

**The Influence of Social Environment to the Main Characters in  
Austen's, *Emma***



**A Thesis**

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University  
in Partial Fulfillment of Requirements to Obtain a Sarjana Degree in English  
Literature Study Program*

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**2020**



**THESIS**  
**THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT TO THE MAIN**  
**CHARACTERS IN AUSTEN'S, *EMMA***

**BY**  
**NURQALBI B**

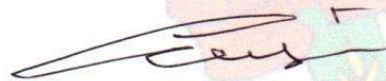
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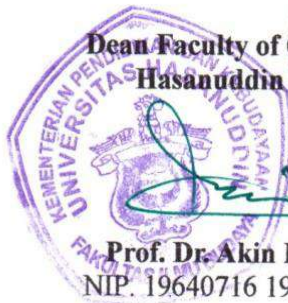
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Today, Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020 the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **NURQALBI B** (Student Number: **F21116509**) entitled:

**THE INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT TO THE MAIN  
CHARACTERS IN AUSTEN'S, *EMMA***

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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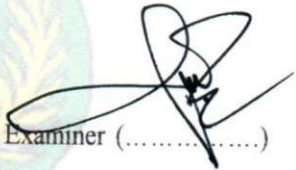
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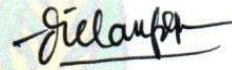
With reference to the letter of the Dean of Cultural Sciences No; 347/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the thesis draft by Nurqalbi B (F21116509) to be examined at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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## SURAT PERNYATAAN

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Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi ini benar-benar karya saya sendiri. Sepanjang pengetahuan saya tidak terdapat karya yang ditulis atau diterbitkan orang lain kecuali sebagai acuan atau kutipan, dengan mengikuti tata penulisan karya ilmiah yang lazim.

Makassar, 12 Oktober 2020

Yang menyatakan,



NURQALBI B



## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In the first place, the writer would like to express the biggest gratitude to Allah SWT who has always given health, spirit, patience, and also guidance to help the writer to finish this thesis. May Allah SWT always show us the right way in this life.

In this opportunity, the writer would like to express deep appreciation and thankfulness to people who had always supported and helped the writer in finishing the thesis. Thus, in this piece of paper, the writer huge gratitude is dedicated to the writer's beloved parents who have loved, advised, their greatest love and support, also moral and material support.

During the time of working this thesis, the writer found many problems and sometimes made a mistake. However, those problems could be solved with the support by the people around the writer. Hereby, the writer would like to express her thanks to:

1. **Prof. Dr. Dwia Aries Tina Pulubuhu M.A**, as the head Hasanuddin University, she has given her best in leading this university.
2. **Prof. Akinduli, M.A** as the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.
3. **Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL** as Head of English Department, **St.**

**ahraeny, S.S., M.App Ling** as Secretary of English Departement, and all of lecturers and academic staff of English Department, Faculty of Cultural



Sciences, Hasanuddin University, who have helped whether in lecturing and administration process.

4. **Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL and A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana, S.S., M. Hum** as supervisors who have given their time to supervise and guide the writer by providing advice and support so that the writer is able to complete this thesis.
5. **Aiptu Labari, HJ. Kariyah** as parents and **Nur Ainun B, S.M** as sister who have given the writer their greatest love, support and also moral and material support.
6. **Muhammad Nur Umar, Andi Hikmah Ghalib and Nur Khaliqa Dzahin** who have been taking care and giving so much attention for the writer.
7. All friends of the writer especially **Andi Maysyita Putri, S.S, Anindi Aulia Putri, Annastasya Ridha Utami, Devi Merdekawati, Ika Dian Saputri, Sasmita Anjelina Ahmad, S.S, Winda Hartiwi Kuswanti, Andi Nurhariyani HM, Handayani K, S.Kep, Aprillianti Umar, S.Pd, Nuraini, Nawangsih Eka Pratiwi, Gusni Ayu, S.Ip, Muhammad Husni Ali, Ainun Regita,** and **Andi Dian Putri Ayu** who constantly supporting her and always be there to share and create every memorable experience which is filled with joy, laughter, pain and hardship.

er friends in campus who cannot be mentioned one by one here but particularly **ENMENT 2016, EXTINCTION 2016, PERISAI KMFIB-UH**





and **KKN 102 TANETE RIATTANG BARAT KEL. MACEGE KAB.**

**BONE** who have become the best supporting people.

May Allah SWT always be with them and give His mercy, guidance, and blesses for them. Overall, the writer hopes this thesis can give a bit contribution to the English Department students.

Makassar, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020

The Writer



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## ABSTRACT

**NURQALBI B.** *The Influence of Social Environment to the Main Characters in Austen's Emma* supervised by **Abidin Pammu** and **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana**.

This study aims to find out the influence of the social environment to the main character by looking at the conditions of England society as reflected in *Emma's* novel.

This study uses genetic structuralism which discusses in the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of literary works. In the intrinsic elements, the writer describes the theme, characters, plot and setting. The extrinsic element reveals social life in Highbury village as the main place and the influence of the social environment to the main characters in a story.

Based on the data analysis, the writer has found the influence of the social environment to the main characters conveyed by the author, such as: the influence of social class and the educational system between characters. The influence of the social environment can be seen through the behavior aimed to the main character. The writer also describes the social condition that occurs in England during Romanticism era which is reflected in the story. So, overall the result shows that the social environment in the story provides an overview of social life that happens in England at that time.

*Keyword: emma, romanticism, social environment.*





## ABSTRAK

**NURQALBI B.** *The Influence of Social Environment to the Main Characters in Austen's Emma* dibimbing oleh **Abidin Pammu** dan **A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana**.

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap karakter utama dengan melihat kondisi masyarakat Inggris yang direfleksikan melalui novel *Emma*.

Penelitian ini menggunakan strukturalisme genetik yang membahas unsur intrinsik dan unsur ekstrinsik karya sastra. Dalam unsur intrinsik, penulis menjelaskan tema, karakter, alur cerita dan latar. Dalam unsur ekstrinsik mengungkapkan kehidupan sosial di desa Highbury sebagai tempat utama dan pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap karakter utama di dalam cerita.

Berdasarkan analisis data, penulis menemukan pengaruh lingkungan sosial terhadap karakter utama yang disampaikan oleh pengarang, seperti: pengaruh kelas sosial dan sistem pendidikan antar karakter. Pengaruh lingkungan sosial tersebut dapat dilihat melalui perilaku yang ditunjukkan oleh karakter utama. Selain itu, penulis juga mendeskripsikan tentang kondisi sosial yang terjadi di Inggris pada era Romantisme yang direfleksikan di dalam cerita. Sehingga keseluruhan analisis ini menunjukkan bahwa lingkungan sosial di dalam cerita memberikan gambaran umum tentang kehidupan sosial yang terjadi di Inggris pada saat itu.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Literature is a media to deliver a creative imagination, unique thought, and feeling for every human in life. People can describe his/her idea through literary work based on his/her experience, social condition, economic or political problems, love story, and so on. Literature is also produced from author's imagination. Literature is not just a factual document and the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life. Literature can create its own world as a product of the unlimited imagination.

Literary work can be said as a space to entertain and provide extensive knowledge about what people do not know before. Literary work can be successful if the reader receives well the ideas or messages that the author wants to convey. Literature is a fictional story. It could be poem or poetry, novel, play, and short story. In this research, the writer chooses novel as the object to be discussed because it is more popular among the other literary works. People are usually more interested to read novel because the language is easier to be understood. By reading a novel, the reader can find out various life issues that the author wants to convey in the story.

the authors also share some inspirational messages implicitly in their literary



Novel is a long form of narrative prose literary work. It has a complex story and usually has no page limit. Novel contains detail description to describe the situation and condition that exist inside the story. Moreover, novel presents some values of character buildings. Reading a novel could bring us to know more about various human being characteristics that are found in society. Sumardjo (1998: 29) said that novel is a story with the prose form in long shape, this long shape means the story including the complex plot, many character and various setting.

Literary work has two general aspects, namely intrinsic aspect and extrinsic aspect. Intrinsic aspect is the aspect that builds the literary work itself. It consists of several elements among others; theme, characters, plot, and setting. Meanwhile, extrinsic aspect is the aspect that built outside literary work. It consists of the individual subjectivity of the author. In addition, the extrinsic aspect is related to the circumstances of the author such as social culture, economic, religious, political background, and so on. Therefore, the writer chooses to take genetic structuralism as the approach to analyze the object of this research. By using genetic structuralism, the writer could see the literary text itself and the connection literary work with the society. Genetic structuralism approach is divided into two aspects, namely intrinsic and extrinsic. These aspects are needed when the writer wants to examine two things in a literary work. In this research, the writer decides to analyze the social life in 19<sup>th</sup>

and the influence of social environment toward the main characters in *Emma*.



Jane Austen is one of the popular novelists in England. Austen's works make her as the famous British woman writer with her accomplishment to describe more detail about love story, marriage and England social life in the early of 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is interesting because of her intelligence in writing stories based on reality that happened at the time. According to the situation in England around 1815, she describes English middle class life during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century through her literary works.

Most of Austen's works are romance stories. She was known as an unmarried woman, but she presented her romance story very well. Besides taking romance as the theme of her works, Austen also depicts more about social classes that occurred in early 19<sup>th</sup> century in England. It reflects the priorities and values in this period and focuses mainly on political aspect, social environment or economics. After her death, her novels became increasingly popular, not only in England but also throughout the world. Some of literary works that she created are *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Mansfield Park* (1814), *Emma* (1815), *Persuasion* (1817), *Lady Susan* (1817), and many more.

In this research, the writer decides to choose Austen's *Emma* as the object to be discussed. *Emma* is the fourth novel written by Jane Austen and published in three in 1815. *Emma* is interesting to be analyzed because Austen depicts an g social life which occurs in Highbury. Highbury was a small village in the was large and populous. Throughout the story, it was a main place that



presents as a force that informs the entire plot and character. She describes the interactions that happened in daily life. Austen tells about matchmaking people and wedding plan which is a kind of trending tradition in Highbury. Besides that, she describes about realistic portrait in the society at the time. There is a tight bond among people in a society. She depicts a general description to the reader about the portrait of social environment as it should be.

Social environment is a place where people can interact or communicate each other. It is one of the elements that influence the development of individual behavior. It will form a system with a large role in shaping individual identity. Moreover, the social environment also defines the social class in the society. Social class issue dominates Austen's *Emma*. *Emma* tells the story of Emma Woodhouse as one of the character who becomes a rich and self-satisfied young woman. Emma Woodhouse has a high social status in her society. In this novel, Emma Woodhouse is described as a woman who often joins social activities in Highbury, such as attending a dinner party, royal event, and the outing to Donwell Abbey. Indirectly, her social circle enlarges since she knows Jane Fairfax, Frank Churchill, Harriet Smith, and George Knightley. Therefore, the relationship between all of these characters has particular characteristic itself because they are from different social classes. It is not only about the measure of social status, but it can be a benchmark for all characters involved,

they are from lower class, middle class or even upper class. The characters





absolutely focus on society development that often occurs in men and women regarding social class problems in their society.

## 1.2 Identification of The Problems

After describing the background, the writer has identified some problems as follows:

- a. Triangle love between Emma Woodhouse, Frank Churchill, and Jane Fairfax.
- b. Social jealousy between male characters.
- c. Conflict between Mr. Elton and Harriet Smith.

## 1.3 Scope of The Problems

In this research, the writer focuses the analysis on the influence of social environment toward the characters in *Emma*. The social environment is about the condition of environment in the society as well as the role of each character in this novel. Therefore, the writer limits the analysis focused on the influence of social environment toward the main characters in Austen's *Emma*.

## 1.4 Statement of The Problems

Based on the title, the writer has formulated the research questions are in the



How is the social life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England reflected in *Emma*?

2. What is the influence of social environment toward the main characters in *Emma*?

### 1.5 Objectives of The Study

Based on the statement of problems above, the writer conducts this research to the objective as follows:

- a. To reveal the social life in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England reflected in *Emma*.
- b. To describe the influence of social environment toward the main characters in *Emma*.

### 1.6 Significance of The Writing

- a. Theoretical Significance

The writer expects that this research can contribute theoretically by giving a more comprehensive view about genetic structuralism approach as one of literature analysis approach and some insights about the influence of social environment toward characters, particularly during the Romanticism Era.

- b. Practical Significance

The writer hopes that this research will be useful for students, especially those in the English Department who study about the social environment in England in the

... particularly through Austen's *Emma*.



## 1.7 Sequence of Chapter

This research writing is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter contains the background, identification of the problems, scope of the problems, statement of problems, objectives of the study, significance of the writing and sequence of chapter. The second chapter explains the literature review which consists of theoretical background, genetic structuralism approach, the social life in Romanticism Era in England, and social environment theory. The third chapter consists of methodology of the research. This chapter includes the research design, method of collection data, method of data analysis, and procedure of the research. The fourth chapter is the findings and discussions which contain the central of analysis. It consists of the analysis of the main characters traits related to the influence of the social environment in England in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The last is fifth chapter which includes conclusion and suggestion. This last chapter describes the summary of the whole study in this research.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer explains about some previous related studies, the genetic structuralism approach, the intrinsic elements, social life in Romanticism Era in England, and social environment theory.

#### 2.1 Previous Study

Previous study is an important part to compare the other thesis in same novel. The writer finds some previous related studies that took Austen's *Emma* as the object of their studies. The previous studies are written by Sueva Zepriatna Pither (2013), Wulansari Deby (2016), and Bella Vika Fauziah (2017).

Pither (2013) in *Emma Views on Marriage in Austen's Emma* focused on the question of marriage. The author described how Emma saw the situation of marriage that affected the other characters in the novel. She also described that Emma Woodhouse is one of the women who was related to England women in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

While Deby (2016) in *The Character Study of Emma Woodhouse Through Conflict in Jane Austen Emma* focused analyzed the struggle of the main character, behavior of Emma Woodhouse, and the conflict when Emma became the

main character. She also described the relationship between Emma Woodhouse and the other characters.



Then, Fauziah (2017) in *The Elements of Romanticism in Jane Austen's Emma* described the social life of the main character in the novel. She analyzed about the romanticism elements that can be found in the novel.

The writer assumes that there are similarities and differences between this research and the previous studies above. The similarities are these three previous studies analyzed the novel by using structuralism approach. In terms of the research object, the differences between studies above with this thesis in terms of the method of analysis which in this study the writer analyzes the social environment that occurs in the novel using genetic structuralism approach. This is intended to obtain a focus on analyzing the society in the environment or social classes that occurred in novel *Emma* novel during Romanticism Era in England. Therefore, the result of this research is more different from the analysis in the previous studies.

## 2.2 Genetic Structuralism Approach

Genetic structuralism is a literary approach that related to intrinsic and extrinsic elements which appeared in 1963. This approach was introduced by French literature expert, Lucien Goldman. Genetic structuralism appears after structuralism which only focuses on the intrinsic elements and disregards to extrinsic elements of literature work. But recently, there are many authors make a literary work related to

ty intended to find out the author's perspective on his social life through a work. Society or historical background may affect the process of creating this





literary works. Therefore, genetic structuralism also aims to analyze social condition and history in a process of social life aside from the structure of literary works itself. Endraswara (2003:60) stated that the concept of literature as a social referent is perfectly viable because it takes into account the writer's active concerns to understand his society.

Some of literary work that uses genetic structuralism approach can be formulated in three steps. First, the writer can analyze the intrinsic aspects of the literary work, either in particular or overall. The second is the writer will analyze the socio-cultural aspect of the author, because he is a part of social community. Then the last one is the writer can analyze the social and historical background that influenced literary work when it was created by the author.

In addition, Goldman described that the theory is related to human facts which were also as meaningful structure in literary work. Goldman in Faruk (2012:12) said that all the facts of humanity are a meaningful structure. Facts of humanity are an effort from the behavior or activity of human being life either in verbal or physical. These facts can be seen from a literary works through the social activity, political activity, economics issues or even cultural contexts such as literature or art. However, the relationship between the existence about humanity facts and the structure of

work can be understood through each individual's point of view.



## 2.3 Intrinsic Elements

Novel is a long narrative work of fiction. Its elements are similar to short stories, such as character representation, plot, setting, climax, conflict, and resolution. However, it does not require all elements to be a decent novel. Novel can be defined as art through written words or representations of human life in the real world. Novel presents the whole picture, different with a short story that only shows one aspect of life or one side of the story. For some authors, novel is a way to present a historical, social-cultural or moral aspect. In addition, there are several types of novel, such as mystery, thriller, science fiction, romantic, or postmodern. Novel is a prose and published as a single book. Prose is a form of language that has no formal structure. Prose in the novel is usually written in narrative form and it may be entirely the imagination of the author.

### 2.3.1 Theme

Theme is a basic idea or meaning that conveyed by the author through a literary work. According to Jones (1968:82) *theme is its underlying idea or wisdom that the author is presenting*. The story is not only containing a series of events that arranged in a chart, but it also has a specific purpose. Another thing that can be done to find out the theme easily is the reader must be careful in observing every conflict

y because conflict usually contains something useful for identifying the



Besides that, the theme is general topics supported by several ideas or events in the story. The theme is implicit in the story but it can be determined by understanding the story well and clearly. It can be found when the story is read repeatedly. In brief, the theme is giving meaning of story which especially explains a big part of its elements in the simple way.

### 2.3.2 Plot

Plot is a series of incidents in a literature works that makes a perfect story. Plot is everything that happens in a story which explains cause effect. In addition, plot is a structure of events that describes a whole story from beginning until the end. Plot manages an act that connects with other act in the story that played by character involved. According to Jones (1968:63) said that *plot is sequence of events involving the character or characters*. But in the other hand, Lukens (2003:6) states *plots as the sequence of events showing character in actions*. Plot is divided into five parts, as follows:

#### a. Exposition

Exposition is the part of plot that helps the reader to know the background information of introducing the character, setting, theme, and so on. Exposition always happens in the beginning of story. The reader can know the circumstances that occur

7. This is the important part to help the reader to know the storyline of the



b. Rising Action

Rising action is the part of plot where the reader can find characters are developed and the conflict are increased. Nurgiyantoro (2007:149) states that *conflict or rising action is a conflict that has been raised in the previous stage is growing and developed levels of intensity.*

c. Climax

Climax occurs after the rising action. Climax is paramount importance in the structure of the plot. Stanton (2007:16) explained that *climax is when the conflict has reached the highest level intensity, and when (it) is something that is inevitable happened.*

d. Falling action

Falling action is the part of plot where the conflict decreases because of the characters found some ways for solving their problems. This part is helping the reader to understand which one is good or bad. Falling action is carrying the reader to the end of story.

e. Resolution

Resolution is the part of plot in which the conflicts is solved and found some solve the problems. It is typically where the story ends and where everything



ends. In this case, the reader can figure out how the end of story whether it is end with happy or sad ending.

### 2.3.3 Character and Characterization

Character is one of main elements in a story. Character has an important role for making the story more interesting. In literary work, character can be divided based on its purpose. For sure, character must be related to each other. Character is portrayed by several actors who appear in a story. The purpose of character is to make the story alive. The author has a different ways, unexpected behavior or sometimes their different point of view to confess its idea through the story.

Characterization of the characters in fictional stories is hard to identify because even in the real world, someone's behavior, attitude, and characters are difficult to analyze due to the complexity and ambiguity of human being (Arp and Johnson, 2006:103).

The characters can be divided into some categories based on the point of view, namely major and minor character and protagonist and antagonist character.

#### a. Major and Minor Character

Major character is an important role which appears more in a story. They should have a relationship with the other. The major characters are dominant role for developing the plot. Meanwhile, minor character is a supporting character in a story.

Minor character in the whole story are sometimes limited and only related to the character.





## b. Protagonist and Antagonist Character

Protagonist is a character who has a good behavior in a story and it is made by the author to develop the storyline. Altenberd and Lewis (1966: 59) said that *protagonist is a character who is admired by the readers, which always called as a hero because he always does ideal role and follows the rules and values in the society*. On the other hand, antagonist character is the opposite of protagonist character because it may cause some conflict in a story. Luxemburg (1992:145) states that *antagonist is the opposite character of protagonist either physically and psychologically*.

## c. Static and Dynamic

Static character is literary character that basically does not change from the beginning to the end of the story. Their personality remains stable throughout the course of the story. Meanwhile, dynamic character is literary character that can change significantly during the story. This character changes personality and perspective. Usually, almost all protagonists are dynamic characters, but the antagonists can be dynamic characters in some stories.

### 2.3.4 Setting

Setting can be divided into three elements, namely a place, time, and atmosphere. Place can describe the place of occurrence in a literary work. Place can be real or imaginary according to the reality or fiction. Usually the author give the name with



initial and the reader can find out where the place is. Wellek and Warren (1956: 131) stated that *setting with the places where story take a place*. Time can relate to when the event was told. Time is usually associated with the facts that already exist or related to the historical events in a certain city. Atmosphere related to the conditions and behavior of social life.

However, novel does not only require the theme, plot, character, but also need setting. Setting usually focused on the background of place, time and social life can occur. Setting describes a story in detail and clearly. Setting is very important to give a realistic impression to the reader and create a situation that actually happened through a literary work.

- 1) Setting of place focused on the location where event occurs in a story. Each place should have its own characteristics for the readers. Description of the place is important to give an impression, because the reader will consider the event actually happened. Setting of place in a literary work usually consists of several locations depending on the author's way presents it.
- 2) Setting of time related to "when" events occur in a story. Setting of time can be related to the current or past time. In some literary work, setting of time is not explained in detail by the author.

Setting of atmosphere focused on the problems related to the behavior of social life in a particular place and time in a storyline. It has to do with social life system which contains many problems within the community.



## 2.4 Social Life in Romanticism Era in England

The Romanticism Era appeared in 1798 and ended in 1837. This period is very important in British history. Romanticism terms appeared in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> century in meaningless, but in the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these terms had assumed several different meanings especially if it related to a feeling, imagination and emotional such as; intellectual attitudes or orientations that characterize many literary works, music, architecture, criticism, and historiography in Western civilization during the period. Romanticism emphasizes subjective individual views, irrational, imaginative, and emotional. It can be seen as a rejection of the rules of order, harmony, balance, idealization, and rationality symbolized in the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century in particular. (Forward, 2014)

Even though this period was a peaceful and prosperous period, there were still problems in the social structure. The social class at this time included the upper class, middle class and lower class. The emergence of the characteristics of new institutions and relationships in local community is a situation of working conditions that is more easily explained in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The upper classes are marked by enormous wealth of inheritance. This class has the most influence in society. Meanwhile, the middle class tends to be a more skilled workforce such as doctors, lawyers or shop

This class experienced a large population surge due to the industrial  
n. The lower class is also called the working class with less skilled labor.



They are factory workers and employed as homeworkers. The lower and middle classes both looked to the aristocracy. The upper class lifestyle is highly admired but rarely achieved by the two lower classes.

Most of 19<sup>th</sup> century literary work reflects England social conditions, especially the condition of England women at that time. Marriage is a major concern of social problems. The importance of the intersection of marriage, middle and upper class women, literature, and socio-legal history cannot be eliminated. This aspect helps to encourage the times. The more marriage can occur, the more people in matchmaking. In England, people can help each other to find a suitable match for them. Fulfillment can be understood as the realization or development of one's potential. It is hoped that the 19<sup>th</sup> century woman could fulfill her role as wife and mother. Ideas for marriage at that time give special importance to the role of women. If they are married, they belong to her husband. (Saenz-Roby, 2016)

Romanticism also provided many benefits in the early era in the industrial revolution which changed society in many ways. During this period, main progress occurred in the society, such as; there are many authors appeared. They made a literary work that is widely read by the public and related to the conditions of society at the time. They feel that it was their responsibility to use their works to inform and

thers and to change the condition of society. Romanticism was inspired by



the environment itself. In their work, they made a world appear as a place with unrealized things. (Pellegrino, 2011)

Nowadays, interest in the social life and its influence on a literary work has increased among writers. Social life as the science to explain social relationship in literature works. These are as a reflected of human relationship and their environment. There is a way to interact with it which is related to the real life. It can be learned as the literary facts and the impact on society. It is especially notable that the scope of this theory is not limited to the books and essays on nature, romantic poem or novels have a great impact on the other areas of the physical world.

## 2.5 Social Environment Influence in Society

The social environment is focused on the physical and social environment which directly occurs in the community, including where something can happen, where the individual can interact with the other. Effendi and Praja (1985:5-6) described that *the external environment consists of the natural environment or physical environment and the social environment as well as the spiritual environment*. Social environment depicts that it is in the natural surrounding including to people in social life and it affects the interaction of human being as a member of society and culture. In fact, social environment is a process and result of interaction individual with the other individuals.



Every human being should be aware that the social environment plays a major shaping individual self-confidence about their ability to achieve their

respective goals. *Environment can serve as a powerful tool to shape the behavioural learning processes of an individual* (Aldridge, Mcchesney, & Afari, 2017). Self-confidence can determine how much effort people will put into doing an activity that they expect. When individuals are placed in a social environment that aims to support some ideas from others, its confidence will begin to form. The social environment also has a positive impact on shaping people's attitudes and behavior in many aspects such as equality and justice, as well as mutual concern. Therefore, the individual will be involved in better personal development activity. *It has a strong influence in the formation of each individual's identity* (Zakaria, et al., 2012).

The social environment allows us to get some information in society. Through this, the individual can find out everything that is relevant to the topic being discussed by gathering some information before. The environment also can affect certain individual moral values. Appreciation of moral values is the last phase of the social development process which is formed through social learning which includes basic elements such as obedience to social rules. In addition, information exchange allows individual to carry out social interactions. The social environment also allows us to receive feedback, comments, and suggestions regarding the goals of our development in society.

