

# Magdalena Baga - THE REFLECTION OF SOCIAL VALUES IN THE CHARACTER OF FREDERICK WENTWORTH IN JANE AUSTEN'S, PERSUASION

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**THE REFLECTION OF SOCIAL VALUES IN THE CHARACTER OF  
FREDERICK WENTWORTH IN JANE AUSTEN'S, PERSUASION**

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**Abstract:** This study aimed to describe the reflection of social values using the analysis of Sociology of Literature under the character of Frederick Wentworth in *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. This study was a qualitative descriptive study using the approach of Sociology of Literature. The data was collected through note-taking method which was primary obtained from the novel of Jane Austen *Persuasion*. It was then analysed using the sociology of literature by only focusing on the sociology of the work aspect. The results of the study showed that there were discriminations and judgements towards the character of Frederick due to his social status. However, Frederick's character who was dealing with a society that prioritised great importance on social status was not affected by the assessment directed at him. The character of Frederick has reflected the value of social, such as tolerating and dedicating as the opposition of values that he had to receive. Hence, the judgement which emerged had no bad influence at all in the development of his character.

**Keywords:** character, rank, social, status, value

**REFLEKSI NILAI SOSIAL DALAM TOKOH FREDERICK  
WENTWORTH DALAM PERSUASION KARYA JANE AUSTEN**

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**Abstrak:** Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan refleksi nilai sosial karakter Frederick Wentworth dalam *Persuasion* karya Jane Austen. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian deskriptif kualitatif yang dikaji menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra. Pengumpulan data dilakukan menggunakan metode *note-taking* terhadap novel Jane Austen berjudul *Persuasion*. Analisis data dilakukan dengan analisis yang hanya berfokus pada aspek sosiologi sebuah karya. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa terdapat diskriminasi dan penilaian terhadap karakter Frederick karena status sosialnya. Namun demikian, tokoh Frederick yang berhadapan dengan masyarakat sangat mengutamakan status sosial tidak terpengaruh dengan penilaian yang ditujukan pada dirinya. Karakter Frederick mencerminkan nilai sosial; menoleransi dan mengabdikan diri sebagai lawan dari nilai-nilai yang telah diterimanya. Dengan demikian, penilaian yang muncul sama sekali tidak berpengaruh dalam perkembangan karakternya.

**Kata kunci:** nilai, pangkat, sosial, status, tokoh

**BACKGROUND**

Social gap, social discrimination, violence, are social problems in society and are caused by the lack of understanding about the ideal value of being polite and respectful to each other (Mimar, 2013 in Persulessy, 2018). As one

of the crucial issues, social value has been extensively depicted and portrayed under the creation of literary works. The social phenomenon and its effect towards society are being involved as part of the work with the purpose to educate people about certain issues. However, even though it has been

included in many literary works, a deeper analysis on how the social value in a literary work occurred and reflected through the elements of structure is still needed. It is because the need to make the society understand that social conflict caused by social structure is not only a common issue but also an issue that needs to be stopped and voiced out. Moreover, it also needed to be done in order to discover how the history and culture of social value are intertwined in certain literary works. In addition, one way to solve the social problem is by conducting a literary analysis which will contribute in providing the literary learning about the ideal social values. This is because of how literary works are defined as a self-expression which is used as one of the learning media in education (Persulesy, 2018). That is why then by conducting this study, the deepest understanding will be achieved and it can be used to solve and to make people/students aware about the social value issues.

The literary work that will be discussed by the researcher in this research is a romance novel by Jane Austen, *Persuasion* (1818). Faruk (2016) as cited in Persulesy in 2018 argues that novel reflects so much about a realistic life in everyday society. A lot of social phenomenon are portrayed and presented in novels which cause it to become an object to conduct a research about it. Therefore, the researcher decided to choose a novel as the subject of the research.

The novel tells a story about a character of Anne Elliot, a beautiful, well

educated, and reserved woman that was born in a wealthy family with a high social status. Anne was nineteen years old when she fell in love and engaged to Frederick Wentworth. However, their engagement was cancelled because she was being persuaded by Lady Russel that Frederick Wentworth was not qualified enough to Anne due to his low social class. As quoted in the novel:

She was persuaded to believe the engagement a wrong thing: indiscreet, improper, hardly capable of success and not deserving it. (*Persuasion*, p. 38).

This paper will concern the character of Frederick Wentworth who received unfairness from the upper-class society.

Eight years later after the failed engagement, Frederick Wentworth had returned to the neighbourhood with a different social status. He was a rich yet still an unwed man. He was seen as a cold-hearted and unforgiving man whereas Anne was still amazed and nervous whenever she met him.

The novel is set in Somerset, Lyme Regis, and Bath in the summer of 1814 to the spring of 1815. Back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England, married life was not arranged by parents or family. The tradition began to change into the choice of every individual. However, it was idealised for women to not contribute in the financial or economic issue when they are married. Therefore, men were responsible for providing the needs before marriage, such as a good financial or income, housing, savings and many more

(The History of Women, 2017). This leads into their separation as Anne's family did not like him and his family at all because of his social status, especially Anne's father.

In regards to the novel *Persuasion*, there are several studies found by the researcher. The first is an article written by Vorachek (1997) with title *Crossing Boundaries: Land and Sea in Jane Austen's Persuasion*. This article focuses on identifying the boundaries of land and sea within the novel. It distinguishes the naval society and the members of the land. In this article, it discusses Frederick Wentworth as the representation of the naval society that is defined as the one who serves the country. Thus, this study will help the researcher in gaining a deeper understanding about Frederick Wentworth's position in society that is based on the idea of occupation. However, this article is only analysing the comparison between those societies and not focused on the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth.

The second study that the researcher has founded is an essay conducted by Andersson (2009), *The Importance of Class and Money-A Marxist Analysis of Jane Austen's Persuasion*. It analyses the issues of how money and social class that is presented in Jane Austen's *Persuasion* are important. It will help the researcher in finding the reason why social class is presented as an important issue in the novel. The similarity: the essay and this study focused on analysing the social value. However, this essay used Marxist as its approach in contrast to this study that will use The

Sociology of Literature. This essay also analysed the conflict based on the general critique which is not focused on the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth.

The third study that the researcher has founded is Fitriani's<sup>3</sup> doctoral dissertation (2014) with a title *The Marxist Feminist Concept in The Character of Anne Elliot in Jane Austen's Persuasion*. This thesis examines the characteristic of Anne Elliot as a woman that presented the concept of Marxist Feminism. Moreover, it examines the historical background within the story, how the issue of gender and class are very crucial in affecting the society's life. The similarity: both are discussed about the issue of social in the novel *Persuasion*. However, the researcher is only focused on the character of Anne Elliot and use the Marxist Feminism as its approach. Whereas the study that will be conducted by the researcher will be focused on analysing the issue of social value within the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth and use The Sociology of Literature as its approach. In this study, it shows that Anne Elliot was the kind of person who likes to keep her own feeling rather than sharing it to others. She was described as the smart, open-minded and multi-talented woman that had beautiful body features. This study will help the researcher in discovering one of the gaps: the reason why Anne Elliot was easily persuaded to end her relationship with Frederick Wentworth even though she was a smart and open-minded woman.

Therefore, there has not been a study about the social value in the

character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth, how the issue of social value affects him, and how the history and culture of the times about social value was reflected in the novel. Thus, the researcher decided to fill the gap by conducting a study that mainly focused on addressing the social value in the novel of *Persuasion* by Jane Austen through the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth. This study then answered the question of how the social value being reflected in the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth in the novel.

This study is expected to give information that there are differences in terms of the social condition in certain country or areas and it is reflected through the literary work. This study is also hoped to help English Department student in analyzing literary works using the theory and approach of Sociology of Literature. They will also be aware towards the issue of social happening both in reality and literary works. Lastly, this study will be beneficial for future teacher in behaving and placing his/her position in teaching students without considering their social status as the reflection of an ideal social value.

## METHOD

This study was conducted using the qualitative descriptive to understand and represent the experiences and actions of people (Goodman, 2011). It is to gather an exact explanation of an event and its significance. It used to answer the question of what, where, when, and why of an event or experience. It was done classifying the

result into a long description by answering all the research problems (Holly, et. al, 2013).

## Approach of Research

In this study, the researcher used the sociology of literature which only focus on sociology of the work. The basic concept of the sociology of literature proposed by Wellek and Warren (1993: 111) is a simpler concept than the variety of concepts proposed by Plato, Aristotle, Taine de Bonald, and so on. Wellek and Warren divide the sociology of literature into 3 parts, the sociology of the author, the sociology of the work, and the sociology of the reader (Endaswara, 2011). This division is also almost similar to what was stated by Ian Watt who divides the sociology of literature into; the social context of the author, literature as a reflection of society, and the social function of literature. Sociology of the author analyzes the social status, and ideology of the author. While the sociology of literature analyzes the literary work itself and the sociology of reading analyzes the reader as the social influence of literary works (Wiyatmi, 2013).

## Data Sources

This research used two sources, the first is the primary data, and the second is the supporting sources. The primary data in this study is a literary work that is a romance fictitious text about the story of Anne Elliot and Frederick Wentworth, written by Jane Austen in 1818 with the title *Persuasion* published by Gramedia in 2019. Meanwhile the supporting sources



used in this study are journals and essays about England societies in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the culture, and the history based on the setting of the novel.

### Data Collection

The data was collected by first reading the novel repetitively to determine all the elements of the novel. It will be done to obtain all the data about the character in the elements of the structure within the novel. The researcher will gather all the information that are related to the character of Captain Wentworth including its social and economic status' portrayal, how other characters' behave towards him, the writer's description, the dialogues, thoughts, setting, , and other elements within the novel, *Persuasion*. It will be done using the Sociology of Literature approach and will be classified and arranged into tables. It will be used as the guidelines in analyzing the data into paragraphs.

### Data Analysis

The data was analyzed using the sociology of literature by following these several steps. The first one is identifying the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth without detaching it from the setting of the novel and society during that period. It will be done by analyzing it through the description and perspective from the writer upon the character of Frederick Wentworth. It will also be done through the character's own thought. The second is analyzing the social values that are being reflected in the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth. It will be done by analyzing

the social structure and culture that exists based on the setting. The last one is drawing the conclusion based on the data that will be founded in the novel during the process of analyzing the social value of the character.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### The Issue of Social Class in *Persuasion*

The novel *Persuasion* which is written by Jane Austen portrays a romantic story with the problem of class or social stratification as their main conflict. The issue of rank or class division can be seen very clearly in the novel. In *Persuasion*, the characters are divided into different classes or ranks; upper, middle, and lower. However, this division is then also divided into two versions. The first one is based on the setting time in the novel eight years ago, during the end of engagement between Anne and Frederick. Whereas the second version is based on what happened eight years after the end of engagement.

### *The Character of Frederick Wentworth as the Lower Class Society*

In the lower class, the character of Frederick Wentworth, in the first version (during the end of engagement) eight years ago, held the position of being in that class or rank in the novel of *Persuasion*. His character is portrayed as the fine man with great looks as well as smart and it is proven by the description of the narrator toward him in chapter four of the novel.

He was, at that time, are remarkably fine young man, with a great deal of

intelligence, spirit, and brilliancy;  
(*Persuasion*, p. 36)

In terms of the characterization, the character of Frederick is portrayed as the well-mannered man or a very polite male character. Regardless of his new social status and wealth (eight years later), he still interacts with others in a well-mannered and respectful way. This is proven by the data below.

<sup>1</sup>  
...charming manners in Captain Wentworth, no shyness or reserve; they seemed all to know each other perfectly, and he was coming the next very morning to shoot with Charles. (*Persuasion*, p.77)

#### ***The Character of Frederick as a Decisive Character***

The other characterization of Frederick Wentworth is also portrayed as the decisive male character. As the story continues, it is found that he is such a firm male character who knows what he wants and what to do. It is proven by how he proposed to Anne eight years ago despite the issue of class or ranks and his inability in providing housing yet. In spite of it, he knew that he loved Anne and so did she, thus he fought for it. Even though Anne ended the engagement, Frederick has shown the characterization of a decisive man.

Moreover, at the end of the story, the character of Frederick Wentworth's decision towards his affair with Anne shows how decisive he can be. He knows exactly how he is still in love with Anne

and without any doubts, he proposes to Anne by writing her a love letter.

'I can listen no longer in silence. I must speak to you by such means as are within my reach. You pierce my soul. I am half agony, half hope. Tell me not that I am too late, that such precious feelings are gone forever. I offer myself to you again with a heart even more your own than when you almost broke it, eight years and a half ago. (*Persuasion*, p.307)

#### ***The End of Engagement in Affecting the Character of Frederick Wentworth***

In the upper class, the character of Anne Elliot holds the position as the part of the aristocratic society, with the blood of the baronet family along with her father's great property in the novel, the Kellynch Hall in Somerset County, 19<sup>th</sup> Britain. A clever, considerate, and mature female character, Anne Elliot is described as a not so pretty character due to her old age, yet still attractive because of how her personality is. This then explains the reason why male characters in the novel (Captain Wentworth, Charles Musgrove, and Mr. William Elliot) choose her as their first option to marry. It is proven by the data below.

...but Anne, with an elegance of mind and sweetness of character...  
(*Persuasion*, p.10)

In terms of social interaction, she also engages with those who are below her social status despite her father's disagreement. She was able to have a connection with them due to her kind and

empathetic characterization. It is proven by her acquaintance with Mrs. Smith who was a widow in the Westgate Building with a lower social status. The actual reason why Anne ended the engagement was simply because of her consideration towards Lady Russell's opinion or persuasion as her best friend and at the same time her second mother. It was not simply because of how high her social status is compared to Frederick's. Anne took it as her responsibility to follow Lady Russell as she is important in her life and how under that period of time, she was still very young and immature. She believed as a good friend and companion, it was better to actually listen. It is proven by the data below.

Such opposition, as these feelings produced, was more than Anne could combat. Young and gentle as she was, it might yet have been possible to withstand her father's ill-will, though unsoftened by one kind word or look on the part of her sister; but Lady Russell, whom she had always loved and relied on, could not, with such steadiness of opinion, and such tenderness manner, be continually advising her in vain. (*Persuasion*, p. 38)

During the engagement (eight years ago), Frederick was part of the lower-class community as he had no power or property and no profession at all back then before he joined the navy as an act of social climbing. He views the social class as a big barrier for him which then leads him into fighting his destiny in becoming the naval officer and gains the title of Captain. The end of his engagement suffers so much that he has to do the social climbing. The pain and heartbreak left him into

pieces but at the same time motivates him to go higher. This is proven by the data below.

He had left the country in consequence. (*Persuasion*, p. 39)

The consequence of him being cut off from the engagement and being entrusted into achieving all of his dreams cause him to leave. However, his decision to leave the country shows his characterization of a strong male character in wanting to prove to them that he would soon be successful and Anne will be very regretful about it. He took the pain as his motivation in pursuing his goals and it shows how ambition can be very powerful for him to decide to leave the country.

#### ***The Perspective of Sir Walter to Frederick***

The character of Sir Walter Elliot as the father of Anne Elliot is portrayed as an arrogant, extravagant character. He cared more about his looks and luxurious lifestyle even when he had to live with many debts. As the upper-class character, the character of Sir Walter portrays the typical characterization of upper class people; living an extravagant life with big pride. This characterization of him is described by the narrator in the data below. Furthermore, the other characterization of him is that he tended to underestimate other characters that have lower social status and are unattractive. His status as a gentleman gave him so much confidence that he would look down on others.

The act of social climbing is viewed as a bad and offensive action by



him based on his own perception as the part of upper class people. His perspective upon the act seems very unreasonable even though he had explained his two reasons about it. The reasons he proposed make no sense as it is up to everyone whether they want to do the social climbing or not. Therefore, the decision happened under the person itself and Sir Walter should not be mad about it. That shows the characterization of being afraid of competition about the position in ranks or class in the society. Therefore, for Frederick being the lower-class people and joining the navy as the act of social climbing, brings so much impact towards his popularity in Sir Walter. The fact that he had nothing as he came from a lower class family, and an unfortunate job which is based on the perception of Sir Walter, the tension between these two then raised. It is why during the engagement of Anne and Frederick, eight years ago, the character of Sir Walter opposes it by giving Anne great silence about it.

#### ***The Perspective of Lady Russell to Frederick***

The character of Lady Russell is portrayed as a best friend of Anne's mother who then becomes Anne's godmother. Lady Russell is considered a very influential person in the Elliot family. She gives advice in helping Sir Walter to maintain Kellynch Hall. She is a high social status widow, and loves Anne more than anyone. The perspective of Lady Russell towards the engagement as the unfortunate event gives so much explanation about her perspective upon the

character of Frederick Wentworth. She views Frederick as a bad luck for Anne and will only make Anne suffer instead of happy. Despite of a 'bad luck', she also thinks of Frederick as a stubborn character.

...but Lady Russell saw it very differently. His sanguine temper, and fearlessness of mind, operated very differently on her. She saw in it but aggravation of the evil. It only added a dangerous character to himself. (*Persuasion*, p. 38)

#### ***Social Value: Social Class in Causing the Separation of Anne and Frederick***

In *Persuasion*, as the main conflict of the novel is a romance affair between the character of Frederick and Anne, the end of their engagement happens due to the existence of class or rank in the novel. The power of love and optimism has nothing to compare to the power of social position in the society of the novel. The ranks determine your worth in finding a match or partner and it creates this big barrier for characters to be united if only because they feel connected to each other.

The end of their engagement is the example of how much power does the social class hold in these characters. The upper-class character cannot be engaged to the lower class character. This is what causes injustice to some of the characters in the novel. Marriage becomes something that is no longer the responsibility and right of the brides or individual, but becomes a right of the family itself. The class system then caused all of these things to be possible. It then reflects the social values held by the upper-class characters

in the novel. That interactions and relationships between characters do not just happen, but based on the existing basic rules, namely social class.

### ***The Social Climbing of the Lower Class Character***

In addition to having an impact on the love relationship between characters, the existence of a class system also causes the act of social climbing carried out by characters from the lower classes. The injustice that occurs between the characters, especially for the lower class, causes the ambition to achieve high social status. In the novel, the social climbing is carried out by Frederick Wentworth as the cause of the end of engagement he had with Anne. His social status is too low, and the unfair treatment he gets from Anne's family, makes him so ambitious to get a high position in society. This injustice then led to his success in doing social climbing. After previously being underestimated and judged, they then considered him as a suitable match for Anne. They accepted him and were fair to him. This then reflects one type of social value proposed by Zubaedi (Sari et al, 2019): the value of tolerance which is included as part of life harmony value. The attitude of tolerance to each other in this novel is very much based on the social status of the character.

### **The Setting Time, Place, Social, and Culture in *Persuasion***

The novel is set in the 19<sup>th</sup> century of Britain, in Somerset County (Kellynch and Uppercross), Lyme Regis, and Bath, in the summer of 1814. Each of the setting

places is portrayed in the novel with its own events and will be explained more in the sub-titles, whereas the setting time is proven with the data below.

...that though she was at this present time (the summer of 1814) wearing black ribbons...  
(*Persuasion*, p.14)

The data above indirectly points out the setting time in the novel of *Persuasion* written by Jane Austen. Thus, it can be seen in the description of the data that the novel is set in the 19<sup>th</sup> century of Britain. During this period of time, it is known as the era of Georgian. Even though the 19<sup>th</sup> century is defined as the Victorian Era, however, as the novel set in the summer of 1814, therefore it is not included in the era of Victorian as the era started in the year of 1837. Thus, based on the year in the novel, it is considered as the part of the Georgian Era.

The Georgian Era is named after the kings during the period of time: the King George I (1714-1727), King George II (1760-1820), and King George IV (1820-1830). Based on the setting time of the novel, the ruled king was King George II. During this era, Britain has gained and established its power as the main empire due to its power in wars, science, and literary works (Royal Museums, 2022). The power held by Britain in wars during this period of time, explains so much about the popularity of the naval officers. As the Industrial Revolution began in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, therefore, the ability and power held by the Royal Navy (Britain's navy) supported their winnings.

As the novel sets in that era, therefore, there are several characters included the character of Frederick Wentworth that is portrayed as the naval officer. However, deeper explanation about the naval characters is explained further in the page 70 of this study. As this part of the chapter will only focus on addressing the setting time in the novel. Therefore, during this era, the social mobility was emerged and was also portrayed in the novel by Jane Austen. She portrays it by making the lower class society start their journey in climbing the social rank. This is proven by the act of social climbing done by the character of Frederick and other characters. In short, the existence of social mobility or social climbing in the novel is possible due to its setting of time.

#### ***Feudalism in Influencing the System of Class in Britain***

The existence of English class system is believed to be influenced by the system of feudal, which exist in a very long time ago. Many historians believe that the classification of ranks in society was created due to the system of social, economic, and politics in Western Europe in the period of Middle Ages. Feudalism or the feudal system is defined as a system of power towards lands. In this system, the nobles who own an impressive amount of land lease it to the peasants for their source of income. In return, they are required to be respectful and provide protection to the nobles. They are obliged to be submissive and obedient to pay back the use of lands (Elizabeth, 2021).

Back in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> century, during the implementation of feudalism, the loss of authority in Western empire influenced the emergence of kingdoms as the system of government. During the implementation, the existence of gap between the landowners and the tenants was massive which cause the indirect division of position in society in terms of social and economics. This then created the system of ranks or social status. Thus, the importance of it within the society started to emerge as each division started to have their own behaviour, culture, social-interaction, and many more.

#### **The Social Value in the Character and Characterization of Frederick Wentworth**

As stated by Zubaedi (as cited in Novita, n.d) the social value consists of three main values; the value of responsibility, love, and the life harmony. Responsibility can be defined as having the value of being empathy, whereas the love value consists of the value of dedicating, helping each other, and kinship. Lastly, life harmony consists of the value of tolerating and cooperating.

#### ***The Value of Tolerance***

The character of Frederick Wentworth based on the findings, can be categorised as the character that has the characterization that is well-mannered despite of his social status both as lower- or upper-class character. He is portrayed as the well-mannered male character that is very tolerant to others despite their social

status. He was tolerant of the upper-class characters despite the fact they gave him unjust treatment. After what Sir Walter and Lady Russell had done to him, he still became a polite character and still valued them as acquaintances. This behaviour shows social values regarding life harmony, namely an attitude of tolerance for one another. Instead of showing displeasure or disapproval of the mistreatment, he reflects an attitude that is the complete opposite of what other people would do if they were him. He does not show any resistance to the injustice; instead he tries to continue to act like a well-mannered man.

This characterization of him being respectful and tolerance to other characters cannot be found in the Elliot (except Anne) as Grenier, A in 2020 argued that how Elizabeth and Mary could not come to the realization that Wentworth have made it to do social climb. They are still in denial that Wentworth would never be fully accepted in the upper class. Grenier (2020) viewed this characterization of Elizabeth as a not respectful and well-mannered female character towards Wentworth as she thinks he would never be the same as her position. In addition, the character of Mary viewed the final engagement of Anne and Wentworth as something which is not to be very proud of as she thinks that Anne will then has no land and remains in the sea (Grenier, 2020). This concludes that even though the character of Wentworth values the idea of tolerance to other characters (especially to the Elliots) it does not guarantee him to get the same treatment.

In addition, the fact that he was born from a lower class community does not necessarily define him as an uncivilized person and has no good morals. Although he did not get good access to education, he still mastered very good manners. The characterization that most people learn in an education, he learns based on what he experienced. Social status does not make big barrier for him in respecting others. This is what makes him such an interesting character. Regardless of what it is, he is able to reflect social values in social life in his daily behaviour. Unlike those from the upper class, even a high education does not make them respect each other. They only value those who have higher status and higher power than them.

#### ***The Value of Dedicating***

The second social value reflected in Frederick Wentworth's character is the value of love: dedicating. As someone who comes from the lower class, he is able to dedicate himself to joining the Navy as his form to defend and maintain the security of the country. Moreover, he did all of this out of love for himself. Despite the unfair treatment he received, he did not necessarily give up and acted pessimistically. Instead, he was able to rise from his slump after the pain he felt when his engagement had to be annulled. It reflects an optimistic attitude that also includes a dedicated attitude itself. He dedicates his life optimistically to be able to get out of the torment and bad assumptions that other people give him. This behaviour then made him successful in achieving his dream and also protecting



his country, so he was given the title of Captain in the Navy.

Therefore, it can be concluded that injustice in life does not make him a character that gives up easily and is not dedicated to himself. Rather, he was so strong and took all his hardships as motivation to keep going and fight for himself. His love for himself and his dedication make him such a powerful character. This is what makes him so admired and chased by other female characters. He had also become a highly respected character and can gain important relationships with his title as captain.

In comparison, in terms of being very dedicating in pursuing life goals, the character of Sir Walter Elliot is somehow also values that characterization. However, the purpose is different, as he focuses on gaining all the social status even more. This is proven by statement of Pike, E. H in 2017 about how the Sir Walter has the only life concern to maintain his rank and even to gain more. The expectation of him towards her daughter in marrying someone from the higher rank has become his obsession to maintain his financial ability. His character being very intolerant to the lower class characters is the characterization of him having the obsession to not sacrifice the rank and dedicate his life to gain more relations with the higher one instead.

According to its class, the society in this novel has a different view on social values. People in the upper class have social values related to social class and tolerance that are different from the lower class or middle class society. Having

previously described in the findings and explained in the discussion section, this social value can be concluded with the following paragraphs. The upper class, in this novel, view social status or social class as very important as the guideline in interacting with others and establishing relationships. It is proven by the data below of how according to Sir Walter, it is very humiliating to interact with the lower class characters.

“Westgate Buildings!” said he, “and who is Miss Anne Elliot to be visiting in Westgate Building? A Mrs. Smith. A widow Mrs. Smith; and who was her husband? One of five thousand Mr Smiths whose name are to be met with everywhere. And what is her attraction? That she is old and sickly. Upon my word, Miss Anne, you have the most extraordinary taste! Everything that revolts other people, low company, paltry rooms, foul air, disgusting associations are inviting to you. (*Persuasion*, p.204)

In comparison to the middle- and lower-class characters, in this novel, the ways they view the social value of social class and its value in tolerance are the opposite of what the upper class characters view it. They do not view the social class as the important values in behaving in their daily life in the novel especially in their love life. It is proven by the data below.

“Such excellent parents as Mr and Mrs Musgrove,” exclaimed Anne, “should be happy in their children’s marriage. They do everything to confer happiness, I



am sure. What a blessing to young people to be in such hands! Your father and mother seem so totally free from all those ambitious feelings which have led to so much misconduct and misery, both in young and old. (*Persuasion*, p.283)

The data above is explained under the situation of Henrietta and Louisa's marriage: the marriage of Louisa to Captain Benwick and Henrietta to Charles Hayter. Anne sees it as a very easy one in comparison to her love life due to how simple it is to gain the Musgroves' approval. The data shows the difference of culture in the rules of marriage between the Elliot and Musgrove family. Mr and Mrs Musgrove are portrayed as the opposite characters of the Elliot family. They are not ambitious in obtaining great alliances or wealth as their only prioritizing their children's happiness. It is proven by Anne saying "Your father and mother seem so totally free from all those ambitious feelings" (*Persuasion*, p.283). That the Musgrove family have no interest at all in gaining higher social status and put their child into the sacrifices. It can be seen that Anne hopes her family behave the same just like the Musgrove family as she has experienced the failure in her dating life due to her family's ambition.

In addition, for the lower-class character, the character of Frederick, who behaves in a very well-mannered way to his former friends that has the same status with him, still honoured Sir Walter despite his bad judgement of him. Therefore, in conclusion, the middle- and lower-class characters do not view the social class as

the guidelines in interacting or having relationships.

Captain Wentworth's making a distant bow, she comprehended that her father had judged so well as to give him that simple acknowledgement of acquaintance, and she was just in time by a side glance to see a slight curtsy from Elizabeth herself. (*Persuasion*, p. 236-237)

Likewise, the social value in the character and characterization of Frederick Wentworth can be concluded as having two main values about social life. The first is the value of tolerance. Frederick Wentworth, a lower-class character which began his journey in social climbing, due to the discrimination he faces, is reflecting the value of social in life harmony: tolerance. Despite the bad treatment and the injustice he had in the past, he still manages to tolerate other characters especially Sir Walter and Lady Russell. The value of tolerance even still happens when he has succeeded in gaining the new social class which is higher than before. Thus, despite his social class and experiences in the past, he is still portrayed as a well-mannered character as he is very tolerant of others.

The second value is the value of love: dedicating. It can be concluded that the character of Frederick is reflecting the social value of being dedicated as he is portrayed as the optimist character despite the fact that it was hard for him to gain higher status considering the setting of the novel. The social climbing done by him is the example of having great optimism as

well as great choice in pursuing his dreams. All of that happens without the bad intention of getting the status in an instant way. The character of him does not portray such characterization as doing immoral things in order to gain wealth and have higher social status in the novel. This then can be seen how amazing he is in dedicating himself to be the best and making all of his dreams come true. This even happens under the breakup or separation of him to Anne. Instead of making it as the barrier to move on, he took it as the motivation instead to be better. This then explains how the value of dedicating himself does not only exist to the point where he joined the navy as the defender of the country, but also toward himself as the part of his growth and development as the character in the novel. Moreover, the fact that he is a Captain in the navy, adds the character of him being dedicated towards his country. The social class which he gained was given as the title of the defender of the country as he fights and wins the war in the novel. Therefore, despite his environment and the reflection of the other characters to him, he still has the value of sociality that is idealised and is expected as the ideal behaviour.

## CONCLUSION

The results of the study show that there are criticisms and assessments of Frederick's character because of his social status. However, the figure of Frederick, who is dealing with a society that prioritizes social status, is not affected by self-assessment. Frederick's character

reflects social values; tolerating and self-serving as opposed to the values one has accepted. Therefore, the assessment that appears has absolutely no effect on the development of his character.

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