

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Wealth is something that belongs to people so they can get what they wanted. Wealth in most cases is considered as money and everything in this life are related with money. If a person wants to stay alive, he/she needs food and shelter that are related with money. Harry explained that we need money because money allows us to buy everything, and we need money as our incentive to do our work (Harry).

If people need money to get wealth, it means that wealth motivates people to seek for it. In brief, wealth has a power that makes people to do so. People try to get the wealth so they can get what they wanted, including their desires.

Robert Kuttner, in his article titled "*The Power of Money*", said that rich people will get everything with their money because they are able to do so (Kuttner). In his article, Kuttner shows how great and appalling this power of money is. When a person with a lot of money wanted to get what they wanted, they will try to get it, even with a way that will make a lot of people disagree with them. This power is planted within the wealth which gives people what they wanted.

In order to analyze wealth as a symbol of power in George R. R. Martin's *A Storm of Swords*, especially on the family within the novel called Lannister, Marxist criticism is considered relevant because of several reasons. First, the problem formulated in this thesis is about the portrayal of wealth as a symbol of power of capitalist society. Second, this thesis is pursued to explain how the wealth of capitalist society power is used to obtain many things.

'A Storm of Swords' is a third book of "Song of Ice and Fire" series written by George. S.S. Martin. George R. R. Martin has released five series of "Song of Ice and Fire" novel series out of seven series in total. However, the writer only discusses the third book, *A Storm of Swords*. The writer chooses the third book because it shows the power of House of Lannister as its greatest since the Lannisters are already have a position as the King of Seven Kingdoms. This novel had been made into an adaptation of movie titled "Game of Thrones". What the writer attempts to discuss is about the wealth element contained in this novel, the portrayal, why it is important to be discussed and its significant towards the story of 'A Storm of Swords'. Wealth usually dominating human's life in many aspects, such as politic, business, and of course daily needs. The truth about wealth power itself can be seen in human's life nowadays. Money cannot be separated from every element in human's life because everything needs money. The use of money itself depends on the person who holds it. Money is not a problem for wealthy people when they want to waste it. As long as there is a thing to buy, money would be spent. Everything needs money, studying abroad, starting a business, foods, and also armies to bring victory.

Basically, “Song of Ice and Fire” is a medieval fantasy novel that tells about struggle among the kingdom’s noble families controlling the Iron Throne. The setting took place in a land named Westeros in the early AD. These families fought each other and showed their house’s power. Furthermore, there were actually not a few of them cooperating and helping each other to gain their goal. In this third series, House of Lannister, The Lanisters show their power in gaining control of the war with other Houses. One of its deadly weapons that can be relied on is the wealth of the House of Lannister. The Lannisters always have one promise they hold, it is ‘The Lannisters always pay their debts’. If a Lannister promised something, they would pay it for sure. The writer attempts to discuss how The House of Lannister was controlling the war through their wealth.

If we look back to the past, Das Kapital remains us of the capitalism that holds upper classes with their wealth as the ruler. Das Kapital explained by Marx was a phenomenal situation that brought people strove against it. It brought lower classes like workers to be paid lower than the standard they can get. It is all because the upper classes had the tools and the money while workers just had their strength to work.

The Marxist theory the writer uses fits with the novel; it discusses about how a capitalist can rule people with their richness power. “Economic power therefore always includes social and political power as well, which is why many Marxists today refer to socioeconomic class, rather than economic class, when talking about the class structure.” (Tyson 54)

In this life, we are bound with economic and political issues. We work to obtain more wealth so we can fulfill what we need and what we want. People live by working to feed their family and themselves in order to keep living. The upper class provides the need that the lower class needs to obtain. Thus, the lower class will work for the upper class to improve their wealth.

In the other hand, the upper class people also have their own needs and desire which they want to realize. That is why they need the political dominance so they will be able to grant their needs and desire. If a boss of a company owns an office that could make him get more benefit, he needs workers. Moreover, in order to obtain these workers, he must have money as his economic power to hire them and his political status as the 'boss' to order his worker to work for him and do what he wants from his worker.

In *Storm of Swords*, House of Lannister is the reflection of wealth power. The Lannisters were known as the richest clan of King's Landing. They won a lot of wars and gained an uncountable value of gold from the south. Lannisters showed that their money is uncountable and they can spend it without afraid the money will run out. They are able to use their money to buy a lot of armies for their advantages in the war for the Iron Throne they're fighting over. What we can see here is how the House of Lannister shows that money can also buy armies. It is simply a way to gain power to win their war by buying a lot of armies in their side.

Even though *A Song of Ice and Fire* is a novel series which show war among great houses in order to get the Iron Throne and bear title as the King of Seven

Kingdoms, actually it also show there are many wars won by using wealth. Even it is not too explicit, but it is actually really influential towards the plot of the story, especially in this third series, *A Storm of Swords*. The wealth that won these wars came from the House of Lannister itself that was the wealthiest house of the Seven Kingdoms.

Marxist criticism has main issues related to socioeconomic class which means that social and economic influence class problem. It can make the classes struggle to each other and create another class issue, such as a certain class rules the whole society and a certain class also oppresses another lower classes, and so forth. “From a Marxist perspective, differences in socioeconomic class divide people in ways that are much more significant than differences in religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.” (Tyson 54)

Socioeconomic development is mostly affected by the money because money is one of important aspects in social life. Almost all of social needs depend on money so anything can happen when money spreads issue to social life. That is why Marx explained it in the definition of Patriotism. Patriotism is an ideology that keeps poor people fighting wars against poor people from other countries (one way or another, sufficient money can generally keep one out of the armed forces during war time or, at least, out of the combat units) while the rich on both sides rake in the profits of war-time economy. (Tyson 59)

In *Storm of Swords* novel, the families considered as the strong ones, such as House of Stark, House of Lannister, House of Targaryen, and House of Baratheon,

had their own power that could lead them to obtain the Iron Throne. However, House of Lannister is the only house with greatest wealth among the other houses. Most people considered that the House of Lannister was definitely strong and unbeatable. They realized that if Lannister seek for the Iron Throne, it would not be too hard for them to obtain it since Lannister could have what they wanted by their wealth. One of the councils of the King's Landing named Littlefinger even stated that wars were won by wealth not the soldier.

The House of Lannister's sigil was actually a golden lion which is their house's power. With 'Casterly Rock' as their main castle, they had more than ten thousand soldiers who were ready to war whenever needed. The wealth of House of Lannister itself was already known by the people in Seven Kingdoms. Regarding to this, the Lannisters who had this great wealth, used it in several ways in order to get what they wanted so they could always be the great house that people would fear.

Many people followed what the Lannisters asked to them. Even so, not a few of them even against the Lannisters because they kept their honor. In *Storm of Swords*, having this honor does not always mean to keep in mind that people have their own belief to follow their path. This honor can also be vanquished by wealth as the Lannisters were able to do it in this third series.

Later in the analysis, the writer shows how this House of Lannister uses their wealth and political power to make the honor disappeared. They used it towards two Houses which actually had a great relationship with them in order to show that they

were able to defeat 'this' honor and to prove that they were dominating not only in wealth but also political dominance.

1.2. Statement of Problem

1. How is wealth as symbol of power portrayed in House of Lannister?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Following the aim of writing this thesis, the objective of the study is to find out how wealth is portrayed in *A Storm of Swords* novel related to capitalism which is reflected by The House of Lannister as one of the families in the novel.

1.4. Scope and Limitation

There are many issues that can be found in *A Storm of Swords* Novel. However, the writer focuses only on one of the families in *A Storm of Swords* novel; it is The House of Lannister. It is described from capitalist situation of Marxism which deals with their orientation as a capitalist. Moreover, the study only concentrates on the data taken within the novel and other sources that can support the arguments in the analysis.

1.5. Significance of Study

The writer's interest in discussing *A Storm of Swords* by using Marxism is because the novel's plot is quite interesting and related to the Marxist criticism. By doing this research, the writer hopes that it will be useful for any of student that will also conduct similar study. The writer also hopes that this study clearly explains how money can dominate certain things as advantages. Moreover, the readers will simply understand about the power of money itself and the students willing to discuss the related study will also know how to explain the wealth issue significantly.

1.6. Theoretical Background

The study focuses on the manifestation of one of the families in *A Storm of Swords* novel, The House of Lannister's efforts to gain power in order to win the war by their wealth. In order to analyze it, the writer uses the Marxism. One of the families within the novel called The House of Lannister shows their power using their wealth. Realizing that, the writer uses Karl Marx theory. Regarding to what has been stated above, Marxism explained that wealth can cause socioeconomic issue. The social class could be oppressed by another social class with many ways including wealth (Tyson 59).

In this thesis, there are three main points about Marxist Criticism analyzed. All of them were based on Karl Heinrich Marx theory of Marxism. First is about the Marxism itself, about what basically Marxist Criticism is, how large the scope is and

how the writer focuses it into. It explains how the political and economic issue are formed in this world. In *Das Kapital*, Francis Wheen explained about Marx who stated about two types of people in this world called “Bourgeoisie” and “Proletariat” which without these two parts, this world will face no development. (23-24)

Second is about the capitalism that is contained in Marxist Criticism by Karl Marx. Capitalism is basically formed because of Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. Capitalism conducts most of the development of economy in this world. In Marx book entitled “*Das Capital*”, he explained about how the capitalism works as people’s consciousness and how it still exists in this world nowadays. (Marx 89)

Third is about the economics and politic. The writer attempts to explain what relation that consists in economic and politic towards capitalism of Marxist is. Economics and politics cannot be separated because they go hand in hand (Bolos). Bolos explained that economics needs politics and so does the politics. The writer uses some articles and cases that happened in this world. Economic and politic can be found anywhere in the developing country, and these two things are strongly related because they need each other in order to exist.

Furthermore, the analysis is also concerned about the House of Lannister’s loyal people who are brought to help them with the money. What makes The House of Lannister has power to win wars through the obedience of their people is money. Basically, House of Lannister has strong power beside the wealth; even so, they also have their money to help them in urgent situations.

1.7. Method of the Study

In doing the process of analysis, the writer applies qualitative research in which the data are collected from two main sources: the novel entitled *A Storm of Swords* written by George R. R. Martin and literary theory books explaining about Marxism and Capitalism. Furthermore, the writer also uses other journals, articles, and related studies, as the secondary sources of this study.

There are four steps conducted by the writer in order to construct the analysis. First is by doing close reading which is used to understand more about the novel. Second, is to discover the wealth power portrayed in the novel. After that, the writer found out the reason why the money is being used in several ways. Finally, the writer would like to describe how is the wealth could be called as a symbol of power.

Moreover, in conducting the analysis, the writer tried to follow the guidance mentioned in Bressler's *Literary Criticism: An Introduction to Theory and Practice* (2007) which explains that Marxist Criticism, like other literary criticism, is not only about what is explained in the text but also about what is not explained in the text and it includes the social relations (205). To end with, the conclusion is composed after conducting all of those steps in analyzing the text. The conclusion contains all of the findings discovered in the analysis.

1.8. Definition of Key Terms

The writer uses several terms that are needed to be defined for the limitation of the study. Hence, this part provides brief definition and description of the key terms, which are used in this study. These definitions are important, so that the readers have an idea about the theory used in the study:

<i>Wealth</i>	: possession of great amount of money.
<i>Symbol</i>	: use of images; medium in literature to describe act, person, thing, or idea, which is concrete to explains feelings or idea abstractly. Sign, mark, object, etc looked upon as representing ideas.
<i>Wealth power</i>	: a power which is gained by money to use in some advantages.
<i>Capitalism</i>	: form of occupation by the bourgeoisie capitalists towards proletariat in order to make their own advantages.
<i>Socioeconomic</i>	: sociological and economical combined total measure of a person or family based on their income, education, and occupation.