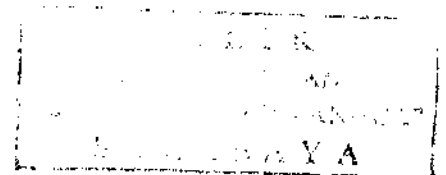


A STUDY OF MATERIALISM THROUGH THE MAIN CHARACTER  
IN WILLIAM M. THACKERAY'S VANITY FAIR

A THESIS



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## ABSTRACT

Rebecca Sharp is a circumstance rebel. She was born in a lower class family and then is engaged in a high class society that is full of worldly happiness. Her involvement rises some dreams that come to be her obsession. For that reason, she attempts with a great effort to make her dreams come true. Her prominent dream is to reach a position in Vanity Fair. She believes that with the position, whatever her desires will be fulfilled, especially money and status.

Her pursuing activity of money and status exhausts her energy. The two things have come to her fundamental needs that requires to be satisfied. For Rebecca it means a great sacrifice - she sacrifices her husband, son, and friends. Because of her strong desire she forgets the things that are more fundamental in this life, they are religion, love, and truth.

In Vanity Fair itself, money and status sustain as the measure to comprehend somebody's status in the society. Without the presence of the two things, somebody can be thrown out dishonourly. But, with the presence of the two objects, people will shut their eyes if the occupant performs something immoral. In brief, Vanity Fair is too worldly and provides a facility for the great fighters only.

This thesis tries to study the materialism through Rebecca's way of life and the society where she inhabits by philosophical and sociological approach. Hereafter, the writer wants to reveal whether Rebecca's materialism deals with Marx's especially if it is seen from need-satisfaction point of view.