

The Influence of Material Possession on Social Class in the Novel *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart using Marxism and Hegemony Theory

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ABSTRACT

This research discusses the struggle for wealth in the novel *We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart which is analyzed using Karl Mark's Marxist theory and Antonio Gramsci's theory of hegemony. Ideally, humans live happily with their own share of wealth. However, the emergence of groups with abundant wealth who are greedy want to dominate the social class. This of course has an impact on other groups of people who are below them. The focus of this research is on Harris and the methods used to control members of his family who are in lower positions and how they respond to this as well as the factors that result in them being controlled. The control exercised by Harris as the ruling class is proven by the theory of hegemony which is mostly described through manipulative discourse. Domination by the ruling class is maintained through the ideology they instill. Meanwhile, the response from the lower class can be proven using Marxist theory where two different responses will be formed, namely obedience and rejection. This research uses a qualitative design with the close reading method. The results of the research show that from the domination exercised by Harris, it was found that there were parties who submitted to him and there were also parties who resisted. So a conflict arises which is the impact of the opposing party. This conflict will end the greed of the ruling class who wants to dominate the social class.

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INTRODUCTION

Being born into a rich family is something that many people in the world want. People also think that being rich always brings happiness. But sometimes being rich is something that takes away the feeling of happiness itself. Automatically to achieve happiness people will put wealth as a necessity. Meanwhile, people have different or similar needs but have limitations in obtaining them. If these needs are neglected or hampered, it can trigger conflict (Dina & Suhendi, 2020, p. 92). Wealth can cause struggle within their environment, for example, family, friends or relatives. A materialistic person's goal in life is satisfaction through the acquisition of wealth and social status, even though this perspective is negatively correlated with well-being (Aisyahrani et al., 2020, p. 62). Often people sacrifice everything to become rich or to maintain their wealth. Greed and egoism are the characteristics of how these people strive to pursue wealth. So without being prevented, wealth has controlled people to work hard to get it. This makes them unaware that their busy pursuit of wealth is the cause of their unhappiness.

Unhappiness is a condition where someone has not or even failed to achieve something. Unhappiness arises when someone feels dissatisfied with what they already have. Wealth as a cause of unhappiness means that wealth is not sufficient for someone's level of happiness. People who yearn for wealth are trapped in excessive desires so they do everything they can to fulfill their desires. With full awareness, they accept that happiness comes from working in an office, owning a luxury house or car, and frequently traveling abroad (Purnaningsih & Kusmiatun, 2022, p. 111). The value of prestige and materialism in someone's life can be measured by their profession and power (Purnaningsih & Kusmiatun, 2022, p. 109). So that when they fail to obtain all that wealth, they will live in restlessness. Apart from that, unhappiness due to someone's failure to achieve wealth will cause changes in themselves, negative emotions often emerge when someone is unhappy. Revenge, anger, and hatred are negative emotions that arise due to the effects of unhappiness on someone.

People are still unhappy even though they already have wealth. This can happen due to several factors, the first is that the way they obtained their wealth was incorrect. So it will bring fear in itself if later their wealth is lost and confiscated from them. This gives rise to feelings of worry at all times about this impermanent wealth. The phenomenon of the human tendency to obtain excessive material and obtain what they want in insufficient and varied ways is materialism (Panggabean et al., 2021, p. 48). The second factor is that someone feels dissatisfied with the wealth they already have. Their dissatisfaction arises from their ambition to continuously pursue wealth. They focus too much on what they haven't gotten, so they forget to focus on what they have. The material comforts they praise as their new God may ignore other values such as humanity (Sujarwo et al., 2022, p. 32)

Wealth can be the cause of someone's unhappiness because they think that wealth is the only way to get happiness. The richer someone is, the higher their level of happiness will be. They will feel like failures if they have not achieved the level of wealth they hoped for, which is the cause of their unhappiness. Besides that, the richer a person is, the more anxious they are about protecting their wealth. This is because people with the desire to gain wealth quickly and instantly will target those who have excess wealth in various ways such as stealing and harming others. The limited resources needed to support human life cause competition between people to obtain them and often lead to conflict (Dina & Suhendi, 2020, p. 91). So even after being rich, someone can no longer live in peace. They will try to protect their wealth from people with wealth below them and they will continue to feel like matching the wealth of people above them. A selfish nature where they feel they deserve it and don't want other people to get what they achieve will cause conflict between individuals (Dina & Suhendi, 2020, p. 95).

Unawareness in achieving wealth means a situation where a person is too ambitious to obtain wealth so he is unable to think rationally. They tend to be unable to respond to perspectives and facts other than what they already believe which is that wealth is everything. The more someone who has property, the more classy they are and have a higher prestige or image compared to people who don't have it (Purnaningsih & Kusmiatun, 2022,

p. 110). This unconsciousness usually lasts quite a long time and will affect a person's changes. The changes could be in the behavior, traits, and thoughts of each individual.

This unawareness can be present because someone is already stuck with something they think is right. This is usually ingrained far from the environment where they live. The doctrine that someone gets will make their behavior follow that. People can be unaware of their pursuit of wealth because there is a doctrine that this is right and must be fought for in order to get the life they want. Apart from that, the greed within them is also the cause of their unaware pursuit of wealth. Greedy is caused by a sense of lack and always wanting more of what they have (Dina & Suhendi, 2020, p. 94). Greed drives them to become individuals who do everything for the sake of wealth. For them, happiness in life is in achieving self-satisfaction (Aisyahrani et al., 2020, p. 63). Blindness in the pursuit of wealth results in a person not being aware of what happens during the pursuit of wealth. They appear to be controlled by wealth itself.

Wealth can be the cause of someone becoming unaware because they make wealth something that must be obtained. a person becomes money-oriented, because he is interested in something that is not needed, then becomes obsessed and does everything for money. This is what makes materialism an issue in society (Panggabean et al., 2021, p. 48). Usually, when pursuing something, people will focus on that one point so they don't receive interruptions and try to overcome all existing obstacles. There is nothing wrong with seeking wealth it's just that one must know how far they will stop. Dissatisfaction is one thing that makes a person not know when to stop. They want more and more without knowing what changes are happening to them. They prioritize wealth above everything else quite a few people do everything they can to get wealth. It doesn't matter if it harms other people or even themselves. They are enslaved by their desires in the pursuit of wealth. This is contrary to humanistic psychology which argues that humans are controlled not by subconscious forces but by their values and choices because they are creative creatures (Purnaningsih & Kusmiatun, 2022, p. 116).

Unawareness in the pursuit of wealth can make someone controlled, meaning they will do everything without the ability to control themselves. Being controlled by wealth means that someone's behavior will be based on wealth as their master. In this case, they will master people who have wealth to obtain wealth from them too. Wealth gives rise to certain classes for people who hold power. Honor for certain things will place them in a higher position than anything else (Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 206). People under them will automatically follow how the person in power can gain wealth and thus bring happiness. They don't have any particular form of capital that they need to protect so their only interest is in gaining access to high-end resources and capital (Nasution et al., 2021, p. 74). These people have no control over themselves because they have surrendered their entire selves to wealth. Wherever wealth is, they will always look for it and follow it.

This can happen because a person tends towards wealth itself as well as how social aspects view people who have wealth. Humans view wealth as a source of satisfaction for their materialistic souls so they will always do anything to get money. This is due to discrimination between social classes. Differences in wealth, privilege, and prestige cause gaps between the upper and lower classes which then influence the lifestyles, habits, and behavior between them (Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 204). Someone who has money will enjoy a luxurious life and is worthy of respect and service. They also have influence or power in society, very high incomes, a better level of education than others, and can also maintain family stability which is a benefit of their wealth (Nasution et al., 2021, p. 73). Meanwhile, people in the lower classes who do not have money are considered the trash of society. So this gives rise to the view that money is everything. Therefore, lower-class people will continue to be controlled to accumulate coffers of wealth during their lifetime.

One factor in how a group of people can be controlled to continue pursuing wealth is because of the existence of social classes in society. A person from a lower social class will unaware become hegemonic with the ideology of the upper class which believes that people who have wealth are the people who will dominate society. Having abundant wealth and the highest status in society, they are the upper class at the top of the social class

(Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 210). This is proven by the fact that the owner of the highest wealth will become an influential person who can move other people to act and behave. They try to influence institutions to protect and limit access to their forms of capital and resources and to maintain their position as the upper class (Nasution et al., 2021, p. 74). With money they can buy someone's self-esteem, behavior and body. The existence of socio-economic domination carried out by the upper class can be seen from how lower class people will follow what the upper class people tell them to do in order to earn money. People in the lower classes will be hegemonyed by capitalists because they do not have anything equal and can resist what people who have material wealth can do.

Tells the story of a girl named Cadence who was born into Sinclair family with abundant wealth. Every member of the Sinclair family has been spoiled by wealth since they were born. However, no matter how much wealth they have, there are still some family members who are not satisfied with what they have. In this Sinclair family there is a conflict where Cadence's aunts, including her mother, fight over the inheritance from their parents, namely Cadence's grandfather. They do anything to fulfill their desires, without thinking about other people. This resulted in the lives of their children being disrupted, including Cadence and her cousins. As time goes by, Cadence and her cousins do something to end the conflict that disturbs the peace of their family.

In this research, the theory used is Marxist theory developed by Karl Marx, focusing on the prone to war element which examines the steps or methods taken by proletariat in achieving wealth. What is meant by proletariat here is divided into two different groups, namely the first group is the aunts. and Cadence's mother and the second group is the Liars which consists of Cadence and her cousins. The prone to war element will be further narrowed down to two sub-elements, namely conflict and proletariat response. The conflict sub-element focuses more on the emergence of conflict between the proletariat as a result of bourgeois policies (Mutiarra et al., 2022, p. 186). Meanwhile, the proletariat response sub-element will focus on the second proletariat group, where the Liars face and witness firsthand the struggle for wealth by the proletariat orchestrated by the bourgeoisie. Apart from that, in supporting this

research we also use Marxist theory with a focus on hegemony developed by Antonio Gramsci. This theory can help examine the existence of bourgeois domination as a result of social class differences that emerge in society. Where the ruling class controls the ruled class using its power (Arifriarni, 2021, p. 32). bourgeois here is Cadence's grandfather who is the mastermind behind the emergence of a certain ideology that is applied unconsciously by the proletariat in this novel. So that becomes one of the factors in how the bourgeoisie can control the proletariat.

This research aims to prove that there are problems related to wealth in the novel *We Were Liars* where there is always a struggle for wealth, whether from the bourgeoisie with the proletariat or each other. Apart from that, this research also aims to analyze the hegemony that occurs in the novel *We Were Liars*. explains how the hegemonic party responds and the motives or factors that cause hegemony to occur.

METHOD

This research uses qualitative research methods of exploring and understanding the meaning of a social or humanitarian problem described by an individual or group (Dina & Suhendi, 2020, p. 92). By investigating the analysis data, it is hoped that the writers can produce findings that can provide clarity regarding the data sources they analyzed. Phenomena, events, social dynamics, attitudes, beliefs and perceptions of a person or group towards something are things that are explained and analyzed when conducting qualitative research (Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 207). Through this method the writers aims to obtain implied meaning and in-depth and detailed clarity regarding the analytical data taken.

Data is the most important component that must be present in a research. Research data is classified as qualitative data based on its form in the form of words, phrases, sentences or paragraphs. Qualitative data analysis is concerned with the transformation of original data by searching, evaluating, recognizing, coding, mapping, exploring and describing patterns, trends, themes and categories to interpret them and provide meaning ("Qualitative Data Analysis: An Overview of Data Reduction, Data Display and Interpretation," 2020, p. 15). Primary data and secondary data

are the results of classification from data sources (Nasution et al., 2021, p. 75).

Primary data is the main data first obtained by the writers and provides an overview of the analysis topic. The primary data is data obtained from direct sources or first hand. This data is the most important data that acts as a research object to be analyzed. The writers here use the novel by E. Lockhart entitled "We Were Liars" as primary data.

The secondary data is data that is additional and functions to support or assist in analyzing primary data. This data can be articles, books and journals that are appropriate and support the topic. The writers here use Karl Marx's theoretical book entitled "Communist Manifesto" and also Antonio Gramsci's theoretical book entitled "Prison Notebooks".

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Prone to War

In achieving wealth, Karl Marx argued that the proletariat goes through various stages of development to fight against the bourgeoisie (Marx & Engels, 1988, p. 41). Prone to War is part of Marxist theory which explains the interaction between the high class and the lower class. The high class has various privileges that the lower class does not have. This privilege is in the form of social judgments that deify the bourgeoisie and exclude the proletariat is one of the factors in the development of the proletariat. Differences are based on certain criteria such as religion, education, status, heredity, and especially economics, in this case which forms the existence of social classes in society (Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 206). So that the interaction that occurs between the lower class and the upper class can trigger conflict that occurs between social classes and also how the lower class responds to it.

Marx's perspective allows the capitalist system which from the outside appears free and fair to actually have inequality within it and can be seen by everyone (Mutiarra et al., 2022, p. 185). so that gradually bourgeois treatment supported by the social environment makes people fed up and wants to break away from that circle. What started as a struggle arose from

certain individuals to a group of people, which ended up being a struggle for the majority. This was because they felt the same way, they wanted to escape from bourgeois control. This phenomenon can be seen in various characters in the novel *We Were Liars*. One of the characters who shows this is Cadence, who experiences conflict.

a. Conflict

According to Karl Marx, in society there will be a struggle between the upper class and the lower class, where there are classes that dominate and are dominated, between classes that exploit and exploited (Marx & Engels, 1988, p. 7). In this case the class that is exploited and which is always oppressed is the proletariat, and the class that exploits is the bourgeoisie. It happens because of inequality in wealth and power between these classes (Mutiarra et al., 2022, p. 186).

The proletariat who are victims of exploitation can only survive through work provided by the bourgeoisie. Like in capitalism, where the upper-class to gain profits they will exploit the labor of the working class (Mutiarra et al., 2022, p. 186). The proletariat seems to be a commodity that will only be sold if there is a buyer. The buyer here referred to is the employment opportunities opened by the bourgeoisie. One of the conflicts between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie can be found in the novel.

“We have a warped view of humanity on Beechwood,” Gat said. “I don’t think you see that.” “Shut up,” I said. “I’ll give you more chocolate if you shut up.” (E. Lockhart, 2014:26).

Character I here, namely Cadence, still maintains her unawareness and instead shows the power of a Sinclair in being able to silence what they don't want to hear with their possessions which are symbolized here in the form of chocolate.

The second data tell about Granddad's actions, namely Harris, which triggered his children to fight against each other. This dispute was caused by Haris, who was the High Class, to create unrest among the social classes below him. Shown on...

Granddad laughed. “Penny, relax.” .“**I’ll relax when the estate is settled.**”
.“You’re making us crazy,” Carrie muttered. (E. Lockhart, 2014:103).

The dominance and power of the granddad can trigger conflict between his proletariat children to fight over inheritance. Inheritance can trigger conflict, selfishness and greed for each family member to get the largest share.

The efforts made by Harris' character to trigger conflict are not only that, but he makes other efforts contained in...

"But back when Carrie first moved in with Ed, Harris made it clear that **all the money earmarked for her would disappear if she married him.**" (E. Lockhart, 2014:168).

Shows that there was a conflict between the proletariat caused by the bourgeoisie. This is shown in all the money and would disappear. Harris threatens Carrie, that if she marries Ed, she will lose her entire inheritance. This means that Gat and Ed cannot become the Sinclair family. On the other hand, Carrie's efforts to maintain her social class by gaining wealth will be hindered.

Johnny's character also experiences conflict caused by his grandfather, Harris. It's in the novel...

Granddad called Johnny into his Clairmont study. Asked Johnny to do him a favor. Johnny said no. Granddad said he would **empty Johnny's college fund if Johnny didn't do it.** (E. Lockhart, 2014:175).

This is shown in empty johnny's college fund and if johnny didn't do it. Johnny, as Harris' grandson, experienced threats from his own grandfather. As a result, Harris will not pay Johnny's tuition fees, due to Johnny's disobedience. This shows that Harris controls everyone with his wealth, and he does not tolerate disobedience. He wanted everyone to obey him, because he controlled the wealth of his family members.

The fifth data shows that Harris, as the holder of the highest wealth, imposes his wishes on all his family members, and he expects absolute obedience from his family members. This can be seen in the novel...

"You cannot expect me to accept your disregard for **the values of this family** and reward you and your children with **financial security.** You cannot, any of you, **expect this.** And yet, day after day, I see that you do. I will no longer tolerate it." (E. Lockhart, 2014:180).

This is shown in the values and expect this. Harris warned all family members if they still ignored the Sinclair family values. Then they will not get wealth. The values in question are the advantages possessed by the upper class, and the traditions that must be maintained in the Sinclair family. These traditions include that the Sinclair must contain the upper classes.

b. Proletariat Response

Proletariat response is the attitude of the lower classes who are continuously oppressed and controlled by the upper classes. Which is caused by the antagonistic attitude of the bourgeois class. Between these two classes there has been a conflict which is detrimental to the proletariat, which is caused by the nature of bourgeois antagonism (Marx & Engels, 1988, p. 31). The characteristic of antagonism that the bourgeoisie has is that they will do things to pursue their own interests, this is often done through non-peaceful action. The conflict that occurs is the exploitation carried out by the bourgeoisie towards the proletariat, for example by giving a small salary but demanding long working hours.

Because they feel oppressed by this, the proletariat hopes for change for the sake of liberation from bourgeois pressure, and the bourgeoisie as an oppressive class must be fought against with violence (Mutiarra et al., 2022, p. 186). This resulted in the formation of the proletariat's awareness of the power that the bourgeoisie had to control them. Over time the proletariat thought of ways to struggle using the power of the proletariat to escape from the control of the bourgeoisie. This is seen in parts of the novel.

I **don't want** to be the eldest. Heiress to the island, the fortune, and the expectations. But then again, **perhaps I do**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:58).

Character I, Cadence, depicts a woman who is obsessed with being hypocritical about wealth. As much as she did not want to be like the upper-class people who had a lot of power to control the lower class, she still did not refuse to be part of the bourgeoisie.

The character Cadence not only experiences the Proletariat response at that time, but also when she confronts her grandfather. In the novel...

“You are **not to tell me how to dispose of what is mine**, is that clear?” “Yes, Granddad.” I had the urge to **snatch the goose and fling it across the room**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:116).

Character I, Cadence who is Granddad's first grandchild. Her responded with anger at the power of her grandfather had, but as a proletariat she could not fight directly.

The proletariat response was also experienced by The Liars, namely Cadence, Johnny, Mirren, Gat. They took action to remove the symbol of their grandfather's power. This is found in the novel...

...the four of us did what we were afraid to do. **We burned not a home, but a symbol**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:155).

Shows that there is a proletariat response. This is shown in the burned and symbol. The Liars consisting of Cadence, Johnny, Mirren and Gat. They burned a house which was a symbol of the power of their grandfather who had oppressed them using his wealth. Clairmont is a magnificent house and is a symbol of Harris' power. The Liars made sure they would burn the house down from every floor, until it was completely destroyed, as a form of their resistance

Mirren's character not only experiences the proletarian response at that moment, but also experiences it when she refuses her mother's orders. Proven in the novel...

Soon after, Bess told Mirren to push Granddad harder about Windemere.... Say all that, said Bess. **But Mirren would not. Bess took her phone, her laptop, and her allowance. Mirren would not**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:175).

Shows that there is a proletariat response. This is shown in Mirren's toughness in refusing Bess's orders to seduce her grandfather to get the Windemere house, even though it resulted in her mother taking her material wealth. Here Mirren knows that if she obeys her mother, then slowly she will be controlled by wealth which will make her do anything to get it.

The latest data shows The Liars plan to fight back even though they are afraid to do so. This is shown in the novel...

Gat and I talked to Mirren and Johnny. **Convinced them** to take action. We told each other over and over: **do what you are afraid to do**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:184).

Shows that there is a proletariat response. This was proven when Gat and Cadence invited and convinced Mirren and Johnny to take action that would change their family. They dared to do something they were afraid of in order to eliminate Harris' control as the upper class who had the power to do anything to the classes below him.

2. Hegemony

According to Gramsci, hegemony can occur due to leadership or direction from the upper class to the lower class, and can occur through domination based on coercion (Young, 1974, p. 42). Therefore, hegemony is also defined as the domination of a dominant group over a subordinate group (Firdaus & Hkikmat, 2021, p. 84). The dominant group or upper class can lead the lower classes because they have succeeded in maintaining their power through direction or domination, persuasion and strength.

Power in this case is something that the upper class has but the lower class does not, which makes the upper class superior. The form of power possessed by this dominant class is great power in the political, economic and financial fields (Siahaan & Satria, 2022, p. 210). The power of the bourgeoisie can also be derived from their domination in cultural, ideological, gender, and racial terms. In terms of politics, the bourgeoisie may intervene in government by making laws and other policies. In the media sector, they also organize what will be broadcast, and market it for public viewing through narrative management.

So that a ruling group will be formed with those who are controlled. The lower group as people who are dominated will unconsciously or consciously continue to be under the auspices of the upper class. This phenomenon can be seen in the novel *We Were Liars*, especially in the characters who belong to the bourgeois and proletariat classes.

a. Social Class Gap

Those in the upper class have instruments of production that definitely know what their own capabilities are, and they also have

awareness (Gramsci, 2000, p. 38). The upper classes know the power they have and how they can use that power to control the lower classes. They are aware of their goals and are united, disciplined to achieve their goals. Ideology is one expression of the power they wield. Dominant groups avoid using violence and prefer to persuade subordinate groups because they want to have the same values as subordinate groups and prevent rebellion that might occur if they have different values (Masnuah & Hartanto, 2022, p. 188). These values can be in the fields of religion, education, morals, and so on.

The existence of the lower class has an important role in emphasizing differences in social position between dominant and subordinate groups, where the dominant group has greater power so that the dominant group needs the existence of the lower class to support its ideas and rules (Masnuah & Hartanto, 2022, p. 192). So it will be very difficult for the lower classes to get away from the ideology they already believe in if there is no remaining awareness. A situation where there are differences in rights and privileges from one group to another can be seen in the novel.

"I can't borrow it," he said. **"I don't feel right."** "Of course, you can borrow it."
"Not without one of you." (E. Lockhart, 2014:20).

Here the social class gap is shown in the sentence "I don't feel right." In which the character Gat feels a lack of power. As in the sentence "Not without one of you." Which means that as someone who is categorized as lower class, he needs someone from the Sinclair family to borrow something he wants. This shows how different society views it so that the proletariat class feels unworthy. His power and position were not high enough to be able to enjoy the facilities on the Sinclair family's private island despite his status as a guest. This is because he is a guest who has a social class that is far below the Sinclair family.

We can also find something similar in the second data which shows another power imbalance when the dominating group meets directly with the dominated group. How the actions consciously carried out by both parties have been formed due to differences in their social class...

Granddad walked in on us. **Gat sprang up. Stepped awkwardly** on the color-sorted books that had spilled across the floor. (E. Lockhart, 2014:33).

There is an imbalance of power between Granddad and Gat. Where Gat feels inferior so that he unconsciously validates the existence of a social class gap just from passing each other. Granddad as a bourgeoisie with a posture that is always confident and arrogant turns away from Gat as a proletariat who is often submissive, shy and humble.

In the data, the three dominant parties have shown their power in terms of wealth. He created clear boundaries regarding what the proletariat class could and could not intervene in.

Granddad barked, “**Do not tell me what to do with my money**, Cady. **That money is not yours.**” (E. Lockhart, 2014:116).

Grandpa has more power because of his wealth. And he instilled the ideology that no one can control people who have wealth. Because only people who have money can do that. Here, Cady or Cadence is indirectly influenced by her grandfather with the doctrine that people who don't have money can't do anything, even if it's just a suggestion or response.

The fourth data shows how privilege and anxiety about the future are experienced by people from different social groups and how they deal with it.

“You have a life stretching out in front of you with **a million possibilities**,” Gat says. “It—it **grates on me** when you **ask for sympathy**, that’s all.” (E. Lockhart, 2014:133).

Showing that there is a Social Class Gap which is proven by Cad's condition, she has millions of possibilities for success in the future with all the advantages she has as a social class that is superior to Gat. But she still complains about her condition to Gat, which makes Gat annoyed with Cad. This condition makes Gat increasingly aware of the social gap between the two of them and within Gat, jealousy arises towards what Cad had.

Apart from showing the limits of power, the fifth data shows that the bourgeoisie can act as they please, including unlawful acts in threatening weak parties for the bad intentions they will carry out.

So, when Granddad said he might leave his money to build Harvard a student center and asked our advice, he **wasn't involving the family in his financial plans**. He was **making a threat**. (E. Lockhart, 2014:162).

Shows that there is a Social Class Gap. In this case, Harris indirectly proves that he has the most abundant wealth among the Sinclairs, because he was able to build a student center at Harvard. On the other hand, he threatened other family members, that their wealth all depended on Harris' decision. As the owner of the highest wealth at Sinclair. And he has control over the future of his family members.

b. The Unawareness of the Proletariat

If someone has been influenced by a thought, what happens is unawareness which results in obedience (Gramsci, 2000, p. 44). Hegemony can be a form of domination of power by an upper class over a lower class through moral leadership, intellectual approval, and physical contact assisted by domination or oppression (Hendarsyah et al., 2021, p. 182). These dominators will then continue to exercise their power and the dominated will obey. Simply put, it is like when someone conveys something to the common people and they easily believe it. This is what happens to the lower class, they are influenced by an idea (ideology) formed by the upper class. They become obedient to this ideology and are exploited by the upper class to always follow what they want.

Apart from ideology, the bourgeoisie also controls them through cultural approval which will create a natural sense of hegemony by the bourgeoisie. Thus, without the proletariat realizing it, the bourgeoisie maintained their control over the proletariat. They can use consent or coercion, or a combination of these methods as in Gramsci's main concept of hegemony (Arifriarni, 2021, p. 31). So that a proletariat emerges that has no control to be free from absolute obedience. They are like puppets controlled by strings, not aware that they have been hegemony or manipulated through various approaches such as ideology. This phenomenon can be found in novels...

Granddad is the sort of person who has **mottos**. "**Don't take no for an answer**," he always **says to us**. And "Never take a seat in the back of the room. **Winners sit up front**." (E. Lockhart, 2014:57).

There is an unawareness that the proletariat has been indoctrinated by the values created by Granddad. Where he always implements the motto Don't take no for an answer. This subconsciously influences how the proletariat there, who are Granddad's children and grandchildren, will never be able to refuse or say no to any of his orders. Well, at first they do it out of compulsion, but eventually it will become a habit that makes them lose control of their self-awareness.

Apart from that, in the sentence Winners sit up front, bourgeois tries to show that without pursuing or having the ambition to always be ahead of others it will not make us achieve success or victory.

In this second data we can see how the bourgeoisie controls the proletariat in its games. This clearly shows that the bourgeoisie is happy when the proletariat pursues something they want from the bourgeoisie in various ways.

He leaned in. **"I could sell it, too, you know."** "Dad," Carrie said sharply. "You can't sell it." **"I can do what I want,"** said Granddad. (E. Lockhart, 2014:102).

He made it seem as if he would give the inheritance in the form of the Boston house to one of his children. But he can also sell it whenever he wants. This shows that the bourgeoisie likes to play with the proletariat by making them desperate and implementing certain ideologies which the proletariat will do in order to get the house.

The third data shows how the proletariat's unawareness of being hegemonized to gain wealth can cause various problems to arise, both affecting their own identity and relationships with other people...

"And angrier, every time. **Screaming at each other.** Staggering around the lawn. Granddad **did nothing but fuel them.** We watched them quarrel over Gran's things and the art that hung in Clairmont—but **real estate and money most of all.**" (E. Lockhart, 2014:157).

Shows the Unawareness of the proletariat. This was proven when the mothers of The Liars fought with each other because they were fighting over their parents' wealth. It was at that time that they were influenced by Harris' manipulation/hegemony. They are willing to fight with their own sisters, for the wealth manipulated by Harris. Harris, as the bourgeoisie

here, enjoys the phenomenon when his children fight to obtain wealth in any way they can.

A similar thing can also be found in the fourth data regarding the proletariat's unconsciousness of going beyond the limits in the pursuit of wealth...

The aunts began to blur into one another as the days of the summer ticked past. Argument after argument, **old injuries were rehashed and threaded through new ones**. Variations. (E. Lockhart, 2014:159).

Shows the Unawareness of the Proletariat. The liars' mothers have been controlled by wealth itself, so they don't hesitate to hurt their sisters and they even start bringing up past problems to use as their advantage in winning Harris' heart.

In this fifth data we can find a direct example of how wealth can control someone to do anything to achieve it. Starting from trivial things to things related to affection.

"I thought they didn't see a point to getting married." "Ed sees a point. Carrie **doesn't want to risk her stupid inheritance**," Gat said. (E. Lockhart, 2014:168).

Showing that there is Unawareness of the Proletariat. Carrie became submissive to Harris, she was even willing to sacrifice her marriage to maintain her inheritance. Here Carrie is willing to pawn her love for just one possession. This shows that greed numbs a person's feelings. All she did was obey Harris' orders, because Harris was the only person who could give her wealth. Harris shows clearly that wealth can control a person to carry out actions that they may regret later.

CONCLUSION

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart, shows that Harris is part of the upper class (Bourjois) and he uses all the power he has to control other family members. He uses his power in the form of wealth as a tool to control his family. As a result, there are family members who submit to him and there are also those who resist. The ones who are submissive are the children, namely Penny, Bess, Carrie, who are from the lower class. They did everything to get wealth from Harris. They have the heart to hurt each other and are willing to use their children as a way to gain wealth. However, there

were several family members who refused to submit to Harris, namely The Liars, so they made a change to free other family members from Harris' control. This was driven by their unease regarding the conflict between family members caused by Harris.

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