

WANG LUNG'S STRUGGLE FOR WEALTH IN PEARL S. BUCK'S *THE GOOD EARTH*

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Abstract

This thesis is concentrated on the struggle of Wang Lung for their life to reach wealth as the main character in the novel entitled *The Good Earth*. The purpose of this thesis is written is to reveal the process of Lung to be rich. How Lung can get rich and what is the factor for Lung who has to be rich are the questioner of this thesis. Lung not only work well, but he also changes his life while he gets a suffering moment. This suffering moment is one factor that Lung gets from external caused. However, Lung gets a depressed moment between internal and external. Those are factors that Lung gets the motivation to be undergone and passed it in order to can reach a wealth.

Keywords: Struggle, motivation, development for the wealth process.

Abstrak

Skripsi ini fokus terhadap perjuangan Wang Lung terhadap hidupnya untuk menempuh kekayaan yang merupakan tokoh utama di dalam sebuah novel yang berjudul *The Good Earth*. Tujuan penulisan skripsi ini adalah untuk mengemukakan sebuah proses dari Wang Lung untuk menempuh kekayaan. Bagaimana Wang Lung menjadi kaya dan Apa sebabnya Lung harus menjadi kaya adalah pertanyaan penelitian dari skripsi ini. Lung tidak hanya bekerja dengan baik, tetapi dia juga harus mengubah hidupnya ketika mengalami masa-masa terpuruk. Keadaan ini adalah salah satu faktor yang Lung dapatkan dari faktor eksternal. Bagaimanapun Lung mendapatkan tekanan dari internal dan eksternal. Semua itu adalah faktor dimana Lung mendapatkan motivasi dan melewatinya agar dapat mencapai kekayaan.

Keywords: Perjuangan, Motivasi, Proses perkembangan dan Kekayaan.

INTRODUCTION

I see big process from reading of novel (*The Good Earth*). There are many statements for someone who works all day to get something which can make their life to be better than before. Why people work hard is caused by the family factor, economic factor, and others that influence people to do something. I choose this novel because there is a power of human being. A different culture of the country, different region environment, and different social class are the reason why the novel entitled *The Good Earth* is chosen. Another reason is a writer whose name Pearl Sydenstricker Buck, the novel has a feeling of the writer also meaning power. Buck become one of greatest writer that won Pulitzer Prize in 1932. She moves in China to follow her family and she writes many books about

china's life. She is also as one of the Feminist Activist in the world who really care about women problem. This article is not also far away from the statement of the problem and purpose of the problem. One of them relate and be strong with each other. How is Wang Lung's struggle for wealth described in Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* and What are the causing factors of Wang lung's struggle for wealth in Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* is the statement of the problem? How can people dream and reach from what they want is a factor why people have to do something. That is a fact that problem has the purpose, they are to describe Wang Lung's struggle for wealth in Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* and to reveal the causing factors of Wang lung's struggle for wealth in Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*. This study tries

to reveal the struggle of Wang lung's life in China where China has influenced by another culture from American people. The fact that Wang lung still keeps his culture by following where he lives. In this view, the reader could understand a struggle meaning through this study. It also has a limitation of the writing process. This study only focuses on how the struggle of Wang lung in Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*. It shows the man action for her life to fill the needed of the family. It means that a male is very dominant in taking many aspects such as the economy, social, power, leader, and wealth. This study uses motivation concepts, it supports the struggle definition by explaining the factors. The factors are from internal and external why the main character struggles to reach wealth. Totally, the data from the novel entitled *The Good Earth* is written by Pearl S. Buck's which publishes renew one in 2008. Organization of this study is the process of how to make it reliable to read for form thesis. In chapter one contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, limitation of the study, the significance of the study, research method and organization of the study. In chapter two contains theories approach the study. In chapter three contains many data that they are sample data of analysis. And chapter four contains a conclusion and summary.

METHOD

The method of the research that used in this study is literary research. It is regarded as descriptive – qualitative study and use library research. The method elaborated as follows:

- a. Data: The source of the data is novel of Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*. It published renew one in 2008.
- b. Data Collection: The collecting a data and a close reading first to get and gather the data from the whole texts. It also needs classify in the form of statements or quotation.
- c. Data Analysis: This study uses the statement of the problem then it has to be answered. From this analysing, it could be decide which concept has to be choosen from this study. After that describing each quotation in a simple way of understanding, and relating the idea with the data by using concept of struggle. The goal of this concept is process how the main character

undergo and reach the dream, and also what Wang lung get from his struggle.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

There are many concepts to reveal a study, but we only focus on the main character that have a power to change their way. The goal of this review is actually to provide approach theory. The main theory struggles, but it also relates to the closer meaning of effort. A common definition of effort is something to move, something to be reached, and something to try harder than before. Problems have been mentioned turn up to be wealthy of the main character for his life to avoid the pressure of his life where he lives with lacks. For those, Wang lung feels that he has to reach the freedom for his life in the economy, status social, and pressure from his family. Nothing to be a wealth one, there is a way to reach it from zero to hero.

1. Struggle

One action from the main character shows his struggle. It means that is one act of humanity to be reached what human wants. It has varieties in development of struggle. A common definition of **struggle** is over many variations. But, based on Charles Darwen: Chapter 3; power incessantly ready for action and as immeasurably superior to man's feeble efforts. W. Herbert also explains that Nothing is easier than to admit in the world the truth of the universal struggle for life, or more difficult at least he has found it so than constantly to bear this conclusion in mind.

A common definiton in other works; Something should try harder to do, achieve, or deal with something that is difficult or that causes problems, something have to move with difficulty or with great effort, Something must try to move yourself somewhere, by getting a lot of effort. (Merriam Webster Dictionary).

2. Human Development

People is only focus how they will learn to know what they want. That is not so far from how people have to go through their life. From born until die, a person must go through the process. A childhood until adult, their main influence a change of their maind-set. An adult until old, this process also experience the diferent change. In this case, Amartya Sen (1990) argues that **human development** is a change in time when people have

to effort better than before to go through the top. And it is expanded by Martha Nussbaum, Sabine Alkire, Ingryd Roybens and others show that development concerns expanding the choices people have, to lead lives that they value, and improving the human condition so that people have the chance to lead full lives. So, human development is about much more than economic growth. Between **struggle** and **human development** is encouraged by motivation. By investing in people, we enable growth and empower people to pursue many different life paths, thus developing human capabilities. The most basic capabilities for human development are: to lead long and healthy lives, to be knowledgeable (to be educated), to have access to the resources and social services needed for a decent standard of living, and to be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

In 1990 the first Human Development Report introduced a new approach for advancing human well being. It is indentified in three part;

People: human development focuses on improving the lives people lead rather than assuming that economic growth will lead, automatically, to greater wellbeing for all.

Opportunities: human development is about giving people more freedom to live lives they value. In effect this means developing people's abilities and giving them a chance to use them. For example, educating a girl would build her skills, but it is of little use if she is denied access to jobs, or does not have the right skills for the local labour market.

Choice: human development is, fundamentally, about more choice. It is about providing people with opportunities, not insisting that they make use of them. No one can guarantee human happiness, and the choices people make are their own concern. The process of development – human development - should at least create an environment for people, individually and collectively, to develop to their full potential and to have a reasonable chance of leading productive and creative lives that they value. (Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development)

3. Motivation

In here, Andrew and Martin (2001) suggest that **Motivation** is a theoretical construct behavior. It means that focussing on contents (What they motivate) and focussing on Process (How they reach the goal). Arnold, Robertson, and Cooper: 3 components of motivation

1. Direction: What a person is trying to do.
2. Effort: How hard a person is trying.
3. Persistence: How long a person keeps on trying.

Researchers have proposed theories that try to explain human motivation. These theories include **drive reduction theories** and Maslow's **hierarchy of needs theory**.

Drive reduction theories of motivation suggest that people act in order to reduce needs and maintain a constant physiological state. For example, people eat in order to reduce their need for food. Drive reduction theories fail to explain several aspects of motivation:

1. **Intrinsic:** Self generated factors
For example; People who play the game in order to enjoy their feeling about discouragement, because they want to discard it with playing the game.
2. **Extrinsic:** Others factors that make to be motivated
For example; People who train their abilities to get better than the others and they want to be famous, winner, and status.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

In the 1970s, the psychologist **Abraham Maslow** (1954), suggested that people are motivated by a **hierarchy of needs**:

- First, most basic level: physiological needs, such as the need for food, water, safety, and security.
- Second level: needs for social interaction, such as the need to belong.
- Third level: needs for esteem, which include the need for respect from oneself and others.
- Fourth level: needs for self-actualization, or realizing one's full potential

Different Types of Wealth between Rich and Poor

Tom Corley understands the difference between being rich and poor. Accroding to him, there are two type ideologies for rich people and poor people. He thinks that every people have

many differences about the idea to reach the dreams and the way to reach the dreams. Those categories will be elaborate below.

Good Ideology (Rich)

- a. Have a Defined Purpose in Life
- b. Create Multiple Incomes
- c. Be Patient
- d. Save Money
- e. Take Calculated Risks and Fear Nothing

Bad Ideology (Poor)

- a. Repeat Mistakes
- b. Unhealthy Lifestyle
- c. Work Hard Not Thinking

4. Wealth

In popular speech *wealth* and money are employed as synonymous terms. Men of large wealth are commonly spoken of as "moneyed men". Does it call wealth? no, it does not. In his journal *The Concept of Wealth*, Charles A. Tuttle (p.617-618) shows that **wealth** is money, anything which can be converted into money. Following his journal, he also shows from Mr. Mill definition. "Wealth may be defined all usefull and agreeable things which posses exchangeable value; or in orther words, all useful and agreeable things, except those which may be obtained in the quantify desired without labor or sacrifice." (Principles of Political Economy, Vol. 1. P.26).

In shorting from the book "11th 12th std standard Indian Economy status Higher secondary school College", **Wealth** means anything which has value. Therefore, three attributes of wealth as in the case of value are utility, scarcity and marketability. Good which is able to satisfy human want, which is scale and must be transferable, is wealth. It should be noted that.

1. **Money** is form of wealth. All money is wealth but all wealth is not money.
2. **Income** is different than wealth. Wealth yields income.
3. **Wealth and welfare** are closely inter-related. Wealth is the means and welfare and end.

And also those things relate from internal factor and external factor that why statement and purpose are there. The way of Lung as the main character gets wealth followed on the theory of **struggle** and **wealth**. where that concept is dominant to process how the people will be. Besides in those theories, there are supporting ideas

or concept which help another way to get wealth. they are motivation concept which explains how people set their minds, human development is a change time when people have to effort better than before to go through the top. (Amartya: 1990). It can be seen that Lung has passed many ways to get his dream, a rich person, or wealthy. Mr. Mill shows. "Wealth may be defined all useful and agreeable things which possess exchangeable value; or in other words, all useful and agreeable things, except those which may be obtained in the quantity desired without labor or sacrifice." (Principles of Political Economy, Vol. 1. P.26). In the modern concept of wealth is all about economic where it becomes growth, increasing, and development. Economic may define wealth as "anything of value" that captures both the subjective nature of the idea and the idea that it is not a fixed or static concept. Various definitions and concepts of wealth have been asserted by various individuals and in a different context. In popular speech wealth and money are employed as synonymous terms. Men of large wealth are commonly spoken of as "moneyed men". Does it call wealth? no, it does not. In his journal *The Concept of Wealth*, Charles A. Tuttle (p.617-618) shows that wealth is money, anything which can be converted into money. In short from the book "11th 12th std standard Indian Economy status Higher secondary school College", **Wealth** means anything which has value.

Wealth can be classified as;

1. Individual Wealth: Material possession like land, building cash etc.
2. Personal Wealth: refers to personal qualities like intelligence, skill etc.
3. Social Wealth: They are things owned by society e.g. building dams, road etc.
4. National Wealth: They are natural resources like rivers, climate, oceans etc.
5. Cosmopolitan Wealth: It is a wealth of the whole word. It is a sum total wealth of all nationals.
6. Negative Wealth: It refers to debts owned by individual of Govt.

DISCUSSION

In this section of the sample of analysis, the first description of how Wang Lung's struggle for a better economy. The wealth is a factor that Lung want to get more in his life because he forces to work hard in order to show other people that he

can do it and get what he wants. Based on this chapter will show how the process of the main character to undergo and make his way to get more wealth or good economic in order to get his social life. Also the second point is causing factors Wang Lung's struggle for better wealth. What kinds of factors that Wang Lung has to be a rich man or economic of abundance. The sample of analysis of them is presented as follows.

1. Wang Lung's Struggle for Wealth

Wang Lung is a person who lives in China where he only lives with his father. So far, Lung has a father that is a very old man that can not work at his paddy field. And from those, Lung is given paddy field by his father. But Lung has to take care of his family condition where he should care to be homemade, not only work in the paddy field. This example quotation from the novel below.

"In this morning is last to take care of all of the homework such as igniting the flame, cooking, and preparing all of the father's necessity."(Buck, Pearl S. 1931. *The Good Earth*. The United States. John Day) Page.7

The quote of "igniting the flame, cooking, and preparing all of the father's necessity." is a task for a woman. Those are totally hard for Lung that has to manage their time to take care of his house. It should be done by a woman, but Lung understands from his condition after his mother is gone and his father is very old to take care of his home. It shows how man is not only working out of the house. He evidences that he can do it. This case is normally from the human mind for their life to survive as long as he lives. In the quote above, how he struggles is one thing that has to do to save his father's life. Lung also sees how distressed Lung pass away his mother. After he knows the feeling, it seems like the son which does not want to ignore about his father's condition even he wants his father that can live as long as Lung can do to take care of it.

From this way, Lung learns suffering condition, he also is an optimist to do something that can change his life from those conditions. After Lung gets the field(paddy field) to work hard and how far Lung becomes homemade, it is ordinary for Lung. It determines how Lung work well is Effort. Why this statement include in this writing, because Lung is used to be hard work from being homemade and it can become Lung to be stronger for working out from the house. What

Lung has done will construct his ability to work well unintentionally. It is also describing the Direction for Lung to get the result from what he has done. When people live in an environment with a good environment, people will give good feedback from the environment by constructing their brain. Lung has a good opinion toward his father by taking care of him. How Lung wants to take care of the father's condition where man has developed the brain caused by the environment such as social relationship, educated, culture, and physically. An adult person has thought that they live with society through their identity from society. It means when someone has grown to an adult, they have a function of their position in the society or their personality. It can be called Equity that is the idea of fairness for every people, we each have the right to an education and health care. So, Lung is educated by his father to be a good person who has an idea where he has to plan before he does. From this way, Lung gets wisdom from all their life. He becomes strong enough to work at a different place where it creates Lung to be well.

Money is value thing which can concern about economic. It also has many function to be done with money. People want to work because of money. People also want to be appreciated because of money. Money can change all of condition. Money is value thing which can concern about economic. It also has many function to be done with money. People want to work because of money. People also want to be appreciated because of money. Money can change all of condition. As following passage above, it will show the example from the novel *The Good Earth* that main character has a way to keep money.

"Take a small bag of gray fabric that tuck in his belt, and he counts the money in it." (Buck, Pearl S. 1931. *The Good Earth*. United States. John Day) Page.12.

"From yields in this good year, Wang Lung has gotten a handful of gold and silver, for her its enough moreover it is surplus. He has to keep it in order to avoid other people see". (Buck, Pearl S. 1931. *The Good Earth*. United States. John Day) Page.61.

With this way, china's people is called smart one to manage their income and outcome (other people trust toward china's people). This process is called **Banking** which is not able one at the time place to save their money from rebellion

based on the quote of "He has to keep it in order to avoid other people see". Another reason is to be safe or secure from someone that sometimes happens for someone by stealing it from the owner. Like quote above "*a small bag of gray fabric that tuck in his belt*", this way is important for Lung by keeping his money in order that another can not steal. From what Lung has done is shown a **Security** for his money. It will also happens for people by having a much money. They will keep and save for the next live. Lung also thinks that sometimes he will needs money for himself or his family. There is advantage for saving money.

2. The Causing Factors for Wang Lung's Struggle for Wealth

This section is normally about why the main character sacrifice to get his dream of being rich. It is very general to be understood that every people want to be a rich one, but it is influenced by many factors that make people sacrifice to get it in their ways. In this case, Wang Lung takes his dreams with his way to sacrifice. It is known that rich people are sometimes getting their abundance of wealth from generation to generation. Wang Lung is the only exception one from other rich people because he is the only farmer. With his land, Lung change all of their life like landlords. Lung undergoes it with many factors which will be elaborated in below.

"Small cafe tea where Lung spends his rest time after going in the city previously. Now, Lung feels that place is very dirty and musty." (Buck, Pearl S. 1931. The Good Earth. The United States. John Day) Page.232"

Lung feels that place is very dirty and musty" this feeling shows how the Lung is different attitude before he becomes a rich man in their village and he also feels that he can buy for someplace shop or big house for their life. it is like common for rich people when they have much money to do anything and buy anything whatever with money. It is not the reason for this case. Try to check before Lung becomes a rich people. Lung always a rest time to spend it at the cafe and ask some news for their place. And this place shows that poor people like other farmers in this place who spend the time to tea time is different from people who have much money. Rich people spend their time in discotic and time is different from the farmer. Rich people hang out for all night time and

play with women who they recognize each other. Like this quote describes Lung who has much money go to discotic.

Wang Lung wants to show that he is very rich enough and has many lands as well as landlords, so he is well to do anything that he wants. He puts outside the silver coins from the pocket. "*Is this enough or not?*". Lung says to women who stand in front of the discotic door. (Buck, Pearl S. 1931. The Good Earth. The United States. John Day) Page.242

This case shows how different entertainment for poor and rich people. Where people get a different thing to be appreciated to others. This statement explains what the main character change his attitude, but different life for their social life to each other and how hard to be eligible for good economical. How the novel has told that there is an effective social distance. It means that other groups are not sympathy toward another group. Because some groups have a status which is another group to consider what another not have a status like wealth.

Summaries

The last paragraph of this contains two main conclusions which are in line with the problem of the study and the result of the analysis. They will elaborate all of the problem and question research below with the first conclusion is a process of Lung to struggle for wealth, the second conclusion is caused for Lung's struggle. In this main first conclusion will minimize all analysis data in the chapter before. How the process Lung's struggle explain in this first conclusion. It will be started for analysis the character in that novel as the main character who is Wang Lung. Lung just has a father after his mother is gone, he also takes care of his family life like to be homemade. But he decides to work in his land from inheritance's fatherland, not only has to be homemade. This process makes Lung work hard and make him be a stronger person that has to work inside and outside to fulfill their life needs. It is the best statement in chapter two that effort is how hard a person trying to do well. From this side, the conclusion directs from Lung's work at the house. Where people live in the healthy house because it is motivated by a hierarchy of need at a basic level that house has a self-meaning; safe place and healthy. Those are related to Lung's process where he can take a rest to save his energy

for the next works. The second process is about how Lung works at his land. When he reaches a marriageable age, he takes a slave at Hwang family that he has to buy it with some requirements. She is a woman with a stronger face who has name O-lan. With his wife, Lung can work together as called cooperation. This process explains that people who work together is faster than alone. Not only faster, but it has another side advantage that is easier. This works at all for Lung because he just concentrates to his land and has not been homeless because his wife has changed her. Lung feels that he can more able to focus his work and be hard to earn result more. How Lung's process to reach wealth is how he manages the results. When Lung has much money, he is a different farmer like others. He saves truly his money with no gambling, he also keeps some result to sell in another time when hulled rice has undergone a rising price. How Lung has a good idea for his life is one reaction to plan and takes that opportunity. Lung also plans that banking, be patient, and taking calculated risk are made him wealthy or rich people with this way. The last conclusion will be contained many factors for Lung's struggle to be a wealthy or rich person.

The main purpose of the novel is normally to show how the main character reaches his dream to be a rich one that makes their life full enough of human needs. Lung has felt how poor he is and how to lack he is. There are many factors that make Lung becomes motivated. The best statement is constructed by extrinsic factor and intrinsic factor. They are closely related because of human need what they have to fulfill their need. Based on the first caused factor, it will explain about intrinsic factor. It is generated by Lung itself how Lung has to think about what he has to do. It comes from in his mind and his feel by looking around. Lung has to work hard because in his mind there is a lack of economic that makes him be suffered. He does not only feel it, but he also sacrifices alone when his father is old enough and his mother is gone. He can feel how hard to take care of his family life and economic. Beside it, he also imagines where rich people enjoy his life with hiring people to work and rich people also receive money without work. Lung knows his generation is the only a farmer like his father and his uncle. Lung's generation makes him jealous of rich generation people. It can be factor intrinsic from Lung's feeling because it comes from himself and he has a lack of everything that he needs. In second caused factor is come from

extrinsic. It is explained that factors are caused by others. Other here, explain that environment toward Lung's life is the factor. Lung is forced to undergo it and to change all the condition. Starting with a crisis in mid-season when he and his city undergo misery where God sends disaster to earth that there is no rain or water. And people mutual kill another to fulfill their need because at the time no one can work, no one has money and no one can still alive without killing. Different from Wang Lung that he has to move to the south to get a good effort. He decides to go the south with family finally to earn some great effort. Another extrinsic caused is education. When Lung has to write and read his name, he is totally not well educated. Lung feels that he can not study because his father does not be enough to send him to school. And at that time, school is only for rich people. The last extrinsic caused is about different place between rich and poor people. It makes them far enough to communicate with others. Why people have a different place is caused by their status. Lung feels his poor status make him far with another person in the city. It is about entertainment like Tea shop and Bar shop. Where Tea shop is a place for poor people who want to enjoy entertainment only a cup of tea. Meanwhile, Bar shop is selling about everything for rich people want like alcohol, the slave woman, and gambling. It takes a lot of money to come to that place.

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