

**SOCIAL CRITICISM IN LONDON'S *THE CALL
OF THE WILD***



A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial
Fulfilment for The Requirement to Thesis in English*

WRITTEN BY

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MAKASSAR
2022**

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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LEGITIMATION

THESIS

SOCIAL CRITICISM BY LONDON'S THE CALL OF THE WILD

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It has been Examined by the Board of Thesis Examination on 8th April 2022 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

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On Friday, 8th April 2022, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Amany Zhafira Akbar (F041181350) entitled *Social Criticism by London's The Call of The Wild* submitted in fulfilment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.



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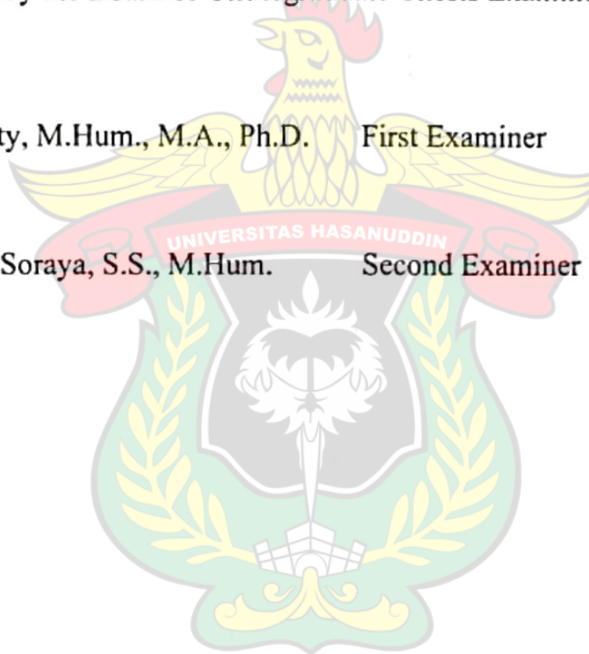


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APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences Number 1673/UN4.9.1/KEP/2021 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft by **Amany Zhafira Akbar** (F041181350) to be examined at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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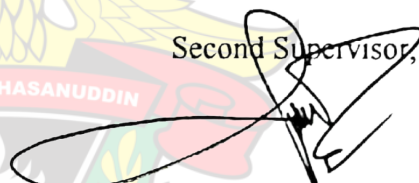
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I hereby declare that this thesis is an authentic written in aims to obtain my degree and do not contain any materials work by other people except the quotation and references. All the quotation and references are cited and has listed in the bibliography of this thesis as scientific paper should.

Makassar, 7th April 2022

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

By saying *اَلْحَمْدُ لِلّٰهِ عَلٰى كُلِّ حَالٍ*, all praise and gratitude the writer prays for the presence of Allah SWT, because thanks to His grace and guidance the preparation of this thesis entitled "*Social Criticism in London's The Call of The Wild*" can be completed partial in order to fulfilment for the requirement to obtain Sarjana Degree on time at English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

The writer has gone through a long journey as well as joys and sorrows that obstacles faced in the preparation in order to complete the writing of this thesis, however it is thanks to Allah because of His will that the writers has successfully finished this thesis properly and with a lot of consideration. Therefore, with great humility, on this occasion, the writer would like to say thanks sincerely to:

1. The wonderful, inspiring, and warm-hearted people, Akbar Mansyur Tadaga S.E., M.Si. and Megawati Hatibie S.E., M.Si. as beloved parents who always filling up prayers, energy, time, support, love, and affection that cannot be counted and reciprocated until the end of life, also to Achmad Raihan Tadaga S.Sos., who has helped in financially and materially as the only brother of the writer.
2. Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin, M.Hum., as 1st supervisor who patiently spare the time to guide the writer and also to Mr. Abbas, S.S., M.Hum., as 2nd supervisor who sincerely helped and teach many things from the beginning of the study season until the final stage in the preparation of this thesis.
3. Dra. Nasmilah, M.Hum., Ph.D., and St. Sahraeny, S.S., M.A., as a Head and Secretary of the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University, who always kind enough to help and facilitate this college journey.
4. The big family of Mansyur Tadaga and Ibrahim Hatibie who the writer respects and appreciates that always filling up their best support and prayers.
5. The peaceful, loveable, simply great special one, who never stop ending support and tried to give the best with the sprinkle on top that scattered in the galaxy which has contributed in this journey, now and always, Pasu.

6. The writer's closest friends, Nopi, Linda, Ima, Amala, Aul, Karen, who have faithfully been the biggest part of the writer's college by devoting a lot of energy, time, support, joy and sorrow so that the writer can finish this period on time together, hopefully this friendship can last and loyal until old age forever.
7. Brothers and sisters of Diksar XXVIII and the big family of Unhas Shooting Club (UKM Menembak Unhas) who also gave a lot of chance and experience of new knowledge so could build brotherly and good relations during the writer's college period while studying at Hasanuddin University
8. All parties who have helped in everything in the preparation of this thesis that cannot mention all of them.

May Allah SWT multiply all the rewards and goodness that has been done and make easier for all activities in the future. The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from perfect; therefore, the critics and suggestion are kindly welcome. As last words, the writer hopes that this thesis can provide benefits for many parties, especially readers in the general scope and younger teenager who were studying in the Department of English Literature at Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 2nd March 2022

The writer,

Amany Zhafira Akbar

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ABSTRAK

Amany Zhafira Akbar. 2022. *Social Criticism in London's The Call of The Wild.* (Dibimbing oleh **Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin** dan **Abbas**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan kritik sosial dari kejadian Klondike Gold Rush dan latar belakang sosial yang terjadi dalam novel *The Call of The Wild* karya Jack London.

Dalam menganalisis fenomena sosial dalam novel ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme genetik yang menekankan pada struktur genetik seperti karakter, plot, setting dan tema serta pendekatan sosiologi yang merujuk pada asal-usul fenomena sosial berdasarkan konsep kritik sastra yang mengangkat isu sosial dalam novel seperti kekerasan, pertarungan, dan pertahanan hidup yang dialami tokoh utama.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa kritik sosial yang terjadi dalam novel tersebut merupakan refleksi pengarang terhadap kehidupan sosial yang dialaminya melalui perjalanan selama masa periode demam emas klondik namun digambarkan menggunakan penjelasan yang imajinatif serta sudut pandang karakter anjing. Berdasarkan perjalanan tersebut, penulis mengidentifikasi bahwa pengarang menggambarkan pandangannya sebagai makhluk sosial ke dalam bentuk karya sastra yang dikategorikan sebagai kritik sosial terhadap kehidupan masyarakat yang dialaminya selama masa periode demam emas yang terjadi secara nyata.

Kata Kunci: *Kritik Sosial, Teori Strukturalisme Genetik, Novel The Call of The Wild.*

ABSTRACT

Amany Zhafira Akbar. 2022. *Social Criticism in London's The Call of The Wild.* (Supervised by **Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin** and **Abbas**)

This study aims to explain the social criticism of the Klondike Gold Rush incident and the social background that occurs in the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London.

In analysing the social phenomena in this novel, the writer uses a genetic structuralism approach that emphasizes the genetic structures such as characters, plots, settings, and themes also include the sociological approach that refers to the origins of social phenomena based on the concept of literary criticism which raises the social issues in the novel such as violence, battle, and survival that experienced by the main character.

The findings show the social criticism phenomena that occur in the novel are based by the author's reflection on the social life that he experienced through the journey during the Klondike gold rush period but is described using imaginative explanations and the dog's point of view. Based on this journey, the writer identifies that the author describes his view as a social being in the form of a literary work which is categorized as a social criticism of society that he experienced during the gold rush period that occurred in real terms.

Keywords: *Social Criticism, Genetic Structuralism Approach, Novel's The Call of The Wild*

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In social life, it is never separated from the relations that occur between other individuals or certain groups, it also known as social interactions. The interactions between various aspects of life that often experience in daily life will slowly form into a pattern of relationships that influence each other so as the result of that will create a new social system in society. This situation is called a social process. The social processes that occur in society certainly cannot always run well, because most of the supporting community has various characteristics.

Likewise, social interactions or social relations are a manifestation of existing social processes in society. The diversity of social relations is evident in the social structure of a pluralistic society that can give rise to many things such as conflicts, problems, and others, however, the differences that exist are a balanced equality so it cannot be underestimated, because the differences were not a mistake but another product of many possibilities that comes from many things related to the community itself.

It is undeniable that in society many things happen, whether it was good or bad, but it is still be the part of a society that is interrelated and interacts with each other and creates a new atmosphere in a pluralistic society. The occurrence of interactions due to the many needs that are mutually binding with the existence or presence of other individuals, therefore language is present as a communication tool and as a means of self-expression to show subjective opinions from one human to

another in order to understand each other in social life. Language was contained literature which reveals the meaning and norms in it has a major function as a means of control in the community so that literature and language have many influences on its users when conducting social interactions both verbally and non-verbally.

Literature is a work created by humans that contain elements of beauty and aesthetics which are then transmitted through oral or written works as an expression of authors' experience based on the imaginary of the author by imitation of the relationship that occurs in society. As a language, literary works can be brought into a strong relation with a certain real social world as called as the social environment. This tendency becomes stronger when literature is understood as a fictional and imaginative work as well as a subjective expression of the individual. Apart from that, it is an expression of the author's soul and cannot be the full subjective property of the author because it is a common property. The writer believes that literature is an imitation of reality which expressed by human from any kind form of literature works that consists of imagination, feelings, sense, thoughts as well as other things that do not limit someone to create the literary work.

As a part of language and art, literature is understood as a fictional and imaginative work as well as a subjective expression of the individual author, but even so, literary works can be brought into strong relations with the social world which is become the issue of social criticism in the novel. One of the issues raised from a real world's phenomenon is the incident of The Klondike Gold Rush which had a major impact on historical records.

The literary work that refers to this study is a novel belonging to English literary work entitled *The Call of the Wild* by Jack London in 1903. This discovery was followed by several other gold-rich locations along the Klondike River, but due to its remote location and harsh weather conditions, this news did not reach the outside world only a year later. This incident sparked shocking news for the entire United States society who was hit by a severe economic depression and then flocked to defend their fate by proving the discovery of gold scattered along the Klondikes river with the city centre in Dawson City, Yukon. As the result of this big news many people sold their farm, their business, closed their shop and went by boat north to reach the gold.

The major theme of this novel is discussing solidarity, leadership, and in the relationship between human and dog. On the other hand, this novel also deals with the theme of violence that occurs and is experienced by the dogs that are used as sled pulling workers. It was also mistaken for a children's book, even though it was not suitable for children at all.

London views that behind the historical events there are many reasons that opened his eyes about social life that prompted him to write *The Call of the Wild* with the theme of adventure and violence. This literary works includes as his early work that has setting in the Klondike Gold Rush. Based on his experience, London observes many things, especially in terms of survival and several other things about the violence experienced by workers and facing the world in the environment and extreme weather in order to get gold to cover its economic problems. From his adventures, he also realized about the sense and meaning of life that he experienced

while in a condition that he considered a tough phase of his life. The emergence of violence in the world between workers that had intense competition shapes the character of London as a figure who never gives up and is resilient for the sake of survival. That incident went through during the gold rush period which lasted several years that involved himself made him feel difficulties in the harsh of environment and extreme weather of the wild, as the result of that, the writer has carried out by executed using deeper research to uncover this phenomenon which was written in a study entitled *Social Criticism by London's The Call of The Wild*, the reason of why the writer choosing this novel is because it tells a unique story that concerns the philosophy value and meaning of life which involve hard work, struggle, survival, loyal, brave, teamwork, wild nature, brutality, and violence that reflected in the wildlife and animal point of view who described by London as the part of his life experience.

1.2 Identification of The Study

In this study, the writer focuses on structural aspect that emphasizes the intrinsic element and the relation between the social background as part of the author's life which he experienced as the first hand's person that reflected in the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London and other factor of violence against sled dogs as a current issue that will be discussed in this study. After reading the novel, the writer had classified the problem in several points, there are:

1. The social phenomenon in society are events that occurs due to the many activities and different backgrounds

2. The differences that occur in society can trigger the emergence of new ideas and innovations through communication that wrapped in the form of social criticism to provide views and opinion of phenomena that happened in community
3. Literary work which are seen as language has functions as a forum for conveying the author's subjective expression and view as the part of society that experienced by London itself that reflect in his novels especially the novel of *The Call of The Wild* who are joined as a gold seeker's by trying to survive in an environment of harsh competition and extreme weather during the Klondike Gold Rush
4. The relevance of main character experience with the violence against the sled dog in *The Call of The Wild* as the expressions of author that seen by his own expedition
5. The conclusions that can be drawn from the moral values which express by the author as the part of his life that contained in *The Call of The Wild*

1.3 Research Question

After reading the novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London, the writer can relate the existing background with several problems which can be raised as follows

1. What is the social criticism of the Klondike Gold Rush and a sled dog that reflected in the novel *The Call of The Wild* by London?
2. What is the social background of author described in the novel?

1.4 Objective of The Study

1. To find out the social criticism of the Klondike Gold Rush and a sled dog reflected in the novel *The Call of The Wild* by London.
2. To explain the social background of author in the novel.

1.5 Benefits of The Study

This study consists of history background in the reality of author's life that related with Buck experienced in London's *The Call of The Wild*. The benefits are expected firstly goes to readers, especially for Literature Major students in English Department, Culture Faculty of the Hasanuddin University, to provide academic benefits in the development of scientific understanding or modification of existing theories which can be deepened the comprehension as a theory of literature through literary works that related as an imitation of social life. Moreover, the writer also hopes that this study can contribute to the quality in the literature library and reader can implement the good values either from the novel or the description of the points that reflects through this study.

Secondly, the writer expects that the results of this study will help to find out the similar problem that is related with the story in Jack London's *The Call of The Wild* as a practical benefit that can help provide solutions by helpful source and relevant reference for conducting their study in the literary work especially novel.

1.6 Sequence of The Writing

This study consists of five chapters such as introduction, literature review, methodology, analysis, and conclusion. The chapter one includes background of the study, research question, objective of the study, significance of the study, and

sequence of writing. This chapter explains the basis of the study that became the backdrop of choosing the novel also examines some point limitations of the problem under this study.

The chapter two provides the literature review that reveals some previous studies and supporting theories that used in this study. The writer uses dynamic structuralism approach which further explains the social phenomenon during Klondike Gold Rush in London's *The Call of The Wild*. It also more focuses on the structuralism aspect which describing the intrinsic elements of the novel that being studied.

The chapter three consists of the methodology that used in this study. This chapter contains the method of collecting data, analysis of the data, and the procedures of analyses this study. This part is more focuses on how and what steps the writer would take in executing this research.

The chapter four is the main chapter of this study. It provides three points outline of the study. This chapter is explaining the findings of the analysis which has been obtained by the writer based on the framework that has been described in the previous chapters. The chapter five which became the last chapter of this analysis are conducted the conclusions of the findings under this thesis and consist of suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of three parts. The first part presents the theoretical basis as a benchmark for scientific theory that the writer uses in this study. The second part presents the relevant research results in which this section covers previous existing studies and is used as a basis for current theory development. The third parts as the last section in this chapter presents the theoretical framework that will be used as a big picture and the main steps in this research.

2.1 Previous Studies

The writer has found some researches and scientific work related with this study using various theories and approaches in the same object of research. This part is important to be included because it may obtain some data that can support to this study. Those previous researches are done by Harto S. Malik, et al (2000) from Gadjah Mada University Yogyakarta, Liliana (2001) from Sanata Dharma University Yogyakarta, and Nasrum and Afifah Faiqah (2020) from Alauddin State Islamic University of Makassar.

The first is written by Harto S. Malik, et al on their researcher under the title *Jack London's The Call of The Wild: A Study on American Individualism*. This research was using the American Study Approach with the same object of novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. However, their research is more focuses on how they investigate the values of individual doctrines conveyed through the life of Jack London which he finally put in *The Call of The Wild*. While, this study was using Genetic Structural Approach that focused on social criticism by some

phenomenon that occurs on the society during the Gold Rush in Klondike which reflect in the same novel *The Call of The Wild* by Jack London. The conclusion of their research was showed that American society in the early twentieth century was in a strong competitive atmosphere to achieving success which led to change it became American individualism which displayed in competitive attitudes, self-confidence, hardworking and so on. Differences with this study which found the author's expression as the form of social criticism which written in literary works that talked about the social issues of violence, hardworking, and survive in the harsh environment and extreme weather that displayed by the character in the novel.

The second is written by Liliana on her thesis under the title *The Animal Character as The Representation of Jack London's Life in The Call of The Wild*. In this thesis, Liliana described on how London to represent his life by the point of view as an animal (dog) using the Biographical Approach. She tried to reveal Jack London's views on the harsh life experienced by dogs in order to survive in the wildest areas on mainland Alaska when the Gold Rush occurs as the result of the author's life experiences. Even though her thesis using the same object with this study, but this study still has the differences on how the writer would analyses and applied the different theory that is further would discuss by the writer using the Genetic Structural Approach that more focuses on the structural aspect by explaining the social criticism that reflect in the novel as the main issue of this study.

The last is written by Nasrum and Afifah Faiqah on their journal under the title *The Author's Worldview in Jack London's The Call of The Wild* using Genetic

Structuralism Approach. The results show that the author (London) talks about the cruel competition of capitalism as a worker. They also explained the intrinsic values of literary works and all the elements of worldview that are considered as the extrinsic values which are categorized into several elements namely God, Science, Reality, Self, Ethics, and Society in the novel. Even if this previous study was look similar with them, however this study had different focus which indicates on how the authors reflect the novel as the social criticism phenomenon that he experienced.

Overall, this study was more focus on the structural aspects related to the basic and inseparable element of literary works which is explained in a dense manner by rising the phenomena in society as the form of social criticism that occurs in social sphere that reflected in the novel. The writer believe that the author described the social conditions as the part that cannot be separated from his hard life journey which his put on his novel and become the basis of the story. The writer conclude that the connecting of the author's background is the basis of reason to making this novel based on the real experience of life by looking on the structural aspect and author's background that represents in the novel using the theory of genetic structuralism which applied in this study.

2.2 Genetic Structuralism Approach

Genetic structuralism pays attention to the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of a work where the work is considered to have a major influence by considering the elements of the work also the origin of the author who is the actor directly behind the creation of his written work. The theory of genetic structuralism was invented by Lucien Goldman, a Romanian-French philosopher and sociologist that emerged

as a response or reaction to previous theories. The theory of pure structuralism considers that a literary work is studied only in the realm of the literary work itself without involving any historical background in it also takes further steps on the social structure and social conditions of the literary work.

According to Goldman in Faruk (2017:56), who mentions that his theory of genetic structuralism, means believes that literature is a structure. However, the structure is not something static, but is a product of the ongoing historical process, the process of structuring is based on the social needs and conditions which always change and being lived by the literary community concerned.

As a theory that has proven its validity, genetic structuralism is still supported by several new concepts that are not shared by other social theories, for example: symmetry or homology, social classes, transindividual subjects, and world views. This explanation also supported by Ratna (2004: 123), the definition of genetic structuralism is a structural analysis by paying attention to the origins of literary works. In short, it means that genetic structuralism also pays attention to intrinsic and extrinsic analysis.

Nevertheless, as a theory whose validity has been tested, genetic structuralism is still supported by several new concepts that are not shared by other social theories, for example: symmetry or homology, social classes, transindividual subjects, and worldviews. Based on Teeuw, (2013: 118) literary works can be understood based on the origin and occurrence (genetic) of the background of certain social structures, therefore also, the emergence of a structuralist variant from

Goldman which explains literary works of homology and its relationship with existing social structures.

By the definition, the writer concludes that genetic structuralism refers to the structure of genetic aspects and the concept of sociological which have relation with the social phenomenon that exist in society. Genetic structuralism contains structural aspect or elements that exist in literary works such as characters, plot, setting, themes, etc. In addition, genetic structuralism also contains extrinsic elements such as social aspects or societal values which are reflected in a literary work. In this study, the writer already classified the intrinsic elements as the origin of literary works, and find out the social criticism of the Klondike Gold Rush also explains the social background that reflect by author based on the novel as the part of author's life.

The writer claims that Goldman articulate that there is social homology that exists based on the structural aspect of literary work and has relations to the society. So, the story that reflect on the novel has related with the real social life that experienced by the author, even though that literature is a fiction, however the literary works presents the true of life and has relations with society life.

2.2.1 Structural Aspects

The structural aspect is the value that forms the basis for the arrangement of a frame so that it can provides its existence independently without any mixture of other things outside the value. The structural aspect in this study is more directed towards patterns or structural elements that are born directly from a particular field, this idea also was supported by Nurgiyantoro (2005:36), who stated that the

structure of literary works also springs on understanding of inter-elemental relation which known as the intrinsic value that are mutual determine. The influence of each values become the united of one pattern in which has the important part on structure of literary works that always have the own meaning.

Generally, the structural aspect emphasizes the intrinsic elements of the literary work which have several specific points such as characters, plots, settings, themes, points of view, and the value of the story, so that these aspects are identical to the origins of elements that had born and become inseparable part of the many literary works made by various authors or creators. Teeuw (2013:95-96) describes his idea that literary work as the structure, which is mean become the structuralism. He believes that the basic of literature comes from the unity, wholeness(round), complexity, and coherence are interrelated with each other where these values are considered as the pure elements of structure of a building (literary work) that cannot be separated.

As the result of that, the writer would explain the definitions of the intrinsic element which is divided into several parts that has been mentioned in previous.

2.2.1.1 Character and Characterizations

Character is a figure of a person who plays a role in a story. In literary works, characters usually act as actors who serve as an introduction to the course of a story, without a character, a story may not develop properly. Characters are also divided into two types such as protagonists and antagonists. There is also a name for the character can depend on the motivation of the author himself. For the examples of naming unusual characters can be found in several literary works such as the death

of salesman who has a character named Happy, the name of the character has its own interpretation, so that the meaning of a name can be interpreted clearly and leads to the characterization or nature of the character by the reader. Therefore, characterization is also interrelated with the characters because it involves the behaviour and characteristics of the characters in a story in a literary work. On the other hand, characters also have another function which figure as symbols to make easier for readers to understand the role in direction of a story.

The term round character usually denotes a persona with more complex and differentiated features, however, the characters is part of a person's form and personality that reflects the behaviour of an actor who plays a role in a novel script. According to Stanton (2019:146) who stated that the readers can observe the traits of a character, development, and attitudes towards the other characters or the effect these attitudes have on them (and vice versa).

While, Characterization is a description of a character that written by the author in novel. The characterizations relate to desire, interest, emotions, and morals that contain in the character of a figure in a story. The role of characters in the story are also determined by attitude and behaviour them facing the problem. It can be divided into some parts that meant by Saraswati (2019:22-25), namely protagonist and antagonist.

1. The protagonist. Protagonists are the main characters in your fiction. They are round characters with whom readers sympathize.
2. The antagonist. Antagonists often are known as bad guys in works of fiction. They attempt to prevent protagonists from getting what they want or need. An antagonist also should be a round character.

Characters also have their respective functions which are divided into three types, namely (1) flat character, (2) round character, and (3) dynamic character. Flat character is a role that functions as an activator character who move the story and always follows the plot. This character does not change until the end because its passive and static figure. While, round character is described as an open personality and sometimes the function of this character becomes the main figure and has important role in a story. On the other hand, dynamic character has a function as complementary character whose existence to follows the plot and has a changing personality in a novel, however, it sometimes also play an important role to support the conflict that occur in a story. According to Wiehardt (2018),

1. Flat characters are minor characters in a work of fiction who do not undergo substantial change or growth in a story. Often, these characters serve no purpose other than to move the story along, so who they are as people is of no significance to the plot. In some instances, they may be more parts of the setting than characters. For example, if two main characters are eating in a restaurant, their server-if portrayed at all-likely would be a flat character.
2. Round character. Unsurprisingly, there are also the opposite of flat characters. Round characters are multidimensional, complex, nuanced, and often contradictory. They serve an important enough role in the plot or subplot that give their personalities multiple layers of psychological traits
3. Dynamic Character. Just as round characters are the opposite of flat characters, dynamic characters are the opposite of static characters. Dynamic character who will undergo changes in the story. However, a static character not always can be the main character of a story.

As a conclusion of Character and Characterization, the writer believes that character is a role played by humans or even animals depicted in a work of fiction or story depends on the author and the story showed. Thus characters divided into several type such as protagonists (kind person), antagonists (bad person), flat character (that known as a minor character whose function is as a complementary

character and only becomes an additional player as the story progresses), round character (as known as a player who has a personality and becomes an important character in a certain plot or sub story also most of these player can be a main character), dynamic character (are more like a round character that can be changed but not always can be a main characters, it can be said as a companion role that issued as a supporting actor for the main character so that a story can run in balance).Meanwhile characterization is an inner trait affects all thoughts and behaviour of one figure or player in a storyline, these traits and behaviours that make a story can be described as something more alive so that the characterization of a character greatly influences the course of plot and the role that play by them.

2.2.1.2 Plot

Apart from characters, another important element in the structure of a literary work that is born as an intrinsic element is the plot. The plot is a storyline that displays the chronological relations of a story. The plot brings a story that starts from the beginning to the end.

The plot showing the ending of a story which is divided into happy ending, sad ending, and depending-ending which does not have a conclusion or resolution at the end of the story. According to Stanton (2019:35), who claims that the setting is an environment that includes an event in the conflict of story and includes interactions that occur directly in the universe.

The plots are divided into several types based on the chronological orders such as forward plot, backward plot, mixed plot, and abstract plot. The forward plot tells the story systematically and in chronological order, backward plot displays a

story that starts from the end of a story then slowly brought to the beginning which became the reason of the events that happened in the story, while the mixed plot includes a forward plot and a backward plot that are combined together in a story, this plot also has another element called flashback, and abstract plot is a plot that has no clarity at all so it is very difficult to understand a story that uses this plot.

Based on the parts, plot has five parts namely exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution. As it is known that, exposition is the beginning of the story. Rising action is a condition where the story begins to tense up and start the conflict. Climax is the condition that happened in the middle of conflict. Falling action is the condition that conflict and problem has subsided with the solutions. And last one is resolutions that shows the ending of the story. This explanation was supported a statement from Islam (2016:41-42), who stated that plot is divided into four parts, following as:

1. Exposition, is the beginning of story, in addition to the necessary exposition give us the picture of a situation in which there exist sources of instability, which may at the outset be latent or overt.
2. Climax. The complication of the problem. It is a condition when the story went move from the end of beginning to the beginning of the middle as the elements sending towards instability to recognize the pattern of the conflict.
3. Climax, is reached when the complication attains its highest point of intensity from which the outcome of the actions.

4. The end is the part that consists of everything from the climax to the denouement or outcome of the story.

Overall, plot is an integral part of a story. Plot displays the storyline that is narrated chronologically according to a certain time sequence based on the author's wishes in writing his literary work. It serves an explanation to readers where the storyline will be taken and what is the essence of the story, so it is very important to determine a good plot so that readers can understand properly.

2.2.1.3 Setting

Setting has a strong relation with the background which is also the basis for building a story. Based on Kennedy (2007:112-113), who said "*by the setting of a story, we mean its time and place. Besides time and place, setting may also include the weather, which in some stories may be crucial*".

Settings are divided into 3 types, namely place settings, time settings, and social settings. The setting of the place concerns the location that becomes the point of an event or meeting as well as a description of the layout of a space and geography in a literary work, while the time setting is related to all matters relating to the duration and tempo so that it displays all elements both related to the clock and the weather conditions that occur listed in the story, where known as the social setting is provided with all matters relating to the behaviour of the community and the habits of the people that occur in the story. According to Nurgiyantoro (2005:227-233), setting can be defined into place, setting, and social. The setting of place is the location of the fiction taken place. It can be places with a specific name, particular initials, might be an anonymous location. Time. The setting of time linked

with 'when' the events of the story happened. It is generally related to the factual time or the event of the time history. Social. The social setting related to the people background and behaviour, and the setting relation of place in the story. It contains a social, cultural, believe and the way people acts in the social life.

As the conclusion based in the explanation, the setting has 3 types, that place which discuss a specific location, time that describe for period of moments, and social that explain sociological or a relation between a group in some culture.

2.2.1.4 Theme

Theme is the main idea or main idea that represents the main content or core of a story in a novel. The theme functions as an ambassador or icon that represents the main story so that it can provide understanding for the reader to digest the story that is presented. In short, the theme can be understood as the basic topic of a story in a novel. Based on Perrine (1959:137), stated this part as,

The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life states or implied by the story. To derive the theme of a story, we must ask what its central purpose is what view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals.

From this opinion, the writer concludes that themes are the main ideas or ideas of the novel. The theme contains a broad description of the story that will be adopted as the story, so it is very important to choose the right theme before starting to create a novel.

2.2.2 Social Background of The Author

In this study, the writer examines the background of London's journey as the basis of the birth of the novel and explains the social background that he

experienced during the Klondike Gold Rush incident which is now considered as the extrinsic value. With the spirit of Gold there unfolded in the Yukon and Alaska in a brief but fascinating adventure, which has captured the imagination of people around the world ever since.

London in his novel explains briefly dense but so clearly on the journey he experienced during his adventure in mainland of Alaska and Yukon. This novel is a depiction of reality that is happening and experienced directly by the author so that the writer could conduct an assessment using the genetic structuralism theory where it is known as a refinement of the existing structuralism theory by focusing on the structural aspects and sociological concept as a reflection picture of the novel that had become a real experience from the author. Based on Schoenecke (1979:1), who stated

While London travelled among the various camps and towns, he began to absorb the stories and tales of men who prevailed against the forces of nature. He observed that those who survived did so as a result of their knowledge of Yuko life.

The characters in the novel are the result of the representation of the people that the author met during the Klondike Gold Rush trip. The extreme weather, harsh, and tight environment have a major impact on the competitive and individualistic for the character, nature, and behaviour in order to survive by the people he meets while there, it is stated as London (2019:23), wrote in the novel who said

Here was neither peace, no rest, nor moment's safety. All was confusion and action, and every moment life and limb were in peril. There was imperative need to be constantly alert; for these dogs and men were not town dogs and men. They were savages, all of them, who knew no law but the law of club and fang.

Based on this, the writer found an interrelated between the author's explanation contained in the novel with the real incident that experienced by the author during his lifetime. In London's life history, he had made a long journey with his partner to look for gold along Alaska and the Yukon, therefore he took many values and life experiences from that trip so that the novel *The Call of the Wild* was born as the basis of the reality that he experienced during the golden rush phenomenon. This is accompanied by an explanation from Espinoza, et al (2010:79-80), who stated

The Call of the Wild is not only considered a dog tale, but it is much more. London writes about people's behaviour represented in animals, in this case dogs. London writes about how people's temper changes in different circumstances

From the quotation above, the writer believes that the relations between the author's explanation and the intrinsic elements are the main structural building factors as the basis for the presence of literary works which eventually become shared properties in a global scope so that readers can examine the meaning in the novel with their own opinion without forgetting the structural elements of the novel being which being studied.

2.3 The Social Criticism

As previously explained, literature is a part of language and art that is free and imaginative, even though the grammar contained in literary works often deviates from standard linguistic rules or rules that apply in general, but still literary works can become a container or recording device that describes the state of an individual or group of people who are in a social sphere.

The social picture described using imaginative elements does not just happen, but there are other elements that build the author to write the work either from the social picture of others or it could be due to the real incident experienced by the author so that it can be easily poured into literary works which is considered a language as well as a public documentary tool that can record and perpetuate real traces of an event that is ultimately remembered as history.

This tendency is further strengthened by the emergence of many fiction and imaginative works that refer to social reality whose truth occurs but is depicted so implicitly as subjective expressions and expressions born by the author himself. In general, social reality is a reality or fact that occurs in social life and involves many elements, both individuals and groups that are interrelated with each other and inseparable from the subjective views of actors or parties directly involved in certain phenomena in the social sphere.

The word of “reality” in this study refers more to the description and explanation of the author contained in the novel as part of the documentation tool for the author's life journey that he experienced directly as part of society and social class, giving rise to social interactional and influencing the community actions based on role, status, existing culture, values, and social norms. This statement is reinforced by a Webber (Faruk, 2017:50), who mention that the social building as a whole unity that cannot be separated from the social actions of its citizens and the meaning given by the citizens for this action.

From the statement, the writer claims that literary works play an important role as a language that indirectly describes and explains social facts that exist and

have happened before in real life as social actions from society itself and are imitations or imitations of existing realities that have happened before.

Another statement also emerges from Durkheim's that stated, Language in the literary sense is considered as something that is shared collectively, language is an indicator of the existence of social reality as something independent of the individual. Through language, the objective social world is internalized into the subjective consciousness of the citizens of that social world.

The writer argues that literature as a language that functions to convey social facts from past events and is now history, the Klondike gold rush or also known as the Alaskan Fever is a history and a major world event that has become an obsession for some number of people to come hunting for gold along the Klondike rivers near Dawson City, Yukon. Based on the Chicago Records Book for Gold Seeker, (1897: 304) there is about twelve and a half million ounces of gold have been extracted from the Klondike region since its discovery in august 1896. Dog sleds at that time were very common for transportation. They were used to deliver letters, carry goods, and of course, gold. Surely everything that is moved during the winter is driven by dog sleds.

In the 1930's, the government made the first attempt to celebrate the Klondike Gold Rush with the National Park site. Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park was established to commemorate the great stampede that caught the attention of the world, and transformed the demographics, culture and environment of Alaska and the Yukon. The event was not one single human drama, but hundreds

of thousands of stories of the stampeders who made their way to the Klondike, leaving a trail of boom towns and history behind.

In the 1960s, after Alaska's statehood and facing the centennial anniversary of the purchase of Alaska, many Alaskans started examining and appreciating the state's unique history. Because the gold rush was instrumental in opening Alaska to more people, this part of history was viewed as valuable and worthy of preservation. Government officials, including the State's Senator and Representative as well as many citizens of Skagway worked to commemorate the gold rush with a National Park site. In 1976, the dream became reality when Congress created Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, Alaska and Seattle, Washington.

London, who was a famous author in the 19th century, expressed his views as an actor who was directly involved in the historical events of the Alaska gold rush as well as a historical actor who explained the social conditions of society at that time in his novel entitled *The Call of The Wild* which was subjective as an inseparable work from the interpretation of his life experience during the Klondike gold rush period and has now become a literary work and community property that can be viewed objectively and interpreted freely by the writer in this study.

As an author of literary works and historical actor, London pouring out his expression in the novel so concisely and clearly which at that time the social situation was described with full of struggle, uncertainty, and intense competition between individuals to survive so that the novel he wrote was born as a result of facts, history, and the social reality of his life by pouring out the themes of violence, survival, and the wild nature that was very harsh at that time.