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The Representation of Social Class Conflict in *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner* : A Marxist Literary Reading

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Dedication

I dedicate this dissertation with heartfelt gratitude and appreciation

To the loving memory of my mother

To my father, all my achievements are because of you and for you

To my dear aunt Zakia, whose guidance and love have been my anchor throughout my academic journey

Maissa

Praise Allah who has guided and helped me

I dedicate this work from deep heart

To my dearest parent, who provide me with all what I need, who gave me the inspiration to fulfill this dream with their support, patience and encouragement, who have always loved me unconditionally

To my lovely sisters : Lamia and Tina , Iam truly thankful for having you in my life

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Abstract

The present study is discusses and clarifies the differences between social classes based on the two short stories *The Rocking Horse Winner* by David Herbert Lawrence and *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant. Marxist theory characterized the nineteenth century, as it was concerned with the struggle between classes . This study sheds light on one of the facts of Marxist theory, which states that Literature is a mirror that reflects social reality . Therefore, we found that social struggle can have a profound impact on the individual, shaping their identity, beliefs, and behaviors, and leading to alienation and exploitation under capitalist systems.

Keywords : Marxism theory, The social class ,The class struggle, The capitalism

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General Introduction

1-The Background of the Study

It is common knowledge that literature is meant to be read and that authors use literature as a means to share experiences and ideas. It has always been a mirror reflecting society and shows how a particular society lives, works and behaves. Because that society had different backgrounds, cultures, ideologies, and perspectives. According to Marxism theory of literary criticism, the world is divided into two essential classes : the bourgeoisie (capitalist), those who control the means of productions and the proletariat , who labor to produce goods . Marxism emphasizes the idea that social life is based upon conflicts of interest .

In this research, we choose two short stories to be analyzed, *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D. H. Lawrence and *The Necklace* by the French author Guy de Maupassant. At first, they are very different stories, the first one takes place in the 19th-century Paris, France, while the second one takes place in the post-First World War, England. However, both works revolve around families of medium-income with women who are deeply dissatisfied with their lives and reality and believe they were denied of happiness and prosperity. The obsession with wealth is a theme recurring in both works, and eventually, their obsession leads them to a disastrous outcome.

In *The Rocking Horse Winner*, D.H. Lawrence criticizes capitalism and he is known as a visionary thinker and an important figure in modernism. Many of his writings are known for their intellectual weight and social criticism; this story is a reflection of society's materialism, searching for material happiness and in the same time ignoring the real matter of life. The people are looking for happiness in the wrong place *.The Rocking Horse Winner* tells about a family who pretends to have a life full of luxury while their income is low and their debts are high. It describes a young middle-class Englishwoman who sees herself and her family as very unlucky. Hester does not appreciate her husband and her son; she is unhappy because to her mind, the key to success is luck, as being lucky, you can always solve any problem, manage anything, and earn or win a fortune.

On the other hand, Maupassant captures the life of middle class society in a realistic light. The short story *The Necklace* illustrates social and economic inequality in general and particularly in a proletariat woman's life, Mathilde, and how much it costs in her livings when she wishes to be perfect on bourgeoisies' eyes.

Many writers like Guy de Maupassant and D.H. Lawrence were influenced by the sociology of Karl Marx, which is formed by his economic analysis of ruling class structures within capitalist societies, and reflected the society they lived in, in a different ways of expression.

2-The Motivation

We are interested in social classes struggle theory by Karl Marx and its impact on people's lives so we have chosen to study and analyze two short stories from different authors, which are *The Necklace* by Henry Albert Guy de Maupassant and *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H Lawrence from the Marxism theory of criticism perspective, because we found deep interesting issues in both short stories, since both of them have common in conveying the values of life as well picture the life of two medium-income families.

3-The Research Problem

These stories depict the differences between social classes and how they can affect their lives and create the class conflict .The pressure to display wealth in society is an ongoing concern. *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner* are two short stories that display how this kind of pressure can affect a person's life and their families.

4-The Research Questions

Based on the background of the research, the research questions as follows:

1/ To what extent do the authors succeed in depicting the class struggle in *The Necklace* and *The Rocking*

Horse Winner?

2/ How does the class conflict affect the main characters in the two stories?

5-The Methodology

To answer the aforementioned questions, the qualitative method is adopted . The present study is descriptive analytical and applies sociological approach by karl Marx. We will use the Marxist theory to depict Marx's ideology regarding the social class struggle in *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner*.

6-The Structure of The Dissertation

The dissertation is divided into two main chapters: the theoretical background Marxism and Marxist literary criticism, and the practical chapter revealing the social class struggle in *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner*.

The first chapter presents Marxism theory and Marxist literary criticism as well as the social classes, in order to facilitate the comprehension of the subject. In addition, it will provide and highlight a set of definitions of the main principles of Marxism theory.

The second chapter will take the analytical part of this study. It will explore and explain the social class struggle that it is presented in the two stories, and its impact on the main characters within a capitalist society.

Chapter One

Marxism and Marxist Literary Criticism

Introduction

To read a literary work, theorists created approaches and methods and named them literary theories. Marxism as one of these literary theories deals with the literary text as a source of information about society that creates it. During the 19th century, Marxism has emerged as a great philosophical movement. It is a movement against capitalism system that unifies social, political, economic philosophy. This chapter attempts to shed light on the doctrine of Marxism as well as its application in literature.

1.1 The Marxism Ideology Definition

Marxism is the mid-nineteenth century theory which is developed by Karl Marx and Fredrick Angles, and it is considered one of the great political ideologies in history. Marx and Engels authored *The Communist Manifesto* (1848), the most influential, political text ever published. They outlined their theory of historical materialism and predicting the ultimate overthrow of capitalism by the industrial proletariat and lay out the theory of class struggle and revolution in addition they describe the process by which society developed over time so that today it is divided into roughly two great classes.

Therefore, Marxism is used to depict social problem in literary work then; It is a socioeconomic system that relies on Marx's theories. 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, 2006).

Additionally, Marxist theory believes that the history of all classes is the history of the class struggle. For Marx ,then, capitalism is a system of class domination. Furthermore the class struggle exists between two main classes which are locked together in an unequal relation of power and exploitation (Saunders,1990). The first class which is the bourgeoisie, those who control the natural and industrial resources, and the proletariat ,the majority of global population which owns the labor force. Exploitation and oppression create great tensions between the two classes and motivate the working class to revolution. Lenin points that "without revolutionary theory, there can be no revolutionary movement" (Lenin, 1969).

(Tyson, 2006) claims that Marx believes that the proletariat will one day spontaneously develop the class consciousness needed to rise up in violent revolution against their oppressors and create a classless society. Moreover, much more important for Marx was the existence of these two social classes as the basic and essential elements of society conceived as a system of production (Saunders, 1990).

The literary work almostly criticizes the practice of human exploitation in the modes of production, distribution and exchange, which in turn inspires the working class to fight against

exploitation. This is why Marxism admits that the working class needs a great revolution to liberate themselves from the dominance of the bourgeoisie. In addition, they should have an equal rights and duties to their controllers. Eagleton says "genuine equality means not treating everyone the same, but attending equality to everyone's different needs" (Eagleton, 2002). The proletarian revolution change the whole society from capitalism to communism , as a result society became a classless society .

For Marxism , an ideology is a belief system , and all belief systems are products of cultural conditioning . For example , capitalism , communism , Marxism , patriotism, religion, ethical systems , humanism , environmentalism , astrology and karate are all ideologies (Tyson, 2006). According to Marx, the dominant ideology in any class society was the ideology of the ruling class .

1.2 An overview on Marxist Literary Criticism

Marxism is a critical theory and a movement in the valuation of literature. It has a long and complicated history. Although it is often thought of as a twentieth-century phenomenon, partly because it was the basis of the social-governmental system of the Soviet Union, it actually reaches back to Karl Marx, a nineteenth century (1818-1883), German philosopher and economist. Meanwhile, the political economist Friedrich Engels (1820 -1895) discovered that he had arrived at similar views of Marx. That's why they decided to collaborate to explain the principles of communism (later called Marxism) and to organize an international movement (Eagleton, 1976).

Marxism and Literary Criticism emerged from the ferment of revolutionary ideas which lasted from the late 1960s to the mid-1970s(Eagleton,2002). Moreover, Marxist literary theory starts from the assumption that literature must be understood in relation to historical and social reality of a certain society (Hamadi,2017). Through using Marxism theory, the society of the writer will be reflected on his writings; his ideology, social classes and political conflicts in that society will clearly appear in the work. Then Marxist provides a way of understanding and analysis literature and works to reveal inequitable economic relationship as the source of class conflict.

The English literary critic and cultural theorist, Terry Eagleton defines Marxist criticism this way:

Marxist criticism is not a merely sociology of literature, concerned with how novel get published And whether they mention the working class. Its aim is to explain the literary work more Fully; and this means a sensitive attention to its form, styles and meaning. But it also means Grasping those forms, Styles and meaning as the product of particular history(Eagleton, 2002).

Eagleton points out that there is an integral relationship between literature and history.Marxist literary criticism analyzes literature in terms of historical condition that aims to appreciate ideologies, and certain of those ideologies are available to us in literature. In his book *"Marxism and literary criticism"* (2002), he explains how Marxist criticism examines a literary work, he says Marxist criticism analyzes literature in terms of the historical conditions which

produce it, and it needs similarly to be aware of its own historical conditions (Eagleton,2002). He insists that any piece of writing indicates the era which produces it.

In addition, the main objective of the literary work is to be aware of its form and content, as well as understanding them as the reproduction of history. The form helps in understanding the language used of that "particular history", the style in comprehending the writer's point of view and "ideology", and the meaning is an easy way to get the reality behind the used words in the literary work (ibid). That's why Eagleton said that to understand ideologies means to understand both the past and the present more deeply.

1.3The Definition of The Social Class

Class is a complex term, there are various ways in which it can be defined (Cody, 2002). social class refers to a group of people who share and exchange the same values, attitudes, beliefs, traditions, customs and economic circumstances ; also hold a particular social and economic status. The economic status of an individual can be determined by two different measures: income and wealth . In addition to income and wealth, social class is linked to social status which means the position people occupy in society. This social position is related to the amount of prestige and power that people hold in their society. The argument here is that there cannot ever be true legal equality between individuals in a society organized around the systematic inequality of classes (Saunders , 2001).

The widespread discussion of Marxism theory is the concept of social class. The most famous sociologists who discussed this concept were Karl Marx (1818–83) and Max Weber (1864–1920). Influenced the field of sociology, particularly in terms of theories of social class. Both of these theorists wrote extensively on issues of social class and social inequality, or the unequal status and access to opportunities that different groups have within a society. Sociologists continue to use and respond to ideas that Marx and Weber developed.

1.3.1 The Social Class According to Karl Marx

Karl Marx (1818-1883) a German philosopher, author, social theorist, and economist. He was a nineteenth-century theorist who developed his key ideas about the class structure of modern societies in the forty years following the wave of European revolutions in 1848 (Saunders, 2001).

In the mid-nineteenth century, Marx defined class as follow:

Persons share important characteristics in the system of economic production. This condition depended on individual status with the economic process, whether owned and controlled the means of production or worked for someone else (Kimball & Mack, 1965).

Marx described class as a group of people who have the same relationship to the means of production. he wrote extensively of the relationship between the privileged classes--the "haves," or the bourgeoisie--and the oppressed classes—the "have nots," or the proletariat. In other words, Marx claims that "Those who own and control the means of production (which

involves ownership of such things as land, factories, financial institutions): this is the Capitalist class (Bourgeoisie), and adds that "Those who own nothing but their ability to sell their labor power (that is, their ability to work) in return for wages: this is the working class (Proletariat) (Wright, 2003).

As Marx saw it, all societies that had ever existed had been 'class societies' of one kind or another (Saunders, 2001). In his view, one basic principle governs the organization of human affairs in all societies including the advent of capitalism, a one section of the population owned and controlled the basic material resources at the society's disposal while the other section owned nothing. Much more important for Marx was the existence of these two social classes as the basic and essential elements of society conceived as a system of production (ibid). In capitalist society, Marx argued that this relationship between classes is exploitive of the working class because the surplus value derived from work is unfairly appropriated by the bourgeoisie. In Marx's view, the economic system of capitalism automatically creates social stratification, or class differences, in which members of different classes are in an adversarial relationship.

1.3.2The Social Class According to Max Weber

Max Weber was a German historian and sociologist writing mainly in the early years of this century (Saunders, 2001). Weber (1864_1920), was political economist Influenced by Karl Marx's works and the field of sociology, particularly in terms of theories of social class.

Weber's theory of class was similar to Marx's. Max defined class as "Any group of people who share a similar position in an economic market" (Livesey, 2003). He agreed with Marx that economic markers are important, but he advanced the idea that other factors, such as education and occupational prestige, determine class hierarchies. Besides , Weber's principal concern in his work on stratification was with the exercise of power and the organization of domination in human societies (Saunders,2001) . He described a class for economically determined stratification , in addition he defined class as being made up of individuals who share similar life chances based on their power to dispose products and skills for the sake of income . Furthermore , social stratification has been viewed by Weber in three dimensions: economic class, social class, politic (Pyakuryal, 2008). Weber key contributions to social stratification were in showing how class , status and bureaucracy can operate independently , such as to influence political decisions (Clarck, Lipset, 1991).

In order to understand Weber's perspective on stratification, he suggested that there were three kinds of situation in which one group of people might expect to get its own way in relationships with another group of people (Saunders,2001). First, power could arise on the basis of unequal access to material resources ,Weber referred to this as class power. Second, power can be a function of social status and esteem, Weber saw this as social power – the power exercised by status groups as opposed to classes . Third, one group may dominate another through the agency of the state, either by directly controlling it, or by influencing those who do

control it. As Weber emphases sized, the state is the only institution in modern societies which claims the right to force people to do things (ibid).

Max claims that class is a number of people that have in common a specific part of their life chances. He adds that these parts are represented by economic interests in the possession of goods and chances for income. Also, it represented under the conditions of labor market (Wright, 2003). Max believes that class structure is complicated and more than two distinct classes, then he identified four main strata which were the upper class "A propertied Class", the middle class which composed from two sub classes; The Upper Middle Class "The white Collar Professionals" and The Lower Middle class "The Petty Bourgeoisie", and The lower class " Working Class"(ibid).

1.3.3The Characteristics of Social Classes

Social class is typically divided into three main categories, known as the upper class, middle class, and lower class, each with their own distinct characteristics and social positions.

1.3.3.1 The Upper Class : The Bourgeoisie

The upper class is a group of the owners of natural resources and factories (Marx,1998). The bourgeoisie or the upper class is the first grade class in capitalist society "the oppressive class", which Karl Marx argued would be destroyed in the workers' revolution. Specifically, the bourgeoisie was the class which controlled the means of production as well as almost all of the wealth and the economic power . The means of production can be identified as natural resources, mills, factories, and anything else that goes into creating goods and/or services to sell on the market.

The bourgeoisie, historically, has played a most revolutionary part (Marx, Engels, 1848). Marx says the bourgeoisie are expansionistic in nature, driving new international trade, new factories, and new conquests of foreign lands to access new materials for production. They are able to develop a distinctive style of life based on extensive cultural pursuits and leisure activities, to exert a considerable influence on economic policy and political decisions, and to procure for their children superior education and economic opportunities that help to perpetuate family wealth.

In addition, Marx points out that the ideas of the ruling class are in every age, the ruling ideas. The class which is the dominant material force in society is at the same time its dominant intellectual force (1998).By controlling the wealth and the means of production, Marx argued that the bourgeoisie held all the power and forced the proletariat to take dangerous, low-paying jobs, in order to survive. Moreover, every ruling class has insisted that their right to rule is natural or pre-ordained by some deity and that it is unchangeable. Their subjects are told that their laws are sacred and all must accept the place in society that these laws allocate them. In brief, the bourgeoisie is the wealthy, materialist, imperialist, and economist class that own and control the means of production in the capitalist society , thus it employ and exploit the proletariat.

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1.3.3.2The Middle Class : The Petty Bourgeoisie

Originally, "the petty bourgeoisie is a group of craft workers and small traders of the mediaeval era" (Baker, 1986). Middle class has been more closely identified by Marxist scholars with the term 'petite bourgeoisie'. which includes clerical workers, those engaged in technical and professional occupations, supervisors and managers, and such self-employed workers as small-scale shopkeepers, businesspersons, and farmers.

Industrialists of this class were successful and self-made men who came from poor beginnings (McDowall, 2006). The middle class is a socio-economic strata that falls in between the working class and the upper class (in other words; it included everyone between the working class and the upper class. Moreover, the petty bourgeoisie appears as a category during the industrial development of capitalism (Baker, 1986). Within the socioeconomic framework of individual capitalism, middle class appears to have grown into a distinct social class.

Furthermore, there are two main differences between the bourgeoisie and the petty bourgeoisie; the latter is distinguished from the former in its economic dependence and instability as well as in its reliance on its own labor power (Baker, 1986). In addition, the petty bourgeoisie is the middle class which takes place between the exploiting and exploited classes.

Karl Marx is one of the theorists who anticipate the disappearance of the petty bourgeoisie by the collapse of capitalism. So, some members would move to the bourgeoisie and the others to the proletariat (Marx, 1986). Marx expected that this class would disappear as capitalism developed, with members moving into the bourgeoisie or into the working class, depending on whether or not they were successful.

1.3.3.3The Lower Class : The Proletariat

The Proletariat is one of the lowest economic and social classes in a society. The lower class was divided into two sections: the working class (laborers), and the poor. It contained men, women, and children performing many types of labor, including factory work, seam stressing, and chimney sweeping, mining, and other jobs .The proletariat means the class of modern wage laborers who having no means of production of their own, are reduced to selling their labor power in order to live (Marx, Engels, 1998). Karl Marx defined the working class or proletariat as individuals who sell their labour power for wages and who do not own the means of production. Because they do not have access to the means of production, the proletariat must work under the bourgeoisie in order to subsist and survive. As result, the exploitation is made by the bourgeoisie who increase their capital and make profits as well as they give a little payment to proletariat less than its value (Marx, Angles, 1998). Proletariat was the working class who was controlled or being dominated by bourgeoisie because their life depended on wages given by the bourgeoisie.

By 1848, the concept of the proletariat had become the center of the Communist Manifesto. In Marx theory, the term proletariats designated the class of wage workers who were engaged in industrial production and whose chief source of income was derived from the sale of their labor power, and have only their labor power without any source or property. They rely on their hand, minds, and bodies to gain enough income (Marx, 1867) .Thus, he argued that they were responsible for creating the wealth of a society, however, he asserted that the working class physically build bridges, craft furniture, grow food, and nurse children, but do not own land, or factories.

The lower class, who worked just to fulfill the higher level class, this due to them didn't have enough skill in industry. This class was the poorest class because they worked under pressure from the upper and middle class. The working classes, the members of which must under capitalism sell their labor in order to earn a living.

1.4The Definition of Class Struggle

One of the most complicated theories in Sociology is the 'Conflict theory' of Marxism. A conflict theory suggests that society is based on a conflict of interests. For Karl Marx, the founding father of Marxism, this conflict was between the wealthy of society and the poor.(Milton).Conflict theory is developed by Karl Marx in his book the communist manifesto, which Marx and Angles stated that: "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles" (Marx, Engels 1848). Further, class conflict is thought to play a fundamental role in the history of class societies and it is the origin of all the society's classes .Generally this class struggle-or class conflict is conflict between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. The proletariat is the social class which doesn't Have means of production that the bourgeoisie has (Forster, 1974).

Moreover, in the capitalist society, the class struggle is an antagonism which presents itself throughout the society (Marx, Angles 1998). Marx emphasizes the antagonistic relationship between social classes, in particular the relationship between the owners of capital who Marx calls the "bourgeoisie" and the working class, which he calls the "proletariat." Class divisions have been attributed to productive relations, market access, a status hierarchy, or culture. Often it seems that they are hard to tell apart from other forms of division: racial, gendered, regional, ethnic, religious, and so forth. Class societies can be viewed as stable, or conflict ridden.

Furthermore, conflicts between social classes occur because of the differences in interests between social classes. Social conflict arises when differences between individuals or groups in society are not neutralized or ignored. Social conflict does not happen by itself, although the main cause of social conflict is differences in society such as conflicts of economic interest. According to Marxism, there are three factors that raised the conflict of Social Class in a society which they are , the Class Structure in Society, Conflicting Economic Interest Between Different Classes and that Classes are naturally antagonistic by Virtue of Their interests.

The superordinate is the superior group that has greater access to the economic resources, wealth, prestige and power (Dowding, 2011). Bourgeoisie as superordinate class in society have domination in wealth and power. They are two parts of a whole that struggle against each other, not just physically but also ideologically (Dobie.2011). The capitalist/bourgeoisie are able to control the proletariat through two mechanisms. The first is direct control through the exercise of power, which means working class under the control of the capitalist and the product is the property of the capitalist (Isaac, 1987). The second is indirect control of people's minds through the imposes of ideology or ideas. According to Dobie, an ideology formed by the dominant class functions to legitimate their power in society. Then leads people to accept a system that is unfavorable for them without protest or questioning (Nurman, Kuncara, Mujahir, 2020). Today, our capitalist ruling class would have us believe that class struggle is something "introduced" into society by ideologically driven propagandists or agitators (Boyle, 2019). He said that the concept of class struggle as an ideology suits the capitalist ruling class just as it did the feudal aristocracy and slave owners in antiquity's slave based societies (such as ancient Greece and Rome). Thought history, ruling classes have regarded the concept of social change as subversive.

1.5The Definition of Capitalism

Capitalism became a fully developed system with the growing power of the bourgeoisie in the mid-nineteenth century (Dobie,2011). It is an economic system with private ownership of capital goods and which prices, production, and the distribution of goods are determined by competition in a free market. Moreover, Capitalism is an ideology believes that the owner of production can put all their effort into making big profits. According to Marx, capitalist societies are dehumanizing because the social relations of production prohibit people from achieving the freedom of self-determination that technological advance has made possible.

According to Marx, capital is created through the purchase of commodities with the aim of creating new commodities with higher exchange value than the amount of money in the original purchase. Capitalism is a "generalized" system of commodity production where nearly everything we consume takes the form of a commodity, where every product is produced for sale, and where every sale is a moment in the endless pursuit of profit (Royce,2015). Royce added that While capitalism is a commodity production system, commodity exchange is only a prerequisite . The essential necessary condition for the development of capitalism is the appearance of a capitalist class on the one side and a working class on the other, the former owning the means of production and the latter owning only their labor power.

According to Tucker in Tuderu (2008), there are two main classes in capitalist society that are related in the sphere of production: the capitalist(bourgeoisie/the opposition class) and the waged labor (the proletarian class/ the working class). The first class (the owners of production) owns the means of production and accumulates capital through the exploitation of labor. The second class(The wage labor), the working class, does not own the means of production but uses its labor power to create value for the capitalist as a condition of its survival. This class

includes all who earn a living by selling their labor power and receiving wages for their labor time. They have little choice; Instead, they have to work for capitalists as they usually have no independent means of survival. Hence, the division between the Possessing class and the working class (lower/working class) represent the same human alienation but bring different effects to the two classes. The owning class feels satisfied and clarified that in this selfalienation , they experience alienation as a sign of their own power. So the proletariat feels destroyed and isolated in this alienation, so they want to resist as a result of the alienation and oppression that capitalist society inflicts.

1.6The Definition of Materialism

(Daun, 1983) described materialism as a life style, which aims at colossal consumption of material goods. He argues that in materialistic way of life, consumption becomes a yardstick as well as a point of reference for social comparisons. Materialism is placing material things at the center of one's life as a path to success and happiness, a non-materialist should be someone who focuses on spiritual or intellectual goals, success through self-actualization and personal achievement attained, and who does not derive happiness from possessions, but from marriage, children, leisure, or personal relationships. From a social point of view, materialism is another effect of the affluent society. More than a habit or a lifestyle, it is a conception of life, a world view in which possession of material things becomes a central aspect of life, the main source of happiness and the measure of personal success (Richins & Dawson, 1992). Moreover, according to Marx and Engels, Materialism meant that the sensible material world has an objective reality that is independent of reason or spirit. They did not deny the reality of mental or spiritual processes, but affirmed that ideas could therefore only arise as products and reflections of material conditions.

Karl Marx developed both theories, dialectical materialism and historical materialism. Dialectical materialism, a scientific method of thinking to evaluate the world in which humans live (Bowens et al,2013). It is a philosophical approach that emphasizes the dynamic aspects of reality, stressing the importance of change and development. It is based on the ideas of dialectics, which is a method of reasoning that looks at the interaction between opposing forces, in order to explain how change occurs. Dialectical materialism views the material world as the only reality, and holds that the conditions of production and exchange are the primary driving forces of history and society. Moreover, Dialectical materialism shows that people's thoughts, characters and actions are shaped by the conditions in the world around them, the material world. When people look at the world through the lens of dialectical materialism they can see the logical development of beliefs and thoughts, actions and events, and even human history as a whole (ibid).

On the other hand, historical materialism is a method of analyzing history and society, which emphasizes the importance of material conditions in shaping social and historical development. It is based on the idea that the economic and technological conditions of a society are the primary determinants of its social and political structures. Historical materialism argues that the development of technology and the growth of the economy are the most important

forces driving historical change. It also holds that the struggle between social classes is the primary motor of history. Beside, historical materialism extends the principles of dialectical materialism to the study of society and its history. It recognizes that history and society develop based on material, economic conditions. Therefore all development, that of ideas and that of institutions, is based on conflicts and interactions in the material world (ibid). Furthermore, for Marx, the best way to describe social change was instead of looking at culture, we should instead look at the economic base or infrastructure of a society, and how it has changed over time. This type of theory is often called 'historical materialism (Milton,n.d)

Conclusion

A literary theory is an attempt to read, understand, and analyze a literary work. It gives the reader the opportunity to read a text through different lenses. From a Marxist perspective, a text reveals many things about the different social classes in a society and their struggle between these social classes. Class structure is one of the most important concepts in sociology. As mentioned above, the class theories of Marx and Weber were similar in many respects. Marxist literary theory focuses on the ways in which literature represents and comments on class struggle, exploitation, and oppression. It also examines how literary works are produced and consumed within a capitalist society, and how these factors affect the meaning and value of literature.

Chapter Two

Revealing the Social Class Struggle in *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner*

Introduction

Marxism theory deals with the struggle for power between the ruling class and the working class, between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Since Marxist theory focuses on the class struggle between the different classes within the society, this chapter is going to shed light on the class struggle in the two short stories *The necklace* by Guy De Maupassant and *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H Lawrence. Besides, this chapter is going to identify the major reasons behind the class struggle as well as the impact of social classes on the main characters in the stories and the embodiment of the conflict aspects with concrete examples.

2.10verview of The necklace

The Necklace written by Guy de Maupassant, was published in 1884 in the French Newspaper Le Gaulois. Since then it becomes one of his most popular and widely anthologized works. Interestingly, *La Parure* is the original French title of "*The Necklace*" that's not exactly what it means , although that's how it is always been translated, which actually means "The Set of Jewel" or "The Finery " in English.

The Necklace is set in Paris, France, in the late 19th century. The story tells about Mathilde Loisel, a petty and attractive woman. She is married to a clerk in the Ministry of Education and dreams of a life of luxury and riches. However, her husband's salary is modest, but she cannot accept her true condition. She really thinks that she is born for a good destiny in which she can display finery so that other woman will envy her. Moreover, she is frustrated with her desires and her unrealistic dreams.

One day her husband gives her an invitation of nice party, Madame Loisel is thrilled but becomes distressed when she realized she has nothing appropriate to wear . So, her husband purchases her for expensive dress. Anyways, it does not satisfy her because of her lack of jewelry. Then, She borrows a beautiful diamond necklace from her friend, Madame Forestier, to wear to the ball. Mathilde is the belle of the ball and enjoys the attention of the other guests. She feels alive and happy for the first time in a long while. However, her joy is shortlived when she realizes that she has lost the necklace.

Mathilde and her husband scrape together enough money to buy a new necklace to replace the lost one. They spend the next ten years of their lives working and living in poverty to repay the debt they incurred to purchase the new necklace. Eventually, when Madame Loisel finally meets her friend Madame Forestier again and she confesses to having lost the necklace. Madame Forestier reveals that the original necklace was fake and worth only a fraction of what they paid for it. The story ends with the revelation that Madame Loisel has aged quickly and lost much of her beauty, and that her obsession with material wealth has cost her dearly. The story is a powerful commentary and cautionary tale about the dangers of vanity, greed, materialism, and the pursuit of social status. Mathilde's obsession with material possessions leads her to make a poor decision, and the consequences of that decision have a lasting impact on her life. The story also highlights the power of perception and how a person's social status can be influenced by the appearance of wealth and luxury.

2.1.1The Class Struggle in The Necklace

Guy de Maupassant is known for his realistic and critical portrayal of French society during the late 19th century, particularly in terms of the class struggle. In his works, he often depicts the conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, and highlights the exploitation, inequality, and social injustice faced by the working class. He presents the class struggle in his works is through the portrayal of characters from different social classes. He often contrasts the lifestyles and values of the wealthy and the poor . Overall, Maupassant presents the class struggle in his works as a complex and ongoing conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, and highlights the ways in which economic and social inequality perpetuates this struggle. His works offer a critical analysis of French society during his time and continue to be relevant in discussions of class and social justice today. In nineteenth century France there was a struggle between social classes. The middle class aspired to increase their social status. For instance, Maupassant relevant and overarching story *The Necklace*, where we can visualize the struggle of social classes.

In the opening of the story we see that Maupassant starts off with examining Mathilde's social standing and her history:

"She was one of those pretty and charming girls who are sometimes, as if by a mistake of destiny, born in a family of clerks" (Maupassant, 1884).

This quote highlights the idea that one's birth and social status can determine their opportunities in life. Mathilde is seen as a misfit in her social class because of her beauty and charm. Unfortunately her personality full of beauty, delicacy and elegance is alone not sufficient for marrying a man of wealth and distinction. Therefore, she marries a simple clerk. Mathilde's financial background is an important element in this story. She grew up in a simple family and even married a clear in the Ministry of Education above her status. Maupassant uses the character of Mathilde Loisel to represent the impossibility of social ascension.

Madame Loisel is dissatisfied with her position in society and dreams of a better life, but she is unable to achieve it because of the limitations of her social class. Her husband is a minor clerk who cannot afford to give her the luxuries she craves. She is unable to gain the status she dreams of; in fact, her desires lead to her downfall:

"Mathilde suffered ceaselessly, feeling herself born to enjoy all delicacies and luxuries. She was distressed at the poverty of her dwelling, at the bareness of the wall, at the shabby chairs, the ugliness of the curtains' (Maupassant, 1884).

While the story does not explicitly deal with class struggle, it does touch on issues related to social status and class mobility. Mathilde is unhappy with her modest lifestyle and longs to be part of the wealthy upper class. She is envious of her friend's wealth and status and feels that she is entitled to the same kind of life. However, her efforts to achieve this lifestyle ultimately Lead her downfall.

The high standard of French women puts pressure on some of them and demanding the high social class things to be worn, because French people like the finer things in life. Therefore, every woman wants to wear quality accessories and elegant dress everywhere, especially when meeting other people, mainly the more affluent society. Maupassant shows us how the woman in France always demanding the wealthier life . "But she had no dresses, no jewels, nothing. And these were the only things she loved; she felt that she was made for them" (Maupassant, 1884). This quote reinforces Mathilde's belief that material possessions are the key to happiness and success. It shows the class struggle from the perspective of someone who desires to be part of a higher class but lacks the resources to do so.

The story also highlights the role of appearance and social status in society. Mathilde's obsession with her appearance and the desire to be accepted by the upper class is a reflection of the importance that society places on outward appearances and material wealth. Mathilde believes that her beauty and charm are the key to social mobility.

"I'm utterly miserable at not having any jewels, not a single stone, to wear," she replied. "I shall look absolutely no one. I would almost rather not go to the party. "Wear flowers," he said. "They're very smart at this time of the year. For ten francs you could get two or three gorgeous roses." "No . . . there's nothing so humiliating as looking poor in the middle of a lot of rich women" (Maupassant,1884).

This quote shows us that no matter how hard her husband try to convince her that it is okay to wear flowers (roses), she knows that the rich woman will not wear flowers in exchange for jewelry, they will show their wealth by wearing their expensive diamonds. Also, the quote highlights Mathilde's focus on material possessions and her desire to fit in with the wealthy and fashionable crowd. Her lack of suitable attire and jewelry causes her to feel embarrassed and inferior, which in turn causes her to lash out at her husband. This creates a stressful situation for Monsieur Loisel, who wants to make his wife happy but cannot afford the expensive items she desires.

"Madame Forestier went to her mirrored wardrobe, took out a large jewel box, brought it back, opened it, and said to Madame Loisel: 'Choose, my dear'" (Maupassant,1884) . In this scene, Mathilde has been invited to a high-society party but feels she does not have anything suitable to wear. She turns to her wealthy friend Madame Forestier and borrows a diamond necklace, feeling that it will make her appear more elegant and affluent. The quote emphasizes the extravagance and luxury of Madame Forestier's possessions, as well as Mathilde's desire to be accepted by the upper class.

Mathilde experiences a temporary fulfillment during the party she attends. Despite her initial fears and anxieties about being accepted by the upper class, Mathilde feels a sense of excitement and enjoyment as she dances and mingles with the other guests. She is praised for her beauty and charm, and for a brief moment, she feels like she belongs among the high society. Mathilde's temporary fulfillment is evident in the following passage from the story:

"She danced with rapture, with passion, intoxicated by pleasure, forgetting everything in the triumph of her beauty, in the glory of her success, in a sort of cloud of happiness composed of all this homage, admiration, these awakened desires, and of that sense of complete victory which is so sweet to a woman's heart" (Maupassant ,1884).

However, this sense of fulfillment is short-lived. When Mathilde realizes that she has lost the borrowed necklace, her happiness is quickly replaced by fear and despair. The temporary fulfillment she experienced at the party only serves to heighten the tragedy of her situation, as she is forced to pay a heavy price for a moment of happiness that was never meant to last.

It is the material world that has created Mme Loisel, for example, and it is the material world that destroys her. Her desire for expensive objects and the circles in which they are found, generated by the capitalistic system she lives in rather than by any character flaw, leads her to make a foolish request of a friend. When she loses the "diamond" necklace, she too is lost (Dobie ,2012) . Mathilde and her husband are faced with the enormous debt incurred from replacing the lost necklace. "She worked at home, morning, noon, and night, picking apart old laces, sewing on buttons, sewing on beads, and doing work of every kind" (Maupassant,1884). The loss of the necklace exacerbates the class struggle in the story. To repay the debt, Mathilde must work tirelessly and sacrifice her own comfort and happiness. Her inability to pay for the lost necklace and her subsequent debt highlight the financial strain that a person in the middle class can experience when attempting to maintain appearances. The quote emphasizes the monotony and drudgery of Mathilde's work, as she is forced to pick apart old laces and perform tedious tasks in order to earn money. They are forced to live in poverty for ten years in order to pay off the debt they incurred in replacing the necklace. It also shows the extent of her dedication and determination to make amends for her mistake.

The effect of Mathilde's work on her and her husband is devastating. They both age prematurely and are consumed by bitterness and resentment. Mathilde becomes a shadow of her former self, losing her beauty and charm as a result of her hard labor. "Madame Loisel looked old now. She had become like all the other strong, hard, coarse women of poor households" (Maupassant,1884). This quote highlights how the constant struggle of living in poverty has physically aged and hardened Mathilde, reducing her to just another member of the lower-class society. It also underscores the tragedy of their situation, as they are forced to suffer the consequences of a mistake that was made in a moment of frivolity and desire.

After the loss of the necklace, the situation is intensified, for the couple are finally shut out of all social contact with bourgeois society. In the end, Mme. Loisel moves to carry out what Marx calls upon the proletariat to do. She realizes that her life has been controlled by others. Freed of the debt she has owed her wealthy friend, she determines to free herself of the social enslavement to her friend by speaking openly and honestly at last (Dobie,2012). The quote that reflects Mathilde's decision to speak honestly and free herself comes towards the end of the story:

"She took her friend's hand in hers, and spoke to her with an earnestness which she had never before shown. 'I've had a great deal of trouble, dear friend, since I last saw you, and I've been very unhappy.' Madame Forestier stopped short. 'And what has been the matter?'" (Maupassant,1884).

This quote shows Mathilde's realization that she no longer needs to pretend to be something she is not. After years of struggling and living in poverty, she has come to the realization that true happiness and freedom come from being honest with oneself and others. By speaking honestly to Madame Forestier, Mathilde finally frees herself from the burden of her own lies and can begin to live a more authentic life. Furthermore, it also highlights the theme of the cost of vanity and the dangers of excessive ambition. Mathilde's desire to appear wealthy and sophisticated led her to borrow the necklace in the first place, and her dishonesty about losing it ultimately resulted in years of financial hardship and emotional turmoil. Only by embracing honesty and humility can Mathilde find peace and contentment.

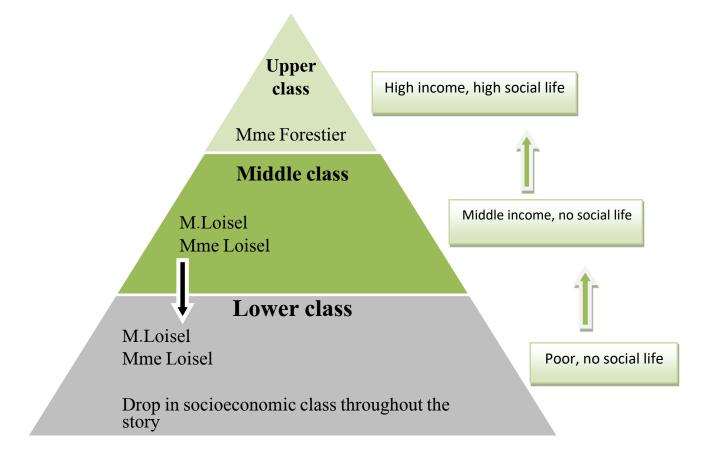
The necklace is false' she has been stripped of her dreams and forced to suffer for nothing. Finally, by speaking clearly, she engages in revolution by refusing to want any longer what the bourgeoisie values (Dobie,2012) .At the end of the story Mathilde realized that the necklace was fake:

"Oh, my poor Mathilde! But mine was imitation. It was worth at most five hundred francs!" Madame Forestier told her"(Maupassant,1884).

This quote highlights the irony of the situation. Mathilde and her husband worked hard for years to pay off the debt they incurred to replace the necklace they lost, only to find out that the necklace was worth much less than they had thought. The quote also emphasizes the theme of appearance versus reality, as Mathilde had believed the necklace to be genuine and had gone to great lengths to maintain the illusion of wealth and status that it afforded her.

The Necklace is an excellent masterpiece that represents a protagonist's materialistic approach towards life and her downfall and rise eventually (Yadav, 2019). Moreover it illustrates the class struggle that exists in French society during the late 19th century, and it focuses on themes related to social status, class mobility, the role of material wealth in society, and the consequences of materialistic desire. This story can be seen as a critique of the obsession with material possessions and the ways in which social hierarchies are constructed and maintained.

Figure 01: The social standing of the main characters in *The necklace*



2.1.2The Impact of Social Class on Mathilde Character

In *The Necklace*, Mathilde is considered as the main character in the story because her influence is very big toward the whole story . A major character is an important figure at the center of the story's action or theme (DiYani, 2004). In other word, she contributes completely from the beginning up to the end of the story. Mathilde is also seen as dynamic character because she shows some changes in a significant way during the course of the work. Dynamic character, on the other hand, exhibits some kind of change of attitude, of purpose, and of behavior as the story progresses (ibid).

The story explores the impact of social class in Mathilde Loisel. She experiences both mental and physical suffering as a result of her obsession with social status and material

possessions (Tyson, 2006) argues that Marxism is clearly concerns with human psychology. However, while psychoanalysis focuses on the individual psyche and its formation within the family, Marxism focuses on the material and the historical forces as well the politics and ideologies of socioeconomic systems that shape the psychological experience and behavior of individuals and groups. Mathilde experiences these kinds of changes in her attitude, purpose and behavior, although she has not surely forgot all her dreams and desires, because she sometimes imagines her experience which has passed by ten years ago.

The mental suffering of Mathilde can be seen through the author's descriptions and the characters' dialogues. Mathilde is someone who cannot accept her condition. She is always tricked by her desires which in the end make her suffering. Mathilde is consumed with envy and dissatisfaction with her lower middle-class life. She yearns for the luxurious lifestyle of the wealthy and feels trapped in her own social class. This longing for something she cannot have leads to her constant daydreaming and dissatisfaction with her life. Mathilde is unable to appreciate the good things in her life, such as her loving husband and comfortable home, because she is so focused on what she does not have. Her desire for a life of luxury and extravagance ,which she believes will bring happiness and fulfillment. Her perception of the wor6is heavily influenced by her social class, and her longing for a better life is a manifestation of her desire to transcend her class.

Her bad habit as like daydreaming only makes her more suffering . Mathilde is always daydreaming of unobtainable things , she cannot accept her status which in the end only causes her into suffering. In the following quotation it is implied how she completely suffers because of her desires, and because she cannot accept her condition: "She felt herself made for that, for elegant drawing-rooms, for the confidential talks with the intimate friends, who understood the finer things of life" (Maupassant,1884). This quote emphasizes Mathilde's belief that she is meant for a life of luxury and sophistication, which only adds to her mental suffering when she cannot attain it.

Mathilde is so burned with her desires. This condition only shows that she surely cannot take her life. Besides, she is never happy with everything that she has had. Her dreams only make her being more suffering because there is no hope for her to achieve them. "She had no dowry, no expectations, no means of being known, understood, loved, married by any rich and distinguished man; so she let herself be married to a little clerk of the Ministry of Public Instruction" (Maupassant, 1884). This quote highlights Mathilde's belief that her lack of wealth and social status are the reasons for her unhappiness.

Mathilde suffering goes deeper when she feels jealous with other women who have higher status. That is why; her life seems more miserable. The following quotation shows her jealousy which causes her into suffering: "She looked at the woman who seemed so calm, so happy, and so well dressed, and she bitterly envied her" (Maupassant, 1884). This quote shows Mathilde's jealousy of those who have the material possessions and lifestyle she desires.

On the other hand, her anxiety of lacking a new dress and jewelry is the stimulus that Mathilde faces .When she finally gets the opportunity to attend a high society event, she is initially thrilled but soon becomes overwhelmed with anxiety and self-consciousness. Mathilde is constantly worried about what others think of her, and this leads to a constant state of stress and anxiety. "The mode of production of material life conditions the general process of social, political and intellectual life. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their existence, but their social existence that determines their consciousness" (Marx, 1859). In this quote, Marx argues that material things have a significant impact on the individual's mental state, both in terms of their ability to contribute to society and their understanding of the world around them.

Once again, Mathilde's suffering is identified when she realizes that she does not have any nice dress and jewelry to come in the party. It makes her worried so that she comes into decision in manipulating her husband for a new dress and a jewel which she borrows from Mrs. Forreister, an idea of her husband. She manipulates her husband in order to gratify her desires. As Weber emphasized that "Material conditions shape the way individuals see the world and act within it, and the dominant ideas of a society are those of the ruling class" (1925).

The fancy party is Mathilde's new section of life in which she is not only mentally suffering, but also physically suffering. The author describes her physical suffering when Mathilde borrows the diamond necklace from her friend Madame Forestier, she believes that it will be the key to achieving the life of luxury that she desires. She wears the necklace to a fancy party, where she is able to enjoy the attention and admiration of others. However, when she loses the necklace, her life is turned upside down. She and her husband are forced to go deeply into debt in order to replace it, and Mathilde is forced to live a life of extreme poverty where she is forced to work long hours doing menial labor and living in squalor for many years as a result. Mathilde's obsession with material possessions and desire for a life of luxury ultimately lead to her physical suffering.

The physical suffering is further compounded by the toll it takes on her appearance. Mathilde, who was once beautiful and admired, is now aged beyond her years, with rough hands, a worn-out appearance, and a permanently sad expression."She had become the woman of impoverished households--strong and hard and rough" (Maupassant,1884). This quote describes how Mathilde has been forced to take on menial jobs and work hard to pay off the debt from replacing the lost necklace. As a result, she has become physically strong and rough, indicating that she has lost her former grace and beauty. her obsession with material possessions and social status. It causes her to lose everything, including her beauty and youth, as she becomes old and haggard from years of hard work and poverty.

During this time, Mathilde experiences a great deal of physical suffering. She is forced to do hard manual labor, her health deteriorates, exhaustion, pain, illness, and she becomes old and worn out before her time. This condition is portrayed in the following quotation below: "She was pale and anxious and spoke in a shrill voice. Sometimes when her husband was at the office, she would sit by the window and think of that evening long ago, of that ball where she had been so beautiful and so feted "(Maupassant,1884). The physical suffering that mathilde

endures is a direct result of her obsession with material possessions and her unwillingness to accept and appreciate the simple pleasures of life.

In brief, Mathilde's intense desire and obsession with material possessions lead to her physical and mental suffering. Her endless pursuit of wealth and status ultimately leads to her downfall, as she loses everything that was once important to her. The story serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of materialism and the importance of appreciating what one already has.

2.20verview of The rocking horse winner

The Rocking Horse Winner is a short story written by D.H. Lawrence, it is one of his famous short stories in his later years, first published in 1926 in Harper's Bazaar magazine, and subsequently appeared in the first volume of Lawrence. The story is set in England during the early 20th century, and it explores themes of greed, materialism, and the corrupting influence of money. It becomes one of the most acclaimed, anthologized, and translated stories of the century.

The Rocking Horse Winner takes place in an upper-class English family's home, where they live in financial distress despite their wealth . The story begins with the introduction of the family - a mother, her husband, and their two children, Paul and his sister. The family is always in need of money, and the mother is obsessed with the idea of having more money to maintain their social status. She constantly complains about their financial situation and is never satisfied with what they have.

Paul is a sensitive and imaginative child who feels the tension in his family and wants to find a way to help. Paul's obsession with luck and how it can provide money for his family is elaborated. Paul thinks that the circumstances in his family are financially getting worse, and he is resolved to find luck for his mother. Because his mother accustomed to luxury and living beyond her means feels that their financial problems are a result of her marriage to an unlucky man (Bağlama, 2013). He discovers that he has a unique talent for picking the winning horses in races, which he attributes to the help of a rocking horse that he rides in a frenzy until he reaches a state of heightened consciousness. His behavior begins to worry his mother, who is focused on maintaining her social status and spending money to keep up appearances.

Paul begins to place bets on the horses, using his pocket money and even money he steals from his father. He becomes more desperate to win money, he puts all his savings on a horse race and wins a large sum of money. He gives the money to his mother, hoping that it will make her happy and earn her love. However, the more money he gives her, the more she wants, and she becomes increasingly obsessed with the idea of having more money. Also, she becomes suspicious of his newfound wealth and demands to know where the money is coming from. In the end, the excitement of his success is short-lived . Paul becomes ill and delirious as he desperately tries to find the winning horse for the upcoming race, and he eventually dies from exhaustion. after a final ride on the rocking horse, leaving behind a large sum of money for his family. However, the story ends on a bleak note, suggesting that their pursuit of wealth and status has come at a terrible cost. *The Rocking Horse Winner* is a powerful critique of society's obsession with wealth, a commentary on the destructive power of greed and materialism, and how they can lead to the sacrifice of love and human relationships. It is also a story about the pressures and anxieties of modern life, and how they can impact the psyche of individuals, especially children.

2.2.1The Class Struggle in The Rocking Horse Winner

D. H. Lawrence one of the most accomplished short story writers in English literature. His works are known for their exploration of human relationships, sexuality, and spirituality. In *The Rocking Horse Winner*, Lawrence depicts the class struggle between the wealthy and the working-class in society, and the struggle of the lower class to gain wealth and status, while also criticizing the upper class's preoccupation with material possessions and social status. He shows how the pursuit of wealth and material possessions can lead to a sense of emptiness and unhappiness, and how the love of money can corrupt even the most innocent of individuals. Ultimately, the story is a cautionary tale about the dangers of greed and materialism, and the importance of valuing love and family above all else. Lawrence's writings had a significant impact on the literary world and on the cultural and social discourse of the 20th century.

In *The Rocking Horse Winner* the author portrays the mother as a tragic figure who is unable to find happiness in her life due to her materialistic and shallow values, as evidenced by her obsession with expensive clothes, jewelry, and other luxuries. Despite the fact that the family appears to be well-off, she is never satisfied and always wants more. What Paul's mother was seeking is to fulfill this Dream, which is based on collecting money to achieve happiness and to achieve satisfaction by becoming equal to her husband's brother, Oscar. For her, the more you earn money, the more you live a happily luxurious life (Abuzeid , 2014). Throughout the story the mother constantly complains about the family's financial situation."There must be more money, there must be more money" (Lawrence, 1926). This quote is from the beginning of the story and expresses the mother's obsession with money and social status, which drives the family's class struggle.

As we have discussed before that the most significant part of a person's identity is their social class . A person's social class determines the way that a person sees the world around them However, some middle or poor classes tried to imitate the upper class believing that this would be a way to achieve appropriate life conditions which bring happiness and satisfaction to their life (Abu zeid, 2014) . In his story, Lawrence defines the social class of the family this way:

" There were a boy and two little girls. They lived in a pleasant house, with a garden, and they had discreet servants, and felt themselves superior to anyone in the neighborhood " (Lawrence , 1926).

This quote reflects the class status of the family and their belief in their superiority over those around them. Paul's family members see themselves as superior because they are wealthy and belong to the upper-middle class. They live in a luxurious house and have expensive possessions, but despite their wealth, they are constantly in debt and unable to maintain their lavish lifestyle. "Although they lived in style, they felt always an anxiety in the house. There was never enough money" (Lawrence,1926). Here , the quote highlights the family's desire to maintain their affluent lifestyle, which causes them to constantly worry about their financial situation.

Their focus on material wealth leads them to believe that money is the most important thing in life and that those who have it are superior to those who do not. This belief is reinforced by their social circle, which consists of other wealthy individuals who share their values. "The mother had a small income and the father had a small income but not nearly enough for the social position which they had to keep up" (Lawrence,1926). This quote explicitly states the family's struggle to maintain their social status and suggests that they are living beyond their means.

Additionally, the mother in the story is portrayed as vain and materialistic, obsessed with appearances and social status. "Paul's mother had expensive tastes, and the father didn't earn much" (Lawrence, 1926). This quote illustrates the tension between the mother's desire for luxury and the father's inability to provide for her extravagant lifestyle. However, despite their comfortable lifestyle, the family's financial situation is not secure, as the mother spends money on expensive clothing, jewelry, and other luxuries without regard for their income. This creates tension in the family, and the children are affected by their parents' financial concerns. Her attitude influences her children, including Paul, who becomes fixated on winning money to provide for his family and make his mother happy.

Paul, the protagonist, is caught in the middle of this class struggle. He is aware of his family's financial situation and wants to help them."There must be more money!".This quote represents the central motivation for the protagonist, Paul, who feels the pressure of his family's financial status and is driven to find a solution to their problems. He believes that money is the solution to all of his family's problems. He tries to win money by betting on horse races, and he is successful."I never told you, mother, that if I can ride my horse, and get there, then I'm absolutely sure – oh, absolutely! Mother, did I ever tell you? I am lucky!"(Lawrence,1926). In here, the quote shows how Paul's obsession with winning money is driven by his desire to provide for his family and elevate their social status. However, his obsession with winning money takes a toll on his health, and he eventually dies .

Paul becomes obsessed with winning money and is convinced that if he rides his rocking horse fast enough, he will be able to predict the winners of horse races and earn money for his

family. He spends hours riding his horse, often late into the night, in order to predict the winners. His obsession with winning money and providing for his family consumes him, leading to his own death. "My God, Hester, you're eighty-odd thousand to the good, and a poor devil of a son to the bad. But, poor devil, poor devil, he's best gone out of a life where he rides his rocking-horse to find a winner "(Lawrence,1926) .This quote, spoken by the family lawyer after Paul's death, underscores the tragic consequences of the family's obsession with wealth. Despite winning vast amounts of money through Paul's predictions, they are still trapped in a cycle of desire and dissatisfaction, and their pursuit of wealth ultimately leads to Paul's death. The quote also highlights the class divide between the family's greed and desire for material possessions, that blinds them to the true cost of their actions, ultimately leading to the death of one of their own.

Overall, *The Rocking Horse Winner* depicts the struggle of the lower class to gain wealth and status, while also criticizing the upper class's preoccupation with material possessions and social status. The story suggests that the class struggle is not only about the differences in wealth and social status, but also about the struggle to find happiness and fulfillment in life. Lawrence's portrayal of the class struggle in *The Rocking Horse Winner* suggests that the pursuit of wealth and social status can lead to unhappiness and the neglect of more important values such as love and compassion.

2.2.2The Impact of Social Class on Paul Character

In *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H. Lawrence, social class plays a significant role in shaping the character of the protagonist, Paul. Paul is the son of a wealthy middle- upper-class family who lives in a luxurious house, but he feels that his family is always in need of more money. It is constantly struggling to maintain their status and wealth. The family's obsession with material possessions and social status creates a tense and unhappy environment that shapes Paul's character in several ways . The upper middle class, is quite as much haunted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class. It is not the miserabilist of misery, but the miserabilist of happiness, that makes up the mental sufferings of the most highly developed representatives of bourgeois society (Marx, 1844).Paul is deeply impacted by his social class. Besides ,The story explores the impact of social class on Paul's character that led to his mental and physical suffering."The upper middle class...is quite as much haunted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class...is quite as much haunted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class...is quite as much haunted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class...is quite as much haunted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class. It is not the miserabilist of misery, but the miserabilist of happiness, that makes up the mental sufferings of the most highly developed representatives of bourgeois society (Marx, 1844).Paul is deeply impacted by the fear of poverty as the lower middle class. It is not the miserabilist of misery, but the miserabilist of happiness, that makes up the mental sufferings of the most highly developed representatives of bourgeois society (Marx, 1844).

The protagonist Paul suffers from mental anguish caused by his family's social class. Paul's mother, Hester, is obsessed with maintaining her upper-middle-class lifestyle, and her constant desire for more money creates a sense of anxiety and tension within the household. Paul is acutely aware of his family's financial troubles, and he becomes determined to do something about it. He becomes obsessed with winning money, which he believes will solve

all of his family's problems. "There must be more money! There must be more money!"(1926) This quote is repeated throughout the story and reveals Paul's intense desire for money, which stems from his mother's obsession with wealth. Paul is constantly haunted by the belief that his family needs more money to be happy and secure. This anxiety drives him to ride his rocking horse in a frenzy, seeking answers about which horse will win the next big race and provide him with the riches his family craves.

Paul's mother; Hester; tells Paul that one is born lucky or not, and God chooses to make people lucky at random. Hester values luck because she believes that if she were lucky, she would be rich and never need to worry about working or losing her fortune. "Luck is what causes you to have money. If you're lucky you have money. That's why it's better to be born lucky than rich. If you're rich, you may lose your money. But if you're lucky, you will always get more money"(Lawrence,1926). Paul internalizes his mother's lessons, and in him the emotional anxieties of the house become almost physical."He wanted to tell her that he was lucky, he wanted to tell her that he had found the luck, he wanted to share his luck with her"(Lawrence,1926)This quote shows that Paul's desire for success and wealth is driven not just by personal ambition, but also by a desire to elevate his family's social status.

Paul, as a young boy, becomes acutely aware of his family's financial troubles and begins to believe that his luck can change their situation."I started it for mother. She said she had no luck, because father is unlucky, so I thought if I was lucky, it might stop whispering." (Lawrence,1926). This quote reveals how Paul's mental suffering is rooted in his desire to alleviate his mother's distress. He believes that if he can win enough money, he can silence the whispers that torment his mother and bring her the happiness she so desperately desires. This shows how Paul has taken on an excessive burden of responsibility for his mother's emotional well-being, which is contributing to his own emotional distress. He becomes obsessed with riding his rocking horse, which he believes can reveal the winners of horse races. Paul becomes increasingly driven to win money, believing that it will solve his family's financial problems and bring him the love and attention he craves from his mother.

Paul experiences conflicting emotions due to his sense of responsibility towards his family: "He was mad with anxiety lest he should fail, and yet he was also mad with a sense of irresponsibility" (Lawrence,1926). This quote encapsulates the conflicting emotions that Paul is experiencing. He feels an overwhelming sense of responsibility to provide for his mother and to prove his worth. On the other hand, he is also consumed by a reckless desire to win, which causes him to take extreme risks and to neglect his other responsibilities. This internal conflict is a significant source of his mental suffering.

Paul's social class shapes his sense of identity, self-worth and creates a sense of isolation and loneliness that shapes his character. He is surrounded by material possessions and the trappings of wealth, but he feels disconnected from his family and his community. His mother, in particular, is portrayed as cold and distant, more interested in her own needs and desires than in the well-being of her son. This lack of affection and attention from his mother drives Paul to seek validation and love through winning money, further reinforcing the idea that social class and wealth are the keys to happiness. His desire to prove himself and earn his mother's love leads him to pursue a dangerous and self-destructive path, as he becomes increasingly obsessed with winning money and earning his mother's approval."I never told you, mother, that if I can ride my horse, and get there, then I'm absolutely sure - oh, absolutely! Mother, did you ever see me ride my horse?" (Lawrence, 1926) This quote from Paul shows how he is desperately seeking his mother's approval and validation, even to the point of tying it to his success on the rocking horse. This indicates that he feels a deep sense of insecurity and inadequacy that he is trying to overcome.

The mental suffering of the individual in the upper middle class is a result of the alienation and estrangement that they experience from themselves, their fellow human beings, and the natural world (Marx, 1844). Paul experiences alienation and a desire to escape from people due to his unique perspective on life and his family's financial struggles."He wanted to go away where nobody knew him and start again "(Lawrence, 1926). Paul's mental anguish becomes so intense that he dreams of escaping from his life entirely. He fantasizes about leaving his family behind and starting anew, free from the pressure and expectations that have driven him to the brink of madness. This desire to escape reflects the depth of Paul's pain and the extent to which his mental state has been damaged by his obsessive pursuit of wealth and luck.

The individual in the upper middle class is often plagued by a sense of isolation and meaninglessness, as they are trapped in a system that values material success above all else (Marx, 1867). Paul's isolation and loneliness lead him to seek solace in his imaginary world of the rocking horse, which becomes both his refuge and his downfall."He would shut himself up in his room, and nurse his soul in solitude "(Lawrence, 1926). As Paul becomes more and more consumed by his desire for wealth and luck, he withdraws into himself and spends long hours alone in his room. He becomes his energy on finding the winning horse. This isolation exacerbates his mental suffering, making it more difficult for him to connect with others and find a sense of peace.

Throughout the story, Paul's preoccupation with money and social status is presented as a destructive force that threatens his mental and emotional wellbeing. The upper middle class is like a prison for the individual, where mental suffering is the norm (Marx, 1848). The same thing goes with Paul, who is unable to find happiness or contentment in his life, as his entire existence is defined by his desire to succeed and to please his mother. However, the more Paul becomes consumed with the idea of winning money, the more his mental state deteriorates. He spends hours on end riding his rocking horse, trying to get a sense of which horse will win the next big race. The pressure of trying to predict the future and win money takes a toll on Paul's mental health. He becomes increasingly isolated, losing touch with his siblings and friends. He also starts to experience physical symptoms, such as headaches and insomnia.

The impact of social class on Paul caused his physical suffering, as he was driven to extreme lengths in order to provide for his family and meet the demands of their lifestyle.

In the following quote, Paul expresses his desire to achieve something great in life, specifically to win a horse race :

"I want to ride my horse, and I want to ride a winner" (Lawrence, 1926).

He sees this as a way to gain the approval and admiration of his mother, who is obsessed with material wealth and social status. Paul believes that if he can win the race, he will be able to provide his family with the money they need to maintain their lavish lifestyle. This obsession with winning money through horse racing drives him to ride his rocking horse for hours on end, even when he is physically exhausted and in pain. He becomes pale and thin, and his eyes begin to look feverish. Besides, he is consumed by the need to win and feels a constant sense of anxiety and tension.

Paul's mother focus on luck rather than work is devastating for Paul. Paul internalizes his mother's lessons, and for him the emotional anxieties of home become almost physical. Paul is obsessed with luck, the luck he can only achieve through mad physical efforts on his rocking horse. Lawrence show this in the following:

"He wanted luck, he wanted it, he wanted it. When the two girls were playing dolls in the nursery, he would sit on his big rocking-horse, charging madly into space, with a frenzy that made the little girls peer at him uneasily"(Lawrence,1926).

This quote shows how Paul's desire for luck is linked to his physical suffering. He becomes so obsessed with the idea of winning that he rides his rocking-horse until he is physically exhausted. His determination to succeed is driven by his family's social class and their desire for more money and status.

Paul's physical suffering is also linked to his emotional and psychological state. He is deeply unhappy and feels disconnected from his family and his social class. His obsession with wealth and status creates a sense of isolation, and he feels that he can only connect with his mother through money."He kept on riding, he went on beyond where the others had turned. He went into the darkness of the stable-yard, where the horses could be heard munching their evening feed, beyond the gate into the vast outer darkness of the road, where the bats wheeled silent overhead and the toads sang all night long "(Lawrence,1926). In this passage, Lawrence shows how Paul's physical suffering is linked to his desire to escape his social class. He rides his rocking-horse into the darkness, where he can escape the pressures of his family and their desire for money and status. He is seeking a way out, but ultimately his physical suffering catches up with him and leads to his tragic demise.

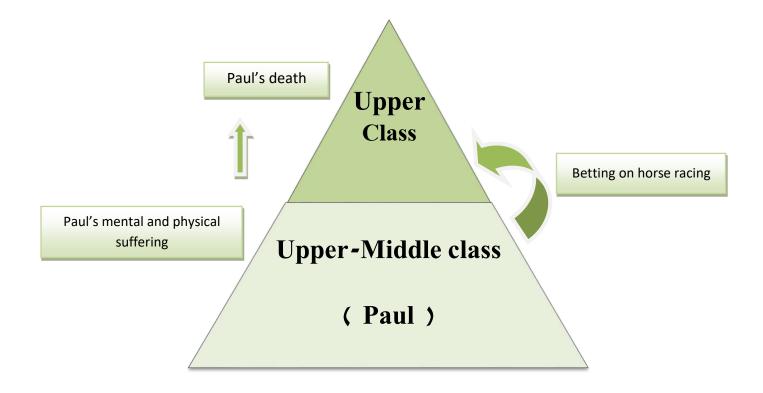
In the other hand, The physical suffering of Paul affects his mother in multiple ways and puts her in a difficult position where she is torn between her love for her son and her desire for money. "His mother had sudden strange seizures of uneasiness about him. Sometimes, for half an hour, she would feel a sudden anxiety about him that was almost an agony. She wanted to rush to him at once, and know he was safe. On the other hand, when she was away from him, she did not think about him very much " (Lawrence, 1926). This quote illustrates how Paul's

physical suffering affects his mother. She is torn between her love for her son and her desire for money and social status. When Paul is riding his rocking-horse and experiencing physical pain, she feels anxious and worried. But when she is away from him and focused on other things, she doesn't think about him very much. This shows how the pressure to succeed and provide for her family is affecting her relationship with her son.

Eventually, Paul's obsession leads to his death. He rides his rocking horse so fiercely that he falls off and becomes seriously ill. In his final moments, he tells his mother that he was able to predict the winning horse in the big race, but it was too late. The physical toll of his obsession with money and his family's social class drove him to his untimely death.

In brief, Paul's mental and physical suffering in *The Rocking Horse Winner* is a direct result of his desperate attempt to win his mother's love by becoming lucky and successful. His obsession with money and his belief that it is the key to happiness lead him down a path of self-destruction, ultimately resulting in his tragic ending.

Figure 02: The social standing of Paul character in The rocking horse winner



Conclusion

Throughout this chapter, we have tried to focus upon the Marxist literary analysis of *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant and *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D. H. Lawrence, which both revolve around women dissatisfied with their lives. Therefore, this chapter focused on the class struggle that exists between the social classes, particularly on the main characters; as well as it identified the major reasons behind this struggle. Besides, in both short stories the authors portray certain social facts of and try to picture a social reality.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

A literary text reflects society and deals with its phenomena, morals and values. Marxism as a literary theory holds this idea and deals with a literary text as the mirror of society that is created by writers from that society during period of time. After the analysis of *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant and *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H Lawrence. by the Marxism literary theory, it can be said that social class differences in the two short stories reflect the real conditions of life during this period of time.

Marxism is the sociological ideology founded by Karl Marx and Frederick Angles. Marxism is based on the concept of class struggle. Thus, class conflict is the result of the conflicts of socio-economic interests between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. Furthermore, the bourgeoisie is the oppressive class that owns and controls the means of production; The proletariat is the oppressed class that possesses only labor power and is employed by the bourgeoisie.

Both *The Necklace* by Guy de Maupassant and *The Rocking Horse Winner* by D.H. Lawrence can be interpreted through a Marxist lens. In *The Necklace*, the story critiques the bourgeoisie lifestyle and its obsession with wealth and status. The protagonist, Mathilde Loisel, desires to be part of the upper class and is consumed by the idea of material possessions. She borrows a necklace from a friend to attend a party, loses it, and spends years paying back the debt to buy a replacement. The story highlights the inequalities and class struggles that exist in society, where the rich have access to resources and opportunities that the poor do not.

Similarly, *The Rocking Horse Winner* can be read as a Marxist critique of the capitalist system. The story portrays the family as members of the bourgeoisie who are obsessed with wealth and status. The mother, in particular, is portrayed as a symbol of capitalist greed, who is never satisfied with the money she has and constantly seeks more. The young protagonist, Paul, desperately tries to win his mother's approval and love by gambling on horse races. The story highlights the desperation and struggle of the working class to attain the wealth and status of the bourgeoisie.

Both stories show how capitalism and social struggle can have damaging effects on individuals and society. The desire for material possessions and social status can lead to greed and envy, which can in turn lead to destructive behavior and actions. Ultimately, both *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner* warn against the dangers of placing too much value on material possessions and social status, and suggest that true happiness and fulfillment come from within, rather than from external factors. Overall, both *The Necklace* and *The Rocking Horse Winner* can be viewed as Marxist critiques of the damaging effects of capitalism on individuals and society as a whole.

By studying and analyzing these literary pieces and its main characters, we concluded that there is a relationship between Marxism and psychology. Marxist psychology argues that human behavior and experience are fundamentally shaped by the social and economic systems in which people live. These systems, according to Marxist theory, are characterized by unequal distribution of power and resources, leading to social and economic exploitation and oppression. Marxist psychologists argue that these power dynamics are reflected in the psyche of individuals, influencing their thoughts, emotions, and behaviors.

At the end, the Marxists way of analyzing a text which based on how authors reflects realities through characters, or other aspects of the literary text lead to the conclusion that the authors tried to picture the real life by representing the thoughts, feelings, and ways of life of the characters .

The present study sought to examine the manifestation of class conflict and its impact on the protagonists in two short stories, utilizing the Marxist approach to literary criticism. Therefore this research suggested the following recommendations ; these two short stories can be approached from different perspectives, such as the feminist perspective to examines the roleof gender in shaping their motivations and the consequences they face. Moreover, it can be tackled from the psychoanalysis perspective in order to Explore the psychological aspects of the characters'; obsessions with wealth and the impact on their mental well-being.



Bourgeoisie : The owners of the means of production and distribution, as opposed to the proletariat (Abrams, 1999).

Capitalism :a system of economic freedom that places individual liberty and choice at the center of economic life (Freidman, 1962).

Characters: are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particle moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities (Abrams, 1999).

Class Struggle: in Marxism, a containing fight between the capitalist class and the working class for political and economic reasons (Armada, 2008).

Materialism: the belief that only physical matters exist and the spiritual world does not (Cambridge, 2008).

Petty bourgeoisie : petty bourgeoisie are the social layer which, by virtue of its intermediate position between labour and capital, may show great independence and self-sufficiency in relation to both. But for the same reason it remains an unstable and wavering class, which stands at the crossroads of all social and political tendencies and which is therefore ultimately more afraid of the working class than of the bourgeoisie (Trotsky, 1937).

Proletariat: the class of people who do unskilled jobs in industry and own little or no property (ibid).

Social class : a group of individuals who share a similar position in the market economy and who have a similar relationship to the means of production (Weber ,1946).



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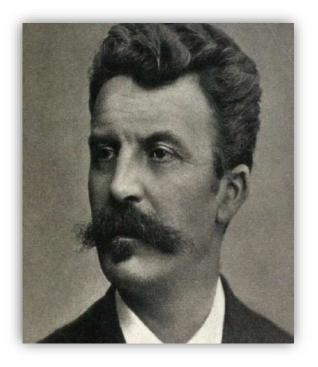
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Appendices

Appendix A



Guy De Maupassant Biography

Guy de Maupassant was a French writer, born on August 5, 1850, in Normandy, France. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest short story writers of all time, and his works have had a lasting impact on French literature. Maupassant's writing often explored themes of morality, psychology, and social class. Maupassant was born to an aristocratic family, but his parents separated when he was young, and he was raised by his mother and grandmother. He attended school in Normandy and then moved to Paris to study law. However, he soon abandoned his legal studies to pursue a career in writing. Maupassant began his writing career as a journalist and contributed to several newspapers and magazines. He published his first short story, "Boule de Suif," in 1880, which was an immediate success and established him as a major literary figure. Maupassant went on to publish over 300 short stories and six novels, including "Bel-Ami" and "Pierre et Jean." His writings often depicted the harsh realities of French society, particularly the struggles of the working class. He was also known for his vivid descriptions of nature and his ability to capture the psychological complexities of his characters. Maupassant's writing career was cut short when he began to suffer from syphilis, a sexually transmitted disease. He spent the last few years of his life in a mental institution and died on July 6, 1893, at the age of 42.

Appendix B



D.H Lawrence Biography

D.H. Lawrence (1885-1930) was an English novelist, poet, playwright, and literary critic, best known for his novels "Sons and Lovers", "The Rainbow", and "Women in Love". He was born in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, England, to a coal-mining family, and spent most of his life traveling and living in different parts of the world. Lawrence's works were known for their exploration of human sexuality, nature, and relationships, and were often controversial due to their explicit nature .Lawrence's childhood was marked by poverty and a difficult relationship with his parents, which heavily influenced his later works. He worked as a teacher for a time before devoting himself to writing full-time. His first novel, "The White Peacock," was published in 1911, but it was "Sons and Lovers," published in 1913, that brought him critical acclaim. His personal life was often tumultuous, marked by a series of turbulent relationships with women, including his wife Frieda von Richthofen, with whom he traveled extensively throughout Europe, Australia, and the United States. He died in 1930, at the age of 44, from tuberculosis .Lawrence's works continue to be studied and admired for their innovative style and exploration of human emotions and relationships. His contributions to literature have been recognized with numerous awards and honors, including the Order of Merit in 1929. (Worthen, 2005)

ملخص

تناقش هذه الدراسة و توضح الاختلافات بين الطبقات الاجتماعية استنادا إلى القصنين القصيرتين "ذو روكين هورس وينر " للكاتب ديفيد هربرت لورانس و " ذو ناكلس "للكاتب غي دي موباسان.استخدمنا النظرية الماركسية التي تميزت في القرن التاسع عشر، حيث كانت معنية بالصراع بين الطبقات الاجتماعية. تسلط هذه الدراسة الضوء على واحدة من حقائق النظرية الماركسية و التي تنص على أن الأدب هو مرآة تعكس الواقع الاجتماعي. ينقسم هذا البحث في هذا الصدد إلى فصلين، يتضمن الفصل الأول تمييزا واضحا للنظرية الماركسية وانتقادها فيما يتعلق بمبادئها الرئيسية. يركز الفصل الثاني على تحليل القصتين القصيرتين من خلال التركيز على المحتوى من خلال مناقشة تأثير الطبقات الاجتماعية على الفرد والمجتمع. حيث توصلنا إلى أن النصال الاجتماعي من الممكن أن يخلف تأثيراً عميقاً على الفرد، فيشكل هويته ومعتقداته وسلوكياته، ويؤدي إلى الاجتماعي من الممكن أن يخلف الرئيسية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: النظرية الماركسية, الطبقية الاجتماعية, صراع الطبقات, الرأسمالية .

Résumé

Cette étude tente de discuter et de clarifier les différences entre les classes sociales à partir des deux histoires : The Rocking Horse Winner de David Herbert Lawrence et The Necklace de Guy de Maupassant. La théorie marxiste caractérisait le xixe siècle, car il s'agissait de la lutte entre les classes. Cette étude éclaire un des faits de la théorie marxiste, qui affirme que la littérature est un miroir reflétant la réalité sociale. À cet égard, cette recherche est divisée en deux chapitres. Le premier chapitre comprend une distinction claire de la théorie marxiste et de sa critique en relation avec ses principes principaux. Le deuxième chapitre se concentre sur l'analyse des deux histoires courtes en mettant l'accent sur le contenu à travers une discussion sur l'impact des classes sociales sur l'individu et la société. Nous avons découvert que la lutte sociale peut avoir un impact profond sur l'individu, en façonnant son identité, ses croyances et ses comportements, et en conduisant à l'aliénation et à l'exploitation sous les systèmes capitalistes.

Mots clés : Théorie marxiste, classe sociale, lutte de class, capitalisme.