Wright Mills in the promise of sociological imagination (Mills, 1959).

By compilation of what is categorised as social problem without any focus on the area's affected, the long list are not limited to: Terrorism, Unemployment, Gun Violence, Poverty, Employee Theft, Kidnapping, Robbery, Rape, Armed Robbery, Mortality, Gangsterism, Cultism, Human Immuno Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), War, Inflation, Immorality, Corruption and so on (Aborisade, 2017; Lufkin, 2017). Obileye & Aborisade (2020) state that all the aforementioned social problems have a bearing in all the pillars of the society – family, economy, polity, education, and religion. However, the developmental silhouette among nations is as a result of the capabilities of human and material resources available to manage the public issue. Over time, diverse factors have been attributed to engineering the nature of the social problem in a particular society. Some factors are governmentally related (at any level), some are globally engineered (based on international relations), while some are individually planned.

Lufkin (2017) argues that the most common causes of social problem recurrent in human history from the dawn of time are war, unemployment, economic deprivation, an outbreak of diseases and its accomplice. Lufkin (2017) further states that the nature of a social problem and its dynamics has therefore increased

tremendously by statistics compared to the experiences of the primitive period of the society. Although primitive societies experience their trembling issues it is not as pronounced and grievous as the reality of the 21st century. 21st century, therefore, records more form of social problem compared to other centuries ever viz: Crime/juvenile delinquency, poverty, unemployment, labour and working conditions, war, diseases outbreak, foreign policy, urban and rural problems, alcoholism, suicide, drugs, race and ethnic relations. Social problems such as underemployment, unemployment, poverty, rape, terrorism, hard drug use/abuse and host of others can impact a person's quality of life (emotions, psychology, social and medical) negatively, as well as his friends and families (Aborisade & Vaughan, 2014; and Ogionwo, 2016).

The nature of a social problem and its need for binding intervention cannot be overemphasized to salvage the society from the conditions or situations that warrant its occurrence. These causes are therefore contingent factors worthy of understanding in order to wage war against social problems affecting the societal growth, development and transformation respectively. Also, the basic causes of the social problem are structural and individual related. The structural cause of a social problem revolves around the way and manner the socio-economic, and political administrators function (Uzodike & Maiangwa, 2012; Akanni, 2014; and Aborisade, 2017) while the individual factor can singlehandedly engineer some problems – by initiating a social movement. Due to the relativity of social problems, sociologists cannot pinpoint a single cause responsible for creating the problem everywhere i.e. the cause of a problem in a particular jurisdiction, may not be the force in another.

The implications of any social problem (no matter its structural dimension) in a society cannot be left underrated for reasons concerning value consensus, continuity and development of the system in question. This is implying that the nature of social problems experienced in any living society bears a significant effect on the state of the economy, political administration and the individual members of the society regardless of their social class (Ogionwo, 2016).

Social problems are abnormal symptoms which are unwanted in the concerned society. Because elements of society cannot function as expected by society, they cause disappointment and suffering of the people (Soekanto, 1999: 395). Social problems that arise from deficiencies in humans or social groups stem from economic factors (poverty, unemployment, prostitution and crime), biological factors (physical illness and disability), psychological factors (mental illness, poor memory, difficulty adjusting, and suicide) and cultural factors (divorce, child delinquency, differences in religion, ethnicity and race).

The social problems discussed in this study are only problems originating from economic factors covering poverty, inequality in education, and crimes. These social problems are the most commonly encountered social problems in society that usually lead to disrupt the balance in people's life.

2.3.1 Poverty

Parrillo (2008: 697-698) states that poverty is one of the world's most costly and serious social problems. It represents the vast unused and underused potential of millions of people; it costs societies in lost revenues, in lost productivity, in ill health, social dysfunction, and environmental degradation and in vast sums that must be spent either to alleviate poverty's worst symptoms through social welfare programs

or to police or control its unruly victims. Social scientists generally define poverty in two ways. Absolute poverty is the condition in which people are unable to achieve the basic necessities of life, such as food, clothing, and shelter. Relative poverty refers to some socially constructed norm of well-being in comparison to some proportion of a society thought to be lacking. The “poor” in the rich industrialized countries are not, for the most part, materially deprived in the absolute sense. With the help of government transfer programs, such as income support and food and housing subsidies, they may have an apartment to live in, enough food to eat, clothing, and even some amenities like television and cars. Yet in relation to the rest of the society, they are “poor.” Their housing is substandard, their neighbourhoods are run down and high in crime, their stores lack the variety and quality of more affluent sectors, their clothing is limited to cheap clothing chains or thrift store hand-me-downs, and their potential is limited by poor schooling and health care.

Poverty as both absolute and relative deprivation has been part of the human condition for thousands of years, but it was only during the 20th century that poverty came to be recognized as a social problem for which there could be public remedies. Traditional societies met people’s needs through a combination of the individual’s own labor and the obligation of the kinship group to care for its own. In such societies, the poor were those who remained outside this sphere of care, set adrift through war, famine, or the loss of family. Further, Parrillo (2008: 701) argues that Poverty is a sustained low standard of living and lack of resources. In real terms, poverty is hunger, lack of shelter, no access to medical care, no access to education, no job, powerlessness, and lack of representation and freedom.

According to Soetomo (2013: 308), the condition of poverty with its various dimensions and implications, is a form of social problem that describes conditions of low welfare. Therefore, socio-economic criticism arises because of the existence of economic disparities in society.

2.3.2 Education Inequality

Inequality in education is one of the social problems that society often encounters. This is mainly due to the poverty factor. Incompetence in the economy causes school-age children to often not be able to continue their education as expected because of obligations from schools or universities that require students to pay educational fees or other high administrative costs so that children who are economically disadvantaged end up failing to continue their studies according to their hopes and wishes.

Education plays an important role in promoting economic and social development, as well as improving the quality of human resources through quality of life. Education is the basis for improving the quality of human resources and ensuring economic and social development (Todaro and Smith, 2000). Education is the main capital for humans to achieve a good and prosperous life. The important role of education in improving welfare demands the need for equal distribution of education in every region regardless socioeconomic background, gender and race.

Education is one of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2030, namely ensuring the quality of inclusive and equitable education and increasing lifelong learning opportunities for all. The importance of education was also emphasized in the preamble of the 1945 Constitution and has become one of the national ideals and the ideals of the nation's life. Given the central role of education,

Therefore, it is important to continue to increase the quantity and quality of education so that it can be carried out evenly and can be accessed by everyone without educational restrictions, geographical conditions, social and economic status.

Another factor that causes inequality in education is the high income inequality that occurs in the community. The distribution of income received by the community is uneven so that there is a difference between people who earn high and low incomes. Todaro and Smith (2011) show that there is a positive relationship between education level and income level. The higher the education inequality achieved by the population of a region, the higher the income inequality. In line with Todaro and Smith's argument, the results of the conducted by Harahap, Maipita & Rahmadana (2020) show that income inequality has a positive and significant influence on inequality. The higher the income inequality causes the smaller the opportunity for people to access education. Poverty is also one of the factors that influence inequality in education. Poverty has a large enough impact on demand and school enrollment rates where the education level of the poor will be low. A person can be said to be poor or living below the poverty line if income or access to goods and services is relatively low. In absolute terms, a person is said to be poor if his income or standard of living is really below the poverty line (Harahap et al., 2020). Several previous studies related to the effect of poverty on educational inequality that have been studied by (Adiningtyas & Budyanra, 2020; Novianti, 2021; Harahap et al., 2020) show that poverty has a positive effect on educational inequality. That is, the poorer an area, the higher the educational inequality. This happens because of the economic factors of poor families. Children from poor families have few opportunities to go to school because they prefer to help their parents in meeting the

economic needs of the family rather than continuing their education. Thus, educational inequality between community groups will be even greater.

2.3.3 Crime

Crime in short can be defined as an action or omission that constitutes an offense that may be prosecuted by the state and is punishable by law. It is a deliberate act that causes physical or psychological harm, damage to or loss of property, and is against the law. Crime is considered as a social problem because it has negative effects on members of society.

Crime is a public wrong. It is an act of offense which violates the law of the state and is strongly disapproved by the society. Crime is defined as acts or omissions forbidden by law that can be punished by imprisonment or fine. Murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect and failure to pay taxes are examples of crimes. The term crime is derived from the Latin word “crimen” meaning offence and also a wrong-doer. Crime is considered as an anti-social behaviour. Each society may define crime in a different perspective. A crime may be legal or illegal. Illegal and punishable crime is the violation of any rule of administration or law of the state or practice of any wrongdoing and harmful to self or against third parties, provided in criminal law. Legal and not punishable crime is all acts of self-defense (Sowmya, 2014: 196).

Many people argue that it is generally believed that inherited characteristics are the reason that causes criminal problems. However, many also argue that crime is an undeniable consequence of social problems and poverty. There is a belief that evil is the result of a person's nature. First, cruel people easily commit crimes. Specifically, a young child who bullies other boys or girls at school is more likely to

commit murder or commit acts of violence in later years. Second, vices including laziness and selfishness can also build offspring of future offenders. It is undeniable that a number of young people, instead of working for a living, choose to steal other people's property. It seems that people who are born with negative traits tend to commit crimes. However, social problems and poverty are the main reasons behind crime. First and foremost, problems in society can lead to an increase in the number of crimes. For example, unemployment drives many people to work illegally to make a living. As a result, the number of violators tends to increase day by day. In addition, the situation of poverty is also claimed to be one of the main reasons that cause legal problems for criminal acts. It is undeniable that if their standard of living does not allow people to meet their basic needs, they will engage in illegal activities to make money so they can support their families. As a result, the criminal problem will become an increasingly serious social problem.

2.4 Review of Related Literature

Many researchers have conducted researches on social problems as well as social critics from various literary works. However, this research is basically different from the previous researches in terms of discussion, sub-topics of discussion and also the research approach or theory used to analyse the topic of discussion. Several previous researches on social problems are presented below to show the novelty of this research.

Muddin (2021) conducted research on *Social Problems Represented in William Saroyan's The Time of Your Life*. In his research he analyses the social problems reflected in William Saroyan's play entitled *The Time of Your Life*, based on Saroyan's life background. This research uses the theory of genetic structuralism

to analyse the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements of the play in order to identify what kinds of social problems that portrayed in the play and the Saroyan's life background that influence the representation of the social problem itself. Based on the results of the analysis, the researcher found that there are several social problems that represent in the play, the social problems consist of poverty, prostitution, violence, alcoholism, and sexual harassment. All the social problems were based on certain characters and events that happened in the play. The researcher also found three events from Saroyan's life background that influence the representation of the social problems in the play. The events are the loss of Saroyan's father, his life in orphanage, and his experience during the great depression.

Yuliyanto, A., Suyitno, S. & Rohmadi, M. (2017) conducted their research entitled *Social Problems in Short Stories entitled Mata Yang Enak Dipandang by Ahmad Tohari and Its Relevance in Senior High School*. This research was based on the view that literature is basically a reflection of society. In this study, the researchers used the approach of the sociology of literature. This paper aimed to describe (1) short story becomes one of the literary works that are used as teaching material in schools, (2) the aspect of character education based on the collection of short stories entitled *Mata Yang Enak Dipandang* by Ahmad Tohari, and (3) social problems collection of short stories entitled *Mata Yang Enak Dipandang*. The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive explaining the data that has been found in research. The main data sources in this study the quotations contained in the novel and the results of interviews with literary experts and learning experts. The results of this study is the main characters in this short story are varied and its can be utilized in the study of literary appreciation for Class XI in Senior high school semester with the standard literary discourse understanding competence through

reading poetry and short stories in the aspects of reading and basic competence that is analyzing the intrinsic elements of a short story linkages with everyday life

Prawesti (2012) conducted her research on Lower class` social problems as the impact of industrial revolution n Charles Dickens` Oliver Twist. The objective of her study was to analyze the lower class` social problems during Industrial Revolution era as found in the Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*. To gain the purpose, she used qualitative analysis based on sociological approach to literature to analyze contemporary society`s problems or conditions of England in the eighteen century in the novel. She employed the novel *Oliver Twist* as the object of the study. The study was a qualitative study with sociological approach as the theory. She used qualitative method as the method of investigation since the data of the study were in the forms of monologue and dialogue. The data gathered by reading, identifying, inventorying, classifying, and selecting techniques. The data were also analyzed by using the techniques of exposing, explaining, interpreting, and inferring. The investigation findings are. First, lower class` social problems were pictured in Charles Dickens` novel *Oliver Twist*. There were injustice treatment to the poor in the workhouse, poverty, starvation in the workhouse, crime, child abuse, and social stratification. Second, after further investigation it turned out that there were some causes of social problems happened during Industrial Revolution era reflected in the novel, namely urbanization, economic inequality between the rich and the poor, and liberalization. Urbanization led into overpopulation in big cities in England. Many unskilled people moved to big cities to look for a fortune or a better life. Unfortunately, overpopulation of new urban settlement created high rates of poverty. The next impact, economic inequality between the rich and the poor causes some chained of problems such as starvation, and crime. In addition, many people were

sent to the workhouse due to poverty but unfortunately in the workhouse they were treated badly. Liberalism created social stratification, child abuse, and injustice treatment to the poor in the workhouse.

Hani (2019) conducted his research on social problem in *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor. The study aims to describe the problems of social problems contained in the short story *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor. This research applied descriptive qualitative. The data source is the short story entitled *A Good Man Is Hard to Find* by Flannery O'Connor. The results of this study are: (1) Family disorganization, due to lack of communication and lack of social relations within the Bailey family, (2) Crime, the Misfit who came out of the prisoner all members of the Bailey family, (3) Social status, the grandmother who is selfish and does everything she can to maintain social status and people's views on her. On the basis of the results, it has been concluded and by using the sociological aspect that the social problem events in the story can be a lesson and improve understanding and interpretation in communicating and socializing in life. This study is hopefully more useful for readers of literary books, especially the work of Flannery O'Connor and writers.

Researches focusing on social problems reflected in literary works have often been carried out, but to the knowledge of the author, research on social problems with a literary sociology approach and with the object of Andrea Hirata's novel entitled *Orang Orang Biasa* a focus on social issues related to poverty, education inequality, crime and power of abuse has never been done. Therefore, the author believes that this research will be useful both practically and theoretically. Moreover,

Andrea Hirata is indeed a writer who often raises issues of social problems that occur, especially in the area where he was born and raised, namely in Belitung.