

**CARRIE'S "CLASS STRUGGLE"  
IN DREISER'S *SISTER CARRIE*:  
AN ANALYSIS BASED ON MATERIALISM**



A Thesis Presented to the English Department,  
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in English

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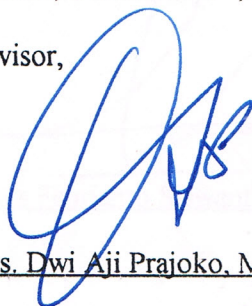
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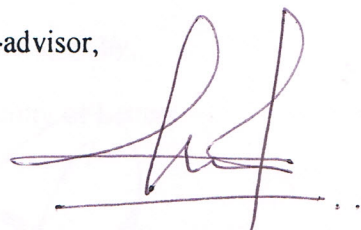
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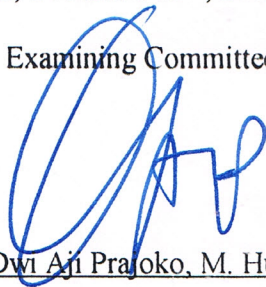
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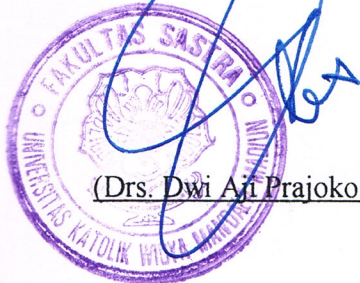


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Dean,



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**This thesis is dedicated to:**

- **My beloved God**
- **My beloved mother**
- **My beloved brothers**
- **Adhan Sudarminto S.T**
- **My friends**
- **My Almamater**

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### MOTTO:

Grow as well as you can  
Be mature as wisely as you are  
Think as clever you are  
And you will know,  
That life is in your hand.

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My deepest gratitude is rendered to Jesus Christ, my wisest Prophet and God. You seem far away, but I know exactly that You always lay beside me, loving and teaching me what the great love is in all my life journey, from day to day. Accordingly, I can finish this thesis.

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## ABSTRAK

Karya Theodore Dreiser, *Sister Carrie* adalah sebuah novel yang menggambarkan masyarakat pada pergeseran abad antara tahun 1899-1900, dimana sistem kapitalisme mulai berkembang pesat. Kondisi sosial pada akhir abad 18 mempengaruhi kehidupan manusia untuk berlomba-lomba mencari uang sebanyak-banyaknya. Kondisi sosial di era kapitalisme membuat perbedaan antara kelas bawah dan atas yang menyebabkan adanya jurang pemisah antara orang miskin dan orang kaya. Pandangan masyarakat bahwa orang yang mempunyai kekayaan dan kedudukan akan mendapat kehormatan dari masyarakat. Oleh sebab itu, kedudukan dan kekayaan menjadi sangat penting bagi manusia supaya diterima oleh masyarakat.

Tesis ini bermaksud untuk melihat pergolakan kelas antara kelas bawah dan atas berdasarkan materialisme yang dipandang dari perspektif filsafat. Dalam dunia yang penuh dengan kemajuan sains, teknologi, dan materialisme, kita bisa melihat dengan jelas bagaimana sosial mobilitas dari kehidupan orang-orang kelas bawah yang tidak memiliki kekayaan, kedudukan, status sosial dalam masyarakat, dan kesempatan untuk pendidikan, baik formal maupun informal. Sosial mobilitas berarti perpindahan seseorang atau kelompok dari satu posisi ke posisi lain dalam sistem stratifikasi masyarakat.

Sebagai tokoh utama dalam novel, Carrie digambarkan sebagai gadis desa yang hidup dalam kemiskinan. Dia mempunyai suatu keinginan untuk mencapai kehidupan yang lebih baik dan kebahagiaan. Baginya, semua itu bisa terwujud jika dia berjuang keras. Untuk mendapatkan kekayaan dan kebahagiaan, Carrie rela hidup seperti suami istri dengan Drouet, laki-laki kaya, tanpa ikatan pernikahan. Dalam upaya mewujudkan keinginannya untuk mengubah status sosialnya, dia berselingkuh dengan Hurstwood, seorang manajer yang kaya raya. Kemudian dia meninggalkan Drouet dan hidup bersama Hurstwood sebagai istri keduanya. Melalui perjuangannya itu, Carrie berhasil menjadi seorang artis yang terkenal.

Dalam tesis ini terdapat dua permasalahan yang dibahas. Pertama bagaimana menggambarkan kondisi stratifikasi sosial pada saat itu, dimana di era kapitalisme terdapat jurang pemisah antara kelas bawah dan atas. Kedua, penggambaran karakter Carrie yang memperjuangkan status sosialnya dari seorang gadis desa menjadi seorang artis yang ternama. Sehingga dia bisa merubah status sosialnya dari kelas menengah menjadi kelas atas. Konflik yang terjadi dalam masyarakat memiliki hubungan yang erat dengan teori Marx. Sehingga penulis menggunakan teori Marx yang berbicara mengenai kelas, masyarakat dan keterasingan manusia. Tesis ini juga menggunakan teori setting dan character, teori materialisme, dan hubungan antara filsafat dan kesusastraan. Pendekan yang dipakai adalah pendekatan filsafat. Disamping itu tesis ini juga menggunakan studi kepustakaan dan eksplorasi teori melalui internet.



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