



RESEARCH PAPER

A Marxist Analysis of *In The Company of Strangers* by Awais Khan

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ABSTRACT

The current study examines the disparities in class and hostility between Pakistan's upper and lower classes. It investigates the shady dealings of the Pakistani upper class. Marxism is about how the bourgeoisie exploits the proletariat. The wealthy ruling class is in charge of all the production equipment. The bourgeoisie class is wholly dependent on the proletariat class for its goods. According to Marxism, the governing elite class manages all the resources while the underprivileged proletariat class makes a living mimicking the elite. The theory of Marxism is extensively employed as the theoretical framework for this research in order to analyze the chosen text. According to this report, Pakistan's elite society engages in unethical practices and exploits workers in terms of pay. Within the Marxist theory of class conflict framework, this study also investigates the murky dealings of the Pakistani elite class and their covert layers. The methodology for this study is textual analysis, which is a qualitative methodology.

Keywords: Bourgeoisie Class, Class Conflict, Marxism, Proletariat Class, Textual Analysis

Introduction

In The Company of Strangers, reveals and highlights the current issues of Pakistani society and its problems. In reality, Lahore's 'Elites' are in a state of utter desperation. The lower class falls victim to money, sex, and desire traps after following the allure. They also partake in illicit relationships to satisfy their own desires. The lives of the underclass are under the supervision of the ruling elite class. The ruling class must provide for the needs of the underclass. Khan has painted a totally different picture of the wealthy, elite society in Pakistan, showing how distinct it is from the rest of the nation. Through the terrorist attacks on the Elite's nightclubs and parties, where they were dancing, he has discussed the feeling of separateness. Khan has also revealed details about the relationships of the many characters in the book, which also throws light on the mistreatment of female bodies. World-renowned brands are a delusion that capitalists employ to hegemonize them. To draw individuals to the elite way of life, they employ the names of various companies. One of the novel's most crucial components is the aspect of the class conflicts, which includes the Bourgeois and the Proletariat, and uses Karl Henrich Marx's theory of class conflict to examine the novel's primary issues. The story deals with a variety of class and ethnicity-related concerns right from the start. This book highlights the differences between the two classes, their difficulties, and the ongoing conflict between the two major societies (Acker, Baca-Zinn, Collins, Cox, Davis, Eells, & Wright, 2006).

One of the most important elements in the novel is, the sordid affairs and the element of the class conflicts, comprising of Bourgeoisie and the Proletariat, and the theory of class conflict by Karl Henrich Marx which is used to discuss the main themes of the novel. Karl Marx represents the notion of social class for defining class distinction. In the novel social class deals with property ownership and uses this property for its purpose. The other class

remains in the struggle to maintain their social status. Marx in his theory of class conflict defines class as, "A class is defined by the ownership of property. Such ownership vests a person with the power to exclude others from the property and to use it for personal purposes. About property, there are three great classes of society". The bourgeoisie (who own the means of production such as machinery and factory buildings, and whose source of income is profit), landowners (whose income is rent), and the proletariat (who own their labour and sell it for a wage). The class thus is determined by property, not by income or status.

Literature Review

Overview of the Previous Research

Sordid Affair means illegal and hidden relationships; they are also discussed in the novel *In the Company of Strangers*. The sordid affairs are almost at the home of the elite class. Their life has everything money, status, lust, show, power, etc. But they lack the peace of mind, and personal life and live in the cage of status quo. The sordid affairs of Mona, Ali, Shahida Elahi, Hussain Elahi, and Meerahil the story at its best. In this part of the study, we are dealing with the referencing of the material in support of our analysis. The previous or new work done by scholars and thinkers is referred to here to authenticate the work. This section purely deals with the work of other scholars, who have the same analysis or point of view i.e., Marxist analysis. The greater the references greater will be the authentication of the work. The present study deals with the Marxist analysis of novels regarding Pakistani elite society. The concern novel for research is "In *The Company of Strangers*" by Awais Khan. As it is the debut novel of the writer and had been published in April 2020, so no work has been done yet. It's one of the best novels depicting the Pakistani elite and their sordid affairs along with the class conflict. Much can be contributed to this novel by our analysis. Hirshleifer (2001) has described the Class conflict as competition between groups or different social classes over limited resources. For the competition, there are two ways to achieve victory, either you have to run faster than others or make your opponent make a mistake. Rich people hold all the power and control the life of poor people according to their needs. In economic wars the wealthy ones are considered powerful and stronger, this stronger one grows ever stronger by using the weak class and the weak grow still weaker. In the past, there was the usual way of income which was producing the good of the best quality and providing the service in return for goods. But there is one more path which is by aiming at the good of others through conflict.

In order to repress it, society is creating class strife. Appropriation entails the imposition of a military conflict, the instigation of political conflicts, opposition, domestic issues, contentious bureaucracy, lockdowns, walkouts, etc. Such things lead to significant class conflict that can completely destroy an economy. The main topic of the article on class conflict is the development of class conflict through self-interest. The person in power creates class conflict in order to oppress the underclass and advance their own interests. The poor are advised to strive harder at this crucial time and in the end, the poor remain poor, and the rich become more rich and more powerful (Bartos&Wehr, 2002).

According to Przeworski (1982), the study demonstrates that there is a class conflict in Europe and that it has recently reached its peak. Ethnic tensions have drastically risen since the fall of the Communist political system, giving rise to ethnic nationalism Rex (1996). The class conflict between workers and capitalists is examined in this study. Most of the time, they work together for the benefit of the greater social group. Together, capitalists and workers establish a company in which one side provides the resources, workspace, and tools while the other side does the labor-intensive tasks. Class conflict arises when the rights of one of the parties are deprived by the other. Generally capitalist and working-class adopt the way which mutually benefits them. But when one class gets in the struggle to have more

than the other like if a capitalist stop investing on workers I.e., reduced wages, old machinery, and lesser facilities than others, this will bring class conflict.

According to Dahrendorf (1990), after the 1980s, there was a rise in population growth, which resulted in a shortage of resources. Poverty rises as a result of rapid growth with constrained resources. In 1980, there were five billion people on the planet, of which one billion were fighting for their lives and another billion were just about to be born. The next ten years are uncertain for the remaining half a billion people. As a result, poverty rises in tandem with population expansion. By the 1980s, half a billion people in Europe were jobless and the population was approaching the poverty line.

When there is unemployment, investors, liberators, and philosophers consider innovative ways to end poverty. The enemies of freedom are stagnation, constraints, and poverty. Innovation is the food for freedom. During this time, the liberators prosper. People's minds become clouded by the growing poverty; they start to daydream about running out of supplies, money, or employment. Such ideas kill innovation-related creativity. In such a setting, both an efficient legal system and innovation against poverty are required. Conflict in modern society results from this. (Bentley, 2007).

According to Bartels (1977), Guyana's history demonstrates how the ruling class produces gaps between the working-class Indian and Afro-Guyanese. The ruling class unfairly distributes the economy's burdens, which leads to social and economic conflicts between the two working classes. In the past, these two working classes have fought together to dispel the dominant racial stereotype. The social racial stereotype is caused by the unequal distribution of economic gains.

Material and Methods

In this present study, the qualitative descriptive and analytical method has been used. The aim of the study is to explore Marxism with the efforts of other writers as well as Awais Khan's novel *In The Company Of Stanger (2020)* from the perspective of Karl Marx's theory of class conflict

(Marx, 1867).The present research is focused on the sordid affairs of Pakistani elite society,especially in the city of Lahore, and its class discrimination in the novel *In The Company of strangers*. The present study uses the lens of Marxism and evaluates the roles of sordid affairs in Pakistani elite society. This study suggests that how the Pakistani elite society and its ideology lead to the class conflicts in the selected text. The textual analysis of Khan's *In The Company of Strangers* is the only focus of the current work. The focus of this study has been on the investigation of shady dealings and Karl Marx's theory of class conflicts as it is presented by the novel's author. Only the elements of Karl Marx's theory of class conflict are covered in this study.

Theoretical Framework

The research is conducted by the qualitative descriptive method. This method involves a detailed description of the individual or the characters under study. Lambert (2012) says that description holds the records, photographs, albums, novels, writings, observation, reporting, etc. The qualitative descriptive study is the least theoretical of all studies. This method of study is used when a straightforward description of the case is required. The novel *In the Company of Strangers* by Awais Khan is one of the aspiring novels elaborating the class conflict at its epic. It does not only enlighten the class conflict but also the sordid affairs too.

Assumptions of Class Conflict Theory

- Between individuals.
- Groups and individuals controlling and dominating over others and these elements of inferiority and superiority lead the society into rebellions and starting hats against the superior or the elite class who controls the whole system.
- Then comes the third stage of conflict theory. The Bourgeoisie or the capitalist controls the means of production and keeps the resources in their own hands, and on the other side, the proletariat or the working class has no control over them and they remain deprived of them. The bourgeoisie or the dominant groups deprive the working-class people of all the resources of wealth and money and they block the way of progress.

Data Collection and Analysis

The sample for the study is the text of the novel *In the Company of Strangers* by Awais Khan and secondary sources are the books, articles, websites, and journals. This method is usually utilized by educational researchers. In the qualitative method, the researcher utilized the audience of the event considering the total of the event as it was perceived. The present study is qualitative and descriptive or interpretive. The textual analysis has been used as a research tool to interpret the selected literary text from the perspective of Karl Marx's theory of class conflict. The close reading method is used to evaluate and the selected text of the novel *In The Company of Strangers* by Awais Khan is the primary source and Secondary sources are articles, journals, and internet sources. Moreover, the analytical method favors the readers to search the writer's way of conveying his/her ideas, themes, and the message the writer has in his/her mind

Results and Discussion

Textual Analysis

In the novel *In The Company of Strangers*, the two main characters are mainly going to be analyzed through a Marxist perspective named Mona and Ali.

Class Conflict

Chunking the phone into her bag, she wiped her clammy hands on one of the imported towels she had flown in from Dubai. (Khan,2020, p.3) The analysis of the textual lines justifies the Marxist concept of class conflict, due to the unequal distribution of wealth in society, leads to class discrimination. The word imported towels depict the luxury lifestyle of Mona showing that she belongs to the elite class. The Marxist narrative of Classism is observed in this text as it demonstrates the elite class lifestyle using every inch of the thing in their daily routine is of high quality and imported too (Marx and Engels, 1985). *The house was an attractive structure of brick and glass encompassing a delightful blend of both Mughal and French architecture.* (Khan,2020, p. 25) The selected line of the novel reveals how the persons who belong to the elite class lived in big villas and how they decorate their villas and how much money they spend on their house's decoration. This line also divulges the class discrimination between the elite and lower class. *Mona's heart sank as she placed the voice. It was Shahida Elahi, the insufferable wife of steel industry billionaire, and a regular face at a society party. Mona, Bilal also purchased steel for its construction company from the Elahi steel industry.* (Khan, 2020, p. 30). The analysis of the selected lines from the text explored the elements of the Marxist concept of Class conflict, we can see the fear of elite class society person in the heart of lower-class society. Shahida Elahi belongs to Industrialist and among the Billionaire and the owner of many industries, Bilal and Mona the main characters of the

novel belong to two different class systems Bilal represents to lower class and depends very much on the elite class, whereas Karl Marx said that the main essentials life providers articles, like food, house, dresses, and the other important life necessities articles owner are from the elite class.

I've seen trailer trash throw better events in America. This doesn't come close to what I used to do there. I am completely wasted in Pakistan(Khan,2020, p. 42).The selected line of the text of the novel justifies the thoughts and conversation of the supermodel, showing that she used to live in a high society like abroad where there were more facilities and luxuries. She was in America and had attended to lot more elite and lavish events than in Pakistan. The place America used as the high society depicting Marxism or Marx's classism. Classism is existing in Pakistani society, everyone who visits or has some work abroad is considered as far superior to the local country residents. *Without any pillow, the carving on the headboard dug into his back, and he felt a headache setting in, pain beginning to pool around his skull, pounding it in a sporadic burst.* (Khan,2020, p. 58). Ali, the main character of this novel, represents the middle class of society. He doesn't have the luxuries in his life. He lacks the necessities of life and is an orphan too. He works day and night but can't even fulfil his family's needs. The sample text is about the living lifestyle of Ali, which is showing that he lacks even a pillow for sleeping. This causes pain and discomfort in his body but he can't accomplish his needs as he had less income and more expenses. Moreover, his brother lost his leg in a bomb blast so he had to bear the expenses of amputation too. All these situations and environments of discomfort make him disappointed. While we see Mona and Bilal's lifestyle, they got everything from abroad. *I'm being unfair? This world is being unfair to me. I deserve a place in the most dazzling circle of society, and here I am, reduced to traveling in this shitty piece of junk*(Khan,2020, p.75). The given statement unmasks the reality of the person who belongs to the working class or the labour class, becomes so disappointed when he does his best but in return, he does not get the fruit of his hard work than he becomes so disappointed. The Marxist narrative is applied here as the lower class is kept dependent on the upper class despite the hard work.

It's a brand-new Toyota Corolla" __Iman tried to protest. 'Well, I need a Mercedes Benz. I want a BMW. I'm done with this crap. (Khan,2020, p. 79) The given lines reveal, that, how the People who belong to the Elite class follow the status quo in their lifestyle. As the supermodels, they want all the comforts of life as their right. She is the most deserving of all the other models, but unwillingly she is made to travel in the Toyota Corolla which doesn't match her standards of being a supermodel. She feels disgusted to travel in such cheap luxury, as she is going to attend the most elite society of the country, she desires the most luxurious car for herself like a Mercedes Benz and BMW. These cars are the symbol of the elite class, and the lower class wants to use them and wants to become part of the elite class. These status symbols exaggerate the class conflict and classism in society.*Bilal's a fair businessman, but I don't like his attitude. He seems to think he's doing everyone a favor just by existing.* (Khan,2020, p. 84). The attitude of the elite class towards their subordinated or lower-class people. As it has been observed in the given lines, Karl Marx said the Elite peoples considered themselves superior and belongs to the high-class society they ruled over the inferior peoples or lower class. We see the different attitudes of the elite class society behaviour towards the lower-class people as they create sense because their existence is a blessing of God over to them. According to Karl Marx, the rude behaviour of an elite class is just because of the money, it's money that makes them like so.*Ali sat with his head tilted back to avoid the overpowering stench of sweat mix with dam clothes that Robina exuded. The fact that she had doused cheap perfumes over herself did nothing to alleviate the raw smell but instead heightened its pungency* (Khan,2020, p. 106).The following lines are one of the best-fitted examples of Karl Marx's theory of class conflict, in the novel, as Ali is one of the main characters of the novel and is a symbol or the representation of the lower class and victim of the proletariat class. Robina is another character of the novel who belongs to the lower middle class but shows their status by using perfumes and wearing fancy

clothes at the Parties of the businessmen and elite societies, but on the other hand, Ali knows the reality of Robina's class which she belongs to and to some extent she becomes jealous of Ali because she is showing her status as she belongs to the elite class.

The resentful middle class held the air-conditioned car of Lahore's minuscule elite class in unwavering contempt and their frustration, they launched on each other's, out on the streets for everyone to see. (Khan,2020, p. 106). According to Karl Marx, the bourgeoisie in capitalist societies exploit workers. The owners pay them enough to afford food and a place to live, and the workers, who do not realize they are being exploited, have a false consciousness, or a mistaken sense, that they are well off. They think that they can count on their capitalist bosses to do what is best for them. *With money came an inexplicable power, a forceful urge to spend, rise, and dominate.* (Khan,2020, p.107). In the given lines, it has been explained that there is a difference between the two classes of societies, as the elite class tries to control the middle class and lower class by exploiting their wages and take under control and using them for their benefits and just for money and profit. They gain profit by putting them in hard work and they get money from them. These lines justify the Marxist narrative in Pakistani society. Bourgeois class members think money is everything, they can buy the world with money.

Sordid Affairs

Majeed leaned in toward Robina for a Kiss. Majeed didn't just go for a peck. Roubini gave Majeed a playful shove, her face a blaze'. 'Haye, get off me. (Khan,2020, p.107). There have been many sordid affairs found in the text of the novel, which also justify the above lines as sordid affairs. The analysis of the text lines from the novel unmasks the reality of the Pakistani elite society, and how much this society is involved in their sordid affairs. For example, two of the main character of the novel, Bilal and Mona. Bilal, who is the husband of Mona, does not take an interest in his wife. After a few years of their marriage, Bilal started again illicit relationships with other girls and used to spend his nights with different girls, and he feels proud that the young blood finds him attractive to them. *I'm not some HeeraMandi trash, okay? I'm from Samanabad. Our Father is a Highly respected businessman, and we live in a Badi Haveli 'we look like a cheap company to you.* (Khan, 2020, p.108). The given lines from the text of the novel divulge, that, what happens in any society when the unequal distribution of wealth in any society of the world, the poor or the working-class people are ready to sell their bodies. The above-mentioned HeeraMandi situated in the city of Lahore known as one of the biggest female prostitution markets which are the slaps on the face of Bourgeoisie, just because of poverty, the females from that market offer to the rich and they present and sold their bodies just for the money. *Brilliant model, this boy, I tell you the rising star of our long-suffering industry.* (Khan,2020, p. 87). The above-written lines analyzed, the text as sordid affairs and reveal that how the Pakistani elite class is involved in sordid affairs, and these lines justify the Marxist concept of Bourgeoisie and Proletariat. The capitalist behaviour shows how they used the proletariat for their self-interest. The poor models show off their bodies for a small amount of money. For this, they starved for months to keep their body in shape for the people to whom this may seem attractive. *She shut her eyes at the memory of Bilal's behavior in the car, at his lewd remarks to Meera, the looks he gave her, the painstaking care-which was ironic after the way he had flirted with her.* (Khan,2020, p. 90) The given lines from the text of the novel which justifies as the Pakistani elite society is involved in sordid affairs and it has been mentioned in the novel that Lahore a city of secretive glamour and the wisping of elite societies and has hidden sordid affairs, Moona establish the physical relationship with Ali, on the other side, Ali is in search of money is ready to do and want to give her pleasure physically or mentally and willing to do whatever Moonawants. *"She could have sworn the looks she had just received from Elahi and the men flanking him could have pierced through her clothes"*(Khan,2020, p. 91). The sample text reveals the sordid affair. The feeling of the woman in the elite society is somewhat different from her appearance. In the glamorous world, high society woman seems to be

confident and easy at gathering, most of the time enjoying these events. But in reality, the men in these get to gather and act as hungry dogs. They came at such events to hunt for bodies to quench their vulgar thirst. As Mona perceived the eyes of the Elahi and his company seeing a woman as an ornament of beauty for their personal use. The bourgeois mindset is the same they think everything is theirs just because they are monetarily rich.

Mir Rabi Ullah lived in the outskirts of Lahore, somewhere in Bedian Mainly a ruler area that had recently been taken over by the elite. (Khan, 2020, p.112). In the given lines from the text, the theme of the sordid affairs. The controversial character of the novel is Mir Rabi Ullah, the person who exploits the proletariat class for his organization. Here the textual sample denotes how he chooses a place far away from the city to hide its mission of destruction. *Gul drove a small Suzuki Mehran, gifted to her by the Mir for her.* (Khan, 2020, p. 113) The lines from the text reveal that the Pakistani elite class has almost everything as much as even more than their life. Their lavish lifestyle makes the proletariat's heart sink to the bottom. Their luxury cars move along the road like the nightingale. While the poor class lurks on the roads just to catch a bus or other public transport.

Elite Mindset

Helping people financially is only one aspect of the business. (Khan, 2020, p. 113). In the lines from the text of the novel, the researcher analyzed how the bourgeoisie has a double standard type of person, on the one side they give the gesture that they are big humanitarian and very generous but they are hypocrites at the same time they are giving the same sort of incentive to the labour class but they get a lot of money in return with interest like the example of the banking sector who offers the bank loan to the poor or the needy person but they took the money from them with interest. These lines also reveal how the Marxist concept of Class discrimination has an impact on society. *Balance: 2.5 million rupees only...End of transaction Ali smiled as he read the message but his happiness couldn't quite assuage the knot of guilt in his stomach* (Khan,2020, p. 208). Here the selected lines of the text explore the feelings of a person who belongs to the lower middle class and has not seen such much money even in their dreams and has received a text message one day about having the 2.5 million rupees received. As Marx argued that the bourgeoisie held all the power and forced the proletariat to take the danger, as Ali works at a low-paying job in a bank, to survive. Despite having superior numbers, the proletariat was powerless against the will of the bourgeoisie.

Mona wearing their best diamond rings for a simple just to show her status in society (Khan, 2020, p. 121). The given line justifies the text of the novel as the Marxist concept of narrative and the theory of class conflicts. The characters of the novel which belongs to the lower class or the working class and the labor class are the victim of the elite class or the bourgeoisie class. that element of class conflict is seen in the text. *She had grown accustomed to the way the women displayed their jewelry to the maximum effect with the careful positioning of one hand over the knees so that the solitaire ring glittered the way they threw their heads back to reveal the magnificent neckless.* (Khan,2020, p. 120). The lines from the text of the novel describe the class consciousness in the Pakistani elite society. These lines are extracted from the scene in the novel where different kinds of families are visiting Bilal's house for her daughter's engagement but no one is chosen still. Mona is getting used to the behaviour of rich families. Almost every visiting woman shows off her expensive jewellery. The women thought it will be fruitful to boast their luxurious 56 branded diamond rings. The new Elites sit to expose much of their ring glitter to a maximum, thinking to impress Mona with these mere acts of boast. *When she had been a young girl, they were poor. With her father's meager salary, they would struggle to make ends meet.* (Khan,2020, p. 140). The analysis of the lines from the text of the novel explains, the concept of the Bourgeois and the proletariat class. Mona's past is always with her once she was poor in her past, then life take a turn and everything starts getting better. She had been poor and all her wishes remain unfulfilled and buried in her heart. They hardly have the right meals all over the month. Her

father wasn't rich but rather belong to a proletariat class, struggling for his family. Then life becomes kind to them, Life gets easy and amiable for Mona once but then she met Bilal a new chapter of her life begins. Her journey from proletariat to bourgeois is long and suffering so, she is afraid of leaving her glamorous life. *Thankfully, a headscarf hides the strangulation marks around her neck and she wore her Chanel shades to mask the purple bruises. She was far away from the normal* (Khan, 2020, p. 144). The given lines reveal female oppression. In a male-dominated society especially in Pakistani society, female considers as being the symbol of enjoyment, and the males after using them, through it like the used like tissues. The bourgeois class is the glitteriest class in society. They want to look perfect in every appearance in the public. *Oh please, heels are a women's prerogative. Without heels, there are no women. 'Now, you are just being sexist. Wow, Mona, I didn't know women could be the sexiest*(Khan,2020, p. 147). The analysis of the given lines from the text reveals that the Pakistani Elite Society is involved in sordid affairs. In the text of the novel, there are many examples of sordid affairs, which reveals that the Pakistani elite society, involve in that thing. For example, the main character of the novel and the protagonist Ali, involve in Mona who is the heroine of the novel, both are very much involved in each other without being the care of their families and without the norm of society. They involve in sordid affairs it is the lack of morals and etiquette of the Pakistani elite society.

Justification of Sordid Affairs

I make it a point to go wherever Meera invites me. (Khan,2020, p. 147).The line from the text of the novel explores how the peoples from the poor class or the labor class have to compromise on their self-dignity just for gaining some money.*She realized that there were men in the world with whom she could be comfortable, just standing there making pointless conversation, doing nothing felt refreshing like a swan in the ocean.* (Khan,2020, p. 148).The given lines from the text of the novel, justify the sordid affairs. It is also unmasking how the Pakistani elite society is involved in sordid affairs, Mona is a desperate woman who needs someone for the physical release of emotion as his husband is indulging in other women. She spends her time peak with wine in the drawing room. Her husband didn't pay heed to her condition ever. *She didn't want to think that why she felt so at ease with a man who practically a stranger, but Ali was the first person who seemed genuinely interested in her as an individual and not a commodity.* (Khan,2020, p.148). The given lines, unveil the beginning of sordid affairs where Mona is getting easy at Ali in sharing her thoughts with Ali who is a stranger. The writer trying to imprint the sordid relationships between elites. The rich are emotionally desperate while the poor take advantage of this to get access to the modern world of glamour. In doing so they both indulge in an illegal physical relationship.*Ali didn't think he had ever gotten over the shame of thinking someone else's monetary help for his family*(Khan,2020, p. 153). The lines from the text of the novel reveal the involvement of Pakistani Elite Society, in their sordid affairs, has been divulged after analyzing the text, which is justified by the characters of Bilal and Mona. Bilal, who is the husband of Mona, does not take an interest in his wife. After a few years of their marriage, Bilal started again illicit relationships with other girls and used to spend his nights with different girls, and he feels proud that the young blood finds him attractive to them.

Exploitation of Labor Class

They were financially secure, but at what cost? The cost of his soul? It had already cost him his job at the bank(Khan,2020, p. 213).Karl Marx argued, that the capitalist is a group of persons whose main purpose is nothing more than just to earn money and make them financially secure themselves. They exploit the labor class and their wages and take the whole lives of the labor or the working class just for some piece of money, but in return, they become millionaires and billionaires. Ali the main character of the novel has been shown as being the victim of the Capitalist or the industrialist by selling his whole life in the hands of the capitalist by working in a job on an ordinary post. *They were rich society ladies. They didn't need to be told twice that they were now unwanted. They rose in a great cloud of anger*

and huffed their way out(Khan, 2020, p. 178). The lines from the text of the novel justify the sordid affairs as well as the Marxist concept of classism or the theory of class conflict. Rich people are considered themselves far superior to others. They have high ego issues too. The upper class thinks they can treat anyone the way they want and no one has the power to question such persons. *Or maybe with someone rich who love you. Her eyes narrowed. Unless you have found a rich little Miss "I don't love my husband and my home.* (Khan, 2020, p. 212). The above mention, lines reveal that there are many Marxist concepts of bourgeoisie and proletariat elements that have been found in the text. For example, the main character of the novel, Mona represents the Bourgeoisie class or the capitalist class, which controls the means of production in Pakistani society. As Karl Marx argued that the capitalist society is made of two classes, the one is Bourgeois and the other is the proletariat. We can find the Marxist concept of capitalist society in Pakistani elite society after analyzing the text of the novel.

Conclusion

The Finding of the novel regarding the research question justifies the text of the novel as a Marxist of narrative and the theory of class conflict. The characters of the novel which belong to the lower class or the working class and the labor class are the victims of the elite class or the bourgeoisie class. The findings of the novel regarding its first question are that elements of class conflict are seen in the text. The unequal distribution of wealth in society is one of the main reasons for class discrimination. The elite class or the bourgeoisie tries to control everything and keeps the proletariat or the working-class people in their land. As Karl Marx argued that the capitalist society is made of two classes, the one is Bourgeois and the other is the proletariat. We can find the Marxist concept of capitalist society in Pakistani elite society after analyzing the text of the novel. The analysis of the data reveals that the Pakistani Elite Society is involved in sordid affairs. In the text of the novel, there are many examples of sordid affairs, which reveal that the Pakistani elite society, is involved in these things. The present study has been analyzed according to the Marxist point of view. This analysis has raised some issues which require further research in a broader sense. The novel *In the Company of Strangers* can be explored with the application of other theories like Realism and Feminism. A Great deal of work can be done on this new novel.

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