AN ANALYSIS OF SEVERAL ASPECTS AS REFLECTED IN ELIZABETH GASKEL’S NOVEL “NORTH AND SOUTH”

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ABSTRACT

Through literature, an author can express his or her idea, experience, spirit, or feeling about what he or she saw around him or her. Through literature, an author tries to move the reader’s feeling or emotion by reading his or her works. Gaskell in the novel had described two places, Milton and Helstone. Milton was an industrial town and Helstone was a little village. Each of them has uniqueness condition. After reading and analyzing carefully, I have found several aspects as reflected through Elizabeth Gaskell’s novel “North And South”. They are economic, social, and environmental aspects. The economic aspects, are including the livelihood of society aspects consist of the society, interaction among the society that sometimes formed a conflict and also behavior of society which is formed through the interaction of society. The environmental aspects, are including the air, the nature, the street and the building.

Key word : Analysis, Reflected, Novel

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background Of The Study

Jakob Sumarjo and Saini K.M in their Apresiasi Kesusasteraan say that there are four elements to figure out literary boundary. First element is literary content, such as thought, feeling, experience, spirit, idea or belief. Second elements expression. The third is a form and the last is language. So, from these elements, it can be defined that literature is human personal expression, such as experience, feeling, thought, idea or spirit that is created in a form and can arisen any enchantment by using language (1997:3). It means that, through literature, an author can express his or her idea, experience, spirit, or feeling about what he or she saw around him or her. Through literature, an author tries to move the reader’s feeling or emotion by reading his or her works.

That literature deals with all aspects of human life. It reflects on actual experience, such as social, economic, psychological, philosophical or moral concerns. More clearly, we can say that literature reflects and expresses life.

In studying literature, there are three genres of literary study: poetry, prose and drama. Prose can be classified into some types. One of the types of prose is the novel. Since the novel is the main object to be discussed in this thesis, I would like to analyze a novel that was written by Elizabeth Gaskell (1810-1865). Gaskell is one of the thoughtful novelists and agent of the counter-revolutionary middle class who concerns with problems of society around her. As one of writers from Victorian Period, she had seen the negative and positive impacts caused by Industrial Revolution towards the individual and society. The situation in that time influenced her to create works that connected to the condition of the society.

There is a certain reason why I am interested in analyzing Elizabeth Gaskell’s North and South. It is because I am interested in Victorian Period, a period when England reached its golden era. This period, which was not only about intellectual inventions and increased prosperity, but also the rise of social problems in the society such as, poverty, less food the strike of the workers because of the unfair wages and others. So, I choose the novel ‘North and South’ as it is one of novels from Victorian Period which tells the condition of England and its society. In this novel, Elizabeth Gaskell concentrates on representing the differences between the North as an industrial area and the South as a rural area. The differences between the two areas overwhelm difference in standard of living, behavior of the working class and the upper-middles class of the society also
difference in condition of nature in both sides. The novel shows us how life in industrial area is very different from rural area, life in industrial area is so complicated because there are many problems have to be faced by the society, especially the working class society, such as the unfair wages, exploitation of the workers by their masters, expensive and less food, also bad condition of factory that influence the worker’s healthy. This, was experienced by the heroine of the novel, Margareth Hale, after her moving from the South to the North.

Thus, based on the different condition of the two areas, I am interested to analyze what kind of aspects to be found, as reflected in Gaskell’s novel "North and South".

1.2. Purpose Of The Study
By analyzing this novel, I would like to find out several aspects: economic, social, and environment as reflected in Elizabeth Gaskell’s North and South.

1.3. Scope Of The Study
In order to make the analysis stick to the problem to be discussed, she focuses the analysis on three aspects; economic, social, and environment aspects.

1.4. Statement Of The Problem
The main problem of this thesis is to find out whether there are economic, social, and environment aspects as reflected in the novel ‘North and South’ written by Elizabeth Gaskell.

1.5. Method Of Analysis
The novel is analyzed by using extrinsic approach. This approach is introduced by Rene wellek and Austin Warren in their book “Theory of Literature”. The explain that,

“usually, however, the inquiry concerning, literature and society is put more narrowly and externally. Questions are asked about the relation of literature to a given social situation to an economic, social and political system (1956:84).

It means that, a literary work can be examined from its relationship with certain situation, such as economy, social, or politic.

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1. Economic Aspects
Economy of England changed rapidly. For years, it had been one of the agricultural country in Europe, then it changed to one living mainly by factory products and trade. The change was happened since The Industrial Revolution-the changes in making of goods that resulted from substitution machines for hand labour-swept England in eighteenth century, but the impact still influenced the society in nineteenth century. The change from Agriculture into Industry reached its peak in nineteenth century in the reign of Queen Victoria. The growth of industry was caused for some reasons; the increasing of production because of some new inventions, a large supply of labour, ample raw material, and high demand for goods. Industry increased rapidly in Central and Northern England, mostly in Lancashire and Yorkshire. It had made the condition of economy in the North different from the South. North had developed into Industrial areas while the South was still rural areas.

In this analysis, I would try to find the aspects of economy presented in the novel through the differences of the two areas, such as the livelihood of each society, the workers, the wages, etc. I will start from a town called Milton-Northern, as a place that represented the North in the novel. The town became the destination of the Hales since Mr. Hale decided to leave the hometown. The Hales moved to Milton since Mr. Hale refused to continue his job because he felt doubt by the authority of the Church. He told her daughter, Margaret, about that. This can be seen from a dialogue between Mr. Hale and his daughter, Margaret,

“........where are we to go?” said she at last, struck with a fresh wonder as to their future plans, if plans indeed, her father had. “To Milton-Northern,” he answered with a dull indifference, for he had perceived that, although his daughter’s love had made her cling to him...........

“Milton-Northern! The manufacturing town in Darkshire?”
(Gaskell, 1982:55)
The feeling forced him to give up his ministry and move to a place where is a stranger and can start life as a private tutor without any remainders of his beloved Helstone. The conversation about Milton-Northern also happened in the dialogue between Margaret and Mrs. Hale. Margaret told her mother carefully that his father had decided to leave the town and moved to Milton. She was worried of her mother’s health.

“Mamma! Papa is going to leave Helstone!” she blurted forth. “He’s going to leave the church, and live in Milton-Northern”. There were the three hard facts hardly spoken.

“What makes you say so?” asked Mrs. Hale, in a surprise incredulous voice. “Who has been telling you such nonsense?” (Gaskell, 1982: 67)

Margaret and her mother were surprised when they knew that they would move to Milton-Northern because such place was an industrial and manufacturing town in the North. They were not used to living in such place. Her mother also worried about the condition of the town. This can be seen through the dialogue between Margaret and her mother.

“I almost you might have been glad to leave Helstone, mamma’ said she, after a pause. “You have never been well in this air, you know”

“You can’t think the smoky air of manufacturing town, all chimney and dirt like Milton-Northern would be better in this air, which is pure and sweet if it is too soft and relaxing. Fancy living in the middle of factories and factory people! (Gaskell, 1982: 69)

Industry was the largest economic activity in Milton. Many factories were built to produce the goods which could be traded to another country. One of the famous factory owner was Mr. Thornton. This man was the figure of master in the novel. He had a factory called Marlborough Mills. The factory was very important for the Thorntons. The old Mr. Thornton had failed in business and left many debts. The young Mr. Thornton had to work hard to develop the factory and to make it as one of the biggest mill in the town. It can be seen through Mr. Thornton’s statement, the mother of Mr. Thornton, who was very proud of their mill.

“Do you know anything of Milton, Miss Hale? Have you seen any our factories? Our magnificent warehouses. (Gaskell, 1982:69)

So that’s why Mr. Thornton felt upset when Mr. Hale said that she dislike any factory because it was dirty and noisy. For Mrs. Thornton, having a factory was a very proud thing because it was a unique place, then she offered Margaret to visit their factory.

“……..you might have cared to visit some of the places where it is carried on; places unique in the kingdom, I am informed. If Miss Hale changes her mind and condescends to curious as to the manufacturers of Milton, I can only say I shall be glad to procure her admission to print-works, or read-making, or more simple operation of spinning carried on in my son’s mill (Gaskell, 1982:16)

Cotton was the largest product to be processed in Marlborough Mill. The statement that showed cotton as the largest resource to be processed could be seen through the quotation that showed the coming of Mr. Thornton from a place to find a news about cotton and he met Margaret’s godfather.

“Where have you been?” asked Mr. Bell at length.

“To Havre. Trying to detect the secret of great rise in the price of cotton.”

“Ugh! Cotton, and speculations, and smoke, well-cleansed and well-cared for machinery, and unwashed and neglected hands (Gaskell, 1982:585).

The rapid growth of industry since the industrial revolution had enabled products to be manufactured on a large scale and employed thousands of people. And so did with Milton-Northern. Realizing the condition, the labours formed unions. According to Higgins, the labour character in the novel, union is a necessity since it could help to fight injustice. It can be seen through the dialogue between Higgins and Margaret. She felt that union was a tyranny since it forced the labour to join in it.

………………………………………

it’s the masters as has made us sin, if the’ Union is a sin. Not this generation maybe, but their fathers.
Their fathers ground our fathers to the very dust; ground us to powder! Parson! I reckon, I've heerd my mother read out a text, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes and the' children's teeth are set on edge. 'It's so wi' them. In those days of sore oppression th' Unions began; it were a necessity. It's a necessity now, according to me. It's a withstanding injustice, past, present, or to come (Gaskell, 1982:385)

Gaskell, here showed the clashed between the workers and the owners of the factories over wages and working conditions. The wages in Milton was about sixteen shilling a week. According to Higgins, this sum wouldn't enough for him and his three daughters, moreover for his friend who had a wife and eight children The labour demanded higher wages because they thought that the wages were lower than two years ago. Coordinated by the Union, the labours planned a strike. It can be seen through Mr. Thornton's statement to Margareth when she visited Marlborough Mill. ‘Yes; the fools will have a strike. Let them, it suits us well enough (Gaskell, 1982:192)

The labour demanded higher wages because they thought that the wages lower than two years ago. The labour’s rejection of lower wages can be seen through Higgin’s statement to Margareth, “Why yo'see, there’s five or six masters who have set themselves again paying the wages they’ve been paying these two years past, and flourishing upon, and getting richer upon. And now they come to us, and say we’re to take less. And we won’t. We’ll just clemm them to death first; and see who’ll work for them now (Gaskell, 1982:221)

Eventhough the master knew that the labour planned a strike, they seemed not to care the situation. They insisted with their former plan, to make a lower wages. Their reason was, that the price of cotton on the market had dropped and as a result the millowners are forced to cut their spending if they are to compete with the Americans. Mr. Thornton, as one of the master who was very angry because the labours do not understand the situation decided to take the cheaper labours from Ireland to be worked in Marlborough Mill.

“Can't you get hands from Ireland? I wouldn’t keep these fellows day. I'd teach them that I was master, and could employ what servants I liked (Gaskell, 1982:240)

The situation had caused the labour angry and they became uncontrolled. They throw stones to the mill and hurt the master. The riot ended when a troop came and caught the rioter.

The second place is Helstone, a little village as a place that represented the South. Helstone was the hometown of Margaret Hale, the main character of the novel. In Michael Pacione’s book, according to some authors, such as Cherry (1976) and Dower (1980), said that rural areas as those parts of the country which have relatively low population density and in which agricultural forestry or upland grazing are the predominant activities (Pacione, 1984:78). Helstone, was a rural area since it had low population, the distance between a house to another house was far enough, from one house to another house sometimes separated by forests. The livelihood of Helstone’s society was farming. This can be seen through a dialogue between Magaret Hale and her mother. Margaret felt sorry for her father because he had no friend to talk with.

……I can’t help regretting constantly that papa has no really no one to associate with here; he is so thrown away; seeing no one but farmers and labours from week's end to week's end (Gaskell, 1982:24)

Her father was a clergyman in the village. He had no one to talk with, only his parishes. And people who worked as a farmer spent all days in their filed. They had to work hard in cultivating the land.

The farming land in Helstone produced fern. The harvest time was over when Margaret came back from London where she had lived since nine years old. She had to live with he aunt and cousin in London. The explanation about the harvest can be seen from the statement below, “The fern-harvest was over, and accessible, into which Margaret had only peeped in July and August weather” (Gaskell, 1982:29)
Beside working as a farmer, people in Helstone also worked as a forester since Helsone still had a dense forest. The forester would tumble down the old cottages that left by the owner. There are old cottages in Helstone near the forest that built around fifty or sixty years ago. The situation can be seen through Margaret's conversation with Mr. Lennox:

“They were built by squatters fifty or sixty years ago, one is uninhabited; the foresters are going to take it down, as soon as the old man who lives in the other is dead, poor old fellow (Gaskell, 1982:35)

Since the livelihood of the Helstone's society was farming, their income was lower than the worker's factory of Milton. The farming workers accepted about nine shillings a week. It can be added if someone had a garden to be planted.

“And for that,” said Margaret, stepping forwards, “for anything you could do, Higgins, with the best will in the world, you would, maybe, get nine shillings a week; maybe ten, at the outside. Food is much same as here, except that you might have a little garden_________

Margaret tried to explain to Higgins about the Helstone's working condition. She was surprised when she knew Higgins planned to move to Helstone and worked as a farmer. She was worried that Higgins wouldn't bear with the situation because she knew the condition of her hometown. The dialogue between Margaret and Higgins can be seen through the quotation below.

“The childer could work at that, "said he. "I'm sick of Milton anyways, and Milton is sick of me."

“You must not go to the South,” said Margaret, “for all that. You could not stand it. You would have to be out all weathers. It will kill you with rheumatism (Gaskell, 1982:507)

2. Social Aspects

In the Dictionary of Sociology And Related Science, it said that social is having to do with the reciprocal of interacting human beings, either as individuals or groups. Social is part of sociology because sociology is the study of human beings in their group relationship (Roucek and Warren, 1964:3). It means that sociology concerns about reciprocal relationship between human and another human, relationship between individual and group, one group with another group, also the behavior of the society's group.

In this part, I will focus on social aspects that found in the novel. I will start from the interaction within the group. Interaction is a reciprocal process in which one party is influenced by the other's behavior, responds, and in so doing influences the other's behavior (Roucek and Warren, 1964:41). In the novel, Gaskell presented four families who interacted to each other. The first one is the Hales, they are a new comer in Milton. Mr. Hale had rejected to continue his job as a vicar a little country village and move to Milton. He became a private tutor in Milton. The second is the Thorntons, the young Mr. Thorntons was one of the factory owner in Milton since his father died. The third and fourth came from the working class named as Higgins and Bouchers. The Hales be friends with Thorntons, especially Mr. Thorntons, and also with Higgins, while the Higgins and Bouchers were the workers in the factory of Mr. Thorntons.

Interaction between Margaret Hale with Mr. Thornton happened since her first coming to Milton-Northern. Their first meeting happened in a hotel where Margaret and her father lived temporarily before finding a new house. Mr. Thornton came to he hotel to look for Mr. Hale, Margaret's father. A friend of Mr. Thornton, Mr. Bell, who was also Margaret's godfather had told him about the coming of the family when he knew that Mr. Hale decided to move to Milton. Mr. Bell hoped that as a well-known manufacturer of the town, Mr. Thornton could help the Hales. Mr. Thornton used his power for helping the Hales to find a new house. Since that, he was not only a student of M. Hale but also a friend of the family, except Margaret who disliked him since they were first meeting. Mr. Thornton always visited Mr. Hale to learn or to read together about classics, such as literature or language. He helped the Hales to find a doctor for Mrs. Hale who was really sick since arriving in the town. He also brought some fruits for her when he heard from the doctor that the lady should eat more fruits. So, when he stop visiting the Hales
because of his misunderstanding to Margaret, Mr. Hale felt lonely and sad since he was only Mr. Hale's good friend in the town, though he had other pupils, no one could take place Mr. Thornton in his heart.

"And now it often happened that a hurried note from Mr. Thornton would arrive, just at the last moment, saying that he was so much engaged that he could not come to read with Mr. Hale that evening. And though other pupils had taken more than his place as to time, no one was like his first scholar in Mr. Hale's heart.

Beside with Mr. Thornton, the Hales–especially Margaret–had a friendship with the Higgins. Her contact with the Higgins happened when she met him and his daughter walked in the street. She was interested in Bessy, Nicholas Higgins's daughter, and wanted to know about her. She was shocked when she knew about the family. Bessy who has the same age with her looked very pale and ill, she also desperate with his life, while Nicholas decided not to believe in God. It shocked her since she was a good Christian. Margaret tried to convince Bessy that God is exist and He would save her. It could be seen through Margaret's statement to Bessy.

‘Nay, Bessy-think!’ said Margaret. "God does not willingly afflict. Don’t dwell so much on the prophecies, but read the clearer parts of the Bible (Gaskell, 1982:227). Margaret's efforts to make a friend with Bessy had influenced her health. She was getting better since Margaret visit her. And Margaret also thank to Bessy who made her stronger to face her situation in the town since she knew her. Margaret's tenderness was very appreciated by Bessy, so once she thought that the girl was an angel.

"Now I must go. You have done me good Bessy".

"I don’t you good!"

"Yes. I came here very sad, and rather to aptto think my own cause for grief was the only one in the world. And now I hear how you have had to bear for years, and that's makes me stronger.

"Bless yo’! I Thought a’ the good-doing was on the side of gentlefolk. I shall get proud if I think I can do good to you.'" (Gaskell, 1982:228)

Beside Bessy, Margaret was also friend with Higgins, Bessy's father. When they first met, he wasn't kind to her because she came from a middle-class and a new comer. But since he saw how's Margaret treated his daughter, Higgins was really appreciated the girl. He followed Margaret's command not to drink liquor on the day Bessy died. He had been also influenced by the kindness and patient of Mr. Hale and Margaret for listening his grievance and finally he joined the family prayer in Margaret's house, while he was an atheist.

"Stay!" said Mr. Hale, hurrying to the bookshelves. "Mr. Higgins! I’m sure you'll join us in family prayer?"

Higgins looked at Margaret doubtfully. Her grave sweet eyes met his; there were no compulsion, only deep interest in them. He did not speak, but he kept his place. Margaret the churchwoman, her father the Dissenter, Higgins the infidel, knelt down together. It did them no harm (Gaskell, 1982:386)

Sometimes interaction between human had formed a conflict. According to John and Erna Perry in their book, The Social Web; An Introduction To Sociology, said that conflict is a hostile struggle between two or more persons or groups for an object or value that cach prizes. Sometimes conflict causes injure, harm or destroy for another individual or group. In the novel, Gaskell showed conflict between Margaret and Mr. Thornton. Conflict between the two persons didn’t cause any harm or injured, but it caused suspicious and unfair judgment to the persons. Then, Gaskell also showed conflict between two classes, between middle-class or the owner of the factory and the working class. The working class of Milton was represented by the Higgins and Bouchers. The conflict between Margaret and Mr. Thornton was started when he told Margaret his opinion about relationship between master and men. She was hardly to like him since she felt that the man had less expression and inflexible. It can be seen through Margaret's description about the man.
“Oh no!” said Margaret. “With such an expression of resolution and power, no face, however plain in feature, could be either vulgar and common. I should not like to have to bargain with him; he looks very inflexible. Altogether a man who seems made for his niche, mamma; sagacious, and strong, as becomes a great tradesman (Gaskell, 1982:102).

The relationship between Margaret and Mr. Thornton was getting difficult since there were many misunderstanding between them. Margaret had opposed Mr. Thornton’s opinion about his workers and also the relationship between a master and his men. According to her, Mr. Thornton was very proud of his power and seemed didn’t seemed didn’t care to the poor around him. He didn’t like people who failed improve their life and considered them as an enemy. Margaret told her father about her opinion about the man. It can be seen through her statement below.

“Oh, papa, by that testing everything by the standard of wealth. When he spoke of the mechanical powers, he evidently looked upon them only as new ways of extending trade and making money. And the poor men around him—they were poor because they were vicious—out of pale of his sympathies because they had not his iron nature, and capabilities that it gives him for being rich” (Gaskell, 1982:142).

Then it was getting worst since Margaret rescued Mr. Thornton from the angry workers. Margaret was very upset and humiliated when she heard a conversation between Mr. Thornton’s sister and her maid. They make a gossip about Margaret who had her arms round Mr. Thornton’s neck and accused her to be madly in love with him.

“I don’t believe it,” said Fanny. “I know she cares for my brother; anyone can see that; and I dare say she’d give her eyes if he’d marry her—which he never will, I can tell her. But I don’t believe she’d be so bold and forward as to put her arms round his neck.”

“Poor young lady! She’s paid for it dearly if she did. It’s my belief, that the blow has given her such an ascendancy of blood to the head as she’ll never get the better from.” (Gaskell, 1982:304)

Margaret had helped him when the mill was attacked by the angry workers. She protected him by using her body as a shield. Since that, Margaret’s attitude toward Mr. Thornton was very cold and unfriendly. So when He proposed her to marry him, she rejected him. She told him that the misunderstood about her effort to help Mr. Thornton from the angry workers. She had no feeling for him. It had made Mr. Thornton offended and accused her was too proud to fall in love with him.

“You may speak on, Miss Hale. I am aware of all these misplaced sympathies of yours. I now believe that it was only your innate sense of oppression—(yes; I, though a master, may be oppressed)—that made you act so nobly as you did. I know despise me; allow me to say, it is because you do not understand me.” “I do not care to understand,” she replied, taking hold of the table to steady herself. (Gaskell, 1982:324).

While that, Mr. Thornton had been impressed by Margaret since their first meeting. He liked Margaret beauty and dignity. Eventhough in every their meeting, Margaret had always argued with him, but he respected her true and independent mind, for example when Mr. Thornton decided to end the rioters with violence, Margaret forced him to face and talk to them directly.

“The soldiers will be here directly, and that will bring them to reason.” “To reason!” said Margaret quickly. “What kind of reason” “The only reason that does with men that make themselves into wild beasts. “Mr. Thornton,” sair Margaret, shaking all over with her passion, “go down this instant, if you are a coward. Go down and face them like a man. Save these poor strangers whom you have decoyed here. Speak to your workmen as if they were human beings. Speak to them kindly. Don’t let the soldiers come in and cut down poor creatures who are driven mad. I see one there who is. If you have any courage or noble quality in you, go and speak to them, man to man!” (Gaskell, 1982:293)
Moreover, he felt in love with Margaret and proposed her to marry him. But since Margaret's reaction and her sharp words she had been said to him, Mr. Thornton had barely came to the house. Furthermore, he considered that Margaret had already fallen in love with someone else as he had seen in the station that Margaret was with a guy. The other conflict was between the master and the workers. People from working class in Milton lived in poor and unhealthy condition. Even Margaret's aunt had told her that her Butcher wife's house was better than she saw in Milton. She was shocked when she accompanied Margaret to Higgin's house for saying goodbye. They live in a narrow place, bad sanitation and less air circulation. This unhealthy condition also happened in their working place. The factory was very dangerous for worker's health. The place was miserable and noisy. That's what Bessy Higgins felt about her working place condition. She couldn’t bear with situation, she thought that the place had made her mad.

"......and if all I've been born for is just to work my heart and my life away, and to sicken l'this dreel place wi' them mill-noises in my ears forever, until I could scream out of them to stop, and let me have a little piece o' quiet—and wi' the fluff filling y' lungs, until I thirst to death for one long never be able to tell her again how I love her, and o' all my troubles—I think if this life is th' end, and there' no God to wipe away all tears from all eyes—yo' wench, yo'!" said she, sitting up, and clutching violently, almost fiercely, at Margaret's hand, "I could go mad, and kill yo', I could."

(Gaskell, 1982:166)

Since her mother died, Bessy had to work to help her father. And she worked in a carding-room. Bessy told Margaret that she was sick because of the fluff of cotton. It poisoned her lung and also happened to rest of the workers who work in a carding-room. They had to bear the fluff which flew and fill the air around them.

"...... I began to work in a carding-room soon after, and the fluff got into my lungs and poisoned me."

"Fluff?," said Margaret inquiringly.

Actually, such condition could be mend by using a great wheel to make a draught, but it cost too much money, so the owner of the factory decided not to use it. Moreover, some of the workers felt that the wheel could make them hungry. The conflict between the masters and workers weren't only about the unhealthy condition in the factory, but rather with the wages. The workers got angry because the masters wanted to pay lower wages than two years ago and rejected a rising wages. The workers couldn't accept the masters’ decision because the next wouldn’t enough to buy food for their wife and children. Boucher, who had many children, felt desperate about the situation. He had a wife and seven children. He couldn’t bear to get a lower wages,

"Ay, clemming! Five shilling a week may do well enough for thee, wi' but to mouths to fill, and one on' em a wench who can wellt earn her own meat. But it's clemming to us. An' I tell plaint—if hoo dies as I, feard hoo will afore we've getten the 'fiver sep, I'll fling th' money back I, th'master's face, and say—'Be domned to yo; be domned to th' whole cruel, o' you; that could na leave me th' best wife that ever bore children to man!........."

(Gaskell, 1982:255).

Pushed by and anger feeling, some of the member of Union broke up the Union's command, such as not to make a riot. But, the coming of workers from Ireland to replace the workers of Marlborough Mill had made the workers lost their temper. They attacked the mill and hurt Margaret. She was visiting the Thornton when the riot began. She had seen the desperate and angry face of them who tried to ruin and break through the gate.

"Many in the crowd were mere boys; cruel and thoughtless—cruel because they were thoughtless; some were
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men, gaunt as wolves, and made for prey. She knew how it was; they were like Boucher—with starving children at home—relying on ultimate success in their efforts to get higher wages, and enragéd beyond measure at discovering that Irishmen were to be brought in to rob their little one of bread. Margaret knew it all; she read it in Boucher’s face, forlornly desperate and living in rage.” (Gaskell, 1982:294).

The riot ended with the worker’s defeat. Boucher, who was accused as the leader of the riot, had been searched by the police. He was too weakness and decide to end his life.

Interaction between Margaret the Higgins had influenced Margaret’s mind about industrial town. She no longer judged Milton as bad place. It is the though of Nicholas as a farm labour that open her eyes to the real nature of the rural south. Nicholas cannot find work after the strike, but he must support the children of his neighbor Boucher, a man he had forced to join the union, beginning a process of despair which led to Boucher’s suicide. Farm work is Nicholas’s last option, yet when Margaret imagines him working the land, the countryside no longer seems a picturesque sketch or a village in a poem—a poem by Tennyson’, as she described Helstone to Mr. Lennox. Instead it is a site of bodily and spiritual oppression. She had felt that though Helstone was a beautiful place, but the place was less of income and working condition. The change of Margaret’s feeling about Helstone can be seen through her dialogue to Higgins who decided to move to little village since he couldn’t find a job in Milton.

“Those that have lived there all their lives, are used to soaking in the stagnant waters. they labour on from day to day, in the great solitude of steaming fields—never speaking for lifting up their poor, bent, downcast heads. The hard spadeworks robs their brain of life; the sameness of their toil deadens their imagination; they don’t care to meet to talk over thoughts and speculations, even of the weakest, wildest kind, after their work is done; they go hole brutishly, tired, poor creatures! Caring nothing but food and rest (Gaskell, 1982: 294).

Margaret felt sorry that he had influenced Higgins’s mind about beautiful and calm of Helstone. She told a story about her love and the situation and happy life at Helstone to the Higgins, especially Bessy. So, when Higgins told his plan to move to the place, Margaret felt the place wouldn’t suit to Higgins and she persuaded him to think twice before moving to Helstone, such as little country.

Margaret also became the agent of resolution between Mr. Thornton and Higgins. She started to change his opinion about the man since a tragedy happened. Somebody had seen her in the station with a strange man and the man had pushed someone to die. The strange man was her brother who came from Spain to see their mother. But, the man was searched by the police, so he ought to come to the house secretly and the death man had known him. He tried to run and accidentally pushed him to the ground. Mr. Thornton who had seen her with the guy decided to tell a lie to save Margaret from shame and harm, though he suspected the guy was her lover.

“Miss Hale might love another—was indifferent and contemptuous to him—but he would do her faithful acts of service of which she never know. He might despise her, but the woman whom he had once loved should be kept from shame; and shame it would be to pledge herself to a lie in a public court, or otherwise to stand and acknowledge her reason for desiring darkness rather than light. (Gaskell, 1982:464).

It made Margaret respected the man also felt ashamed to the guy. Margaret who realized what the man done for her, started to change her mind about him. And finally she felt lose the figure the guy. She thought again his kindness and help towards her family.

“Oh!” thought she, “I wish I were a man, that I could go and force him to express his disapprobation, and tell him honestly that I knew I deserved it. I seem hard to lose him as a friend just when I had begun to feel his value. How tender he was with dear mamma! If it were only for her sake, it were only for her sake, I wish he
would come, and then at least I should know how much I was abased in his eyes (Gaskell, 1982:512)

Interaction between Margaret and Mr. Thornton contributed each other with new ideas. By arguing with Margaret, Mr. Thornton had started to change his attitude towards his workers, and Margaret gradually changed her mind about the town and its manufacturer, as Mr. Bell's statement when she defended them from bad judgment.

"Very true, Miss Margaret. Now I remember you were against me this morning, and were quite Miltonian and manufacturing in your Preferences". (Gaskell, 1982:554)

From Margaret, Mr. Thornton learnt how to treat and respect his men. He, then, helped Higgins to take care Boucher's children, he pushed them to school and help the cost of their living. Higgins learnt how to deal with a master, understand his will and how to satisfied him.

Every society has certain behavior that differ its society to another society. Here, Gaskell tried to describe how's Margaret adjust herself into each society.

The firmness of Higgins also can be seen through his patient to wait Mr. Thornton in his mill. Nicholas had followed Margaret's suggestion to meet and ask a job from him. He had been waiting the man for five hours.

"How long has that man Higgins been waiting to speak to me?"

"He was outside the gate before eight o'clock, sir. I think he's been there ever since."

"And it is now—"

"Just one, sir."

"Five hours," thought Mr. Thornton; "it's along time for a man to wait, doing nothing but first hoping and then fearing." (Gaskell, 1982:532)

Since the hard condition of the town that forced Milton people to work harder, they seemed always worked and worked, as if there was no other important thing but collecting money. This was said by Mr. Bell who thought that Milton people were materialistic,

"I wonder when you Milton men intend to live. All you lives seem to be spent in gathering together the materials for life"

"By living, I suppose you mean enjoyment."

"Yes, enjoyment—I don't specify of what, because I trust we should both consider mere pleasure as very poor enjoyment."

"I would rather have the nature of the enjoyment defined."

"Well! Enjoyment of leisure—enjoyment of the power and influence which money gives. You are all striving money. What do you want it for?" (Gaskell, 1982:553)

According to Margaret, people in Milton were always busy, they had no time for light conversation or just to meet friends, what they said was about business, very present and actual. And if their daily
works was over, they should rest for tomorrow work day or went away to some lecture, club, or beer shop.

“But in Milton every one was too busy quiet speech, or any ripened intercourse of thought; what they said was about business, very present and actual; and when the tension of mind relating to their daily affairs was over, they sunk into fallow rest until next morning. The workman was not to be found after the day’s work was done; he had gone away to some lecture, or some club, or some beer-shop, according to his degree of character (Gaskell, 1982:567)

Margaret was surprised to see Milton people were also like to speak freely, sometimes were impolite, according to people from South. It happened to Margaret on her first meeting with the Higgins. When Margaret tried to introduce herself and asked Nicholas’s name and his answer was surprised her since she felt that it was common in her former place,

“And your name ? I must not forget that.”

I’m none ashamed o’ my name. It’s Nicholas Higgins. Hoo’s called Bessy Higgins. Whatten yo’ asking for?”

Margaret was surprised at this last question, for at Helstone it would have been an understood thing, after the inquires she had made, that she intended to come and call upon any poor neighbor whose name and habitation she had asked for.

(Maskell, 1982:117)

Milton people also suspected with South people who were regarded as an aristocratic people. It be seen through dialogue between Mr. Thornton and his son Margaret. Mr. Thornton told her mother about the coming of the family also his first met with the lovely Margaret, and it made him busy because he was invited to have dinner with them. Mrs. Thornton tried to warn her son, she accused the girl as an aristocratic woman who always tired to find a wealthy husband.

“Well! I only say, take care. Perhaps our Milton girls have too much spirit and good feeling to go angling after husbands; but this Miss Hale comes out of the aristocratic counties, where, if all tales be true, rich husbands are reckoned prizes.”

(Gaskell, 1982:124)

Margaret also felt surprised to see the behavior of the workers. She saw the workers, especially the women, laugh and talk loudly in street, clustered together, apparently excited to high spirits, and a boisterous independence of temper, careless and impolite. Margaret was frightened a little at first. She felt strange about teir attitude towards a new comer. They didn’t introduce themselves or asked about Margaret, but they just noticed her and her dress, such as her shawl or gown, and sometimes touched to examine the material.

“They came rushing along, with bold, fearless faces, and loud laughs and jests, particularly aimed at all those who appeared to be above them in rank or station. The tones of their unrestrained voices, and their carelessness of all common rules of street. The girls, with their, but not unfriendly freedom, would comment on her dress, even touch her shawl or gown to ascertain the exact material; nay once or twice she was asked questions relative to some article which they particularly admired."

(Gaskell, 1982:114)

Eventhough the workwomen’s attitude frightened Margaret at first, but she could understand them and she did not mind meeting any number of girls, answer their questions or just half smiled back at their remarks. But Margaret couldn’t bear with the workmen’s attitude towards her. They commented not on her dress, but on her looks. Their speech of admiration was open and fearless manner that made Margaret irritated, her face made her scarlet, and her dark eyes gather flame.

“For instance, one day, after she had passed a number of men, several of whom had paid her the not unusual compliment of wishing she was their sweetheart, one of the lingerers added, “Your bonny face, my lass, makes the day look brighter.”

(Gaskell, 1982:115)

People of Milton, especially the working class, were not likely to be a housekeeper. Most of them were interested in getting a job in a factory. So it was very difficult to the Hales to find a housemaid. Eventhough some of the
women wanted to be a housekeeper, they had asked many questions that Margaret and Dixon, her mother’s maid, were confused and angry to the women who applied for a job to the family, such as about how they manage the house, their income and how much the family could pay them. These women’s questions had made Margaret and Dixon felt offended since it was unusual in the South, especially Dixon who was always treated respectfully by the girl in Helstone. Because they considered that Dixon was the main servant of the family that believed by the family, “But nothing short of her faithful love Mrs. Hale could have made her endure the rough in which all the Milton girls, who made application for servant’s place, replied to her inquires respecting their qualifications. They even went the length of questioning her back again; having doubts and fears of their own, as to the solvency of a family who lived in a house of thirty pounds a year..........” (Gaskell, 1982:111-112)

Because of the hard condition and had to work hard, people in Milton considered that education was less important to learn; classics, such as literature, Latin and Greek were waste the time. So, most of parents in Milton prepared their children to have a knowledge about factory, warehouse, or trade so that their children could acclimatized to the life in it. Here, Gaskell used the old Mrs. Thornton as a representation of Miltonic parent who regarded that to learn classics was only a leisure. She believed that to learn literature or language were suitable for people in the country or college, not in Milton.

“I have no doubt that classics are very desirable for people who have leisure. But, I confess, it was against my judgment that my son renewed his study of them. The time and place in which he lives, seem to me to require all his energy and attention. Classics may do very well for men who loiter away their lives in the country or in colleges; but Milton men ought to have their thoughts and powers absorbed in the work of today. At least, that is my opinion. “This last clause she gave out with “the pride that apes humility”. (Gaskell, 1982: 186)

Because of Mrs. Thornton’s statement, Margaret argued her that if the mind was directed to one object only, it would get stiff and rigid, and unable to take many interest. But, according to Mrs. Thornton, having many interest didn’t suitable to the life of a Milton manufactures. It was enough for him to have one desire. Mrs. Thornton opinion can be seen through the dialogue bet ween her and the Hales.

“And that is—?" asked Mr. Hale.
Her sallow cheek flushed, and her eye lightened, as she answered—
“To hold and maintain a high, honourable place among the merchants of his country—the men of his town. Such a place my son has earned for himself........." (Gaskell, 1982: 187)

Even Mr. Thornton himself had same opinion with his mother. His life after the death of his father was very hard. He was taken from school and had to work in a draper’s house. He ought to work hard to fulfill their needs. He also saved money little by little, and now, he could have house own house and mill. According to him, though he was good at classics, they taught him nothing about life that he ought to be passed.

“That is true—I had blundered along it at school; I dare say I was even considered a pretty fair classic in those days, though my Latin and Greek have slipped away from me since. But I ask you what preparation they were for such a life as I had to lead? None at all (Gaskell, 1982: 138)

Differences in behaviour and point of view, sometimes have made Margaret confused to adjust in the new society. People in rural neighbourhood know their neighbours more intimately than do city people, and they are likely to be associated with each other for a longer period of time. We can see the situation through Margaret’s interaction with almost all of Helstone’s society. Besides, as a daughter of a country clergyman, Margaret had a good position in the society so people respected her much. She had a lot of work to do in helping her father, such as to visit a poor family, an
...called-neighbor, or just visit some old friends. Interaction Margaret with her neighbour was very good, that they always waited her to come. So it gave Margaret grieved when she knew that they wouldn’t meet again. It can be seen through the quotation below.

“By the time the frost had set in, they should be far away from Helstone. Old Simon’s rheumatism might be bad and his eyesight worse; there would be no one to go and read to him, and comfort him with little porringers of broth and good red flannel: or if there was, it would be a stranger, and the old man would watch in vain for her. Mary Domville’s little crippled boy would crawl in vain to the door and look for her coming through the forest. These poor friends would never understand why she had forsaken them; and there were many others besides. (Gaskell, 1982: 62)

Margaret had made friendship with a kind of age, young and old, such as little Susan who was disappointed when Margaret left without saying goodbye, or with a deaf old man who lived in a little cottage that would be ruined as soon as the owner died. As a little village with less population, people in Helstone had known each other well. They knew about their neighbour’s activities and their condition, such as, what’s happened to this man or woman, who was sick or die, or who should be blamed when something bad happened. So when Margaret visited the village, the society who still remembered and greeted her happily, had told Margaret about what happened within the society, such as, a belief in superstitions had caused a woman kill a cat. Margaret was shocked when she heard about the news. Susan’s mother had told her about Betty Barnes who stole her cat and burnt it. This woman believed that the cat would bring the power of darkness to fulfill her needs.

“……By dint of questioning, Margaret extracted from her the horrible fact that Betty Barnes, having been induced by a gipsy fortune-teller to lend the latter her husband’s Sunday clothes, on promise of having them faithfully returned on Saturday night before Goodman Barnes should have missed them, became alarmed by their non-appearance, and her consequent dread of her husband’s anger, and as, according to one of the savage country superstitions, the cries of a cat, in the agonies of being boiled or roasted alive, compelled (as it were) the powers of darkness to fulfill the wishes of the executioner, resort had been had to the charm. (Gaskell, 1982: 648)

In rural society there is less mobility in having competitions to improve their life. It happened in Helstone’s people who were fienddlier than Milton people, but they were slow. For example, when Margaret visited Helstone after her moving back to London. She and Mr. Bell drove up to the Lennard Arm; half farm-house and half inn. The situation below explained how the Helstone’s people treated a stranger.

“The door of the inn stood wide open, but there was no hospitable hurry to receive the travelers. When the landlady did appear—and they might have abstracted many an article first—she gave them a kind welcome, almost as if they had been invited guest, and apologized for her coming having been so delayed, by saying that it was hay—time, and the provisions had to be sent a-field, and she had been too busy packing up the baskets to hear the noise of wheels over the road, which, since they had left the highway, ran over short turf (Gaskell, 1982: 642)

For the Milton people, the life in South was dull, slow, less progress and less excitement. They thought that South people would never force out wonderful inventions, as Mr. Thornton said in his first dinner with the Hales,

“I would rather be a man toiling, suffering—nay, failing and succesless—here, than lead a dull prosperous life in the old worn grooves of what you call more aristocratic society down in the South, with their slow days of careless ease. One maybe clogged with honey and unable to rise and fly. (Gaskell, 1982: 131)

Margaret had opposed Mr. Thornton’s opinion about South people. She said though South people lived in dull life, less excitement and poor, their face wasn’t showed any suffering, such as she saw in Milton’s.
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“You don’t know anything about the South. If there is less adventure or less progress—I suppose I must not say less excitement—from the gambling spirit of trade, which seems requisite to force out these wonderful inventions, there is less suffering also. I see men here going about in the streets who look ground down by some pinching sorrow or care—who are not only sufferers but haters. Now, in the South we have our poor, but there is not that terrible expression in their countenances of a sullen sense of injustice which I see here (Gaskell, 1982: 132)

But, after having interaction with Milton society, such as the Higgins and Thorntons, Margaret changed her attitude toward the lower class in Milton. She tried to adjust with the Milton’s behavior. It was protested by her mother who disliked her companion with the society, especially when she used Milton’s language. Her mother regarded it as a factory’s slang and was very vulgar. And she was worried that Margaret’s aunt would hear the language because she really admired her sister who lived in high-class society of London. Margaret argued her that her aunt would never care about her language since her daughter ever used another slang

“......Edith picked up all sorts of military slang from captain Lennox, and aunt Shaw never took any notice of it.”

“But yours is factory slang.”

“And if I live in a factory town, I must speak factory language when I want it. Why, mamma. I could astonish you with a great many words you never heard in your life. I don’t believe you know what a knobsticks is.”

“Not I, child. I only know it has a very vulgar sound; and I don’t want to hear you using it.” (Gaskell, 1982: 393)

Margaret’s effort to adjust with Milton’s behavior was protested by Dixon, her mother’s servant who served her mother since she was a young girl and still followed her until her death. She didn’t agree with Margaret’s attitude they had never done in Helstone. Margaret had allowed people from the lower class to come to the other side of the house besides kitchen. And this condition bothered Dixon much,

“Why master and you must always be asking the lower classes upstairs, since we came to Milton, I cannot understand. Folk at Helstone were never brought higher than the kitchen; and I’ve let one or two of them know before now that they might think it an honour to be even there (Gaskell, 1982: 504)

In South, especially women from middle and upper class was ashamed to show their emotion in front of public. It was different from the lower class, they allowed to show their grief and sadness and people would never care. It can be seen through dialogue between Margaret and her father. Margaret had insisted to accompany her father into her mother’s funeral while it wasn’t used to do,

“You! My dear, women do not generally o.”

“No; because they can’t control themselves. Women of our class don’t go, because they have no power over their emotions, and yet are ashamed of showing them. Poor women go, and don’t care if they are seen overwhelmed with grief. But I promise you, papa, that if I will be no trouble.” (Gaskell, 1982: 441)

3. Environmental Aspects

In this section, I will try to find out the physical environment that differ North from South. It includes the air, the building, and the road.

Since cotton became the biggest and most important industry that give many advantages to the country, many cotton factories had been built to fulfill the demand of cotton that came from many parts of the world. When Margaret and her mothers saw the town, they were shocked since the condition of the town different from Helstone. They saw smokes that came from the chimney of the mills joined together and formed a grey thick fog that hung over the horizon and covered the town. According to Mrs. Hale, the town was very smoky and dirty the she ever saw since moving from South. She told Mr. Thornton on his first dinner with the Hales that the town was so dirty and
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she couldn't keep her gown longer than she did in the South.

“I only know it is impossible to keep the muslim blinds clean here above a week to gether; and at Helstone we have had them up for a month or more, and they have not looked dirty at the end of that time

(Gaskell, 1982: 133)

The wake of economic development and industrialization had been followed by the growth of town population. The growth of mill, factory and mine, with their need for large labour forces, had initially produced dense, urban population. It caused some problems to the society, such as crowded street and neighbourhood condition. The street was narrow and crowded as it was full of people. Truck, wagon and van were hither and thither to pick up the cotton and brought passengers. The street looked dirty and dusty. Because of higher population, the town couldn't control the condition of its society. Most of lower class lived in unhealthy condition, such as the Higgins and Bouchers's house. These people didn't enable to live in a good shelter since their wages weren't enough to pay it. They live in narrow, dark house with damp and badly ventilated cellars. The houses were also lack of good and healthy internal sanitation. The houses were built densely and narrowly, so there was no enough room for the family.

Helstone, as Gaskell described through Margaret’s view, was a little village. According to Margaret it was a hamlet with its beautiful and natural environment. In the village there was a church, few houses and many flowers grew all over them. Margaret who really loved the beautiful of Helstoned had called it like a village in the poem because it was surrounded by wild, free herbs and flowers, woods and covered with bright blue sky. Mr. Lennox, the brother in law of Margaret's cousin, felt that Margaret had told the truth about beautiful of Helstone. So far, he considered that Margaret was too redundant when she described about the village. His experiences in accompanying Margaret to sketch the scenery of Helstone had impressed him. They walked together through the green forest, wild flowers, and enjoy the fresh air with the bright blue sky above them. He really admired the loveliness of Helstone. He said that life in Helstone was an exquisite serene life with the clear sky and such crimson and amber foliage,

“Just now I feel as if twenty years’ hard study of law would be amply rewarded by one year of such an exquisite serene life as this—such skies!" looking up—"such crimson and amber foliage, so perfectly motionless as that!" pointing to some of the great forest trees which shut in the garden as if it were a nest.

(Gaskell, 1982: 40)

The condition of Milton air sometimes bothered Margaret and it made her always long her former living where she could feel the fresh air, the soft breeze and as she noticed there were many green trees around her. In Milton she had seen the grey and thick smoke from factory's chimney. Margaret had never spoken of Helstone since she left it, except just mentioned it incidentally. It made her sad and it grew day by day. So when she met Bessy and had friendship with her, she felt that she had a friend to talk about her lovely place. She described gladly and vividly the situation at Helstone to Bessy as if the place was in front of her eyes. She told her about the great trees, the leaves, the soft and fine turf, and also the ferns which were billowy like a sea,

“There are great trees standing all about it, with their branches stretching long and level, and making a deep shade of rest even at noonday. And yet, though every leaf may seem still, there is a continual rushing sound of movement all around—not close at hand. Then sometimes the turf as soft and fine as velvet; and sometimes quite lush with the perpetual moisture of a little, hidden, tinkling brook near at hand. And then in other parts there are billowy ferns—whole stretches of fern; some in the green shadow; some with long streaks of golden sunlight lying on them—just like the sea.” (Gaskell, 1982: 164)

Since Helstone had less population and there are no industries, the place was calm, quiet, and fresh. There are no smokes bothered the air, covered the sky and also no thick dust which would make
the street, the house became dirty. Helstone only had paths which connected one person with his or her neighbours. The paths were clam since there ho lorries or cabs passed it. Helstone people used to walking to go anywhere. It can bee seen through dialogue between Margaret and Mr. Lennox,

“There, now fill up your day at Helstone. Shall you ride, drive or walk?
“Walk decidedly. We have no horse, not even papa. He walks to the very extremity of his parish. The walks are so beautiful, it would be a shame to drive—almost a shame to ride (Gaskell, 1987: 14)

CONCLUSION

Gaskell in the novel had described two places, Milton and Helstone. Milton was an industrial town and Helstone was a little village. Each of them has uniqueness condition. After reading and analyzing carefully, I have found several aspects as reflected through Elizabeth Gaskell’s novel “North And South”. They are economic, social, and environmental aspects. The economic aspects, are including the livelihood of society aspects consist of the society, interaction among the society that sometimes formed a conflict and also behavior of society which is formed through the interaction of society. The environmental aspects, are including the air, the nature, the street and the building.

Economic aspects influenced the social aspects and environmental aspects. In the novel, the livelihood’s pattern in one area will influence high or low income that should be paid to the workers. The income will influence the condition of society and this condition will influence interaction within the society. Interaction happened among the society creates certain behavior which differentiates one society with another society. The condition of society also influenced the condition of air, land, including road and building.

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