

An Analysis of Inequality as Reflected in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer's Novel

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Abstract—This study aims to describe the problem of social inequality that occurs in the American novel, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and how the main characters in the story solve the problem of inequality. The object of this research is the novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* which is analyzed using the theory of structuralism. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. Data collection techniques used are novel quotations, the authors use data from written and electronic documents. The data analysis technique used is qualitative data analysis, namely by conducting a direct analysis of the characterization method used by the author in the novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The theory used in this study is the theory of structuralism, which is a theory that considers literary works to be an independent and objective text, because they only examine using the structure of the text itself and are not examined based on historical background, author's intentions and the effects of the readers. It was found that Tom Sawyer was a bad boy and always made trouble. He longed for freedom in living his youth and despite the binding rules given by adults during the civil war in the 19th century in America. Tom Sawyer also showed a sense of justice and empathy for adults like Muff Poter who was accused of murder. This shows that Tom does not discriminate against people based on social status and not racism. Tom values people by his attitude and views good equality as something that is worth getting by anyone.

Keywords: Inequality; Tom Sawyer; American Dreams; Realism.

1. INTRODUCTION

Inequality is defined by a combination of economic measures referring to income and wealth (Schindler: 2016). It can be said that inequality is a matter of treatment obtained by people who are considered inferior to their positions in the social, educational, economic, and political fields. This often happens in certain communities during the war and now. Basically people have the belief that they have the right to realize the life they want, get the same treatment in every field, get the same opportunity in achieving their dreams and get the opportunity to compete in any field regardless of differences in race, background of life, economy, position and gender. There were five inequality in the society, there were social inequality, civil inequality, politic inequality, economic inequality, inequality of opportunity and education. Social inequality was the citizens who entitled couldn't enjoy equal status in society and there were some people who entitled to special privileges. There were some kinds of social inequality. There were the distinction of caste and creed, color and race, groups and classes, clans and tribes all didn't have an equal opportunity to develop their personality. There are so many problems of social inequality in society. They are as follows:

a. Slavery

Jean Allain & Kevin Bales (2012:2) Slavery is the status or condition of a person over whom any or all of the powers attaching to the right of ownership are exercised.

b. Racism

Van den Berge (2001) Racism is analytically distinct from racial discrimination and racial inequality. Racial discrimination concerns the unequal treatment of races, whereas racial inequality concerns unequal outcomes (in income, education, health, etc.). While racism is often implicated in both processes, contemporary racial inequalities and forms of discrimination are not always the immediate result of contemporary racism, Pager and Shepherd(2008:118)

c. Social Status Inequality

Linton (1936 : 115), Social status is a set of rights and also the authority that a person has in society. Owners of high social status will also be placed higher in the structure of society compared to owners of low social status.

There are some Factors Causing Social Inequality:

a) **Natural resources**

Each region has its own natural resources, as well as how to process them. If it is able to cultivate its resources properly, the region will experience progress. Conversely, if the area is not able to process it properly, the area will be left behind. The difference in the amount of natural resources and the way they are processed is a factor in the social disparity in this sector.

b) **Government policy**

One example of a government policy that causes social inequality to occur is the transmigration policy. This policy requires residents who live indensely populated areas to move to less populated areas. If people who become transmigrants in low-population areas experience success, then social inequality will occur. The form of this gap is the difference in success between transmigrants and the original inhabitants of the transmigration area.

To prevent this, collaboration between transmigrants and indigenous people must be encouraged frequently by the local government.

c) Demographic Factors

Social disparities caused by demographic factors depend on the population, factors that affect the distribution of the population, and other matters related to population. If each region has an unequal population, population distribution and population productivity, it is certain that social disparities will occur.

d) Globalization

Globalization is inevitable. Attitude to globalization will be a factor in the occurrence of social inequality. If society is able to accept and adapt to globalization, then society will be more advanced in terms of life. Conversely, if they are unable to accept and adapt, then society will be left behind.

e) Geographical Location and Conditions

The influence of geographic location and conditions also has an impact on social inequality. An area whose geographical condition is mountainous will experience social disparities with an area whose geographical condition is land. This gap usually occurs due to development constraints caused by geographic location and conditions. Mountain areas experience a gap with lowlands because mountainous areas are much more difficult to develop than land or lowland areas.

Inequality in the community has various impacts, including:

- a) The country's economic growth rate is low.
- b) Criminal acts are increasing.
- c) Divisions between tribes and groups.
- d) Social jealousy.

In this world there are still inequalities that occur, especially in the United States. For example, slavery that occurred in the United States in 1861-1865 in the era of civil war. British people from the European continent who immigrated to America at that time because they wanted to be free to get the opportunity to do the economy in a new territory and have not been touched by other nations, get religious freedom and do not get political pressure from any party. So many British peoples who migrated at that time who use the forced labor system by buying African workers from the South American region because of the relatively low cost of service and the persistence of the Negroes from Africa and also because of seeing the cultural differences between the North American region and the South which where the southern region which has an agricultural and plantation economic system. They made the Negroes into forced labor and slaves or servants for the British who migrated to America. This indicates that inequality still occurred at that time and still didn't show any American Dreams values.

From the explanation above, it created the inspiration of a novelist named Mark Twain who wrote a novel titled *The Adventure of Tom Sawyer*. Mark Twain portrayed Tom Sawyer's story accompanied by a description of the culture and norms values prevailing at that time to be brought up in the story line. Mark Twain also included alluding to the situation and culture in the period of the 19th century at that time. The author of the novel makes the role of Tom Sawyer a heroic role even though he is just a stubborn boy, but has a high sense of humanity towards other people with low social status such as friends with Huckleberry Finn the homeless boy and be nice to the Negro slaves in his home namely Jim, and defended an alcoholic in his city accused of killing a doctor. This indicates the role of Tom as the main role in the novel to fight the inequality of values that occurred at the time of slavery at that time.

This novel was categorized as children literature in which the author uses the perspective of children or inspired by the childhood experiences of others or the writer himself and it was interesting to be analyzed. From the explanation above, the problem could be discussed are what kind of inequality that happened in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* novel and how the main character solved the inequality problems in *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* novel.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 Research Method

The method used in this research is qualitative descriptive method, because researchers want to describe or explain facts or the circumstances or symptoms that appear in the story of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Sudaryanto (1993: 62), states that the descriptive term suggests to a study which is based solely on the facts that exist and also phenomena that are empirically living within its speakers, so that what is produced or recorded is in the form of ordinary language descriptions. said to be like a portrait or exposure as it is. Moleong (2008: 2) argues that qualitative research is research that focuses on sentence exposure, making it more capable understand the complex condition of human psychology (influenced by many facts) which is not enough if only measured by using just scale. This is mainly based on the assumption that humans are animal symbolicum (symbolic creature) who seeks meaning in his life. So this research requires a qualitative role to see human in total.

According to Nana Syaodih Sukmadinata (2011:73), qualitative descriptive research is intended to describe and illustrate the phenomena that exist, both natural and engineering humans, who are more concerned about characteristics, quality, interrelationships between activities. In addition, descriptive research is not provide

treatment, manipulation or alteration of the variables studied, but rather describe a condition as it is. The only treatment given is the research itself, which is done through observation, interviews, and documentation.

2.2 Data and Source of Data

The source of data in this research is used The Adventures of Tom Sawyer's novel and the articles from internet. The data in this study are the words, phrases and sentences in the novel.

2.3 Technique of Collecting Data

In this study, the technique of collecting data are :

1. Reading the novel The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
2. Finding the theory of inequality
3. Collecting data from the novel related to the theory of inequality
4. Classifying analysis the data from the novel

2.4 Analysis Data

According to Sugiyono (2009: 335-336), data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation, by organizing data into categories, breaking down into units, synthesizing, compiling into a pattern, choosing what is important and what will be learned, and making conclusions so that it is easily understood by yourself and others. Data analysis in qualitative research conducted since before entering the field, during the field and after finishing in the field.

According to Bogdan and Taylor (1975: 79) defines data analysis as a process that details the formal efforts to find themes and formulate hypotheses (ideas) as suggested and as an effort to provide assistance and themes to the hypothesis. If examined, basically the first definition focuses more on organizing data while the second emphasizes the purpose and objectives of data analysis. Thus the definition can be synthesized that data analysis is the process of organizing and sorting data into patterns, categories and basic units of description so that themes can be found and we can make the hypotheses, and the formulation as the original things based on data. So the technique of analyzing the data in this research are as follows:

1. Identifying the data related to the inequality and the main character.
2. Categorizing the data of inequality and the solving problem of the main character.
3. Verifying the data found
4. Drawing a conclusion related to problem of the research

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Results

The inequality problems which appeared in this novel was social inequality. The author also found the types of social inequality which appeared in this novel. There were social status inequality, slavery and racism. Then, to answer the problems number two, the author found how Tom Sawyer as a main character to solve some kinds of inequality problems through the quotations in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer novel. The first was Tom wants to be friends with a homeless kid who was poor and looked down on by people in his town. Tom also wants to be a witness in the matter of Dr. Robinson to defend Muff Potter who was accused of being guilty. This indicates that Tom was able to solve the problem of inequality in social status, because he does not distinguish someone based on social status and has a sense of justice to defend someone. In the story Tom was not able to be kind to the role of antagonists such as Injun Joe who was an Indian tribe, because he was a thief and murderer who is cruel and has a grudge against someone. But, Tom was able to treat Jim as a friend and related good with him, even though Jim was just a black slave who had black skin. This indicates that Tom was able to solve the problem of slavery and racism by being friendly to anyone and not distinguishing someone based on their skin color but rather their attitudes.

3.2 Discussions

The analysis of inequality in this study is taken from the novel, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain. The analysis of this study is concerned with finding the types of inequality and the way of main character solved the problem of inequality. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer has social inequality problems as the category of inequality which divided into three types. The founding data will be presented in the following below :

Shortly Tom came upon the juvenile pariah of the village, Huckleberry Finn, son of the town drunkard. Huckleberry was cordially hated and dreaded by all the mothers of the town because he was idle, and lawless, and vulgar and bad and because all their children admired him so, and delighted in his forbidden society, and wished they dared to be like him. (Twain, 1876 : 67)

From above we can see the quote which explain social status inequality problem, where was Huckleberry Finn had been seen low by the society of city because lived as a poor vagrant and considered bring a bad influence for their childrens. In this matter, social status inequality is related to the description of the post-civil war era at that time. Because at that time Americans liked to prioritize and compare someone based on the level of social class that was

applied at that time. The types of social class in America are Upper-upper class, Lower-upper class, Upper-middle class, Lower-middle class, Upper lower class, and Lower-lower class. Social class is appeared because of the differences in the perspective of people's life background and the social status of peoples. The idea that American society can be divided into social classes is still being debated, and there are many competing class systems. the people who have made the six social classes as the class system were Dennis Gilbert, William Thompson, Joseph Hickey, and James Henslin.

"Take the witness."

Counsel for Potter declined to question him. The faces of the audience began to betray annoyance. Did this attorney mean to throw away his client's life without an effort? (Twain, 1876 : 210).

And the quote above can described about social status inequality problem, where we can see the lawyer of Muff Potter didn't have intention to defend Muff Potter because he was a poor drunker and he was seen by the peoples in the murder incident place in the morning and found with a knife to kill in his clothes pocket.

"But her husband was rough on me--many times he was rough on me--and mainly he was the justice of the peace that jugged me for a vagrant. And that ain't all. It ain't a millionth part of it! He had me _horsewhipped_!--horsewhipped in front of the jail, like a nigger!--with all the town looking on! _Horsewhipped_!--do you understand? He took advantage of me and died. But I'll take it out of _her_." (Twain, 1876 : 252).

The quote above was inequality problem which describe about the slavery, this quote explained Injun Joe had a revenge on his old owner who had died. Injun Joe want to revenge because he had tortured by his owner as a slave. The slavery problem experienced by Injun Joe is related to the period of Indian tribal slavery in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. European made the system of slavery commonly for Indian tribe. In the rule of slavery, European must contracted slaves for ten years of service. But in the fact they often worked for a lifetime, it happened until the obligations of Indian tribe slave were revoked in the 1830s. The Indians were enslaved by the US in the new state, California, because there were so many Indians who homeless and orphaned. The new state for Indian slave was founded from 1850 to 1867 after the invasion of US Troops. Slavery required bail payments by the slave owner, while slavery continued, there was the rule for Indian tribe peoples like razzia and slavery for four months as a punishment if there was the Indian tribe people who lazy and didn't have a job.

The villagers had a strong desire to tar and feather Injun Joe and ride him on a rail, for body snatching, but so formidable was his character that nobody could be found who was willing to take the lead in the matter, so it was dropped. He had been careful to begin both of his inquest statements with the fight, without confessing the grave robbery that preceded it; therefore it was deemed wisest not to try the case in the courts at present. (Twain, 1876 : 116)

The quote from above was tell about the racism problem, this quote explained that the peoples in the city wouldn't connecting with Injun Joe because his attitude which bad and also because Injun Joe was an Indian tribe who had a dark red skin. The racism problem experienced by Injun Joe is related to the period of war between Indians and Europeans who came to the American continent at that time. For the first time, in the 16th century, Europeans landed in North America. Thinking of arriving in India (Asia), they mistakenly called the natives "Indians". Therefore, the Native American population is known by the name "Indian" as the English language of the word "Indian". Because the migrants from Europe wanted land, the Indians felt threatened. They also fought against the European immigrants. In the 19th century, Indians fought against the United States government who tried to displace them, but eventually they lost and were moved to a reservoir, a special area for them to live in. Until now there are still many Indians who live and live there.

"Hello, Huckleberry!"

"Hello yourself, and see how you like it."

"What's that you got?"

"Dead cat."

"Lemme see him, Huck. My, he's pretty stiff. Where'd you get him?"

"Bought him off'n a boy." (Twain, 1876 : 68)

From quotation above, we could see from the way Tom Sawyer greeting and talking with Huckleberry Finn as a friend even though Huck was a vagrant and poor boy. It explained Tom not distinguishing people based on their social status, but rather on their attitude. The attitude of Tom is related to the term of American Dreams which had the basic concept. The basic concept is called the "American Fundamental Values" which is used as a role model for the original identity of the American people. Three things that are included in American Fundamental Values are freedom, equality, and opportunity.

We shall not offer that plea." [Then to the Clerk]: "Call Thomas Sawyer!" A puzzled amazement awoke in every face in the house, not even excepting Potter's. Every eye fastened itself with wondering interest upon Tom as he rose and took his place upon the stand. The boy looked wild enough, for he was badly scared. The oath was administered.

"Thomas Sawyer, where were you on the seventeenth of June, about the hour of midnight?" (Twain, 1876 : 211)

From the above quotation, it can be seen that Tom can solve the problem of social inequality status where with determination and fairness he wants to be a witness to defend Muff Potter who is a drunk and poor. This shows that Tom's character arises because it is based on equality of moral values and law that should exist.

4. CONCLUSION

After making the analysis and presenting the entire data in the chapter four, in this chapter the writer will make conclusion on the study based on problem of the study. After analysing *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, there are some conclusions that can be presented as follow:

1. Based on the problem number one, the writer concluded there were some problems of inequality after the writer read and understanding the story in novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. The inequality which appeared was the social inequality. Social inequality was the different treatment which experienced by certain peoples based on different factors, like social, economy, law, education, the color of skin, intelligence, religion, and gender. There were three kinds of social inequality in this novel. There were social status inequality, slavery and racism. The writer made this analysis related to inequality because the period of literature in this novel was in the period of realism. Realism was the period where the artist made the work of literature based on the reality of life and not tried to beautify it. Because the work of literature in the period of realism influenced by the changes in the historical development of civilization in America occurred in the 19th century and the work of literature in the period of realism is existed to aspired the peoples. The problem of inequality appeared based on "The American Fundamental Values" as a basic concept of "American Dream". American Dream was a style of novel *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*. American Dream was the characteristic of ideal life and desired by American peoples. The inequality problems in the novel is based on the illustration in the civil war period. Where social status inequality, slavery age and racism still happened in the period.
2. Based on the problem number two, the writer concluded how the way of main character solved the problem of inequality. Tom Sawyer solved the social inequality with his moral attitude and as the fellow human beings to help the people to get their right. Tom Sawyer always judged the people based on their attitude and behavior. Tom Sawyer has a friendly attitude and patriotism soul to defend the good peoples. The American dreams described on Tom Sawyer character to assume the differences couldn't bounded someone to take what he or she want and deserved in order to make their dream come true and to feel the happiness in their life.

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