

## The Puritan Law on Adultery and its Impacts on Society: A Sociological Approach of Literature in *The Scarlet Letter*

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### Abstrak

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan dan menganalisis hukum yang digunakan oleh masyarakat Puritan dalam kasus perzinaan yang dilakukan oleh tokoh utama dalam novel *The Scarlet Letter* karya Nathaniel Hawthorne. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga bertujuan untuk mendiskusikan dampak hukum tersebut terhadap kehidupan masyarakat Puritan. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan pendekatan sosiologi sastra. Terdapat berbagai macam pendekatan dalam penelitian sastra. Dengan pendekatan yang berbeda, hasil yang akan diperoleh dalam penelitian juga akan berbeda. Pendekatan sosiologi sastra dipilih karena novel *The Scarlet Letter* memiliki aspek sosiologis yang sangat kental. Pengumpulan data dalam penelitian ini dilakukan dengan studi pustaka. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa masyarakat Puritan menggunakan hukum agama dan moral sebagai dasar pemberian hukuman. Kedua jenis hukum tersebut diberlakukan agar pelaku diberi hukuman sesuai dengan pelanggarannya. Dalam hal perzinaan, kedua hukum tersebut juga diterapkan terhadap tokoh utama dalam novel ini. Hukum yang diterapkan dalam masyarakat Puritan ini mempunyai dampak positif dan juga negatif bagi tokoh utama dan juga masyarakat. Konsekuensi dari hukuman harus diterima oleh pelaku agar ketertiban dalam suatu wilayah tercapai.

**Kata kunci:** Puritan, Hukum Masyarakat Puritan, Perzinaan, Sosiologi Sastra

### A. Background of the Study

Law is a social phenomenon. The function of law is for adapting the society's need and importance whether it fits or not. Society controls their life through law. It needs law to regulate their life and to determine the punishment or reward for someone who does bad or good deeds. In other words, we can say that to make law there must be a society and in society there must be law. There are many kinds of

law that control the society, for instance, civil law, criminal law, traditional law, commercial law, religion law, and norms.

Each country has their own law to regulate their society. Law is needed by a country to create public order. Cardozo in Vago (1987: 7) stated that law is a rule of conduct and if it is broken by someone, the courts will deal with it. Rahardjo (2006:5) stated that law is a shape of certain values. Law can also be regarded as an abstract norms and an instrument that is used to regulate the society.

Literature and society cannot be separated and it emerged from the background of society. *The Scarlet Letter* is a novel that was written by Nathaniel Hawthorne in 1850. It has the setting in New England since the background of his life is based on Puritan beliefs. This novel described the Puritan society emerged in 16th and 17th century in England. Puritans were a Christian religious group whose pious values formed the foundation of American culture. Most puritans only wanted to change certain aspects of the church. Their strict moralistic views toward marriage and adultery were important in maintaining order in their society. Gao, et al. (2014:175) stated that there are many strict disciplines in Puritans for daily behavior and punishment for the smallest sin. Puritans use the religious rule as their guidance in determining the punishment. Although puritan societies hold on firmly to their religion, they also used their social norms in giving the punishment. The crime of adultery committed by Hester which is found in this novel was qualified for serious punishment according to Puritan beliefs.

Based on that background, this paper focuses on analyzing the punishment of adultery which is done by the main character using sociology of literature approach. This study also tries to analyze Puritan society and their law reflected in *The Scarlet Letter* novel. Moreover, this paper will explain the impacts of the punishment used on the life of society.

## **B. Review of Related Literature**

### **1. Sociology and Literature**

Schaeffer (1989:2) said that sociology is the systematic study of social behavior and human groups. It focuses primarily on the influence of social relationship upon people's attitudes and behavior and on how societies are

established and changed. Literature and society is related each other. Literature is the part of the society and talks about social life.

In the 15th century, literature tried to construct a new relationship with society. Literature must be seen in the relationship among societies, historical and social background that influences the author (Escarpit, 2005:8). Literature has three states in society. They are explaining the social life, opposing social life, and ridiculing at the social life (Endraswara, 2003:83). Endraswara (2003:77) also said that sociology of literature is one of literary research which is reflective. This research sees literature as social life reflection. A good literature will usually reflect the era of social life.

Novel as the kind of literary works often talks about social behavior, social relationship, and also the influence of social relationship. *The Scarlet Letter* is a novel that embodies sociological aspects so that one may use sociology of literature approach in analyzing this novel.

## **2. Law and Society**

The study of the interplay between law and society is fascinating. It is concerned with the existing social order. Legal systems provide the framework of formal norms within which complex societies function.

Law is a principal instrument through which society seeks to exercise its control and to limit or direct social change. Law and society have close relationship. Vago (1981:1) said that law is important since it is the part of social behavior. Law as social institutions has a purpose to run the justice in society. In this case, law uses informal regulations that consist of behavior and manners in society.

## **3. Puritan Society**

Puritan was any person seeking “purity” of worship and doctrine, especially the parties that rejected the reformation of the Church of England, and those who justified separation from the Church of England following the Elizabethan religious settlement. However, some puritans were in favor of separating from the English church, which was currently under King James I. Most Puritans only wanted to change certain aspects of the church.

In 1620, a law was passed to England which stated that all people had to worship according to the law of the Church of England. This meant that the Puritans

could no longer have their own Church services (Liebman and Gertrude, 1966:62). Puritan believes in the subject of guilt, repression, original sin, and discipline. The setting of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel was in 1641 in Boston, Salem, Massachusetts. A 1641 Boston law provided for death as Punishment. Besides, public whipping was also the punishment in Massachusetts as the puritan societies practiced as described in Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel.

### C. Research Method

The research design used qualitative study since the data is qualitative. Qualitative research is the research that does not use a statistic model. It is the descriptive or historical model. It means that the data cannot be expressed in number but in sentences. The data was collected through library research. Then, for analyzing the data, the writer applied sociology of literature approach.

There were several steps in analyzing the data:

- 1) The first step was reading the novel thoroughly.
- 2) Then, the researcher gave the sign to the data that related to the research.
- 3) The third step was classifying and analyzing the data based on theory related to the topic.
- 4) The last step was making conclusion. The description and explanation of the data were presented in the analysis.

*The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne was the subject of the study. This novel was chosen because this novel tells about Puritan which is the data of this research. The data were taken through observation. It consisted of phrases, sentences, paragraphs which contain information about the Puritan Society and the law of adultery that is told in this novel.

### D. Finding and Discussion

Committing adultery threatens the bond of marriage and based on Puritans it is tremendous sin which leads the doer to a big sin. According to puritans, it is prohibited based on the Ten Commandments. The finding shows that Puritans use bible as their guidance of law to determine the punishment. In dealing with Hester Prynne's adultery, Puritans uses their religion and morality law. *The Scarlet Letter*

describes the law used by Puritans and how it gives the impacts on the life of society.

### 1. Law for Adultery in Puritan Society

The Puritans uses religion and morality law in dealing with Hester Prynne's adultery. From religion point of view, Hester's attitude will get a punishment from God. This statement can be seen as follows.

#### Data 22

“This woman has brought shame upon us all, and ought to die. Is there any law for it? Truly there is, both in the Scripture and the Statue book. ...” (Hawthorne 1959:59)

Meanwhile, the data 23 and 24 below prove that Hester in this novel regarded as very sinful. She will lose the mercy of heaven. The Scarlet A letter in her bosom always glows at night that represents a symbol of hell. The society then considers her as the symbol of hell.

#### Data 23

“Woman transgresses not beyond the limits of Heavens mercy” cried the Reverend Mr. Wilson, more harshly than before. (Hawthorne 1959:73)

#### Data 24

They averred that the symbol was not mere Scarlet cloth tinged in an earthly dyepot, but was red hot with internal fire, and could be seen glowing all alight whenever Hester Prynne walked abroad in the night time. (Hawthorne 1959:91)

On the other hand, the sentence *God, as a direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her a lovely child, whose place was on that some dishonored bosom* in data 25 shows that God gives her a baby that is never accepted by society as her punishment. People will consider Pearl as a symbol of adultery. Pearl will live and stay in dishonor place.

Then, the sentence *This child of its father's guilt and its mother's shame hath come from the hand of God, to work in many ways upon proximity of the governor's red roses, as Pearl stood outside of the window: together with her recollection of the prison rosebush, which she had passed in coming hither* in data 26 shows that Pearl is the symbol of her father and mother's guilty. She is deemed as Hester's torture. Below are the data.

**Data 25**

God, as a direct consequence of the sin which man thus punished, had given her a lovely child, whose place was on that some dishonored bosom, to connect her parent forever with the race and descent of mortals and to be finally a blessed soul in heaven! (Hawthorne 1959:92)

**Data 26**

“It must be even so,” resumed the minister. “For, if we deed it otherwise, do we not thereby say that the Heavenly Father, the creator of all flesh, hath lightly recognized a deed of sin and made of no account the distinction between unhallowed lust and holy love? This child of its father’s guilt and its mother’s shame hath come from the hand of God, to work in many ways upon her heart, who pleads so earnestly, and with such bitterness of spirit, the right to keep her. (Hawthorne 1959:113-114)

According to morality norms, Hester will be expelled and humiliated by Puritans. Puritans severely look down on the norm transgressor. They will always humiliate Hester until they find a good side of Hester’s life. In data 29, the sentence *It was, in short, the platform of the pillory; and above it rose the framework of that instrument of discipline* give the idea that Puritans use the platform of the pillory to punish someone at that time. This platform has the aim to punish someone. And the other sentence *no outrage more flagrant than to forbid the culprit to hide his face for shame; as it was the essence of this punishment to do* shows us that the importance of this punishment is that the accused people who stand on the platform cannot hide their face.

Hester face the humiliation both from the society and the clergyman. The Clergyman curses her attitude and her sin. It can be seen from the sentence in data 32 *the elder clergyman, who had carefully prepared himself for the occasion, addressed to the multitude a discourse on sin, in all its branches letter.*

In the sentence *for the hour or more during which his periods were rolling over the people’s heads, that it assumed new tenors in their imagination and seemed to derive its scarlet hue from the flames of the internal pit* shows to us that the crowd regards that heaven is not her place. Her scarlet letter symbol closes to the flames. From this case, it seems that the society also curse Hester’s deed.

**Data 29**

.... It was, in short, the platform of the pillory; and above it rose the framework of that instrument of discipline, so fashioned as to confine the human head in its tight grasp, and thus hold it up to the public gaze..... There can be no outrage, methinks, against our common nature – whatever be the delinquencies of the individual - no outrage more flagrant than to forbid the culprit to hide his face for shame; as it was the essence of this punishment to do (Hawthorne 1959:63).

### **Data 32**

....the elder clergyman, who had carefully prepared himself for the occasion, addressed to the multitude a discourse on sin, in all its branches letter. So forcibly did he dwell upon this symbol, for the hour or more during which his periods were rolling over the people's heads, that it assumed new tenors in their imagination and seemed to derive its scarlet hue from the flames of the internal pit. Hester Prynne, meanwhile, kept her place upon the pedestal of shame, with glassed eyes, and an air of weary indifference. (Hawthorne 1959:74)

In addition to humiliation, the other form of morality norm that is used by Puritans is that the Puritan society expelled Hester and Pearl from their society.

### **Data 33**

Mother and daughter stood together in the same circle of seclusion from human society; and in the nature of the child seemed to be perpetuated those unquiet elements that had distracted Hester Prynne before Pearl's birth, but had since begun to be soothed away by the softening influences of maternity (Hawthorne 1959:96).

### **Data 34**

How soon – with what strange rapidity, indeed! – did Pearl arrive at an age that was capable of social intercourse, ..... But this could never be. Pearl was a born out cast of the infantile world. An imp of evil, emblem and product of sin, she had no right among christened infants. (Hawthorne 1959:95)

From the data above, we can see that Hester and Pearl are expelled by Puritans. They might not be friend with Hester and her daughter. Hester and Pearl live alone in their home and no one care them. Pearl has no right to socialize herself because she is regarded as sin product.

## **2. The Impacts of Law to the Society**

The law that is used by Puritan society can regulate the behavior of society because it comes from the society. The society in some places, especially in village is usually very obedient with their own law. The villagers do not want to break off

it. Hence, the law that is used by Puritans has negative and positive impacts.

The positive impacts are:

**a. The Well – orderly regulated behavior of society.**

Hester, as a norm transgressor of Puritan society community, is regulated by law. She changes her behavior to be a good one, so that she can be received in her society. It is shown in the following data:

**Data 1**

The very law that condemned her – a giant of stern features, but with vigor to support, as well as to annihilate, in his iron arm – had held her up through the terrible ordeal of her ignominy. But now, with this unattended walk from her prison door began the daily custom; and she must either sustain and carry it forward by the ordinary resources of her nature, or sink beneath it. (Hawthorne 1959: 82)

**Data 2**

Here, she said to herself, had been the scene of her guilt, and here should be the scene of her earthly punishment; and so, perchance, the torture of her daily shame would at length purge her soul and work out another purity than that which she had lost; more saintlike, because the result of martyrdom. (Hawthorne 1959: 84)

Based on the data 1, it can be concluded that Hester starts her brand new day life after she has been free from prison. She will socialize with her community and adapt with the Puritans atmosphere. Hester can be accepted by their community since she obeys the regulation. Data 2 shows that the law has the impact to regulate the behavior of society. In this data, Hester get the humiliation from her society every day. Through this humiliation, Hester think that it can help her to be a good person.

**Data 3**

.....”this badge hath taught me – it daily teaches me – it is teaching me at this moment – lessons whereof my child may be wiser and better, albeit they can profit nothing to myself.” (Hawthorne 1959: 110-111)

Then from the data 3 above, we can see that Hester’s behavior was better than before. She behaves cautiously because she is unwilling to commit adultery again. She wishes the community regard her as a good person. Then from this data, we can see that *the scarlet letter* in her bosom also teaches her to be a good person.



There is also an impact of social norms on Clergyman life. The Clergyman feels misery in his life because he commits a big sin with Hester. He feels that universe has blamed him because he has lied. One thing that makes him still exist in this universe is his behavior that people does not realize anymore. However, actually his behavior tortured himself. Below is the data that supports the analysis.

#### **Data 5**

It is the unspeakable misery of a life so false as his, that it steals the pith and substance out of whatever realities there are around us, and which were meant by heaven to be the spirit's joy and nutriment. To the untrue man, the whole universe is false- it is impalpable- it shrinks to nothing within his grasp. And he himself, in so far as he shows himself in a false light, becomes a shadow, or, indeed, ceases to exist. The only truth that continued to give Mr. Dimmesdale a real existence on this earth was the anguish in his inmost soul and the undissembled expression of it in his aspect. (Hawthorne 1959: 142)

Moreover, the impacts also occur in the life of society. As the society that is very strict with the regulation, Puritans also condemn the norm transgressor. They will come away from someone that broke the rule in the community. The assault will show to the crowd so that the communities know about the deed. It is done so that the other people do not imitate the bad deed. The novel shows that Hester is brought to the market place to show the Scarlet letter to the crowd. She cannot hide this letter although she tries to cover this. Looking at this punishment, the community expects to avoid the sinful deed and the community can keep their behavior properly.

#### **Data 6**

When the young woman- the mother of this child- stood fully revealed before the crowd, it seemed to be her first impulse to clasp the infant closely to her bosom; not so much by an impulse of motherly affection, as that she might thereby conceal a certain token, which was wrought or fastened into her dress. In a moment, however, wisely judging that one token of her shame would but poorly serve to hide another, she took the baby on her arm, and, with a burning blush, and yet a haughty smile, and a glance that would not be abashed, looked around at her townspeople and neighbors. (Hawthorne 1959: 60)

The society will also tell the truth because they reluctant to be miserable. They will be honest people and obey the regulation. They tell the truth because they do

not get the ill treatment from their society. Through this way, the behavior of the society will be well regulated.

#### **Data 7**

Among many morals which press upon us from the poor minister's miserable experience, we put only this into a sentence: - "Be true! Be true! Be true! Show freely to the world, if not your worst, yet some trait whereby the worst may be inferred!" (Hawthorne 1959: 241 – 242).

#### **b. Society's orderliness will be reached.**

The purpose of making a law is for reaching social order. There are no other purposes except orderliness in some community. Puritan society is the society that has religion background. Because of that reason, the law that is made in this society also has a relation with their background.

In this novel, Hester is the major figure that gets the big punishment from the society. The leader at her society accomplishes the law to make the society obey the regulation. The impacts of this punishment make the society worried to break the regulation. Hence, the purpose of making the law is achieved.

#### **Data 8**

It might be that an Antonimian, a Quaker, or other heterodox religionist, was to be scourged out of the town, or an idle and vagrant Indian, whom the white man's firewater had made riotous about the streets, was to be driven with stripes into the shadow of the forest. It might be, too, that a witch, like old Mistress Hibbins, the bitter tempered widow of the magistrate, was to die upon the gallows. In either case, here was very much the same solemnity of demeanor on the part of the spectators; as befitted a people amongst whom religion and law were almost identical, and in whose character both were so thoroughly interfused, that the mildest and the severest acts of public discipline were alike made venerable and awful. Meagre, indeed, and cold, was the sympathy that a transgressor might look for from such bystanders at the scaffold. On the other hand, a penalty which in our days would infer a degree of mocking infamy and ridicule might then be invested with almost as stern a dignity as the punishment of death itself. (Hawthorne 1959: 57 – 58).

That data shows us that the society is reluctant to be transgressor. The society is disinclined to resemble an Antonimian, a quaker and other heterodox religionist that is punished to go out from the town, or Mistress Hibbins that died in gallows,

or the last like the vagrant Indian that is also punished. They are hesitant to be punished, so the society in Puritans obeys the regulation. Consequently, the society orderliness will be reached.

In the context of Hester Prynne, she is also punished in Puritan society because of the adultery. She is punished to wear the scarlet letter A on her bosom. The scarlet letter makes Hester obey the regulation. She feels ashamed when she wears it. The people always humiliate her and regard her as a sinful person. When she feels very ashamed and feels distressed, she wants to get rid of the scarlet letter from her life. This analysis can be seen from this evidence:

#### **Data 9**

The scarlet letter was her passport into regions where other women dared not tread. Shame, Despair, Solitude! These had been her teacher – stern and wild ones – and they had made her strong, but taught her much amiss. (Hawthorne 1959: 190)

The impacts of law are not only felt by Hester and the society but also by the Clergyman, Arthur Dimmesdale – the famous Clergyman. He never breaks the social order but his deed leads him to the big sin. Arthur Dimmesdale, the well-known clergyman in that society commits adultery with Hester. Since the big sin occurred, he feels tortured and miserable. He realizes that he is an ordinary man that can perform a bad deed. As a person who has committed the adultery, he becomes aware that all people have a sin. He always remembers his sin and it leads him to be a better person. The society order will be reached if the leader of social system realizes his guilt and accomplish good things. Moreover, he is able to give a better instruction to his society.

#### **Data 10**

Since that wretched epoch, he had watched, with morbid zeal and minuteness, not his act – for those it was easy to arrange – but each breath of emotion, and his every thought. At the head of the social system, as the clergyman of that day stood, he was only the more trammelled by its regulations, its principles, and even its prejudices. As a priest, the framework of his order inevitably hemmed him in. As a man who had once sinned, but who kept his conscience all alive and painfully sensitive by the fretting of an unhealed wound, he might have been supposed safer within the line of virtue than if he had never sinned at all. (Hawthorne 1959:190)

On one hand, law has the positive impacts; however on the other hand, it also

has negative impacts. The negative impacts are showed much more than the positive impacts in *The Scarlet Letter* novel. The negative impacts are felt only by the doer. He/she will get the unfair treatment from the society because the society think that the norm transgressor have blotted their law.

The negative impacts are:

**a. The people that do crime will be dismissed from society**

People usually have a bad judge to the criminal or the norm transgressor. They think that criminal and norm transgressor is a bad person that cannot be pious. In a society, the people that ever accomplish bad action will be banished from society because they are reluctant to be like him or her. They believe if they make friend with criminal or transgressor, they will follow their behaviors. Because of this reason, people are unwilling to be friend with criminal and transgressor.

**Data 1**

Lonely as was Hester's situation, and without a friend on earth who dared to show himself, she, however, incurred even no risk of want. (Hawthorne 1959:85)

**Data 2**

She grew to have a dread of children; for they have imbibed from their parents a vague idea of something horrible in this dreary woman, gliding silently through the town, with never any companion but one only child. (Hawthorne 1959:88-89)

The evidences above show that Hester is very lonely in their community. No one wants to approach and accompany her. Puritans dismiss her. The children, teenager, adult and old people look down on her. The older prohibits their children and their family to get in touch with Hester. The parents influence their children not to approach Hester who is full of sin. In short, this novel tells that Hester only live with her daughter. She is only accompanied by Pearl.

Pearl who knows nothing about Hester's sin is also banished by their society. She is regarded as a sin product and insult symbol. She does not have the same right as the other children. She also feels lonely like her mother. As a result of this situation, Pearl's attitude is so strange and difficult to be understood. Below is the data of the analysis above:

### Data 3

Pearl was a born out-cast of the infantile world. An imp of evil, emblem and product of sin, she had no right among christened infants. Nothing was more remarkable than the instinct, as it seemed, with which the child comprehended her loneliness; the destiny that had drawn an inviolable circle round about her; the whole peculiarity, in short, of her position in respect to other children. (Hawthorne 1959: 95)

#### b. Society will condemn criminal

The society will not accept the criminal or transgressor in their community. They will always condemn the criminal and transgressor. The society will despise on them, so they will feel in vain and feel lonely in the community.

Hester, in this novel, feels the treatment in the same way. She is not accepted by her community because of her sin. She gets the insult from the clergyman, town people and even the children every day. She becomes the topic of clergyman's speech. It is very embittering Hester, yet she cannot do anything. She just undergoes her life rigidly.

### Data 6

Continually, and in a thousand other ways, did she feel the innumerable throbs of anguish that had been so cunningly contrived for her by the undying, the ever active sentence of the puritan tribunal. Clergymen paused in the street to address words of exhortation that brought a crowd, with its mingled grin and frown, around the poor, sinful woman. (Hawthorne 1959:88)

### Data 7

The truth was that the little Puritans, being of the most intolerant brood that ever lived, had got a vague idea of something outlandish, unearthly, or at variance with ordinary fashions, in the mother of the child; and therefore scorned them in their hearts, and not unfrequently reviled them wit their tongues. (Hawthorne 1959:96)

Data 7 above shows to us that the little puritan also humiliates her with the sharp word although they know nothing about Hester's sin. It shows slander the criminal or transgressor has been blood and vessel in Puritan community. The parents teach the children to offend the criminal or transgressor in order that they do not follow that action.

**Data 8**

Her matronly fame was trodden under all men's feet. Infamy was babbling around her in the public market place. For her kindred, should the tidings ever reach them, and for the companions of her unspotted life, there remained nothing but the contagion of her dishonor, which would not fail to be distributed in strict accordance and proportion with the intimacy and sacredness of their previous relationship. (Hawthorne 1959: 117)

The data above tells us that the men also condemn Hester. Her honor has been ignored by the men. When she is perceived as a sinner, the men do not respect her again. All people come together in public market to see her punishment. After this happening, Hester feels that her life is nothing. The people just remember her sin, her deed and her adultery.

In addition, the criminal or transgressor also faces the society judgment. They cannot escape from this. It is very painful but they have to undergo this condemnation otherwise they cannot stay in their society. The data that support the analysis above is shown by the data below.

**Data 9**

The days of the far off future would toil onward; still with the same burden for her to take up and bear along with her, but never to fling down; for the accumulating days and added years would pile up their misery upon the heap of shame. (Hawthorne 1959: 83)

**Data 10**

It might be, too – doubtless it was so, although she hid the secret from herself, and grew pale whenever it struggled out of her heart, like a serpent from its hole – it might be that another feeling kept her within the scene and pathway that had been so fatal. (Hawthorne 1959:84)

The data 9 above shows that Hester must face the society condemnation because of her adultery. She cannot escape it and this is her burden that she has to bear. Then in data 10, Hester cannot hide her secret anymore. All of her bad conducts will be revealed and the crowds will know it. Hester is struggling herself to live in her community even though she has to face the society condemnation everyday as a sequence of her adultery.

From the mention data above, it can be seen that the law or the regulation is needed in some regions to create the orderliness. Each region will determine their

law based on the society's background.

### **E. Conclusion**

Some regions or community has their own law. The Puritan society has to obey the law which has been made by the society and government. The criminal or transgressors in Puritan society are punished according to the law in the society. The consequence of the punishment must be accepted by the criminal or transgressor. The law that is used in dealing with Hester Prynne's adultery is religion and morality norms. Through these laws, the criminal or transgressor will be punished appropriately based on the law in their society.

The regulations that are made by Puritan society have the positive impacts and negative impacts. The positive impacts that are found are well-arranged and orderly society. While the negative impacts are the criminal or transgressor will be dismissed from society and the criminal or transgressor is condemned by society. The society who does not obey the regulation will face those impacts.

There are many approaches which can be used in literary research. As that various approaches, the different finding will be emerged based on the approach used. This paper analyzes the novel by using sociological approach to literature. Hence, the next researcher can use the different approach in analyzing this novel.

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