

THE MAIN CHARACTER'S AMBITION IN NOVEL MARY BARTON WRITTEN BY ELIZABETH GASKELL

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Abstrak: Sastra adalah salah satu cermin dari manusia menggambarkan kehidupan manusia dan mengandung aspek psikologis. Salah satunya adalah aspek yang berkaitan dengan konflik dan ambisi. Penelitian ini termotivasi untuk menganalisis tentang ambisi karakter utama dari Maria Barton, sebagai reaksi terhadap kelas-kelas sosial dalam novel Elizabeth Gaskell berjudul "Mary Barton". Penelitian ini adalah untuk menghasilkan pemahaman interpretatif dari masalah sebagai berikut: (1) Apakah ambisi Mary?(2) Apakah yang mempengaruhi dia memiliki ambisi itu?(3) Jenis stres emosional apakah yang dialami oleh Mary sebagai dampak dari ambisinya? Penelitian ini menggunakan analisis induktif, dan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Mary memiliki ambisi bahwa suatu hari nanti dia bisa memiliki kehidupan yang lebih baik. Dia berambisi bahwa suatu hari nanti dia bisa menjadi bagian dari kelas atas dengan menjadi istri Bapak Harry Carson. Dia menyadari bahwa ambisinya telah menyebabkan banyak penderitaan untuk orang-orang sekitarnya. Kekayaan adalah tidak bisa dibandingkan dengan cinta. Dalam proses mewujudkan ambisinya, ada tekanan emosional seperti marah, benci, sedih, sedih, takut, dan rasa bersalah yang dialami oleh Mary sebagai akibat dari ambisinya.

Kata kunci: Ambisi, Emosi, Karakter Utama, Kelas Sosial

Abstract: Literature is a mirror of human beings, since it portrays human life containing, among other things, psychological aspect. Some of the aspect are concerned with conflict, and ambition. The writer is motivated to analyze the ambition of the main character, named Mary Barton, as a reaction to the social classes in Elizabeth Gaskell's novel entitled Mary Barton. This study is to generate interpretative understanding of the following research problems: (1) what is Mary's ambition? (2) What influences her to have that ambition? (3) What kinds of emotional stress are experienced by Mary as the impact of her ambition? The design of the research is descriptive qualitative. Analysing the data used inductive qualitative. Mary has an ambition that someday she can have a better life. She is ambitious that someday she can be a part of the upper class by being the wife of Mr. Harry Carson. She realizes that her ambition has caused a lot of suffer to the people around her. That wealth is nothing compared to love. In the process of realizing her ambition, there are emotional stresses such as anger, hate, sorrow, grief, fear and guilt experienced by Mary as the cost of her ambition.

Keywords: Ambition, Emotions, Main Character, Social Classes

INTRODUCTION

In discussing literature, it should be pointed out that literature could not be separated from its society's life. Literature is connected with life because it describes the events and the things, which can happen in the society and what human being has experienced in his life, or it describes

the reality. Moreover, literature can give a certain kind of pleasure and add knowledge. It also helps us understand human Sentiment, interests and problem.

Studying a person's ambition is an interesting one. A previous study is conducted by Mirza Adam (2003) with his thesis entitled The Main Character's Ambition to be A Scientist in Mary W. Shelley's

“Frankenstein.” He analyzes the main character’s ambition and the result of his ambition. Another study is conducted by Siaty Ningsih (2005) with her thesis entitled *A Study on the Main Character’s Ambition in Barbara Cartland’s “Secret Harbor.”* She analyzes the main character’s ambition named Grania against her father’s plan for her marriage and the result of her ambition.

Another related study is conducted by Winna Lestari (2005) with her thesis entitled *A Study on The Emotion of the Main Character in Jane Austen’s “Emma.”* She analyzes the main character’s emotion and finds that there are some kinds of emotion appeared in that novel such as a grief, fear, shame, love, joy, and guilty.

Ba’awad said Class is a complex term, use since the late eighteenth century, and employed in many different ways. In our context, “classes” are the more or less distinct social groupings which any given historical periods, taken as a whole, constituted the British society (2005:9).

Moreover, (Buford,1984:11) states that different social classes can be distinguished by inequalities in such areas as power, authority, wealth, working and living condition, life styles, life span, education, religion, and culture. Early in nineteenth century the labels “working classes” and “middle classes” were already coming into common usage. The old heredity aristocracy, reinforced by the new gentry who owed their success to commerce, industry, and the professions, evolved into an “upper class.” The working classes, however, remained shut out from the political process, and became increasingly hostile not only to the aristocracy but to the middle classes as well. As the industrial revolution progressed, there was further social stratification.

Life without emotion would be drab. If there were no joys and sorrows, no hopes and dismays, no thrills or triumphs, the warmth and color would go out of human experience. Emotion is one of the psychological aspects that influences human feelings and behavior. It is used to express pleasant and unpleasant feelings. We are apt to be more aware of our emotions when efforts to achieve a goal are blocked (anger, despair) or when the

goals are finally attained (pleasure, joy). (Silverman, 1971:330).

Here, the writer would like to discuss a novel entitled “*Mary Balton*,” a popular and interesting novel of Elizabeth Gaskell. This novel explores the condition of England, part of a nineteenth-century British trend to understand the enormous cultural, economic, and social changes roughly by industrialization. “*Mary Barton*” is a model of British society. The story of “*Mary Barton*” describes the poverty and desperation of England industrial worker. However, affection for an industrialist’s son, Henry Carson, and for a man of her own class, Jem Wilson. Mary’s love for the two young men drive her into a dilemma. Mary wishes to improve the lot of herself and her father John Barton, who disconsolate over the loss of his wife and only son and the attendant poverty after losing his job. However, Mary’s conflict escalates when her father, a committed trade unionist, is asked to assassinate Henry, who is the son of his unjust employer. As human beings, we have the same problems like those of Mary. Therefore, the writer would like to discuss the ambition of *Mary Barton* as the reaction of social classes.

This study is expected to provide benefits to readers, both of theoretical and practical. Theoretical benefits of this study are expected to contribute ideas and knowledge of understanding English literature, especially by using psychological Approach. Besides that, this study is also able to give a contribution in literature theory and literature psychology theory to uncover a novel “*Mary Barton*” by Elizabeth Gaskell. And the practical benefits is to help readers of understanding story’s content of the novel “*Mary Barton*” especially description of the main character’s ambition as a reaction to the social classes. After understanding struggle life of main character, writer hopes this study gives a motivation to readers solving problems that happen in their life. The other purpose of this study is is expected to develop science, especially the field of literature and science, to improve the quality of language teaching and literary appreciation.

METHOD

The writer analyzes the novel with three problems; this study is termed as a textual study with multicase. This study is intended to generate an interpretative understanding on the ambition of Mary Barton as the main character. Therefore, a descriptive qualitative method is the most suitable method used to analyze this novel since the data analyze are based on the characteristics which are in the form of paragraphs and dialogues. The material object of this study is a novel entitled "Mary Barton" by Elizabeth Gaskell. This novel consists of 38 chapters and 372 pages, published by the Penguin Group in 1994, London, England. Set in Manchester, between 1837-1842, it paints a powerful and moving picture of working-class life in Victorian England.

The object of this study is the main character's ambition as a the social classes. In collecting the data, the writer conducts a reading process since this is a library study. After collecting all the data which are related with the the topic under discussion, the writer uses the inductive analysis as method in this study. Thus, the writer uses the document data (novel) as a source. The writer do the research starts from reading, looking for the proof, and finally she concludes the data.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Mary's Ambition

Mary is a girl of sixteen who is apprenticed to miss simonds as a dressmaker. She comes from the working class family and lives in Manchester, England. She is a hardworking yet dainty young woman, and serves as a looking glass by which the pain and pathos of her time is magnified tenfold. Mary is so ambitious that she wants to change the lot of her life. She is so eager to enjoy luxurious life.

"So with this consciousness she had early determined that her beauty should make her a lady; the rank she coveted the more for her father's abuse; the rank to which she firmly believed her lost Aunt Esther had arrived" (p. 23).

This quotation explains that Mary knows and realizes she is very pretty and often gratified. She likes making an impression; therefore she regulates her dress by a mistress ideas of propriety. She believes there are always enough young men, in a different rank from her own who are willing to compliment the pretty weaver's daughter as they meet her in the streets. She also believes that her beauty will make her a lady.

"Yes! Mary was ambitious, and did not favor Mr. Cason the less because he was rich and a gentleman (p. 75; line 1-2). So Mary dwelt upon and enjoyed the idea of someday becoming a lady, and doing all the elegant nothings appertaining to lady hood (p. 75, lines 7-9). But the best of her plans, the holiest, that which in some measure redeemed the vanity of the rest, were those relating to her father; her dear father, now oppressed with care, and always a disheartened, gloomy person. How she would surround him with every comfort she could devise (of course, he was to live with them); till he should acknowledge riches to be very pleasant things, and bless his lady-daughter!" (p. 75; lines 16-23).

These quotations clearly explain that Mary is really ambitious that someday she will be a lady by coming Mrs. Harry Carson. She often dreams of the day when she can ride from church in her carriage, with wedding bells ringing, and take up her astonished father, and drive away from the old dim work a day court forever, to live in a grand house, where her father can have newspapers and pamphlets, and pipes, and meat dinners, everyday, and all day long if he likes.

In relation to above finding, then arose a question, what influence Mary to have that ambition? In this part, the writer would like to present the background that influence Mary as the main character to have that ambition.

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comfort she could device (of course, he was to live with them); till should acknowledge riches to be very pleasant things, and bless his lady-daughter! Everyone who had shown her kindness in her low estate should then be repaid a hundred -fold" (p. 75).

Mary hopes that one day she can become a lady as Mrs. Harry Carson. So, she can make her father happy. When later she, truly becomes a lady, she wants to change the fate of her family with her money. She also wants to make her father acknowledge riches to be very pleasant things and that he can do anything with them.

"If need excite no surprise then to learn that a bad feeling between working men and the upper classes became very strong in this season of privation. The indigence and sufferings if the operatives induced a suspicion in the minds of many of them, that their legislators, their magistrates, their employers, and even ministers of religions, were in general, their oppressors and enemies; and were in league for their prostration and enthrallment. The most deplorable and enduring evil that arose out of the period of commercial depression to which I refer, was this feeling of alienation between the different classes of society" (p. 78).

Trade depression brings great impact to society that there are classes in society. Wealth is the matter that differers the classes of society. Moreover, it creates hatred, jealousy to the upper classes; that the working -men consider them as enemies.

Emotional Stress

Anger

"You must tell him I can't come," said Mary, raising her eyes at last. "I have said I won't meet him while father is away, and I won't." But, Mary, he does so look for you. You'd be quite sorry for him; he's so put out about not seeing you. Besides, you go when your father's at home, without letting on to him, and what harm would there be in going now?" "Well, Sally! You know my answer, I won't; and I won't" "I'll tell him to come and see you himself some evening, instead

of sending me; he'd may be find you not so hard to deal with." Mary flash up.

"If he dares to come here while father's away, I'll call the neighbors in to turn him out, so don't be putting him up to that." "Mercy on us! One would think you were the first girl that ever had a lover; have you never heard what other girls do and think no shame of?" (p. 87)

From the quotation above, we can see that Mary is angry with Sally because she keeps persuading Mary to meet Mr. Harry Carson, even though Mary has refused the invitation many times. Mary does not want to see Harry while her father's away.

Hatred/Annoyance

"He's rather savage at times that I can see, and perhaps kindness from me, when I'm another's will only go against the grain. I'll not plague myself we're thinking anymore about him, that I won't" (p. 74).

This quotation shows that Mary rejects Jem's confession of love to her. She just regards him as her childhood friend. Mary prefers Harry Carson to Jem as her marriage partner. But Jem keeps proposing Mary, and it makes her hate his manner.

"Mary went very red, and looked annoyed, although there was a secret of joy deep down in her heart at hearing Jem so spoken of" (p. 114).

Jem's aunt, Alice, tells Mary that Jem a good wage now, and is looking for a right down good wife. Mary actually knows that Jem loves her, but she is annoyed at hearing the news because Jem's mother, Jane Wilson tells her that Jem will marry Molly Gibson. She has some little jealousy of his future wife, whoever she might be.

Sorrow

"Do tell me, Mary, what's fretting you so? You know I never could abide to see you cry." George Wilson's dropped down dead this afternoon," Said Mary, fixing her eyes for one minute on Sally, and the next hiding

her face in her apron as she sobbed anew” (p. 86).

Sally comes to Mary’s house to deliver the message and letter from Mr. Harry Carson. But, then, she finds Mary in a great sorrow. She has just heard of George Wilson’s sudden death; her old friend, her father’s friend, Jem’s fathers—all his claims come rushing upon her. She is so busy with her rich lover and forgets the people around her, so that this condition makes her sad.

Grief

“If her father was not at home it was no better; indeed it was worse. He seldom spoke, less than ever; and often when he did speak they were sharp angry words, such as he had never given her formerly. Her temper was high, too, and her answer not over-mild; and once in his passion he had even beaten her. If Sally Lead bitter or Mr. Carson had been at hand at that moment, Mary would have been ready to leave home forever. She sat alone, after her father had flung out of the house, bitterly thinking on the days that were gone; angry with her own hastiness, and believing that her father did not love her; striving to heap up one painful thought on another. Who cared for her? Mr. Carson might, but in this grief that seem no comfort. Mother dead! Father so often angry, so lately cruel (for it was a hard blow, and blistered and reddened Mary’s soft white skin with pain): and then her heart turned round, and she remembered with self reproach how provokingly she had looked and spoken, how much her father had to bear; and oh, what a kind and loving parent he had been, till these says of trial. The remembrance of one little instance of his fatherly love thronged after another into her mind, and she began to wonder how she could have behaved to him as she had done” (p. 109).

Mary feels that her father is so much changed. His manner is far different from before. She feels that her father does not love her anymore. Her father’s depression hangs like lead on her heart. John Barton is appointed as a Manchester delegate who is against the revolution industry, but his

effort is in vain because it fails. Then, his failure drives him into depression that changes all his life. Furthermore he becomes opiumaddicted.

Fear

“Oh dear, “said she to herself, “I wish he would not mistake me so; I never dare to speak common word o’kindness, but his eye brightens and his cheeks flushes. It’s very hard on me; for father and George Wilson are old friends; and Jem and I ha’ known each other since we were quite children. I cannot think what possesses me, that I must always be wanting to comfort him when he’s downcast, and that I must go meddling wi’ him tonight, when sure enough it was his aunt’s place to speak to him. I don’t care for him, and yet, unless I’m always watching myself, I’m speaking to him a loving voice. I think I cannot go right, for I either check myself till I’m down right cross to him, or else I speak just natural, and that’s too kind and tender by half. And I’m as good as engaged to be married to another; an another far handsome than Jem; only I think I like Jem’s face best for all that; liking’s liking. And there is no help for it; well, when I’m Mrs. Harry Carson, may happen I can put some good fortune in Jem’s way” (p. 74).

Jem’s continuous proposal is fretting Mary. It is because she does not love him. She loves a man far handsomer and richer than Jem, and the man is Mr. Harry Carson. She is afraid of being in love with Jem, therefore she always avoids meeting Jem.

Guilt

“Oh, Margaret; do you know Jem came here one night when I were put out and cross. Oh, dear! Dear! I could bite my tongue out when I think on it. And he told me how he loved me, and I thought I did not love him, and I told him I didn’t; and, Margaret, he believed me, and went away so sad, and so angry; and I’d do anything, I would, indeed,” her sobs choked the end of her sentences. Margaret looked at her with sorrow, but with hope; for

she had no doubt in her own mind that it was only a temporary estrangement.”

Mary tells Margaret how guilty and foolish she was being so far and so cruel to Jem. She has broken Jem's heart by rejecting his love. Now, she regrets all she has done to him. She wants to meet Jem to tell him that she also loves him. She will do everything to make Jem come back to her.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the data analysis and interpretation in the previous chapter, the writer would like to draw some conclusions as follows. The findings of the discussions show that Mary has an ambition that someday she can have a better life. She is ambitious that someday she can be a part of the upper class by being the wife of Mr. Harry Carson. And the influences her to have that ambition is she realizes that her ambition has caused a lot of suffer to the people around her. She finds that wealth is nothing compared to love. In the process of realizing her ambition, there are emotional stresses such as anger, hate, sorrow, grief, fear and guilt experienced by Mary as the cost of her ambition. Finally she realizes whom she truly loves, she finds that happiness does not merely depend on wealth and gold. In the end of the story she gets her truly love, Jem Wilson and lives happily ever after.

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