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**STRUCTURAL CONSTRUCTIVE SOCIETY IN SIDNEY SHELDON'S
*THE STARS SHINE DOWN***

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Abstract

This research aims to explain ways to construct a structural constructive society and several factors to establish it in *The Stars Shine Down* written by Sidney Sheldon in 1992. It uses a descriptive qualitative method. The Constructive Structuralism theory by Pierre Bourdieu is used by applying four concepts: capital, fields, structure, and strategy. This research reveals that leaders have the right to control and manage their society. Also, the holding capital can force the lower class to obey their order. The existence of ruler depends on the amount of their capital and the way they compete to defend their position in society.

Keywords: Structural Constructive Society, Capital, Fields, Practice.

I. INTRODUCTION

A structural constructive society is a reciprocal relationship between an agent and structure in views of social reality. Social life is always dynamic, but it also raises social stratification that can be measured from wealth, power, and knowledge. For instance, a businessman is a high-class member who places the highest position in society. Waringin (2016, p. 1) states that several things can affect a business such as mentality, knowledge of business, human resources, capital, sales, and business planning. Economic capital becomes a basic part of a business.

The business itself also takes a big deal in arranging society such as differentiating people into classes and human behavior or action. For instance, the division in a company has a function to classify the worker based on their ability. According to Bourdieu (1990: 67), there are four types of capital, economic capital, social capital, cultural capital, and symbolic capital. Economic capital includes production tools (machines, land, labor) and materials (money, objects). Social capital includes the social relationship between each person used to determine social class.

Cultural capital is an intellectual qualification improved with formal education and informal education. Symbolic capital is related to prestige, position, and legitimacy. Those types of capital can control human life and raise the duality reaction of actor and subject. These reactions are directed into a structuralism constructive society controlled by power domination. This case could be seen in Sidney Sheldon's *The Stars Shine Down*.

II. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Genetic Structuralism

Genetic structuralism is objective structural analyzing that can be separated by mental structure analysis in human life. It is part of a combination product of social structure and the origin social structure itself that can be seen in the quotation below:

“...the analysis of objective structure - those of different fields- is inseparable from the analysis of the genesis, within biological individuals, of the mental structures which are to some extent the product of the incorporation of social structures; inseparable, too, from the analysis of these social structures themselves...”

(Bourdieu, 1990: 14)

The quotation above shows the point of this theory is the relationship between the field and habitus concept. The habit of an agent can affect their reaction to compete in a certain field.

2.2 Capital

Capital is related to habitus because habitus is a part of the raising of capital. According to Bourdieu, capital is very wide; it could be divided into economic capital, cultural capital, and symbolic capital. Economic capital includes production tools (machines, land, labor) and materials (money, objects). Social capital includes the social relationship between each person which using in determine social class. Cultural capital is qualification intellectual which can be improved with formal education and informal education. Symbolic capital is related to prestige, position and legitimacy.

2.3 Structure

Several rules in a field can consider the actor, which is usually known as *structure*. The logic of practice and structure can affect the building of habitus itself, but structure also can be affected by habitus. In society, structure becomes very dominant in affecting the agent or

actor. There is a reciprocal relationship between the structure and the agent.

2.4 Practice

It talks about the way stimulating someone to make a response. Bourdieu (1980: 81) states that practice is inspired by temporality, not only because it is played out in time, but also because it plays strategically with time and especially with tempo. In this concept, there is a strategy that should be used to play well. An individual is free to act as they want, but it is still considered by the structure.

2.5 Field

The concept of field is a certain social environment used by the *agents* to compete with each other. Competition in this field intends to get more material resources and symbolic power which become a distinction of every agent.

III. METHOD OF RESEARCH

The method that was used in this research is the qualitative method. It is a technique to collect data based on text and other non-numerical data. According to Creswell (2009: 173), qualitative

research collects data themselves by examining documents. It uses an interpretive technique. It is a form of interpretive inquiry in which researchers interpret what they see, hear, and understand. This technique can be used to process the data in the form of quotations in *The Stars Shine Down*. The writer found some quotations in *The Stars Shine Down* to reveal the issues by using a certain concept in analyzing the novel.

IV. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

4.1 The Portrait of Structural Constructive Society

Society and human beings have a reciprocal relationship. Society consists of a group of people who live together in a certain place. People are social members of a certain society. In a society, there is a hierarchy of power that raises a ruler on it. This ruler has the right to construct their society. According to Loomis (1967), several factors can construct the society such as knowledge and beliefs, values and norms, social stratification, power, and punishment. Nowadays, people who want to be placed in the highest position also need power.

A society can be classified

based on its economic system. There are three classifications of society, i.e. socialist society, capitalist society, and Syariah society. *The Stars Shine Down* portrays the structural constructive society that has grown from a capitalist society mostly known as a liberalist society. This kind of society is oriented to the liberal economic system which gives access to people in managing their economy. It imposes market competition which forces people to decide on their product or service.

One of the countries that adheres to this economic system is American society as portrayed in *The Stars Shine Down*. This society is dominated by the capitalist who has a big deal in the economic system because the capitalist has a large amount of economic capital including production tools (machines, land, labor) and materials (money, objects). The government does not have the right to control the market system of the capitalist. Indirectly, this society has triggered a hierarchical system of power. Bourdieu (1989, p.23) found the following:

“This is why we must first stop to consider what is perhaps the best-hidden effect of the educational

system, the one it produces by imposing 'titles', a particular case of the attribution by status, whether positive (ennobling) or negative (stigmatizing), which every group produces by assigning individuals to hierarchically ordered classes”.

The Stars Shine Down reflects the capitalist who sits on the utmost of the hierarchical system of power that is those who have a large amount of capital as characterized by Sidney Sheldon in *Lara*. The way *Lara* communicates with her employees reflects how the capitalists construct their society. There is no chance for the employee to ask questions or to do other than what they ordered as indicated by the following quotation:

“You’ll have to sign a form saying that at no time will you discuss me or your work here at Cameron Enterprises. That means no interviews, no books, nothing.” (P. 14)

Lara represents the capital holding class with a large amount of economic capital, she can control her new employee. Her company represents a small group in society and *Lara* represents a ruler of that group. The capital holding class can decide what their employee must do. The phrase *signs a form* shows the owner's

compulsion. The word *form* means the agreement containing the employee's rights and responsibilities, monthly wage, yearly leave, and working time. It is a kind of legal document used to clarify any conflict before the court. The sentence *no time will you discuss me or your work here* explains her task in this company is only work based on the order. Mostly, in every company there is a confidential thing that should be kept by the employees, including making a rumor about the ruler in that company which emphasizes with word *me*. Also, the kind of job that the employees do in that company must be kept secret from people outside. In this condition, the capital holding class pushes their employees with sentences *no interviews, no books, nothing* reflecting the limitation of employee activity. *Interviews* are unwritten activities, and *Lara* forbids her employees to ask anyone or media the truth about her company. The word *Books* reflects the written activity which also can be dangerous for *Lara's* company. The word *nothing* emphasizes both written and unwritten activities are forbidden to be exposed to media. The purpose of it is to avoid information leakage around business rivals, *Lara* forces

her employees to sign an agreement as a part of the job requirement.

In this condition, Lara has a title as a ruler or the holding capital. It makes her sit on the utmost of a hierarchical system of power. When she pays her employees, she can limit her employees to keep her company running well. Then, she forces the new secretary to sign the agreement. It means that the new secretary is agreeing with all consequences in that agreement including the limitation from her boss. This shows the obedience of the lower-class people to the ruler which describes that Lara has succeeded in setting her working place.

The other way Lara sets aside her work society is by utilizing the dictums in an agreement that needs to be obeyed. If a violation occurs in the agreement, there will be also punishment, such as a warning from the boss or they may get fired. Charlie Hunter as Lara's employee represents people who do agreement violations accidentally from one side. He did an interview with the magazine's reporter which is forbidden to do in Lara's company. This situation can be found in the quotation below:

"You're fired." "What? Why? I..."

"When you were hired, you signed a paper agreeing not to give any interviews. I'll expect you out of here this morning." (P.15)

It could be seen that Lara decides to fire Charlie Hunter because of the agreement violation. The phrase *You're fired* explains the punishment that Lara gives to Hunter. Getting fired becomes the final decision for a serious violation. A hard violation that Charlie committed is leaking the company's information to the media. The words *What? Why?* expresses that Charlie is shocked by Lara's statement. He never thought that his interview with the media would get him fired. The worker needs to remember the points of agreement to avoid a mistake that will appear during the agreement. Because the ruler can cheat their employees to protect their prestige and company. From the word *I...*, there is an interruption by Lara to Charlie's arguments. Lara does not give a chance for Charlie to defend himself. This situation is emphasized with the words *What?* and *Why?* whereas shocking him. He tries to defend himself on purpose to avoid the punishment for an agreement violation that he did accidentally. The

sentence *When you were hired* means that Charlie has known about the agreement. He has read it and agreed with the prohibitions in it. The limitation of information about Lara's company is confidential. The phrase *signed a paper* shows that he has signed the *paper*. The word *paper* represents the agreement. The agreement was signed the first time Charlie interviewed with Lara. Every employee in that company must sign an agreement as proof of their loyalty to the company. One of the dictums in that agreement is not to give any interviews to other people, especially reporters or mass media. The phrase *not to give any interviews* describes one of several points that is forbidden during work in this company. Lara thinks that giving an interview can damage her company, it will leak confidential information. This condition can impede operational in it, and allow Lara's rival to precede Lara.

Besides the workplace, structural constructive is also portrayed in the organization. There are several reasons for founding an organization. One of them is bad treatment from the ruler. Many workers did not get appropriate rights from their bosses. Moreover, some of

them get physical violence. To avoid this situation getting worse, the labor formed a group known as the Labor Union. According to Bourdieu (1989, p. 480), the bad treatment in social classification triggers corporate defense groups (such as trade unions), which progressively impose the representation of their existence and their unity. This union has a structural system in it, such as the chairman and members. The chairman of this union will give a reaction or response if there is a bad treatment to their members. It is represented by Lara when a workman drops a wrench from the upper stairs of construction. This situation can be found in the following quotation:

"She slapped him hard across the face. You're fired. Now get off my building. Hey," he said "it was an accident. I . . . Get out of here." The man glared at her for a moment, then walked away and took the elevator down. (P.126)

It could be seen there is bad treatment from the ruler. The word *She* represents Lara as the boss or ruler. Lara has given bad treatment to the laborer through the word *slapped* which describes physical abuse. The labor represents the workman who drops the wrench. Lara decides the

punishment by herself. The word *hard* shows the intensity of this abuse and expresses Lara's anger. She slapped the workman emotionally without thinking about the side effects of her reaction. Besides the physical abuse, the phrase *You are fired* means that Lara gives him punishment by firing him. Labor is a part of lower-class people, when he got fired, it means that he lost his chance to earn money.

The sentence *Now get off my building* describes the labor being expelled as a form of his firing inappropriately. This workman becomes ashamed because Lara has been expelled rudely in front of the other workers. The word *Hey* expresses the rejection of Lara's statement. This laborer has a right to defend himself. It is emphasized with a sentence *it was an accident* means that the labor does not mean to do that. He also wants to explain his reasons by using the word *I . . .* There are three full stops after the word *I*, which describes that the laborer's speech has been stopped rudely. This shows Lara does not want to hear any reasons. In Lara's opinion, she was the victim and she has the right to slap or expel the workman. This

condition could be described by the phrase *Get out of here*. The workman's response to Lara can be found in the word *glared* which describes the laborer's shock because he was fired based on his accident. It also describes his disagreement with Lara's decision.

The union will break the contract that has been signed between the union and the ruler. This reaction is a struggle for the welfare of social members. The foreman is a representative of the union, he delivers the message from the union that can be seen from the following dialogue between Lara and the foreman:

*"My union doesn't think it's a joke, the foreman told her. They gave us orders to walk. We're walking. You have a contract. You broke it
(P. 127)*

It could be seen that the union has responded to the bad treatment that the labor got before. The phrase *My union* explains that he is a member of the Labor union. All of the laborers in Lara's project have joined the Labor union. When Lara slapped one of their members, the union responded by retracting all of the labor from Lara's project. The sentence *My*

union doesn't think it's a joke explains that the response from the union is serious when they retract all of the labor. The union considers slapping their member with his accidental fault is a serious problem because Lara has fired him and made him lose his job. The word *They* represent the union. The union gives instructions to another member to move on to another project. The phrase *gave us orders to walk* means that the union has retracted all of the labor and moved them to a new or other project. *Foreman* as representative of the labor and union itself, he is delivering a message to Lara. The message talks about the retraction of the workman from Lara project. The sentence *You have a contract* expresses Lara's disagreement with this condition. It is also a threat from Lara, they have a contract with her, and cannot be canceled in this way. The sentence *You broke it* has answered Lara threatened. The word *it* represents the contract that has been broken by Lara itself.

4.2. Establishing Structural Constructive Society

Capital could determine someone status which is gives

opportunity to construct society there. Bourdieu (1989) found:

“If we use as indices of the rarity of a position (or, which amounts to the same thing, its degree of closure) the proportion of its occupants who originate from the dominant class as a whole and from the fraction in question, we find that the resulting hierarchy corresponds fairly exactly, for both indices, to the hierarchy by volume of economic capital.” (P.120)

Capital is a relation to connect people in society. It will use hierarchical system of power to build obedience in society. it gives chance to capitalist to control the lower class people. The lower-class people will obey the order because the capitalist have ability to oppress them. For instance, a ruler which represented by MacAlister will have a full ability to control their employee or customer. In this case, Lara represents the customer who cannot refuse the oppression because she needs a loan to start her first project. This condition could be seen from the quotation bellow:

“His fingers were drumming restlessly on his desk. “To tell you the truth, I'm really in no hurry to sell that lot, Lara. The longer I hold on to it, the more valuable it will

become.” (P.57)

It could be seen that MacAllister as the holding capital tries to persuade Lara to do what he wants. The word *fingers* symbolize the power that can dominate someone. Mostly, people pointing someone, example to their employee or youth, to give command and it shows how capital could determine someone position. The phrase *his desk* shows MacAllister power. *Desk* reflects the Glace Bay, the small area in Nova Scotia. He has power in that area as a Banker and Landlord. This power is used to get more profits and control society around him. Indirectly, he has built his own society based on his economy capital. The phrase *to tell you the truth* explains that MacAllister tries to deliver his passion to Lara as additional part of Lara’s agreement with him. The phrase *no hurry to sell that lot* describes his strategy. *No hurry* means that he does not want to sell his land, include the property above it. But he will sell it if the price is suitable for him or he can get more profits from it. The word *lot* emphasizes he still wants to own the land. Because he knows that the land will be valuable in the future. He decides to use a tricky way to make

the land keeps being his own. The sentence *the longer I hold on to it, the more valuable it will become* shows he has known the number of profits that Lara will get if she can own the land. There is no exclamatory in it, and it shows the way MacAllister talks Lara. He talks slowly and clear, it could be seen that MacAllister is a tricky man.

Field is known as a place for people who have capital compete each other. Field is a struggling environment and a place to compete for everyone, each group to get the higher position. According to Bordieu (p. 112-113),

“It is the specific logic of the field, of what is at stake and of the type of capital needed to play for it, which governs those properties through which the relationship between class and practice is established.”

A businessman will compete with other businessman in a field such as property business, what they over here are their economic capital. This situation represented by Lara and her rival, Steve Murchinson. Both try to compete to get a valuable land and Lara wins the competition. It makes Steve angry because he can defeat by a woman. This situation can be seen as follows:

“This is Steve Murchison. I’m going to let it go this time, bitch, because I don’t think you know what the hell you’re doing. But in the future stay out of my way-you could get hurt And the line went dead.” (P.100)

The name *Steve Murchison* known as Lara’s rival. Both of them are real-estate entrepreneur, in this case real estate becomes their field. They compete to get a valuable land based on its location and it will build a new property above it. The phrase *let it go* reflects he concedes defeat to Lara. The word *it* represents the valuable land that competed by them. The phrase *this time* shows it is the last time he will relent. Steve let his valuable land was taken by Lara as a form to warn Lara. He warns that the real estate business is not a place for Lara. His emotion can be seen from the way he calls Lara as *bitch* which describes his angry. It is express his angry that he was defeated by a woman. In this business, Steve has more experience rather than Lara, he believes that he is the greatest entrepreneur in that city. However, when Lara defeats him, it makes his reputation becomes down when people now that a woman also can run this business. The sentence *because I*

don’t think you know what the hell you’re doing is kind of satire.

The phrase *I don’t think you know* explains that he mocks Lara as a woman in this field, this business (field) dominated by man and Lara just a woman. The phrase *what the hell you’re doing* describes that he wants to tell Lara if she can run her business as well as he did. In this era, man still dominating in every sector. It would be embarrassing for them if they defeated by a woman. The sentence *but in the future stay out of my way-you could get hurt* is a form of threaten. He tries to threaten Lara to move away from this business. The phrase *stay out of my way* describes a warning. Lara is forbidden to compete with him again. It is not Lara’s place; he thinks that a woman does not have a chance to run this business. The phrase *could get hurt* is threaten, *hurt* can describes physical abuse, psychological abuse, or economic abuse. It shows that he will do anything if Lara has a brave to disturb his business or his agreement with a vendor. He can do some physical abuses to Lara, terror Lara’s business or he also can make Lara’s company becomes bankrupt.

In society, structure becomes very dominant in affecting the agent or actor. There is reciprocal relationship between structure and the agent. Structure talks about rules that can consider the actor. For instance, in running a business, there is a rule that should be obeyed by the entrepreneur. Lara as the entrepreneur in real-estate business also has several rules to make her business running well. This condition also appears in quotation below:

“The first rule in real estate,” Roger told her, is OPM. Never forget that. What’s OPM?. Other People Money.... The three most important things in real estate are location, location, and location....” (P.49)

It could be seen Roger explains about real estate business rules. The phrase *The first rule* describes the most basic rule in real estate business. There is a space in Roger speech, it shows the emphasizes about this rule. The word *OPM* is abbreviation. He uses abbreviation to help Lara remember it easily. The sentence *Never forget that* emphasis that Lara should remember it if she wants to start a business. The phrase *Other People Money* simply means loan. In real estate business, it needs a lot of money to start it. It will

be hard to start without loan. Roger explains more about this. The phrase *the three most important things in real estate* describes that besides OPM, there are three important rules. The word *location* is repeated three times, it emphasizes that location is important. It needs to make sure that the location will bring profits to your business and your company.

Practice is how to stimulate someone to make a respond. Practice consists of strategy which should be played. An individual is free to act as they want, but it still considers the structure. For instance, in order to manage a work society or business, strategy needed to make it growing and make profit for the company. As same as Lara, she also makes several strategies to make her meetings and business keep running well. It can be found from quotation below:

“One of the Iron Butterfly’s tricks was to schedule her business meetings early on the first morning of negotiations, so that the others were jet-lagged and Cameron was fresh.” (P. 311)

There is strategy that Lara uses to make her business running well. The phrase *Iron Butterfly* represents Lara. The word *Butterfly* symbolizes the beauty of a woman. The word *Iron*

describes Lara has a strength to compete in this business. Lara describes a beauty woman who has strength to compete with man in real estate business. The word *tricks* mean strategy. It shows that Lara using strategy in managing her business. it also shows the ways Lara to compete in this business. She uses several tricks to make it smooth. The sentence *schedules her business meetings early on the first morning of negotiations* is one of Lara's tricks. The phrase *early on the first morning* means dawn. Lara set the meeting at dawn and near to her location. When her associate comes from abroad, it will be hard for them to get enough sleep. The less sleep can affect the way of thinking, for instance someone cannot be criticized in this situation because the brain is not working as fast as someone who gets enough sleep. In other side, Lara has enough time to sleep and she can be fresh in the morning and do that meeting, it described by the phrase *Cameron was fresh*. The word *the others* represents the Japanese banker as a side of the negotiation. The phrase *jet- lagged* describes that the Japanese using plane and they will feel jet-lagged after landed. The less of sleep and jet-lagged will affect the

Japanese which become not fresh and hard to think critically. Lara takes this opportunity to present what she wants from the banker. The banker will hard to complain and argue with Lara at this time. This condition will make meeting runs smoothly like Lara wants.

V. CONCLUSION

Many people think that capitalism is a bad system, because the capitalist always have the right to do something as well as they can control their employee's life. On the other hands, this capitalism system has a deal in construct a society. This system also involves the structural constructive society existence. There is capitalist society or mostly known as liberalist society appears in American society. It is oriented to the liberalism economic system which gives access to people in managing their own economic, especially for the holding capital. It has a large amount of economic capital including production tools (machine, land, labor) and material (money, object). It imposes market competition where it forces people to decide their own product or service.

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