

**THE PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S  
*THE GRAPES OF WRATH***



**A THESIS**

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University  
In partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain  
A Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program

Written by:

**HASRA**

**F21116010**

**FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCE  
ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM**

**MAKASSAR**

**2020**



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES

HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

APPROVAL FORM

With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 364/UN4.9.1/KEP/2020 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Hasra (F21116010) to be examined at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

Makassar, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

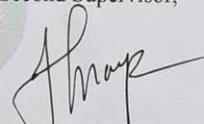
Approved by

First Supervisor,



**Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum.,M.A.,Ph.D.**  
NIP 196301031988032003

Second Supervisor,



**Andi Izzah Soraya, S.S., M.Hum.**  
NIP 198912272015042002

Approved for the Execution of Thesis Examination  
by The Thesis Organizing Committees

On Behalf of Dean  
Head of English Department



**Dr. Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL.**  
NIP 196012311986011071



THESIS  
THE PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S  
*THE GRAPES OF WRATH*

By  
HASRA

Student Number: F21116010

It has been examined before the Board of the Thesis Examination on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup>  
October 2020 and is declared to have fulfilled the requirements.

Approved by  
Board of supervisors

Chairman

Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D.  
NIP 196301031988032003

Secretary

Andi Inayah Soraya, S.S., M.Hum.  
NIP 198912272015042002

Dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences  
Hasanuddin University



Prof. Dr. Akin Duli, M.A  
NIP. 196407161991031010

Head of English Department

Dr. Abidin, M.A., Dipl. TESOL  
NIP. 196012311986011071

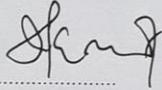
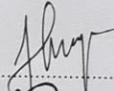
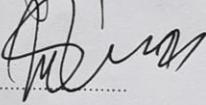
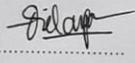
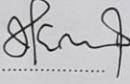


**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

Today, Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by **HASRA** (Student number: F21116010) entitled: **THE PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *THE GRAPES OF WRATH***, submitted in fulfillment of 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, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

**BOARD OF THESIS EXAMINATION**

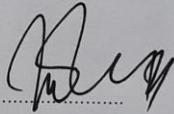
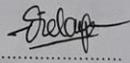
- |  |                   |  |
|--|-------------------|--|
| 1. Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum.,M.A.,Ph.D.          | Chairman          | 1.....  |
| 2. Andi Inayah Soraya, S.S.,M.Hum.           | Secretary         | 2.....  |
| 3. Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin,<br>M.Hum. | First Examiner    | 3.....  |
| 4. A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana, S.S.,<br>M.Hum.  | Second Examiner   | 4.....  |
| 5. Dra. Herawaty, M.Hum.,M.A.,Ph.D.          | First Supervisor  | 5.....  |
| 6. Andi Inayah Soraya, S.S.,M.Hum.           | Second Supervisor | 6.....  |



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES  
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

DECLARATION

The thesis by HASRA (Number: F21116010) entitled, **THE PORTRAIT OF POVERTY IN JOHN STEINBECK'S *THE GRAPES OF WRATH***, has been revised as advised during examination on Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and approved by the board of Undergraduate Thesis Examiners.

1. Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin, First Examiner 1.   
M.Hum.
2. A. ST. Aldilah Khaerana, S.S., Second Examiner 2.   
M.Hum.



## SURAT PERNYATAAN

Saya yang bertanda tangan dibawah ini:

Nama : Hasra

NIM : F21116010

Judul Skripsi : *The Portrait of Poverty In John Steinbeck's The Grapes  
Of Wrath*

Fakultas/ Jurusan : Ilmu Budaya/ Sastra Inggris

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, 23 Oktober 2020

Yang menyatakan,



Hasra



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First of all, the writer would like to express all praises and gratitude to Allah SWT, who always provides health and opportunities so that the writer can complete this thesis. The writer realizes that without his blessing, mercy and guidance, the writer will not be able to finish the thesis entitled *The Portrait of Poverty in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath* to fulfil one of the graduation requirements in English Literature Study Program at Faculty of Cultural Science, Hasanuddin University.

During the time of working this thesis, the writer got many problems such as time management and consistency in working the thesis, those problems made the writer down. However, those problems could be solved with the support and help by the people around the writer. Hereby, the writer would like to express her big 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 science.
3. **Dr.Abidin Pammu, M.A., Dipl. TESOL** as Head of English Department, **St. ahraeny, S.S., M.AppLing** as Secretary of English Departement, and all of cturers and academic staff of English Department, Faculty of Cultural



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

4. **Dr. Herawaty, M.Hum.,M.A** and **Andi Inayah Soraya, S.S.,M.Hum** as supervisors who have given their time to supervise and guide the writer by providing advice, support, understanding and patience so that the writer is able to complete this thesis.

In this chance, I would like also to thanks to my beloved parents, Hasniah and Abd. Rahim, who always support me, cheer me up, and never force me to rush in completing this thesis. They always provide motivation when I almost give up, always provide input by sharing experiences when they used to be in difficult times. Thank you for loving me so much and always pray for me.

I would like to say a special thank you to my best friends, Friska, Ulfi and Lia for always being by my side, never tired of hearing my complaints, always encourage me and remind me to complete my thesis. Thank you for always being there in my joys and sorrows.

Last but not least, I would also like to thank people who are not mentioned here. I have no valuable words to express my gratitude to have you, but inside my heart. you are precious.



May Allah SWT always be with them and give His mercy, guidance, and blesses for them. Finally, the writer hopes that this thesis will be useful for herself and can give a bit contribution for students in English Department.

Makassar, 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

With regards,

**Hasra**



## ABSTRACT

**Hasra.** 2020. *The Portrait of Poverty in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath.* Supervised by **Herawaty Abbas** and **Andi Inayah Soraya.**

This research aims to explain the various problems of poverty experienced by the characters in the novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. In addition, it also aims to explain how these characters solve the problems of poverty that they face.

This study uses a structuralism approach by examining its intrinsic elements such as character, setting, plot and theme of the story. The research issue is about poverty experienced by the characters and how they solve the problems poverty they face.

The result shows that the poverty problems faced by the characters in the story include the characters do not have place to live, difficulty in getting a job, also lack of food. On the other hand, the writer found out how the characters struggle in facing the poverty they experience by still being optimistic about finding job, never giving up, and trying to keep their families together.

**Keywords:** *poverty, structuralism approach, The Grapes of Wrath.*



## ABSTRAK

**Hasra.** 2020. *The Portrait of Poverty in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath.* Dibimbing oleh **Herawaty Abbas** and **Andi Inayah Soraya.**

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan berbagai masalah kemiskinan yang dialami tokoh-tokoh di dalam novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk menjelaskan bagaimana tokoh-tokoh itu menyelesaikan masalah kemiskinan yang mereka hadapi.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme dengan meneliti pada unsur-unsur intrinsiknya seperti karakter, setting, plot dan tema cerita. Isu penelitian adalah tentang kemiskinan yang dialami tokoh-tokohnya dan bagaimana mereka menyelesaikan masalah kemiskinan yang mereka hadapi.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa masalah-masalah kemiskinan yang dihadapi oleh tokoh-tokoh didalam cerita diantaranya tokoh-tokoh didalam novel ini tidak punya tempat tinggal, kesulitan memperoleh pekerjaan, juga kekurangan makanan. Di sisi lain, penulis menemukan bagaimana perjuangan tokoh-tokohnya dalam menghadapi kemiskinan yang mereka alami yaitu, mereka tetap optimis mencari pekerjaan, tidak pernah menyerah, dan berusaha mempertahankan agar keluarga mereka tetap bersama.

**Kata kunci :** *kemiskinan, pendekatan strukturalisme, novel The Grapes of Wrath.*



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>COVER</b> .....	i
<b>APPROVAL FORM</b> .....	ii
<b>LEGITIMACY SHEET</b> .....	iii
<b>AGREEMENT SHEET</b> .....	iv
<b>DECLARATION</b> .....	v
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b> .....	vi
<b>ABSTRACT</b> .....	ix
<b>ABSTRAK</b> .....	x
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	xi
<b>CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Identification of Problems .....	5
1.3 Scope of Problems.....	6
1.4 Research Questions .....	6
1.5 Objective of Problems .....	6
1.6 Sequence of Study.....	6
<b>CHAPTER II LITERATURE REVIEW</b> .....	8
2.1 Previous Study .....	8
2.2 Structuralism Approach.....	10
2.2.1 Character and Characterization .....	12
2.2.2 Plot .....	13
2.2.3 Setting .....	15
2.2.4 Theme.....	16
2.3 Theory of Poverty .....	16
<b>CHAPTER III METHOD OF RESEARCH</b> .....	23
3.1 Methodological Design .....	23
3.2 Sources of Data .....	23
2.1 Primary Data.....	24
2.2 Secondary Data.....	24
Method of Analyzing Data .....	24
Research Procedure.....	24



<b>CHAPTER IV FINDING AND DISCUSSION</b> .....	26
4.1 The Intrinsic Elements.....	26
4.1.1 Character and Characterization .....	26
4.1.2 Setting .....	37
4.1.3 Plot .....	43
4.1.4 Theme.....	47
4.2 The Problems of Poverty Which Faced the Characters in The Grapes of Wrath .....	48
4.2.1 Lost Land and Home.....	49
4.2.2 It's Hard to Find a Job .....	52
4.2.3 Insufficient Food Needs .....	56
4.3 How the Characters Solve the Problems in The Grapes of Wrath.....	57
4.3.1 Trying to Keep the Family Together .....	57
4.3.2 Trying to Claim the Worker's rights by Going on Strike .....	58
4.3.3 Optimistic and Willing to Take Risks.....	59
 <b>CHAPTER V CONCLUSION</b> .....	 61
5.1 Conclusion .....	61
5.2 Suggestion.....	62
 <b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b> .....	 63
<b>Appendix</b> .....	66



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This Chapter consists of background of study, identification of problems, scope of problems, research question, objective of problems and sequence of study.

#### 1.1 Background

Poverty is one of the most commonly found social problems in society. Generally in poverty, people will be in a condition where they will no longer be able to provide for their daily needs, such as basic needs, housing, or adequate access to education.

Poverty makes people unable to access good education so that many of them have low standards of knowledge because the lack of education level is a barrier for them to get the opportunity to improve their standard of living for the better. This is in line with the opinion of Suparlan (1984: 12) which states that :

Kemiskinan ialah suatu kondisi dimana terjadi tingkat kekurangan materi pada sejumlah orang sehingga mereka memiliki standar hidup yang lebih rendah dibandingkan dengan standar kehidupan yang umum berlaku dalam masyarakat yang bersangkutan. Suparlan (1984: 12)

Poverty is a condition where there is a level of material deprivation in a number of people so that they have a lower standard of living compared to the general standard of living in force in the society concerned. Suparlan (1984: 12)



From the citation above, it can be understood that poverty affects various aspects of life. Poverty that causes a low standard of living also encourages people to

do the bad things in order to obtain their necessities of life, such as stealing food, robbing, and persecuting other people. This low standard of living had a direct effect on the level of moral living conditions, and the self-esteem of those who were ranked as poor.

According to Suharto (2009: 31) there are several factors causing poverty. First, *Individual Causes*, is poverty that occurs as a consequence of action, the choices, as well as the abilities possessed by the poor. Second, *Family Causes*, is an education obtained in the family does not lead to the possibility of becoming rich. Third, *Sub-culture Causes*, specifically causes related to daily life patterns and activities undertaken in the environment that are less supportive. Fourth, *Agency Causes*, which is seeing poverty caused by government involvement and inadequate influence from the economy. The last, *Structural Causes*, which assume that poverty is the result of a norm, values and rules that are formed in society.

The existence of poor people within a particular region will struggle to achieve prosperity and will require immediate resettlement. This idea is implied by Smith in Todaro (2004: 219) which states that “*There is no prosperous and happy society if the majority of the population is in poverty and misery*”. Therefore, addressing the problem of poverty has been a major challenge for development, because the true nature of economic development lies in how improving the quality of individuals or groups, rather than in the income that a region produces.



Poverty is a condition that is easily seen or even felt, but quite difficult to define. A person can be categorized as poor based on what he/she or his/her neighbors experienced, or more broadly, upon his people. This poverty is generally reflected not only materially but also psychologically exposing low self-esteem to individuals affected by it. The symptoms as well as the accompanying effects of poverty suggest that the problem of poverty has far-reaching in various aspects of life as far as governance.

In literature, poverty is one of the object to create a literary work because a literary work can be created from authors's point of view as a form of sensitivity to the circumstances around them. Pradopo in Cahyaningsih (2015: 1) argues "Literary work is a combination of the world and human life, it is a form of imagination to be conveyed by the author". Through the process, a reader can know the character and style of the authors, and their thoughts about the environment around them.

A literary writer such as novels often produce literary works based on portraits of the life in which he or she lives. Such as the classic example of *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, a nineteenth-century bestseller novel which tells of the harsh financial life experience by residents of Oklahoma.

An American writer who tends to discuss social issues like the one above is nbeck. John Ernst Steinbeck was born in Salina, California, February 27, December 20, 1968, New York City. John graduated from Stanford



University. He worked as a laborer while he was also actively writing. His life experiences working as a laborer are poured into his works vividly describe how the life he lived during Monterey county, California. His first three novels were *Cup of Gold* (1929), *The Travelers of Heaven* (1933), *To a God Unknown* (1933). John's name came to be known thanks to his work *tortillas flat* (1935). Following that, a novel entitled *the grapes of wrath* (1939) speaks of the problem of poverty that one family is facing.

*The Grapes of Wrath* tells about one farmer family, Joad's family which failed to harvest because of the storm that hit Oklahoma. In addition, The Joad family's right to stay in their home were revoked by the Oklahoma dust bowl. Because it became increasingly difficult to increase farm yields and the demands of life, they migrated to California in the hope of a better life. But by the time they got there, they had a very harsh agricultural economic system to accept and the chances of getting a job are slim.

To support themselves financially, they move from place to place in search of work. Because such problems persist in finding solutions, they cause a rift between family members. Pa Joad, who was supposed to be the head of the family, proved unable to fulfill hope, so Ma Joad became the mother and leader of the family. Their



Roshasarn, was abandoned by her husband, who could not bear to live a life up and who lived to the full. Their young children, Ruthie and Winfield, had to work to help the family economy and spent their childhood playing.

The reason that the writer wants study this work because writer sees that social problems such as poverty does not always create cooperation between family members and help each other, but can also cause disunity when they are already culminating and can't find a solution. The study sees the impact of poverty, which makes relationships in disharmony, blame, and lack of tolerance towards each other.

The thesis is entitled *The Portrait of Poverty in John Steinbeck's **The Grapes of Wrath*** is to show different perspectives on the impact of poverty. The problem of poverty has an impact that does not always end with a simple solution, but there are also possibilities of solving complex problems or even cannot be resolved.

## 1.2 Identification of Problems

In the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, the writer identified some of the social issues that were taking place in America at the time due to its symptoms of nature and its effects that were causing people at that time to suffer much as Tom and his family, who came from Oklahoma and wanted to move to California so that they could obtain a job and survive. The problems described in the story are :

1. Problem of poverty which reflected in *The Grapes of Wrath*.



he problems of family which faced by characters in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

hildren's exploitation problem.

4. Problems of Racism which reflected in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

### 1.3 Scope of problems

Based on some issues that have been mentioned in the identification of problems above, the writer limits the problems and only focuses on aspect of poverty which is faced by characters in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

### 1.4 Research questions

1. What are the problems of poverty faced by the characters in *The Grapes of Wrath*?
2. How do the characters solve the poverty problems in *The Grapes of Wrath*?

### 1.5 Objective of problems

1. To find out the problems of poverty faced by the characters in *The Grapes of Wrath*.
2. To explain the way the characters solve the poverty problems in *The Grapes of Wrath*.

### 1.6 Sequence of Study



This thesis is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction lists of background, identification of problems, scope of problems, research , objective of problems, and sequence of the study.

Chapter two consists of literature review which provides review of several previous studies, the approaches and theory used, in this case, the writer uses structuralism approach and theory of poverty.

Chapter three method of research that include the methodological design, sources of data consisting of primary and secondary data, method of analyzing data and research procedure.

Chapter four is the central chapter which focuses on analysis of *The Potrait of Poverty in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath*.

Chapter five is conclusion and suggestion that consists of conclusion of the study and suggestion from the writer to the reader in order to give input to the same study.



## CHAPTER II

### LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer explains about the literature review that the writer uses in the research. It consists of several items such as the previous study, structuralism approach and theory of poverty.

#### 2.1 Previous Study

Some previous studies have raised several aspects in the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* with different social problems. Therefore, the writer looks for various theses and journals related to her research.

Maria (1995) in her thesis *Setting and Characters In John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath* explains the relationship between the character and place settings that are in the story to find out the social conditions that occurred at that time.

Santosa (2015) in his thesis *An Analysis of the Main Female Character's Efforts in John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath* explains how the main female characters in the novel experience gender discrimination. Women do not have the right to express opinions or express opinions better than men. The theory used is the theory of feminism and he uses gender approach.

Trianawati (2009) in her thesis *The American Social Life In John Steinbeck's The Grapes of Wrath* explains how the American social condition was at that time

her it has been properly reflected in the novel.



Budiyanto (2010) in his thesis *The Social Poverty (Values) in Charles Dickens The Great Expectations in The Victorian Era* explains that poverty has many types, poverty is not only about money or low economic conditions, poverty can also involve moral, cultural and spiritual issues.

Based on the studies above, it can be concluded that although the object under study similar and also a slight resemblance to both bringing up the topic of social problems, but there are many differences regarding the problems discussed in each study. Maria's thesis (1995) explains the function of setting in the story to the characters development when facing different situations and problems in each place they live. Maria uses intrinsic and extrinsic approaches to understand the objects that she studied, she also uses a biographical approach to see the relationship of the novel's author with his work. The theoretical background of her thesis consists of theory of novels, settings, and characters. Maria only focuses on how each character performs her/his role when facing difficult situations and conflicts in the story. While the writer of this thesis focus on the poverty problems faced by the main characters in the story and how they solve those problems.

In contrast with Maria, Santosa (2015) in his work raises the issue of gender discrimination experienced by female characters in the novel *The Grapes of Wrath* by using the theory of feminism and gender approach that seemed limited only to the s in the novel, while the writer of this thesis did not set limits on the



character and also she focuses on poverty issues using structuralism approach and theory of poverty.

Meanwhile, Trianawati in her thesis (2009) tries to compare the social situation in the novel with American social life at the time. There is little similarity in this research with Trianawati's research, namely she alluded a little about the problem of poverty that occurred at that time, but did not reach a specific stage, while the author of this study discusses thoroughly about poverty, its impact and resolution.

Although Budiyanto (2010) has a different research object with the writer of this thesis, but the problem raised was the same about poverty. However, Budiyanto views poverty from various aspects which are not only material but also in terms of morals and culture. In addition, Budiyanto also compared the poverty problems experienced by the characters in the novel with the conditions of the people in the Victorian Era. While the writer of this study more focuses on the economic conditions of the people in the novel and the impacts caused by poverty problems experienced by the community specifically.

## 2.2 Structuralism Approach

In analyzing novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, the writer uses a structuralism approach. A literary work can be analyzed using structuralism approach by looking at



tural elements in the text of literary works. According to Teeuw in in (2013: 69) that the analysis of structural have the principle that the results

achieved in this approach explain about the relationship of all intrinsic elements of the literature in detail, so the meaning obtained in the text of literary work can be comprehensive. It makes the relationship between the elements of literature and structuralism will always be connected to the objective approach. Ratna (2015: 74) mention that an objective approach in structuralism is examining the intrinsic parts of literary works which includes character, plot, the point of view and setting.

Structuralism examines a literary work based on neatly arranged structures, this structure can be analyzed through the literary work itself. According to Junus in Endaswara (2013: 49) explains that structuralism is often seen as an illustration. Literary work is a form. This makes structuralism often equated with formalism, because both seek meaning through the text of the literary work itself. Based on the opinion above, it can be concluded that structuralism examines the meaning in literary works by analyzing the intrinsic elements contained in the text in a structured manner.

According to Nurgiyantoro (2013: 37), structuralism analyzes a literary work based on its intrinsic elements, all the elements in a text of literary are related to each other. In order to obtain the meaning as a whole, the aim of structuralism is to explain the relationships of each element to reach a comprehensive conclusion. So to get the



of the story, it is necessary to analyze the relationship of each element that story in literary works.

Structuralism is basically a single element forming a relationship. According to Pradopo in Tatag (2014: 14), the structure is built because of the existence of a set of elements that are regularly interrelated to form a totality between one element and another, resulting in a defining reciprocal relationship. So, every element cannot be ignored because it can make the meaning of a literary work disappear.

Based on the opinions above, it can be concluded that structuralism is a complement to the research of a literary work that sees the relationship of each element in a structure of literary work, the elements themselves are intrinsic elements in a text of work which includes *character and characterization. plot, setting and theme* achieved through an objective approach.

### **2.2.1 Character and Characterization**

The terms of character and characterization are two things that are often heard in the world of literary works such as fiction, although they have similar names, both of them are very different things. According to Abrams (1981: 76), Character is a person who appears in an event in a story who can have attitudes and feelings that can be described through speech or action. Meanwhile, characterization according to Jones (1968: 84) is a clear illustration of the character's identity based on the personalities of the characters in the story. In short, it can be concluded that a

is an actor, while characterization is a nature or temperament of character.



Furthermore, DiYanni (2001: 55) distinguished the characters into two types, namely major and minor character. Major character is a character who appears most often and has an important role in the story. While minor character is a person created to support the main character. However, a minor character is needed as a complement to the main character.

### **2.2.2 Plot**

Plot is an intrinsic element that is also very important in a story. Plot is not just a storyline from a text in a novel, short story, or drama. Based on Stanton (2007: 26), the plot is a series of events that occur sequentially which creates a causal relationship. So, the plot is not just a series of events, but every event has an influence on what will happen next.

Gustaf Freytag in Suroso (2015: 14) introduces that a plot has parts that make up the story. These sections consist of *exposition*, *complication / rising action*, *conflict / climax*, *falling action* and *resolution / denouement*.

#### **a. Exposition**

Exposition is part of the introduction to the story, usually in this section it will begin with an introduction to the characters involved in the story, their  
ization, the constructive atmosphere, the scene and a description of the  
that will arise later and what the author intends to convey in the story.



### **b. Rising Action**

Rising action is the part that starts the emergence of a conflict that begins to develop, usually in this section, conflicts begin to occur involving disputes between characters, through this step, readers begin to understand what problems will arise but have not yet reached the peak of the problem.

### **c. Climax**

Through the rising action, readers will be introduced to the problems that will occur in the story. The climax will be the culmination of the problems that have been raised in the previous stage. Readers will also be carried away by a tense atmosphere and guess what will happen next.

### **d. Falling action**

In the falling action stage, the tension that the reader experiences with the previous stage begins to decline. This is because at this stage, the characters in the story begin to look for solutions to the problem at hand. The falling action stage is the step before entering at the end of solving the problem in the story.

### **e. Resolution/Denouement**



After going through the previous four stages, we finally arrived at the author's step. At this stage, all conflicts in the story have been completely

resolved, there are no further conflicts from the characters. Readers can conclude the whole story and also the message behind it.

### 2.2.3 Setting

Setting is an intrinsic element that connects the character's relationship with each problem. Based on Gill (1995: 107) "Setting is a board word; it covers the place in which the author presented the social context of the characters, such as their family, friend and class, their costume, belief and rules of behavior that give identity to a society, the particular locations of events, the atmosphere, mood and feel that all the above elements create". Another opinion from Ismawati (2013: 30), states that the setting is the place, time and atmosphere that is built when an event occurs. Based on the two opinions above, it can be concluded that settings can be classified into three parts, namely: *Setting of place*, which is mentioned the location when the incident occurs. *Setting of time*, namely the time when an event occurs. Setting of environment, specifically the atmosphere that is felt when an event happened, both the feeling and the atmosphere of the environment that is supportive.

### 2.2.4 Theme

Each literary work has a theme as the main idea of the story. According to Keraf (1980: 107), a theme is the whole meaning or idea conveyed through a literary  
ery conflict in the story will find a solution and produce a message to be  
to the reader. Through a literary work, the authors want to express their



opinion about life. Based on Sudjiman (1992: 50), the theme is the result of the author's thoughts, opinions and ideas which are the most important of a work. So it can be concluded that the theme is the main idea expressed by the authors through their work. Usually, every work that is made is born from an idea and becomes a theme that summarizes the overall meaning of the literary work.

### **2.3 Theory of Poverty**

Nobody wants to be poor, everyone must try and work hard to get rich, or at least, they try to get out of poverty. However, not everyone is able to overcome that problem. Supriatna in Kadji (2012: 1) stated “Poverty is a limited condition that cannot be controlled by the person who experiences it”. A population has characteristics that are said to be poor when it is characterized by the level of knowledge is below of the standard, the ability of workers to produce products is still very low, the amount of income earned is still small, health and nutrition and the well-being of its life, which indicates the cycle of helplessness. Poverty can be brought on by a shortage of human resources, both through formal and informal channels of education that ultimately leads to a lack of informal education. While Soekanto in Nur (2013: 18) argues that poverty is a helpless person in taking care of himself and unable to balance the standard of living in a community. This is seen inability in terms of physical and spiritual.



According to Kadji (2012: 2), those categorized as poor are usually people who live in areas far from urban lifestyles, those who spend more time in rice paddies, such as planting rice, picking fruit or tea leaves that are given very little money. Small-minded craftsmen, structural workers. While most communities are poor in rural areas, many of them can be seen in urban areas like homeless people who live under Bridges, homeless people who often run around at red lights, and less jobs make a lot of unemployment. It is this society of poor people that is constantly a serious enough problem and needs proper treatment for better generations.

Robert Chambers in Kadji (2012: 3) asserts that the causes of poverty are: the bonds of poverty that cause loss of rights or wealth do not return easily, perhaps because of the uncontrollable demands of needs, such as before shopping, we have estimated the amount of spending that will be spent but cannot be targeted, or suddenly faced with a severe crisis. Common need to force a person who cannot out of poverty involves five things; Customary obligation; Calamity; Physical incompetence, nonproductive spending and extortion.

From the foregoing, we can conclude that poverty is possible due to internal factors of unsurpassed need and must be sought to achieve but could not be achieved because of constraints from scarce resources (skills in less creative and innovative s extensive knowledge and foresight, and other factors). We would not want emporaneous factors as earthquakes, avalanches, and storms that damage ls and other businesses that have not received government assistance.



Debraj in Prasetyowati (2010: 5) mention that one of the causes of poverty can occur because of economic growth that is not developing. Poverty is a condition where a person in a region cannot fulfill his/her needs based on a standard of living that can be considered appropriate within a certain period of time. If economic growth becomes better, then income will increase, this can make living needs can be met. Indirectly, economic growth is very influential in the process of reducing poverty.

A region can have many poor people due to economic backwardness which is the source of the problem. According to Kuncoro in Kadji (2012: 2), the population in a country becomes poor when it is too dependent on the agricultural sector which is tied to the system, production methods that are still traditional, and do not care about the environment. So to get out of poverty, people really need to get out of the attitude of despair and do not want to fight to improve their living standards.

Economic growth is the main key as a solution to solve the problem of poverty because basically, the population will not be poor when the economy is going well. The population will not experience poverty problems while working and getting a decent salary. This needs to be considered especially for those who live as farmers or farm laborers. The crops they sell should be given a price that does not harm them,



ers who work are given wages according to their hard work. The essence of them is that all groups have the same right to grow their respective economies.

Prasetyowati (2010: 5) mention “Economic growth is a necessary condition

for poverty reduction. The sufficient condition is that economic growth is very effective in reducing poverty”.

Based on the discussion so far, it can be concluded that the cause of poverty does not only occur due to one factor, however, many factors are the reason people experience poverty. Of course, to solve the problem of poverty does not only come from one theory. The following theories are used to solve the problem of poverty based on the cause :

#### 1). Marxian Theory of Poverty

This theory is based on the emergence of one's awareness of the poverty situation that they themselves experience. This situation arises when the owners of means of production (capitalists) reduce the number of employees and they only focus on the costs of increasing the amount of production of their goods. Because production demand exceeds capital, they fire many employees, causing a massive increase in unemployment. Some of the employees who were fired will migrate and change their profession and start a new life. Some will return to their homes and end up as poor people. Harvey and Reed in Manjoro (2017: 4) state that those who fail to find a job are what Karl Marx refers to as a reserve army of laborers.

Gordon et.al in Manjoro (2017: 4) define some of the causes of poverty are regular structural factors that can increase poverty. The emergence of failure has an impact on gender discrimination and nepotism so that there



are certain groups of people who find it difficult to obtain greater opportunities in employment, education, and other social assistance.

Marxist theory recommends ways to eradicate poverty through better and structured production management, increasing knowledge (education) and conducting job training for individuals to be balanced with the development of existing technology. Increasing the ability in the field of education will bring changes to those who lack skills in work. This theory also encourages various community welfare programs from the government that can help people improve their quality, as well as ease in accessing basic needs such as food, health facilities, and subsidies. Harvey and Reed in Manjoro (2017: 4)

## 2). Culture of Poverty

Culture of Poverty is a form of adjustment of the poor to their situation of poverty, they assume that poverty is their nature and must be familiar with the conditions. This idea goes from generation to generation in an effort to overcome the despair of their desire to succeed. Lewis in Manjoro (2017: 4) claimed that “cultural theories are generally based on what has been called a *culture of poverty* portrayed by poor persons which is a common thread in the Critical Marxist and social Darwinist paradigms”. This theory states that people have a way of life as poor people which

“culture”. This paradigm is then introduced by poor families and



communities to their children as part of values and norms. As a result, children who want to develop their talents to be successful are limited.

Shulman in Manjoro (2017: 9) states that these rules which are accepted as a form of culture are called defective cultural theories. The aspects of this defective culture include a limited time horizon, impulsive need for gratification, low aspirations, and psychological self-doubt.

Although this theory can be summed up as an imperfect theory, through this theory, we gain the knowledge to be able to understand poverty at the household level and form part of a conceptual framework on poverty studies in rural communities.

### 3). Structural Theory of Poverty

Gordon in Manjoro (2017: 9) explains that structural theory of poverty is a theory which states that poverty is caused by institutional rules or social structures in society. In this theory asserting that poverty is accused on situations and structures in the social or economic systems such as racism, sexism and segregation limits rather than by the individual. Rules that restrict the poor cause their access to various information and development resources to be reduced. For example, there is no opportunity to take part in job training or jobs that are still lacking. The rules set in the community need to be reorganized to move forward to reduce poverty.



lbrecht et. al. in Manjoro (2017: 9) contribute to these theories by pointing it that massive restructuring of the economy also contributes to increased economic and social marginalization of an entire group of people. Structural

theories absolve the poor from blame. Poverty is blamed on structural failures which include sexism, racism, and bad governance, wretched state of infrastructural development, poor development policies and even geographical placement.

Based on the citation above, it can be concluded that a rule must change when it is considered detrimental to the community. This change is needed to make the economy go forward. People can improve their standard of living so they can be free from poverty.

