

# THE PORTAYAL OF SOCIAL STRATIFICATION IN MARK TWAIN'S NOVEL *THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER*

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## Abstract

This study analyzes of social stratification depicted in *The Prince and The Pauper* Novel written by Mark Twain. The novel told about the two boys who are having the similar faces but lead very different lives. Those characters are Edward as the Prince and Tom as the pauper. It plays an immensely important role in his novel, because of the main characters totally get the extremes of the social class condition during at that time. This study used descriptive qualitative method with *The Prince and The Pauper* novel as the primary data and the secondary data were gained from journals, articles, and other internet sources. The result of the analysis is talking about the portrayal of social stratification reflected in *The Prince and The Pauper* novel that contained some aspects such as economic, education and family background of someone as a factor in treated differently to others.

**Key Words:** *Social Stratification, Sociology, Social Class. Society.*

## 1. NTRODUCTION

In society, there are many backgrounds of individual that will create a gap or group. Individual as the social creature can't live without interaction. In society, layers of people has been emerge in some categories that differ every of them into some classes. The ranking system sometimes comes unfair because if you come from the lower class it's almost impossible for you to get a good treatment from others. The one of crucial issues that occurs in this world is called stratification or social class. The classes can be based on their wealth, blood and/or their color. "People in this world ranks their self into some categories, the purpose of this is to differ every of them into some classes. The social stratification here happens automatically because of some factors such as wealth, power and blood." (Mulatsiwi,2016). Connected with social class, the society has been shared becomes three layers. According to Wright on his journal *social class* he says that:

"Those three layers are follow as upper class, middle class and lower class. Social class is usually seen by the wealth, education, and occupation. The wealth view is very clear between poor and rich. The upper class society has great wealth. The middle class society has sufficient wealth. The lower class has poor wealth. The education view is about the education level. The lower of the education level of people its lower the class also. The occupation

view can be seen by the job of the society. The lower class society usually works as servant or even beggar. The middle class society, they have a job to fulfill enough their necessary but the upper class society has everything in life. They have good wealth, high education and also power. In society, the upper class society becomes the authorization.” (Wright, 2003).

Social stratification itself causes society to make differences based on the backgrounds of individual. It is clearly seen in society and reality. In the journal entitled *Introducing Social Stratification; The Causes and the Consequenses of Inequality*. Dasgupta says that: “Social stratification is how different dimensions of inequality economic, politic, individual background and social combine together to form complex structures of inequality of entire categories of people who are arranged hierarchically and have different degrees of access to desired resources (jobs, education) and rewards (good health, general well-being). Stratification is probably the most important subject in the entire discipline of sociology, since every aspect of our lives is profoundly affected by our position in society’s system of social stratification.” (Dasgupta, p.4).

The novel entitled *The Prince and The Pauper* which the one of Mark Twain’s work was set in around 16<sup>th</sup> century. The novel begins with two differences side of life between upper and lower class in London. It tells about how the social stratification was occurs at that time where King Henry VIII take hold of the country. *The Prince and The Pauper* novel tells about the two boys who have the similar face but lead very different lives. Those characters are Edward as the Prince and Tom as the pauper. It plays an immensely important role in his novel, because of the main characters are totally get the extremes of the social class condition during at that time. *The Prince and The Pauper* novel of Mark Twain’s work which retold by Olmstead, The story is talking about the class distinction in England. In the novel depicted that social stratification has been emerged. As it stated.

back,  
laughed and

“Tom eyes grew wide with excitement. His desire to see the prince up close became even stronger. He was no longer aware of the other people around him. The guards and other palace visitors disappeared. Without even realizing it. Tom pressed his face against the bars of the gate. He was so slender that he almost slipped through. Suddenly he felt a firm hand grab his arm. “step beggar!” the guard yelled. “mind your manners”. The crowd pointed at Tom. “That’s right!” they called. “keep your distance, beggar!” (Olmstead, 2007).

It shows the determined treatment of the guard to another person. The guard at the palace was poor people are giving priority to the social status of someone and give the impact of social life. So, the complication above that the novel tells and get more attention from Mark Twain as the main character has portrayed one crucial problems. It is about social stratification.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

The types of the research is using qualitative data. The method that used in analyzing the data is the descriptive qualitative method. This study has descriptive text to explain or to analyze the data. The primary data is textual that taken from the novel and the secondary sources. It uses paraphrasing the data. This study is using qualitative data because the data is taken from novel which has story that might has relation with social life or human life. "Qualitative data is characterized by its aims, which relate to understanding some aspect of social life, and its methods which (in general) generate words, rather than numbers, as data for analysis" (Brikci, 2007). So, this study will be describe the data to analyze and this study will be produce textual writing.

In organizing the data, this study will use four steps, those are: 1) Reading the novel, 2) Identifying the data, 3) Classifying the data, 4) Reducing the data. The first step of collecting the data is reading the novel. The novel entitled *The Prince and The Pauper* was read several times. Reading the novel is the important thing to collect the data. The purpose is to get a better understanding of the novel's content. The second is identifying the data. Identifying the data is the way to find some parts of the object that will be analyzed. There are some forms of the data that can be analyzed. The selected data can be in form of description, narration, and prologue, monologue, or dialogue which found from reading the novel. There will be several processes such as, giving codes, underlining the data, highlighting, and noting. The third step of the study is classifying the data. Classifying data is grouping the data according to the problem formulation. There will be a table in classifying the data. It is called as appendix. It consists of columns of number, data, form of data, page, answering problem formulation, comment, and reference. This step will have help to answer the problem formulations of the study. The last method to collect the data is reducing the data. Reducing the data is the process of selecting from a big number of the data to the smaller number. Therefore, reducing the data will help and make easy to analyze the problems in the study.

In this study, the data will be analyzed, and drawn by using descriptive technique. This descriptive technique is stated by statement, description, and quotation or stated through explanation. This step needs collected data that is taken from the previous steps. The complete analysis will be reported in chapter IV which becomes the result of the study.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **A. The Portrayal of Social Stratification**

Social Stratification is an allegory that shows the image of the condition of the people in the society. In human life, there is a differentiation of population or society into class in stages. This is related to the core of level of differences in layers, where community members are in it. The multi-layered system is a permanent and common feature in every society. Various aspects are often seen by the community in distinguishing each individual such as, in the form. As it says in the quote.

“Social stratification is how different dimensions of inequality economic, politic, individual background and social combine together to form complex structures of inequality of entire categories of people who are arranged hierarchically and have different degrees of access to desired resources (jobs, education) and rewards (good health, general well-being).” (Dasgupta, 2019)

The occurrence of social stratification is caused by something that an individual or a group are proud of themselves. Someone who has something that is valued more than others, he will be considered to have a higher status in his community. On the contrary for those who have less quantity of something to be proud of, then they will be considered to have lower status in society. This kind of stratification often occurs in the community, there are those who have high social status and some who have low status in people’s lives, so that they are seen as if human status in the social community looks like layers from top to bottom.

### **A.1 Economic Aspect**

Social stratification can be portrayed as a kind of social differentiation. Commonly people seen into economic strata, based upon their occupation and income, wealth, or derived power. Background Economic is one part of classification persons into some group, based on their shared socio-economic conditions relational set of inequalities which called of a concept of a class in social stratification, for anyone who has something valued or proud in greater numbers than any other, it will be deemed to have a higher status in society anyway. In addition, economic becomes the factor of social stratification. Economic aspect of people between one and others is always different. The explanation above is depicted in Tom’s story in the novel,

“well,” Tom said, “my father forces me to beg in the street for money. He gets very angry if I don’t bring home enough, so I worry about that a lot” Tom smiled at the prince. “I do have wonderful friends, though. There is always something to do. we watch puppet shows in the square. There are plays. Sometimes a musician with a pet monkey will entertain people in the street. We have races and play fights. In the summer, we go swimming in the river. “Tom smiled again. “I think that is my favourite thing. Splashing about in the water makes me very happy.” (Olmstead, 2007)

The classes here are commonly dominating between upper and lower class, in the lower class usually consists of unskilled workers, their income is relatively lower so they are unable to save. They would try to meet immediate needs rather than to meet future needs. In the story above, Tom’s family depicted as the lower class. Tom is forced to beg in the street for money by his father. They have less quantity of something to be proud of. They have a low education and recipients of government welfare funds. When economic background of people is in the stable condition, people will be able to afford a good education as well. The real example is portrayed in the novel. It tells that Tom Canty’s condition is the reflection of lower class and Edward is the reflection of upper class that the wealth from someone has become the one thing that often and the most influence. It can be seen as it says in the dialogue,

“Edward looked at Tom in his rags. “If only I could wear your clothes and enjoy your life for one day, nothing would make me happier.” Tom stared in amazement. “Sir if I could wear your robes dan clothes but once. I would never ask for another thing.” Then let us do it! The prince stood up. “Let’s change our clothes. Perhaps it will only be for a few moments, but that should be long enough!”  
(Olmstead, 2007).

Here the wealth is portrayed from the clothes of someone used. From the quote of the novel, author emphasizes the process of how stratification occurs. The story tells when Tom and Edward meet by chance, they decide to change clothes and see how the other half lives. Suddenly, they are separated before they can change their clothes back, they are trapped in each other place. Edward was a prince of the royal descendants who had great power, in an instant when he exchanged clothes with Tom Canty, because Tom obeyed of Edward request to feel how it was to dress like Tom. This story tells that one's judgement was only addressed through his physical, individual just seen from someone else is from their cover or cloths. That's how the stratification arises in the novel. The characteristics of social stratification in the society are mentioned at the beginning as the layer of society existed since humans knew about life in society or togetherness, because humans cannot live alone and individually. “Social stratification which means from Prof Phillip is usually defined by wealth and occupation of individuals in society” (Schwadel, 2018). The description of stratification here can be seen from a valuable thing that can be proud of especially in people wealth. In society, people who have high level of position, properties or income commonly do anything what they want. In the other hand, people who have no properties and income must work hard to survive. “The wealth view is very clear between poor and rich. The upper class society has rich wealth. The middle class society has sufficient wealth. The lower class has poor wealth.” (Wright, 2007). Social class emerge is needed to adjust the people position with their needs. Social class also becomes part of social stratification. As it mentioned in the quote below,

Social class is rooted in social stratification. The social class usually defined by wealth and occupation of individuals in society. The hierarchical social categories are grouped into three layers, it common being upper, middle, and lower class. Without stratification, there are no social classes. Because of social class is often understood as a relational concept  
(Schwadel, 2018).

According to the concept of social status, in certain groups of people there must be some people who are more respected than others, and hereditary factors are usually closely related to the relationship of people's lives. When people are in good fortune and occupation, they have a lot of hospitality and appreciation from others, but sometimes people are in a bad position.

The quotation here gives the explanation that from economic aspect of someone can lead to another class in society. “Social class is based on a variety of criteria such as access to economic power, the level of economic reward, the values, expectations, beliefs and experiences of a social group. The increase in educational opportunities

and great economic and industrial developments have contributed to this” (Hiroko, 2018).

This case is described in the novel by this quotation that,

“As Tom read more about the elegant lives of kings and prince, he began to notice how shabby his own cloths were. He came to realize that not everyone went to bed hungry each night. There were some people who didn’t have to beg on the streets for small scraps of food. He still played with his friends and enjoyed himself, but something had changed. While he used to enjoy playing in the mud and water of the river Thames, Tom now used this time to wash and clean himself. He was slowly trying to change, he wanted to be more like the people in the stories Father Andrew told him.”  
(Olmstead, 2007).

Tom, who is only a child from an ordinary family and lower class depicted as wearing clothes that are not feasible and adequate. While in other position out there for examples in comparing their levels, they are far different and certainly have something to be proud of. For anyone who has something that is valued in more numbers than others, then he will also be considered as someone who have a high status in society. for those who only have smaller quantity of something to be proud of, they will considered to have a lower status in society.

People who have certain pride in politics (power), usually tend to occupy a certain layer on the basis of economic value. Those who are rich usually tend to be able to occupy important positions in government, as long as they are supported by the values that develop in the society concerned, people who are rich and have high power, because poor people who do not have the right ownership to be proud of always know themselves, do not dare to get closer and indeed should not be approached.

“Tom approached the gates slowly. He was very aware of the rags he was wearing and the dirt on his face. He knew that he stood out from the rest of the crowd, but his curiosity was too strong. One can only imagine how his heart skipped a beat when he noticed a small group inside the grounds. At the center of the group was a young boy wearing satins and silks, with a jeweled sword at his side. Tom knew at one that this was the prince. At long last, it was Prince Edward in the flesh!”  
(Olmstead, 2007).

## **A.2 Education**

Upper, middle, and lower class are representation of the hierarchical categories of group in layers. It is reflected in the novel that poor people are signed by the wealth. For the example of wealth that can be seen from someone that is their appearance. Tom wears rags and his body is dirty as well as a poor boy who lives in the street. The other aspect of social stratification happened is influence from the education. The issue about education find in the novel says,

“One day an old priest named Father Andrew moved into the building. He did not have a parish of his own anymore, so he lived among the poor. The priest often took time out of his day to teach the Canty children how to read and write. Mr. Canty thought that spending time with books meant less time begging in the streets, so the children had to learn in secret. Tom was a very interested student. He loved the world of books and reading. The old priest even taught him a few words of latin.”  
(Olmstead, 2007).

The quotation above gives the understanding that stratification is influenced by seeing the education level of people. Education here is regarded as an expensive thing to be acquired by the poor like Tom. A few people cannot be able to experience to the process of formal learning in education. It happens to Tom Canty who does not have descendants of a prominent family. Tom mentioned in the story that he cannot feel how to enjoy learning process at school, he just learns by himself in secret place. There are no opportunities, costs and time for attending school for poor people like Tom. Here the element of education has become a barometer in individual social life prestige, The issue is proven by the quote taken from a journal, it says that, “Social class is usually seen by the wealth, education, and occupation. The education view is about the education level. The lower of the education level, the lower its class” (Wright, 2007).

Another depiction of education happened explains in the novel. It says that,  
“Edward sat quietly for a moment. “Sometimes it feel like I’ve spent my entire life in school. Long hours with tutors every day or learning about state business. They are preparing me to be the king one day. There is very little time for anything else.” He looked at Tom. “what do you do when you aren’t school?” “well.” Tom said, “my father forces me to beg in the streets for money. He gets very angry if I do not bring home enough, so I worry about that a lot.”  
(Olmstead, 2007).

Education is important aspect in that era where better education can lead to higher qualifications, which in turn education can provide access to the higher occupation in society. The shape of stratification in the society is the existence of higher classes and lower classes. It is because education of people becomes the important aspect in social stratum. Edward as son of the king tells in the story that he must learn much and spent a whole his life to prepared to be king one day. Education becomes one thing that can bring the bright future. It is almost difficult for people like Tom. Because they are can not feel learning in school.

### **A.3 Family Background**

Beside wealth, occupation, and education above, an individual background of someone also influences the emergence of social stratification. It is portrayed in the novel that individual layers seen from how much power and honor in their family background,

“On the same day, in different part of London, a baby boy was born to a rich family who wanted him very much. His name was Edward Tudor

and his father was the King of England. As a matter of fact, all of England wanted this little boy. People cheered in the streets when he was born. Strangers hugged each other and wept tears of joy. There was music and dancing, parties and parades. Everyone especially King Henry wished for a boy. Although he had two older sisters. Edward was now heir to the throne. One day he would be the king.  
(Olmstead, 2007).

According to the evidence, it tells that the most striking difference between the descendants of a respectable person and a lowly person is the joy of the people around in celebrating the presence of his baby. Prince Edward as a child born of a king's son is very proud and anticipated. The background family shows as the depiction of stratification emerge in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The higher class has more advantages in life than those at the bottom of the ladder, the higher have more opportunities to thrive and appreciated in social community.

Each human being born into the world is involuntarily and allocated to social strata, children place is usually their parent's place at that time. Many factors contribute to family background which can bring to top or bottom strata in society. Underemployment and unemployment are included into the cause of why parents bring their family to be underestimated. "Because stratification which appear in the society is defined by individual background that refers to unequally among the occupation of different status which are wealth, power, and prestige." (Maoza, 1866). The other proof in the novel that has been found about family background which can make someone has higher status in society is because of the conditions from their family is,

"A great many years ago, a baby boy was born in the city of London. His name was Tom Canty. His family was very poor and could not afford him" Young Tom Canty did not have the same restful sleep. His fire. His mother worried to feed this new child. She loved Tom dearly and was happy to have him, but she feared life would be hard for the poor little babe. She could barely afford food for her other children. Mrs. Canty kissed Tom's forehead and wished him pleasant dreams.  
(Olmstead 2007).

Children are influenced by their family members. Someone is judged by determining the community layers because of family background. The quotation above taken from the novel that explain about the child born into poor family. Tom Canty appeared as the major character to tell that stratification is distinguished on the basis of one's ancestral background. Therefore it affects how people views and treat others. As long as there is something in the society that is valued, then it will become a seed that can foster a layered system in society. The goods or something that is valued in the community may be in the form of money or objects of economic value, maybe also in the form of land, power, science, and also descendants from a respectable family.



#### **4. CONCLUSION**

Social stratification is one of the major issues raised by Mark Twain's in a novel entitled "*The Prince and The Pauper*". He describes how the condition of his community under the leadership of King Henry VIII. The interesting thing tells in the novel is when Edward as son of a king experienced the inequality that occur in the community. Stratification here can be called as a process of interaction or differentiation whereby some people come to the rank higher than others. Social inequality is included to particular form of social stratification. Because in there has been occurs the differences and determined of people by seeing their wealth, education and family background. The manifestation of social stratification is the existence of upper class and lower class. The separated layers of society exists since humans recognize life together in community life. So that stratification wherever it will still appear.

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