

**THE CLASS STRUGGLE ANALYSIS OF MANCHESTER CHARTISM
MOVEMENT IN ELIZABETH GASKELL'S *A TALE OF MANCHESTER
LIFE***

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is an analysis of a novel entitled *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* by Elizabeth Gaskell. Overall, *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* tells about the life of working class in Manchester. The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the effects, triggers and the exposition of the class struggle of the Chartism Manchester Movement in *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life*. To achieve the aims, the intrinsic aspects such as plot, characters and settings are employed in the analysis of the intrinsic elements of this novel. The writer also uses a sociological approach that is Marxist theory to analyze the social aspects of the novel. Marxist theory that focuses on the concept of class struggle is applied in the discussion of extrinsic aspects of this novel. The research method used in this study is library research by browsing the internet and reading some books. The result of this study shows that the class struggle of the Chartism Manchester Movement is encouraged by inequality of capitalist system where the workers are exploited by the system. This study also concludes that the working class struggle that is done by the Chartism Manchester Movement constructs the new system of employment in Manchester that will create a good relationship between the masters and the workers.

Key words: *Marxism, class struggle, bourgeoisie, proletariat, Chartism
Manchester Movement.*

1.1 Background of the Study

The economic domination happens not only happen in the era of globalization but also in the industrial life. The domination that exists in the industrial life is based on the economic power that people have. This is because the economic power is an important factor in human life (Booker, 1985: 71). Through this power, human can produce goods or things to fulfil their needs for human life. The economic power in the industrial life is dominated by the capital owner or the owner of the factory. They use their capital to dominate other groups or individuals who do not have the economic power such as the workers. They buy the manpower of the workers as their labor forces to gain their benefit (Eagleton, 1976: 3). The domination that is done by the factory owners makes the workers rise and change their lives for a better life. They fight and struggle for their rights and freedom.

The working class struggle depicts in the literary works such as drama, prose and poetry. Among those various types of literature, the novel is regarded as a kind of prose. “A novel is a story, and a story is a narrative of events arranged in time sequence” (Forster, 1985: 30). It indicates that a novel consists of a series combination of specific events and express viewpoints on the evolving subject of the story.

Based on the definition of literary works and novels above, the writer is interested to analyze the novel that represents the social problems. In *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life*, the writer finds a social issue about the class struggle which is used as a central issue in building the theme of the novel. An analysis that gives a sense of awareness to fight the injustice. Thus the writer

would like to analyze the class struggle through the plot, character, setting, conflict and extrinsic elements that exist in the novel. Therefore “The Class Struggle Analysis on Manchester Chartist Movement in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life*” becomes the title of this thesis.

1. 2 Objectives of the Study

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

1. To discover how some intrinsic aspects of plot, characters, and settings support the story of *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* by Elizabeth Gaskell.
2. To determine how the class struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement is exposed in *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* by Elizabeth Gaskell.
3. To explain how the triggers and the effects of the class struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement are exposed in *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* by Elizabeth Gaskell.

1. 3 Plot of The Class Struggle

1. 3. 1. Exposition

. This hatred will lead to a conflict and bring the story of the novel flows forward. John Barton assumes that the rich people do not care about the suffering experienced by the poor.

1. 3. 2. Rising Action

At this stage, the hatred of John Barton to the rich becomes stronger. It is because there is an external conflict between John Barton and the condition of his social life.

1. 3. 3. Climax

The John Barton's hatred makes him kill Harry Carson. This murder is executed according to the plan made by the workers in Manchester.

1. 3. 4. Falling Action

People who heat up the situation or cause conflict have faced death and have admitted the mistakes they made in this stage. Mary who commits rescue missions of Jem Wilson without sacrificing her father finally finds a way out. She can find Will to defend Jem in court.

1. 3. 5. Catastrophe

At the end of the story, there are changes in the system of employment in Manchester.

1. 4. Analysis of Character

There are many characters that exist in *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life*, but only several characters that always appear in the story. They are Mary Barton, John Barton, Mr. Carson and Harry Carson. In addition, the confidant characters of the story are Margaret Jenkins and Esther. All of these characters above are important in the story. Their roles provide great influence to the plot of the story.

1. 5. Analysis of Setting

In general, the settings of place of this novel are in Manchester particularly in the Lancashire. This region is one of the cotton mill industries in Manchester.

Meanwhile, the setting of time of this novel begins in the evening in May. The narrator describes the setting of the time of the novel at the beginning of the story directly.

Moreover, the social setting of *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* is industrial life in Manchester, where the society is divided between the working class and the factory owners.

1. 6. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat

People in Manchester are relatively divided into two classes, they are the masters and the workmen. The masters are the production owner who can be named as the bourgeoisie. They can be called so since they have the economic power to gain what they want. In this novel, the people who are classified as the proletariat are the factory workers. They only have human power as their assets.

1. 7. The Class Struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement

The class struggle is the one of the major theme that is almost dominated in the whole story of the novel. In this novel, the class struggle is appeared in the Manchester Chartism Movement. In this movement, there are some actions which are carried by a Chartist delegate to obtain their rights and justice of the mill owners.

1. 8. The Triggers of the Class Struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement

The class struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement has a lot of causes that lead to its rise. One of the main causes of the class struggle in *Mary Barton: A Tale of Manchester Life* is an awareness of the workers about the oppression carried out by the masters.

1. 9. The Effects of the Class Struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement

The class struggle of the Manchester Chartism Movement has some effects that exist in the novel. The main effect of the action of the class struggle is the attitude changing of both classes and systems of employment in Manchester.

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