Theoretical Study of Concepts and Forms of Social Structure

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ABSTRACT

In living in society, every human being must have their own role and status. Differences in roles and status in humans show that there is a social structure within them. This article aims to explain the basic concepts and forms in a society's social structure. This article was prepared using a qualitative approach supported by literature study methods and analyzed using content analysis. From the results of the study, it is clear that social structure is a system that has a reciprocal relationship with individuals so that changes in social structure can be caused by individual changes in society, and individual changes can be caused by changes in social structure and the formation of these systems in vertical and horizontal formats.

Keywords: *Social Relations, Society, Social Structure*

INTRODUCTION

As social creatures, humans always maintain social interactions/relationships with other individuals and groups to achieve a more prosperous life. Individually, no human being is able to fulfill his own needs. He needs the role of other people in order to fulfill his life needs. Humans need other parties to complete their lives by establishing internal relationships between individuals - and forming a social group, and producing relationship patterns in the form of status and roles of each party which are interconnected between one human being and another which is referred to as social interaction). This interaction produces interaction products, namely social order in the form of values and norms that regulate good and bad in the size of the group. Views about what is considered good and what is considered bad ultimately influence everyday human behavior (Darakay & Murwani, 2021).

In living in society, every human being must have their own role and status. Differences in roles and status in humans show that there is a social structure within them.

In society, these statuses and roles are very important because they can form a system that can create harmony and order. If humans can carry out their respective roles and status, it will create harmony and order in society (Hartoyo, 2022).

In establishing these social relationships/interactions, a human being will become a member or part of a group that has the same goals or discussions with one another, both within the scope of family, friends, and more formal relationships such as work and many more. These conditions (ultimately) encourage the formation of a structure that builds the existing social structure in society.

Order and harmony are conditions that society hopes for. This condition will be created if each individual is able to carry out their position, role and function well according to the social structure in society (Abdulsyani, 1994). Social structure is basically a way for a society to be organized in predictable relationships through repeated patterns of behavior between individuals and between groups. Social structure contains the intertwining of basic social structures, namely social rules or norms, social institutions, and social layers (Soemardjan & Soemardi, 1964). Individuals need to be aware of the existence of social structures that maintain orderly social life.

For some people, there is a desire to create a good social structure even though they may not have a good understanding of the basics of social structure itself. Therefore, people's understanding of social structure needs to be improved. One way is to know what social structure is, the characteristics of social structure, elements of social structure, forms of social structure, and examples of social structure itself. For this reason, this article can be a way to gain a better understanding of social structure. With good understanding, it is hoped that society can form a social structure that necessitates the emergence of order and harmony.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This article was written using a qualitative method with analytical descriptive writing based on data mining through library research methods from several (written) library sources. Writing was carried out through the process of extracting data from various reference sources which discussed various articles/writings related to various reading text literature in the study of themes and forms of social structure. These various sources are published in public media, so they can be accessed openly through various places (libraries) and internet media. This article can be an elaboration of various related articles and writings. Likewise, this article is more of a synthesis of existing writings, to be seen later in relation to what can be done in the current context.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Basic Concepts of Social Structure

Social structure is a concept that is closely related to the social sciences, especially sociology. The concept of "social structure" is etymologically built from the word "structure" which means to arrange and this word comes from the Latin word structum. Meanwhile, the word "social" also comes from the Latin word socii, which means ally.

The word "social" cannot be separated from human life as part of social life. Thus, social structure has the meaning of the structure of society in the form of social interactions that occur with each individual or group (Kusmanto & Elizabeth, 2018).

In a social group, it is generally understood that there are several important elements such as roles, rights and obligations that must be complemented by each other so that order can occur and goals can be achieved. Even though there are many differences within these social groups, these differences must be integrated to avoid conflict. In this case, social structure plays an important role in facilitating the integration process. Thus, social structure is a reciprocal relationship between social positions and the roles held by each individual or group within that structure (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). Or, in simple terms, social structure is the grouping of society related to roles (rights and obligations).

Social structure can also be understood as a reciprocal relationship between social positions and social roles (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). Furthermore, social structure is human social interaction, includes various types of groups consisting of many people, and includes institutions in which many people take part. Therefore, social structure is a social order in community life, which contains a reciprocal relationship between status and roles which refers to a regularity of behavior in society (Basrowi, 2005). Social structure is actually a social building consisting of various elements that form society. In social structure, a framework is depicted which is the relationship between various elements in society (Setiadi & Kolip, 2011). In the social structure there are reciprocal relationships that form the social order of society so that status and roles form behavioral regularities which later shape society. In this way, in general, it can be understood that social structure is basically an intertwining of elements forming society which functions to provide order to the form of society.

From various understandings of social structure, at least there is a common thread that can be drawn that the "form" of social structure is very diverse. This is because society is a heterogeneous group of people. Thus, each human group lives by being guided by certain values and norms and holds its group members in high regard. Furthermore, social structure refers to order in social life, and its application is inconsistent. In this case, social structure is sometimes defined simply as patterned social relationships, the regular and recurring aspects of interactions between particular social members. At a descriptive level, the concept becomes very abstract. Social structure only has certain elements of ongoing social activity where the larger the social unit being considered, the more abstract the concept.

There is an evolutionary process in the formation of social structures whereby social structures are not formed instantly in a society. There are several important social elements that determine the formation of this social structure. These elements include the reciprocal relationship of a unit or group with other units or groups; enduring patterns of behavior of participants in a social system in relation to others; and institutionalized norms or structured knowledge frameworks that underlie the actions of actors in the social system (Susilo, 2010). Thus, social structure has a reciprocal relationship with individuals

so that changes in social structure can be caused by individual changes in society, and individual changes can be caused by changes in social structure.

In this formation process, social structures experience their own dynamics so that each social structure in society will be different from one another so that there will always be values or norms that are considered important (and high) and serve as guidelines for a group of people. In this case then, social structure has several important characteristics (Zeitlin, 1995), including first, it is always developing and can change, which in this case means that an individual who is in a certain level or social group can experience changes, both up and down. , as happens to a person's social class which always changes over time. The social structure in the form of social groups is never stagnant but there is always a movement of individuals from one social class to another. Second, social structure includes all cultures in society which in the process of establishing relationships with other individuals, social structures will always exist, where as it develops an individual will try to make relationships with other people who have different cultures. Third, social structure is the formation of a group. Within a society, there are individuals who each have their differences, but often individuals who have similarities or the same interests will form a group which creates a social structure. When this collection of individuals forms a social group, each group contributes to the wider social system of society. This is what then encourages group unity and broad social integration. Fourth, in social structure there are (important) dimensions in the form of vertical and horizontal dimensions, where dimensions with unequal levels are called social stratification and dimensions with equal levels are called social differentiation. It needs to be emphasized that no group is considered superior to other groups but only as a differentiator.

So, the various understandings of social structure (Rahman, 2011) can basically be explained to their functions which (tend to be) the same. In this case, social structure has functions (Soehartono, 1995), including first, as part of social control. What is meant is that by having a clear social structure and in which there are clear norms and regulations to regulate each individual, it can avoid the risk of disputes or conflicts between levels or groups. With the existence of a social structure, there is anticipation of violations of values/rules within community groups, thereby creating order in society. Second, as an identity for community groups. Social structure functions as a confirmation of the existence of unique identities/characteristics in a community group. Social structure functions as a confirmation of the identity of a group. Groups whose members have similar racial, social and cultural backgrounds will develop their own social structure as a differentiator from other groups. Social structure also plays a role in grouping the functions and roles of members of society. Third, it functions as a disciplined learning effort for community groups. Individuals learn from the social structures that exist in their society. This is possible considering that society is a place of interaction. There are many things that can be learned from a society's social structure, starting from attitudes, habits, beliefs and discipline.

Forms of Social Structure

Social structure is the pattern of behavior of each individual in society that forms a system. The system is formed in vertical and horizontal format. The vertical structure is in the form of social stratification, and the horizontal structure is in the form of social differentiation. This is like a quote from the story of the Chinese philosopher Confucius and a servant in one history. Once Confucius said to his servant, "I want you to go with me, and completely level this empire." The servant then answered, "Empires cannot be generalized, here there are high mountains, there there are lakes and rivers. If the high mountains were to be leveled, then the birds and wild animals would have no place to live. If the lakes and rivers have to be filled until they are full, then the fish and turtles will no longer have a place to swim. If we eliminate the kings and nobles, then there will be many disputes about right and wrong among the people, whereas if we abolish slaves and servants, then who will serve the princes?" This quote actually shows that there has been a "concept" of social differences which is a social phenomenon that has existed since ancient times. Thus, in society there is always a social structure, both horizontally and vertically.

In a sociological view, the main shapers of social structure are status and social roles (Merton, 1965). Basically, social status and role cannot be separated from each other. This is because someone will not have a social role if they do not have social status. Status - or it can also be called position, is a person's general position in society in relation to other people, in terms of social environment, achievements, rights and obligations. Position determines what a person must do for society. Social status is a person's position regarding their social environment, prestige, rights and obligations. Abstractly, status/position means a person's place in a certain pattern. In fact, someone can have several statuses/positions because they have several life patterns. In this way, social status can be interpreted as a person's position in a social group (Rahman, 2011). The high or low social status of a person is influenced by that person's position.

In every social system, various concepts are found related to social status/position, whether obtained from generation to generation, through one's own efforts or a position given as an award from one's environment. In sociology, social status can be categorized into three categories (Linton, 1936), including first, ascribed status. This means that the social status that a person has is a "natural" status or a social status that is possessed from birth (or has been attached to it) without paying attention to a person's talent or character, and to obtain this social status no effort is required. Examples of this social status are gender, lineage, gender, nobility status, and so on.

Second, achieved status. This means that the social status achieved is the social status that a person has, obtained by making effort or working hard to get it. This status is not automatically attached but must be worked for. Examples of this social status are employment/professional status such as civil servants, doctors, TNI, and many more. Third, assigned status. This means that a person's social status is a social status that is assigned or given thanks to the services or achievements that have been made. Examples

of this social status are giving honoris causa titles, giving honorary titles to Indonesian freedom fighters, giving medals to winning athletes, and others.

Apart from status, social structure is formed from elements of social roles. A role is the implementation of a person's rights and obligations in accordance with his position. Social roles are the obligations that each person has based on their social status (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). In other words, someone who has achieved social status must carry out their respective social roles. For example, a doctor has a different social role from a teacher.

Social role is an aspect that arises from status/position. Role is the behavior expected by other parties in carrying out obligations in accordance with their status. Status and role cannot be separated because roles are always attached to the status they hold. In everyday life, roles are important because they function to regulate a person's behavior. The person concerned will be able to adjust his behavior to the behavior of the people around him (Soekanto, Role Theory, 2002).

Role is a dynamic aspect of a status (position). If someone carries out their rights and obligations in accordance with their status, then they have carried out their role. Roles are the behavior expected from people who have a position or status. Position and role cannot be separated. There is no role without a position. Positions do not function without roles (Soekanto, Role Theory, 2002). This can be seen in the "household" structure. There is no role in it (a) father if a husband does not have children. Thus, role is very important for a person, because with the role he has, he will be able to regulate the behavior of himself and others. A person can play several roles at the same time, such as a woman can have the role of wife, mother, employee at the same time.

However, social status and social roles are clearly different. Social status refers more to a person's static aspects in societal systems and organizations. Meanwhile, social roles refer more to the dynamic and functional aspects of a person in social systems and organizations. Individuals as social creatures certainly cannot be avoided from social interactions in society. This social interaction will influence the formation of a group. And in a social structure, people will always adapt their behavior to their group, status and social roles as elements that form the social structure and then form the social structure into two forms, namely vertical social stratification and horizontal social differentiation.

Social stratification is a form of social structure in the form of a system of differentiation of individuals or groups in society, which necessitates placement in different social classes hierarchically and provides different rights and obligations between individuals in one layer and another. The social stratification system is the differentiation of the population or society into stratified classes, which are manifested in high class, middle class and low class. The basis and core of the social stratification system is the imbalance in the distribution of rights and obligations, as well as the responsibilities of each individual or group in a social system (Sorokin, 1998). The classification of these classes is based on a particular social system into more hierarchical layers according to the dimensions of power, privilege and prestige. Social stratification occurs due to the division (segmentation) of social classes in society. Social class itself is

a layer (strata) of people who have the same position in a continuum of social status (Hasan, 2010).

Social class is an important social reality, not just a theoretical concept. In this case, social class also gives rise to the concept of social mobility in social stratification. This is because social stratification has an open, closed and mixed nature (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). In open stratification, people have the opportunity to change their social class to a higher one through various efforts, such as education or working harder. However, if they are unlucky, they can actually fall into a lower social class. This system has the advantage of encouraging people's enthusiasm to fight and become better people in their social position. With this open nature, there is a process of class movement, or social mobility, which means a shift in position from one dimension to another. Open social stratification is commonly found in modern urban societies.

In contrast to an open system, in closed social stratification, people cannot change their social class. The only way to belong to a certain social class is birth. This means that social mobility is (almost) impossible. This system can be seen in societies that implement a caste system. Furthermore, apart from being open and closed, social stratification can also be mixed. This characteristic is a combination of open and closed social stratification. In this system, people can change their social class with the efforts they make. However, you can also apply a closed system in other aspects. For example, there are societies that are open in terms of economic aspects or social class, but closed in terms of cultural aspects. In later developments, social stratification was no longer a barrier in society. Awareness of the importance of interaction and socialization means that stratification, especially in modern society, is limited to class status distinctions only.

Furthermore, to determine social stratification, three methods can be followed, including first, the objective method. In this method, stratification is determined based on objective criteria, including total income, length or level of education, and type of work. Second, subjective method. Social groups of members of society assess themselves in the hierarchy of positions in that society. Third, the reputation method. Social groups can be formulated according to how members of society place each other in the stratification of that society (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). The existence of a multi-layered system in society can occur naturally in the process of societal growth, but there are also those that are deliberately structured to pursue a common goal. What is usually the reason for the emergence of layers in society that occur automatically is intelligence, age level (seniority), the nature of authenticity - the membership of a person's relatives in society, and perhaps also wealth within certain limits (Maunah, 2015).

Meanwhile, social differentiation means classifying society horizontally or parallelly. This is because it is based on the aspect of having the same degree or level. This classification of society in social differentiation does not actually aim to form groups that are superior to one another. This classification is a form of variation in work, prestige and power of groups in society. This means that differentiation can show the diversity of a nation (Soekanto, Sociology An Introduction, 2005). In social differentiation, what is at issue is not whether various groups are balanced or not, but rather that society is basically

pluralistic so that there are a number of differences within it. Horizontal differences in the sense of social differentiation are important to emphasize that every society is different and these differences do not place one group or individual at a higher or lower level. Everything is equal and equal. Thus, this concept is interpreted more as horizontal diversity, not as vertical class differentiation.

Social differentiation then divides society in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, culture, customs, gender, and the views contained within it. In a pluralistic society like Indonesia, the horizontal grouping of society which is classified based on differences in race, ethnicity, clan and religion is called social pluralism. Social pluralism is characterized by differences based on physical characteristics, social characteristics and cultural characteristics. Social differentiation based on physical characteristics occurs due to differences in certain physical characteristics which are also called quantitative phenotypes. Examples of physical differences include skin color, eye shape, and hair type (Handoyo, Astuti, Iswari, Alimi, & Mustofa, 2015).

Meanwhile, grouping people based on profession and gender is called social heterogeneity. In this concept, especially in professional differentiation, there is a process of social differentiation based on social characteristics that arise due to differences in work. These job differences cause differences in perspectives and behavioral patterns in these communities (Handoyo, Astuti, Iswari, Alimi, & Mustofa, 2015). Therefore, this type of differentiation is accompanied by differences in roles, prestige and power.

Referring to this social differentiation, society can basically be differentiated according to several criteria such as the characteristics of social differentiation previously explained. Apart from being differentiated based on their characteristics, societies can also be differentiated based on the form of social differentiation. These forms of social differentiation are divided into six parts, including first, gender. Gender can be classified as a form of social differentiation because it cannot show differences in levels or can be differentiated horizontally (Ibrahim, 2019). Basically, men and women have the same degrees and positions. In essence, the differences between men and women are horizontal because they only involve the form and basic characteristics that differ from the sexes. However, sometimes there is a view that men are stronger than women and can do heavy work. In fact, women tend to be physically weaker than men. However, this view cannot be used as a benchmark for judging that men have a higher rank than women. This condition occurs because it is solely due to the natural tendencies that exist in each man and woman.

Second, clan. The clan referred to as a form of social differentiation here is a social unit with members who have kinship relationships. Clan members are joined based on blood relations or lineage or genealogy. For example, like the clans that can be found in Batak society. Batak society still applies the clan system, where generally the child's clan is descended from the male family line. Third, ethnicity. Ethnic groups are formed because of individual consciousness which is characterized by unity in characteristics, behavior patterns, customs, origins and culture (Mahdayeni, Alhaddad, & Saleh, 2019). Like cultural characteristics, there are many ethnic groups and each has its own

characteristics and uniqueness. Thus, ethnicity cannot be used as a benchmark that an individual has a high degree because he comes from a particular ethnic group.

Fourth, race. Each individual is born to parents with a certain racial background and has unique physical characteristics. Because, every individual is unique so it cannot be said that certain races have better values than other races. Differentiating between individuals and judging someone's status based on their race is a discriminatory act. Fifth, religion. Generally, every individual has a religion. This religion has a function as a guide for human life. Religion does not have levels and cannot be used as a determining factor that an individual has a higher or lower level because of the religion he adheres to. Every individual who chooses to adhere to a particular religion, then that individual is ready and confident that what he believes is the right thing, therefore religions cannot be compared with one another (Handoyo, Astuti, Iswari, Alimi, & Mustofa, 2015).

Sixth, profession. This last form of social differentiation is also found in the social characteristics of social differentiation which were previously explained. Every profession and job in society has its own function. This is because a profession is an activity that requires special skills, therefore each profession cannot be compared and cannot be used as a differentiating factor that determines that individuals with certain professions have a higher degree or level (Dakhi, 2021). Every profession in society contributes to life, therefore these professions exist because they are needed in social life.

CONCLUSION

Social structure can be simply defined as repeated patterns of behavior that create relationships between individuals and between groups in society. Social structures are abstract and cannot be seen by the eye. Apart from that, the social structure of society is very dynamic or can change according to the social conditions of society. Social structure is at the heart of how society functions. It is a framework that structures the roles and interactions between individuals in society. Social structure includes various complex things in human life as social creatures such as norms, values, hierarchies, and roles in society that guide behavior and social relationships. Even though it is not always visible, social structure plays a role in shaping society. Social structure provides a framework that regulates the social life of each individual.

Basically, social structures are very diverse. This is because society is a heterogeneous group of people. Thus, each human group lives by being guided by certain values and norms and holds its group members in high regard. Social structure is an important part of social life. Social structure can be used as a guideline used to organize the people within it.

The existence of a social structure in society will be able to create or produce relationships between each individual and each group to become more orderly and organized. It is important for humans to run social structures well because if social structures do not run well then harmony and order in society will not be created. With the existence of a social structure, the duties and responsibilities of each person, whether in a

higher position or not, become clearer. Apart from that, the shared goals and aspirations to be achieved will be more organized with this social structure.

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