CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Literature emerges from authors' concerns about observing prevalent social issues within their surroundings. Serving as social portraits, literary works can encapsulate diverse facets of societal life, depict the collective psychological disposition, and offer insights for addressing prevalent challenges. Thus, they serve as wellsprings of contemplation, inspiration, and communal preparedness for addressing societal conditions. Furthermore, literature also serves as a medium of entertainment (Derrida, 2015; Eagleton, 2017; Attridge, (2017). Literary works, as reflections of cultural values, are inherently intertwined with the social fabric and the lives of the people they portray. They offer vivid snapshots of life, which is predominantly shaped by social realities and human relationships within a society. Therefore, when considering literary works as representations of the world and human experience, the primary criterion is the authenticity of the portrayal and its intended description.

Analyzing literature as a reflection of society involves assessing its fidelity to the societal fabric. Within this framework, the social role of literature is examined to determine the harmony between its intrinsic values and those of society. Additionally, its capacity to serve simultaneously as an entertainment medium and a tool for communal education is evaluated.

Social problems refer to issues or conditions that negatively affect individuals or society as a whole, often stemming from various factors such as economic

inequality, discrimination, injustice, and cultural norms. These problems can manifest in different forms, including poverty, homelessness, unemployment, substance abuse, crime, discrimination, and inequality (Andersen & Taylor, 2011). Kristen, at 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, at 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. According to the definitions, social problems hinder individuals from realizing their full potential, often arising from societal neglect and a lack of serious attention to pertinent issues. The concepts of social problems and social criticism are inherently interconnected: social criticism often emerges in response to unresolved societal issues, while social problems persist as recurrent phenomena across all societies.

As a form of creative expression rooted in fiction, literature serves as a reflective lens of social life, crafted by authors to depict realities or fabricate scenarios. Beyond its aesthetic allure and moral teachings, literature wields significant power as a tool for social critique. When literary works are employed to

scrutinize societal realities, they fulfil their social function by offering critical insights into prevalent social issues. This function serves as a means to raise awareness and encourage actions beneficial to the collective interests of society. Endraswara (2013) asserts that social criticism inherent in literature underscores its role as a mirror reflecting the intricacies of social and cultural existence.

Beyond traditional avenues such as the press and physical demonstrations, literary works serve as potent vehicles for social criticism. Among these, novels stand out as particularly effective mediums frequently utilized by writers to voice societal critiques. As mirrors reflecting social life, novels inherently encapsulate educational, social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions, thus lending themselves naturally to critique. Hasibuan, Efendi, & Margana (2021) posit that social criticism within literature emerges as authors respond to prevailing societal issues. Echoing this sentiment, Wibowo (2018) asserts that social criticism in literary works often takes aim at real-life social inequalities, which are recurrent sources of societal problems.

Farida & Andalas (2019) contend that numerous social phenomena, particularly poverty and crime, mark the trajectory of human existence. Social criticism arises from disparities in societal conditions within the fabric of reality. The issue of social criticism often stems from inequalities in income distribution and developmental discrepancies among individuals (Farida & Andalas, 2019: 75). Expanding on this notion, Wibowo (2018) asserts that the dissonance between reality and expectations tends to breed dissatisfaction, which in turn fuels social criticism conveyed through various mediums. Literature emerges as a prominent avenue for expressing social criticism. When literary works are utilized to critique societal

realities that are detrimental to the common good, they fulfil their function as agents of social control. Social criticism serves as a form of societal communication aimed at regulating the trajectory of social systems or processes. In the realm of literature, social criticism functions as a potent tool for scrutinizing power dynamics and deviations from societal norms. Consequently, literary works that engage in social criticism play a crucial role in upholding existing social systems.

One of the Indonesian novels that presents interesting social criticism is a novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* written by Eka Kurniawana. This novel is deeply entrenched in the social problems of Indonesian society, delving into various societal issues including poverty, crime, and promiscuity. Throughout the novel, poverty is a recurring theme that permeates the lives of the characters. The protagonist, Margio, comes from a poor village where economic struggles are prevalent. His family's poverty drives him to seek a better life, leading him down a path of violence and vengeance. The portrayal of impoverished living conditions and the desperation it breeds sheds light on the harsh realities faced by many in Indonesian society. Besides, crime is central to the narrative of *Lelaki Harimau*. The novel opens with a series of brutal murders attributed to a mysterious figure known as "The Tiger Man." As the story unfolds, it becomes evident that these crimes are deeply intertwined with the socio-economic landscape of the village. Margio's descent into vigilantism is fuelled by a desire to combat injustice and avenge the wrongs inflicted upon his community. The prevalence of crime underscores the systemic issues plaguing society, where individuals resort to extreme measures in the face of injustice and inequality. Furthermore, the novel also explores themes of promiscuity and sexual exploitation within the context of rural Indonesia. Characters engage in illicit affairs

and sexual escapades, often as a means of coping with their circumstances or asserting power in a patriarchal society. Margio's own encounters with love and desire are fraught with complexity, reflecting the tangled web of relationships shaped by societal norms and constraints. Through these depictions, the novel offers a nuanced portrayal of sexuality and its intersection with broader social dynamics.

Overall, this novel serves as a poignant commentary on the social issues plaguing Indonesian society, portraying poverty, crime, and promiscuity as interconnected facets of a larger socio-economic landscape. Eka Kurniawan's masterful storytelling illuminates the complexities of human experience within this milieu, inviting readers to confront the harsh realities faced by marginalized communities.

Analyzing social problems covering poverty, crime, and promiscuity in *Lelaki Harimau* by Eka Kurniawan is both interesting and useful due to some of the following reasons. The novel offers a vivid portrayal of Indonesian society, providing insights into the socio-economic landscape, cultural norms, and power dynamics prevalent in the country; therefore, it gives us clear insights into Indonesian society. Besides, it gives us understanding character motivations. By examining how poverty, crime, and promiscuity shape the characters' lives and decisions, readers gain a deeper understanding of their motivations and struggles within the context of their social environment. Furthermore, it also becomes critical reflection on social issues. Through the lens of fiction, the novel invites readers to critically reflect on pressing social issues, such as the impact of poverty on individuals' choices, the cycle of violence perpetuated by crime, and the complexities of human relationships in a society marked by promiscuity. Then, it also explores

interconnectedness as this novel illustrates the interconnected nature of social problems, demonstrating how poverty can fuel crime and how societal norms surrounding promiscuity can exacerbate inequalities and perpetuate harmful behaviors. Further, it promotes dialogue and awareness. By engaging with these themes, readers are prompted to engage in dialogue about the root causes and consequences of social problems, fostering greater awareness and empathy for those affected by poverty, crime, and promiscuity in Indonesian society.

Overall, analyzing social problems in *Lelaki Harimau* offers valuable insights into Indonesian society, provides a platform for critical reflection on pressing social issues, and promotes dialogue and awareness about the complexities of human experience in the face of adversity.

1.2 Problem Identification

Based on the preceding discussion, the author identifies the problems as follows:

1. What social problems are reflected in the novel *Lelaki Harimau* by Eka Kurniawan?
2. How are the social problems reflected in the novel under the research?

1.3 Objective

The research objectives stem from the problems identified earlier, formulated as outlined below.

1. To reveal the social problems in the novel *Lelaki Harimau* by Eka Kurniawan.
2. To analyse how the social problems in the novel reflected in the novel.

1.4 Scope

Building upon the research background outlined earlier, this study focuses exclusively on analyzing social issues pertaining to poverty, crime, and promiscuity as depicted in Eka Kurniawan's novel, *Lelaki Harimau*. The scope of this research is deliberately narrow, aiming to provide in-depth analysis within these specific thematic areas. By concentrating solely on these topics, the researcher aims to create space for other scholars interested in exploring different aspects of *Lelaki Harimau*, thus fostering a diverse range of research avenues within the novel.

1.5 Significance

The significance of this study is twofold: theoretical and practical. Theoretically, the findings aim to enrich social criticism theory by offering insights into its various forms of expression and delivery. Additionally, it seeks to enhance critical thinking skills through the application of literary sociology in analysing literary works.

Practically, the analysis endeavours to provide recommendations for readers and researchers to deepen their understanding of literary works and extract valuable lessons from them. It aims to underscore the abundant life guidance and moral values embedded within literary narratives. Furthermore, the study aspires to cultivate an appreciation for stories of social criticism and their moral implications, thereby fostering a more informed and socially conscious readership. By exploring the novel as a form of social criticism, readers stand to gain both knowledge and ethical insights from one of Andrea Hirata's seminal works. This aligns with literature's dual function of entertainment and moral instruction, as it portrays social problems that

resonate with contemporary human experiences and offer a glimpse into societal realities.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Sociology of Literature

At its core, sociology and literature share a common focus on understanding human behavior within society. Sociology, as the scientific study of societal structures and processes, seeks to unravel the mechanisms that underpin social existence and persistence (Laurenseon and Swingewood, 1972). Social institutions, encompassing religion, politics, marriage, economics, education, and social change, serve as the backdrop against which individuals adapt and are shaped by societal mechanisms of socialization (Wiyatimi, 2013). Sociology of literature emerges as an interdisciplinary approach that evaluates literary works through a sociological lens, considering their social implications and contexts.

The intersection of sociological studies and literary analysis gained prominence in the 1970s and reached its peak in the 1980s with the publication of seminal works on the subject (Desan, Ferguson, & Griswold, 1989). Just as sociology delves into man's social world and his interactions within it, literature offers a nuanced exploration of human relationships, societal structures, and the desire for societal change. Novels, as a predominant literary genre, play a pivotal role in capturing the intricacies of human existence within various social domains, including family dynamics, political landscapes, economic struggles, and religious beliefs.

Griswold's (2000) research underscores the influence of production systems on literary content, revealing how publishing trends shape readers' perceptions of different societies. By analyzing novels, scholars like Griswold (2000) and Radway

(1991) demonstrate the validity of adopting a sociological lens to interpret works of fiction, enriching our understanding of societal dynamics and cultural representations.

In essence, the sociology of literature serves as a conduit for examining societal realities portrayed in literary texts and their relationship to broader social structures. It offers invaluable insights into social, political, economic, and religious dimensions of society, empowering literary researchers and critics to unravel the complex tapestry of human behavior and societal norms depicted in literary works.

As Ushie (2008) contends, literature transcends mere entertainment, serving as a critical tool for understanding social problems, political landscapes, and religious beliefs. By engaging with literature from a sociological perspective, researchers can gain deeper insights into the societal issues addressed within literary texts, offering valuable contributions to our collective understanding of human behavior and societal dynamics.

In conclusion, the sociology of literature provides a methodological framework for analyzing literary works through a sociological lens, shedding light on social aspects and phenomena within the societies in which these works are situated. In this research, Eka Kurniawan's novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* would be examined from a sociological perspective to uncover the social problems it portrays and elucidate their broader societal implications.

2.2 The Approaches of Sociology of Literature

Laurenseon 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.

Aligned with Laurenseon and Swingewood's literature sociology framework, Ratna (2004: 60) asserts the philosophical underpinning of the sociological approach lies in the intrinsic connection between literature and society. This connection is rooted in several factors: a) literary works are authored by individuals who are members of society, b) authors draw from the societal wealth around them, c) the results of literary works are subsequently utilized by society.

The depiction of social problems and values in Eka Kurniawan's *Lelaki Harimau* reflects real-world scenarios, ripe for further examination through a sociological lens. Wellek and Warren (1990: 110) delineate the sociology of literature into three dimensions: (1) Sociology of the author, probing into the author's profession, background, and social status, treating them as social entities; (2) Sociology of the work, focusing on the literary text itself and its relationship to social issues, often analyzed as a social document; (3) Sociology of readers and the societal impact of literary works, recognizing the reciprocal influence between authors and society, with literature serving as both a reflection of and a shaper of life.

Given this framework, the researcher opts to apply Laurenseon and Swingewood's (1972) first and second sociological approaches to literature in this study, concentrating on literature as a representation or mirror of societal problems. Additionally, the background of Eka Kurniawan, as an integral member of his community, informs the writing of *Lelaki Harimau*, influenced by the prevailing conditions in his surroundings. Kurniawan's social background and sensitivity to his environment serve as catalysts for crafting the narrative of *Lelaki Harimau*, as he reacts and responds to the societal dynamics unfolding around him.

2.3 Social Problem

A social problem is characterized by dysfunction within the social institution, necessitating urgent intervention from societal agents (Kallen, Miller & Daniels, 1989). These problems often arise when specific social phenomena disrupt the established social order. Initially, such disruptions may not raise significant concern among those affected, as they may not immediately produce serious adverse effects on the social system. However, over time, they accumulate and begin to impact normal social functioning, eventually being recognized as social problems. As these issues deepen and surpass the threshold of tolerance, societal discontent and demands for improvement emerge in the pursuit of social harmony.

The study of social problems is integral to sociology, providing students with essential insights into the world around them. Across societies, from ancient times to the present day, social problems manifest with varying degrees of severity, causes, and societal implications. These problems can manifest at both individual and societal levels, with their classification as social contingent upon their widespread impact on a significant portion of the population. Issues affecting only individuals or small groups without broader societal implications are categorized as individual issues, as outlined by Wright Mills in the concept of sociological imagination (Mills, 1959).

A comprehensive compilation of social problems encompasses a wide range of issues, including terrorism, unemployment, gun violence, poverty, employee theft, kidnapping, robbery, rape, armed robbery, mortality, gangsterism, cultism, HIV/AIDS, war, inflation, immorality, and corruption (Aborisade, 2017; Lufkin, 2017). These problems permeate all pillars of society – family, economy, polity,

education, and religion – as highlighted by Obileye & Aborisade (2020). However, the developmental trajectory of nations is shaped by their capacity to manage these public issues through human and material resources. Various factors contribute to the nature of social problems within a society, including governmental actions, global dynamics, and individual behavior.

Lufkin (2017) posits that throughout human history, certain social problems have recurred consistently from ancient times, including war, unemployment, economic deprivation, and disease outbreaks. These challenges have evolved significantly in nature and scale compared to primitive societies, with the 21st century witnessing an unprecedented proliferation of social problems. Contemporary issues encompass a wide spectrum, ranging from crime and poverty to unemployment, labor conditions, and disease outbreaks, among others (Aborisade & Vaughan, 2014; Ogionwo, 2016).

The complexity and urgency of addressing social problems underscore the need for comprehensive understanding and intervention. These problems stem from a combination of structural and individual factors. Structural causes are rooted in the functioning of socio-economic and political systems, while individual actions can also precipitate societal issues through social movements (Uzodike & Maiangwa, 2012; Akanni, 2014; Aborisade, 2017).

The implications of social problems extend far beyond their immediate manifestations, impacting the economy, political landscape, and individual well-being across all strata of society (Ogionwo, 2016). Social problems are considered abnormal symptoms that disrupt societal functioning and cause distress and suffering among the populace (Soekanto, 1999: 395). They arise from various factors,

including economic, biological, psychological, and cultural influences, leading to a myriad of challenges such as poverty, crime, and promiscuity.

In this study, the focus is on social problems originating from economic factors, particularly poverty, crime, and promiscuity. These issues are pervasive in society and have profound implications for individuals' lives, disrupting the balance and well-being of communities. By examining these specific social problems, we aim to gain insights into their root causes, impacts, and potential solutions, contributing to the on-going discourse on social change and improvement.

2.3.1 Poverty

Parrillo (2008: 697-698) underscores poverty as one of the most profound and costly social dilemmas globally. It signifies the untapped potential of millions, imposing significant societal costs in lost productivity, compromised health, social dysfunction, and environmental degradation. These repercussions necessitate substantial expenditures on social welfare programs or law enforcement to address poverty's ramifications. Social scientists delineate poverty into two categories: absolute and relative. Absolute poverty denotes the inability to secure life's basic necessities, such as food, clothing, and shelter. In contrast, relative poverty pertains to a socially constructed benchmark of well-being relative to a segment of society deemed lacking.

While individuals in affluent nations may not experience absolute material deprivation due to government assistance programs, they are considered "poor" concerning societal standards. Their living conditions, neighbourhoods, access to

goods and services, educational opportunities, and healthcare are markedly inferior compared to more affluent counterparts.

Poverty, both in absolute and relative terms, has been a persistent facet of human existence throughout history. However, it wasn't until the 20th century that poverty garnered recognition as a societal issue amenable to public intervention. In traditional societies, individuals relied on their labor and familial support networks to meet their needs. Those outside this framework, displaced by war, famine, or familial loss, were deemed impoverished.

Parrillo (2008: 701) contends that poverty embodies sustained deprivation and resource insufficiency, encompassing hunger, homelessness, lack of healthcare and education, unemployment, powerlessness, and restricted freedoms. Soetomo (2013: 308) adds that poverty epitomizes a social problem characterized by diminished welfare. Consequently, socioeconomic critique emerges due to pervasive economic disparities within society.

2.3.2 Crime

Crime is defined as "a violation of societal rules of behavior as interpreted and expressed by a criminal legal code created by people holding social and political power." (Siegel & Worrall, 2016, p. 5). Macionis and Plummer (2017) claim that crime is "the violation of norms enacted into law." It is a multifaceted concept encompassing various forms of deviant behavior punishable by the state. Further, Hagan (2016) defines crime as "behavior that violates the criminal law and is punishable with fines, jail terms, and other sanctions." In line with Hagan's definition, Schmalleger (2017) describes crime as "conduct in violation of the criminal laws of a state, the federal government, or a local jurisdiction, for which

there is no legally acceptable justification or excuse." According to the definitions, crime can be succinctly defined as any action or omission that violates the law and is punishable by the state. It encompasses deliberate acts causing physical or psychological harm, property damage, or loss. Crime is considered a social problem due to its adverse effects on members of society.

Crime represents a public wrongdoing, contravening state laws and facing strong societal disapproval. Examples include murder, robbery, burglary, rape, drunken driving, child neglect, and tax evasion. The term "crime" originates from the Latin word "crimen," denoting offense or wrong-doing. It is regarded as anti-social behavior, with varying definitions across different societies. Crimes can be categorized as either illegal and punishable under criminal law or legal and not subject to punishment, such as acts of self-defense (Sowmyya, 2014: 196).

While some attribute criminal behavior to inherited traits, others argue that social problems and poverty are significant contributors. Cruelty and vices like laziness and selfishness are believed to predispose individuals to criminal acts. Societal issues, particularly poverty and unemployment, are often cited as primary factors driving crime rates. Economic hardship may compel individuals to engage in illegal activities to sustain themselves and their families, exacerbating the societal crime problem. Thus, addressing social problems and poverty is essential in mitigating crime and reducing its impact as a pressing social issue.

2.3.3 Promiscuity

Promiscuity, a term often laden with moral judgment and societal stigma, refers to engaging in sexual activity with multiple partners without commitment or emotional attachment. While the concept of promiscuity varies across cultures and

historical contexts, it remains a topic of significant interest and concern in contemporary society.

Promiscuity can stem from a variety of individual, interpersonal, and societal factors. Psychological theories suggest that individuals may engage in promiscuous behavior as a result of low self-esteem, impulsivity, or a desire for validation and intimacy. Childhood experiences such as trauma, neglect, or inconsistent parental relationships can also contribute to promiscuous tendencies later in life (Carvalho et al., 2020). Additionally, social and cultural influences play a significant role in shaping attitudes towards sex and relationships. Societal norms that prioritize sexual freedom and liberation may normalize promiscuous behavior, while cultural attitudes towards gender, sexuality, and marriage can impact individuals' sexual behavior and decision-making (Vrangalova & Ong, 2014).

Promiscuity can have both individual and societal impacts, ranging from emotional and psychological consequences to public health concerns. For individuals, engaging in promiscuous behavior may lead to feelings of guilt, shame, and regret, as well as increased risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancies (Jonason et al., 2015). Moreover, promiscuity can strain interpersonal relationships and undermine trust and intimacy. Research suggests that individuals who engage in promiscuous behavior may struggle with forming and maintaining long-term, committed relationships, leading to feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction (Vrangalova & Ong, 2014).

From a societal perspective, promiscuity can contribute to broader social issues such as the spread of STIs, teen pregnancy rates, and challenges related to sexual health education and reproductive rights. Addressing promiscuity requires a

holistic approach that addresses both individual behaviors and broader societal factors. Societal attitudes towards promiscuity vary widely, reflecting cultural, religious, and moral values. In some cultures, promiscuity may be condemned as immoral or sinful, while in others, it may be tolerated or even celebrated as a symbol of sexual liberation and empowerment. Religious beliefs and teachings often shape societal perspectives on promiscuity, with many religions advocating for abstinence before marriage and monogamous relationships. However, attitudes towards sexuality are evolving, with increasing acceptance of diverse sexual orientations and relationship structures. Moreover, the rise of hookup culture and online dating apps has transformed the landscape of modern dating, providing individuals with unprecedented access to potential partners and blurring the lines between casual and committed relationships. This shift has sparked debates about the impact of technology on sexual behavior and intimacy (Montoya et al., 2020).

Promiscuity remains a complex and multifaceted phenomenon influenced by individual, interpersonal, and societal factors. Understanding the underlying causes, impacts, and societal perspectives surrounding promiscuity is essential for addressing its consequences and promoting healthy attitudes towards sex and relationships. By fostering open dialogue and education, society can work towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for individuals to make informed choices about their sexual behavior.

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 his 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 in 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 her 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.

Satiman (2022) conducted his research on social problem in Andrea Hirata's novel entitled *Orang Orang Biasa.* His research was aimed at revealing the social problems described in Andrea Hirata's novel *Orang Orang Biasa*. The social problems that are the focus of this research are poverty, education inequality, and crimes which include corruption and money laundering, robbery, theft of money and motorized vehicles, bribery and crimes using social media. This research is considered important and feasible to do because it is an effort to convey social criticism to the government and also related parties on various social problems that are often faced by society, especially related to problems in the world of education where not all levels of society can receive education equally. Poor people, although they have a high level of intelligence, are very rarely able to study at the Faculty of Medicine because the cost of studying at the Faculty of Medicine is very high. This research is a descriptive qualitative research and applies the theory of sociology of literature put forward by Laurenseon and Swingewood (1972) to understand and evaluate literary works by considering social aspects. The findings of this study indicate that social problems such as poverty, educational inequality, and crimes, which include corruption and money laundering, robbery, theft of money and motorized vehicles, bribery and crimes using social media and the internet are found in this study. These various types of social and crime problems basically stem from one problem, namely poverty, both material poverty and moral poverty.

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 Eka Kurniawan's novel entitled *Lelaki Harimau* 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, Eka Kurniawan 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.