

Exploring Social Dynamics: A Study of Society in Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet

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Abstrak– Penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif untuk menganalisis situasi sosial dalam novel Hamnet karya Maggie O'Farrell. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui situasi sosial dalam novel Hamnet karya Maggie O'Farrell. Peneliti mengangkat judul ini untuk memberikan informasi kepada pembaca mengenai situasi sosial seperti apa yang ada di dalam novel karya Maggie O'Farrell yang berjudul Hamnet, di mana sebagian dari novel tersebut menggambarkan tentang virus COVID-19. Penelitian ini menunjukkan hasil berupa beberapa situasi sosial yang ada di dalam novel Hamnet karya Maggie O'Farrell, seperti kecemasan dan ketakutan, seperti yang terlihat di dalam novel tersebut, pernikahan yang dipaksakan, dan kehidupan yang tidak diinginkan.

Kata Kunci: Situasi Sosial, Hamnet oleh Maggie O'Farrell, Virus Covid-19, Metode Kualitatif, Novel

Abstract– This research uses a qualitative method to analyze the social situation in the novel Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell. This study aims to determine the social situation in Maggie O'Farrell's novel Hamnet. The researcher raised this title to provide readers with information about social situations like what is in the novel by Maggie O'Farrell entitled Hamnet, where part of the novel describes the COVID-19 virus. This research shows the results in the form of several social situations that exist in Maggie O'Farrell's novel Hamnet, such as anxiety and fear, as seen in the novel, forced marriage, and unwanted life.

Keywords: Social Situation, Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell, Covid-19 Virus, Qualitative Method, Novel

1. INTRODUCTION

Literary work is a creative activity of a work of art. Literature is everything that is written and printed. In addition, literary work is also an imaginative work seen in a broader sense than works of fiction (Wellek & Warren, 1995, pp. 3-4). As a creative result, literature functions as entertainment fun and adds to the participants' inner experience, the readers. Talking about those who have an imaginative nature, we are dealing with three types (genres) of literature, namely prose, poetry, and drama. One-of-a-kind prose is a novel. The novel as a story about a quest that graded will be authentic values are values that organize the world of the novel as a whole, even if only partially implicit is not explicit (Goldman in Faruk, 1994: 79). So, book literature means a tool for using instruction or teaching. Another thing taken from Sanskrit is the word library, which broadly means book (Teeuw, 1984, pp. 22-23).

Literature is a form of recording that the author conveys to others. Literary works can be in the form of novels, poetry, plays, and others. The book is an academic work in the form of fiction and non-fiction stories. The story in the novel is the result of the author's imagination, which discusses the problems of a person's life or describes his life. Usually, the book's story begins with the characters' introduction, then proceeds to the initial problem/event, and ends with a settlement.

A novel is a work of fiction that offers a world with an idealized life model. This imaginative world is constructed through various intrinsic elements such as events, plots, characters (and characterizations), settings, and points of view (Nurgiyantoro, 2012: 4). Another opinion about the novel was also expressed by Rahayu (2014) The book is a prose genre that represents the complete story elements, has extensive media, and presents broad social issues. According to Hasniyati (2018), a Novel is an imaginative work of fiction. As a creative work, a piece of fiction offers various problems of humans and humanity, life, and life. “

From the three expert opinions above, it can be concluded that a Novel is a literary work in the form of fiction and non-fiction stories. The story in the novel is the result of the author's imagination, which discusses the problems of a person's life or describes his life. Usually, the novel's story begins with the characters' introduction, proceeds to the initial problem/event, and ends with a settlement. The building elements of the book are divided into internal features such as theme, character, characterization, plot, setting, and message. In general, stories in novels are more numerous and complicated than prose.

Usually, novels are inspired by true stories or imaginative ideas and are written through a sequence of events. Events usually discussed in novels happen in the year in which the author experiences these events and describes them in the books he writes.

Events usually raised to be made into novels can be events that are only experienced by the author (experience) or events that many people encounter. Events experienced by the author can be in the form of the author's personal experience, described through a novel he created. At the same time, the events experienced by many people are significant events, such as the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, which is described in the novel Hamnet by Maggie O'farrell. We can see the epidemic of the COVID-19 virus related in Maggie O'Farrell's novel in the first narration of the book. The first narration of this novel tells the story of Hamnet and his sister Judith, who fall ill due to a virus outbreak that shows initial

This study uses a qualitative method by analyzing the social situation in the novel *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. This study aims to discover the social problems in the book by Maggie O'Farrell entitled *Hamnet*. The researcher raised this title to inform readers about the social situations in the novel by Maggie O'Farrell entitled *Hamnet*, in which part depicts the Covid 19 virus.

2. LITERARY REVIEW

2.1 Social Situation

Social situation refers to a wide variety of situations and contexts in which people interact with one another. "Social situations can be defined as any context in which people are present and can influence one another's behavior, thoughts, or feelings" (Aronson et al., 2013, p.4). It means that in social situations, a person is not alone but instead is surrounded by others; the behavior and actions of those other people affect their behavior, thoughts, and emotions.

According to social psychologists, social situations involve three key components: the presence of others, the physical and psychological characteristics of the environment, and the norms, roles, and expectations that guide behavior (Baron & Byrne, 2003). It signifies that the presence of others can influence how individuals perceive and interpret social situations and how they behave and respond to social cues. The physical and psychological characteristics of the environment can also affect how individuals experience and respond to social problems, such as whether the climate is pleasant or unpleasant, noisy or quiet, or stressful or relaxing. Additionally, norms, roles, and expectations can guide behavior in social situations, such as how individuals are expected to behave in different social contexts. These factors can shape how individuals interact with others and respond to social problems.

2.2 Novel

Novels are a form of literary expression that can be written in various styles and genres, and they frequently have a narrative framework with a beginning, middle, and ending. Novels are "prose fiction that tells an extended story with a plot that unfolds gradually over time, involving multiple characters and settings" (Abrams & Harpham, 2012). It highlights that novels are fiction, giving a rich and fascinating reading experience with a complicated plot, various characters, and varied settings. According to Abrams and Harpham (2012), the novel has four critical elements: plot, character, setting, and theme. Each of these elements contributes to the structure and meaning of the book.

2.3 Sociological Approach

Sociology is the scientific and systematic study of groups and group interactions, societies, and social interactions, ranging from tiny and intimate groups to huge groups (Conerly et al., (2021). This indicates that sociology analyzes how individuals interact within various social circumstances, from tiny, individualized groups to more substantial societal organizations. This definition highlights that sociology uses a scientific and systematic approach to comprehend social processes. This is relevant to the sociological approach. Sociologists explore and analyze the trends, dynamics, and influences within social groups and cultures using research techniques, ideas, and concepts. The sociological process involves investigating these factors to understand how social structures, norms, values, and power dynamics influence individual behavior and societal consequences.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

3.1 Types of the Research

According to Rorintulus in Olivia, "Method refers to operational ways in conducting a research. This study is a qualitative research which collects qualitative data by doing library research." (Olivia M, 2021). This research is classified as qualitative research, which means that the data in this research do not deal with numbers, diagrams, or formulas but in the form of words or quotations. "Qualitative method is a most suitable method to be used in analyzing the novel." (Arisudana et al., 2018, p. 430).

This study uses a qualitative method by analyzing the social situation in Maggie O'Farrell's novel *Hamnet*. This study uses four steps: data collection, data reduction and classification, data display, and then conclusion. Creswell, J. W defines qualitative research as examining human and social problems. The researcher will report on the research results based on the data view report and analysis of the data obtained in the field, then describe it in a detailed research report.

This contrasts Moleong's (2007: 6) opinion, which interprets qualitative research as research that aims to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects. It is more suitable and suitable for researching matters related to research

on the subject's behavior, attitudes, motivation, perceptions, and actions. In other words, this type of research must use something different than quantitative methods.

3.2 Objective of the research

The objective of this research is the novel Hamnet by Maggie O'farel. This novel tells the story of Hamnet and his sister Judith, who fall ill due to a virus outbreak that shows initial symptoms such as fever, cough, flu, and infection, just like the Covid 19 virus, which worries everyone from 2020 until early 2022.

3.3 Method of collecting data

In collecting data, the researcher used primary data in the form of a novel entitled Hamnet by Maggie O'Farell, and the secondary data included online references, books, and journals related to this research topic.

3.4 Method of Analyzing

Researchers used an objective approach in analyzing the data. The procedures used in analyzing the data are as follows:

1. Search for the whole format of Maggie O'Farell's novel Hamnet on social media;
2. Read the first narration of the novel about the main character's illness;
3. Read the narrations of the two novels about the main character's marriage in the second narration and the main character's life after marriage;
4. Look for internal elements and social situations experienced by the characters in the first and second narratives.

4. FINDINGS

4.1 Internal element

4.1.1 Theme of novel

The story's protagonist, Hamnet, is close to his twin sister, Judith. His sister is sick, and her condition is getting worse. Hamnet, without his parents, cannot find help for her sister. When Agnes comes home and finds Judith sick, Hamnet confronts her negligence towards Judith. Agnes, already guilty, tries to heal Judith with her medicine, but nothing works. Innocent Hamnet thinks he can save Judith by fooling her death, and unfortunately, Hamnet dies, but her sister lives.

"He puts a hand to his brow, feeling the swelling there, the wet of new blood. 'Nothing,' he says. 'It was nothing. Listen,' he says, more urgently, 'I'm going to find the physician. I won't be long.' She says something else" (Maggie, 2020, pp. 22)

The quote above describes the love and affection of a brother and sister. For the health of his sister Judith, Hamnet goes to find a healer so that his sister can be treated

4.1.2 Character and Characterization of Novel

1. Hamnet Shakespeare

Hamnet is a protagonist and twin brother of Judith. He's eleven years old and close to his sister Judith. His parents are not home when Judith falls ill, and Hamnet is frantically trying to save his sister. In the meantime, Hamnet also catches the same illness, but his mother doesn't notice. Judith's condition worsens, and it clears that she will die. Unable to send off his twin alone, Hamnet tries to switch her place with him and eventually dies.

2. Judith Shakespeare

Judith is Hamnet's identical twin sister. Judith is Hamnet's identical twin sister. She goes to play outside and returns with a flushed face. Her body shows the signs of bubonic plague, an incurable disease. She survives, but her twin brother Hamnet dies, and Judith blames herself for his death. Judith lives with the stigma of her brother's death and her father's ignorance.

3. Agnes Hathaway

Agnes is the mother of Susanna, Judith, and Hamnet. She is a healer and has an excellent knowledge of medicine. She is a lady of strong will, and it shows when she stays alone without her husband for her sickly child, Judith. Despite having a gift of healing, she experiences many heartbreaking incidents. She suffers from the trauma of losing her child and the infidelity of her husband. She suffers from the trauma of losing her child and the infidelity of her husband as well.

4. The Latin Tutor

The Latin Tutor's father has taken some debt from Agnes' father, which the Tutor pays by teaching. Agnes's brother learns Latin from his Tutor, and that's how the Tutor sees Agnes. He instantly falls for her beauty and mysterious charm. They both marry, and he focuses on expanding his glove business in London. Although he gets support from his wife, he doesn't care much about his family and indulges in writing plays. He becomes successful, still doesn't live with his family, and leaves Agnes alone. Hamnet's death changes everything between him and Agnes, and he even cheats on her.

5. John Shakespeare

John Shakespeare is the grandfather of the Latin Tutor. He needs a better reputation as a businessman. He agrees to marry his grandson to Agnes just because of debt settlement.

4.1.3 Plot of Novel

The novel comprises two alternating narratives. The first begins with the events leading up to Hamnet's death in 1596, while the second describes the events between Hamnet's parents' meeting and his birth.

The first narrative of the novel opens with eleven-year-old Hamnet discovering that his twin sister Judith is ill with a fever and buboes, egg-shaped bulges, under her skin. He tries to find the physician and his mother, Agnes, a healer, but both are absent. His grandparents are too distracted while his playwright's father is away in London. When Agnes and the physician arrive, the latter expects Judith to die. A more successful healer than the physician, Agnes attempts all the cures she knows to heal her daughter. The family is unaware that Judith's sickness originated from the faraway meeting of a Venetian glass merchant with a flea that fell off a monkey's back in Alexandria, Egypt.

Hamnet, too, is showing symptoms of illness, but no one notices these. As Hamnet cannot bear the thought that his twin will die while he continues to live, he makes a pact with death. He swaps clothes with Judith and vows to take her place as Death's victim. Agnes wakes to find that the dying twin is Hamnet, not Judith. There is nothing she can do to save him.

The second narrative of the novel begins with the meeting of Hamnet's parents. His father is a Latin tutor and the son of a disreputable glove-maker, while his mother is the daughter of a deceased yeoman and a forest-dwelling healer. By the time Agnes meets the Latin tutor, her mother is dead, and she is in service to her stepmother Joan, who is intimidated by Agnes' psychic and healing abilities. When Joan opposes a marriage between the Latin tutor and Agnes, the couple has sex. Their union results in a pregnancy and a rushed wedding, which John, the Latin tutor's father, favors because it lessens his debt to the deceased yeoman. Agnes goes to live with the Latin tutor and his family in Stratford. By her dead mother's guidance, she gives birth to her first baby, Susanna, in the forest. Over time, Agnes gains a reputation for her healing powers.

However, when Agnes is pregnant with her second baby, she is troubled by her inability to divine the child's sex and by her husband's restlessness and depression. She senses that he needs to get away from confining Stratford and go to London. Agnes originally planned to follow him there after she gave birth. When Agnes gives birth to twins Hamnet and Judith, she is afraid, owing to the psychic feeling that she was only meant to have two children and not three. She determines that she should oppose fate and ensure all three of her children's survival. As Judith is a frail child, Agnes maintains that London would kill her, so she decides that they will stay in Stratford. Subsequently, the children grow apart from their father, who becomes an increasingly successful playwright.

The final part of the novel chronicles the aftermath of Hamnet's death. While a devastated Agnes mourns her son at home, her husband feels that he must escape his grief in London. Although he still visits home periodically and acquires a bigger house for his wife and remaining daughters, he grows further apart from them and is unfaithful to Agnes. A few years later, when Agnes finds out that he wrote a play bearing their dead son's name, she is horrified. Determined to see the work, she finds that the space is her husband's means of resurrecting Hamnet and consoling himself over losing a child.

4.1.4 Setting of Novel

"O'Farrell brilliantly turns to historical fiction to confront a parent's worst nightmare: the death of a child. Set in Stratford, England, in the late 16th century, Hamnet imagines the emotional, domestic, and artistic repercussions after the world's most famous (though never named) playwright and his wife lose their only son, 11-year-old Hamnet, to the bubonic plague in 1596. Four years later, the boy's father transposes his grief into his masterpiece — titled with a common variant of his son's name — in which the father dies, and the son lives to avenge him." (Maggie, 2020, pp.16)

This quote explains the setting of a place of the novel that is in Stratford, England, and the location of time in the late 16th century.

4.1.5 Messages of Novel

Hamnet is ultimately a story about how the death of a son haunts his parents, while Hamlet is a tale about how the end of a parent haunts his son. O'Farrell cleverly ties the two together and explains how Shakespeare channeled his grief and guilt into writing.

4.2 Social Situation

4.2.1 Anxiety

Anxiety is an essential variable in almost all theories of personality. Anxiety, as a result of the conflict that becomes an unavoidable part of life, is seen as the primary personality dynamics; anxiety is a function of the ego to warn the individual about the possibility of an impending hazard so that appropriate adaptation reactions can be prepared. Anxiety will arise when people are not ready to face threats. Freud (in Alwisol, 2007: 27) suggests three types of anxiety: namely realistic anxiety, neurotic anxiety, and moral anxiety.

- a. *"Agnes walked back to the table. His first and only thought was of his daughter. Was this scent of sorrow, this dark matter, coming from him? Agnes buried her face in the boy's warm neck and deeply breathed. Is it him? Is his child, his girl, under threat from the gathering dark forces?" (Maggie, 2020, pp.139)*
This quote explains Agnes' concern for her child's safety; Agnes buried her face in her son's warm neck and took a deep breath. Agnes takes care of the condition and condition of her children, especially in a chaotic situation like the one she experienced, which made her very worried about the safety of her and her child.
- b. *"Mary wondered if the boys had heard her. Judith's fever had not subsided. The bubo on his neck is big and tight; it could burst. And then everything will be lost. The girl will die. Maria knows." (Maggie, 2020, p. 148)*
- c. This quote explains that Mary is worried about Judith's Fever, which has not subsided. The bubo on Judith's neck is enormous, very tight, and could burst. He was worried that Judith would face his death. In the quote, you can also see how Agnes sacrificed. According to Christian Dewi (2021), Sacrifice is giving up one's immediate self-interest to benefit a partner or a relationship.
- d. *"Does this marriage, this child, their life together cause malaise? Was it their home in this apartment that spent their life this way? He does not know. The thought made him panic. How could he tell her about the new child in his stomach when he was in this state? That might only have exacerbated his moodiness, and he couldn't bear to see his news met with grief, with anything less than joy." (Maggie, 2020, pp.141)*
The worry in this quote is illustrated by Agnes, who fears her pregnancy and marriage; she fears their home in this apartment consuming her life.
- e. *".....to keep holding his head like that: it gave him a sensation of lightness, of safety, of being entirely known and treasured. At the same time, he was aware of a curdling unease swilling about inside him, like a meal his stomach didn't want. He thought of the snip and snap of words that punctured the air between his father and grandfather, the way his father continually reached to loosen his collar when seated at a table with his parents. Swear to me, his father had said as they stood in the yard, his voice hoarse. Swear it. I must know you'll be safe when I'm not here to see to it." (Maggie, 2020, pp.20)*
This quote explains Hamnet's concern over the words of his father and grandfather. The talks given by his father and grandfather made anxiety thicken in him.

4.2.2 Forced Marriage

Marriage is the inner and outer bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife to form a happy and eternal family (Campmajó, 2020). Therefore, Almighty God, in carrying out a marriage, must be approved by both parties to the marriage without coercion from any party. In practice, however, some marriages are not entered into based on the free will of the parties but somewhat under pressure or influence from a third party, illegally, by coercion, by subordination to or by others, or by power. It may be concluded by abuse of Allow it to happen to him or others; it's called a forced marriage.

Marriage is a sacred thing. A happy marriage is everyone's dream, living together with your partner forever. However, sometimes, not everyone can feel happiness in their marriage; many couples divorce. Being friends with your partner is one way to make your marriage happy. Being friends with your partner makes married life more enjoyable; husband and wife can share stories and hobbies or do things that both of you like so that married life will not be boring. In addition, the commitments formed at the beginning of marriage must always be maintained and respected. When a husband and wife are fighting and feel their love is fading, they must never forget their commitment when they decide to get married. The marriage will be maintained and happy by making the couple become friends and carrying the burden that has been formed. However, in this novel, it cannot be felt by Agnes.

- a. *"Agnes had a strong sense that this arrangement had something to do with her brother and was perhaps part of her terms for the marriage. Bartholomew had been there when they first came over the threshold. He had looked over the narrow rooms, going up the stairs and coming back down, walking from wall to wall, before nodding at John, who had remained standing at the door." (Maggie, 2020, pp.104)*

In this quote, it is explained that Agnes was faced with a marriage she did not want, and she also felt that the arrangement of her marriage was one of the requirements. Agnes had to accept John's proposal because of family and economic demands. This made Agnes have few choices against what her family wanted.

- b. *"'No,' Agnes is shouting now, 'let me go.' How can she explain to these people that she cannot remain here, she cannot give birth to the child in this way? How can she make them understand the dread that has filled her ever since she heard the words of that letter?" (Maggie, 2020, pp.171)*

This quote explains that Agnes did not find happiness after her marriage because she did not want the union. Agnes is very romantic and has high aspirations, especially to be a woman who can live independently. However, the circumstances described in the novel make Agnes feel unhappy. This had an impact on Agnes's condition, which was experiencing stress, and it made her a gloomy and introverted person.

- c. *'I mean, yes. To...' She tries to focus on Gilbert, but his face and beard look blurry and indistinct. She is struck, once again, by how unlike his brother he is. 'To...' she casts around for a plausible place... the bakery.' He clamps his hand around her elbow. 'Come,' he says. 'Where?' 'Back to the house.' 'No,' she says, pulling her elbow away. 'I won't. I am going to the bakery, and you must let me go. You mustn't stop me.' 'Yes, I must.' 'No, you must not. (Maggie, 2020, pp.170)* The life experienced by Agnes was not a beautiful life after her marriage, where she received inappropriate treatment from her brother-in-law; this quote explains about Agnes who received improper treatment after her forced marriage.

- d. *John had attempted to smooth over the awkwardness, making a remark about hearths and happiness and wives, reaching forward to slap the son on the back. It was a gesture intended to be kind, in a fierce, fatherly sort of way, but was there not, Agnes would think later, something uneasy about it? Something unnatural? The slap had had a little too much force, a little too much intent. The son was not expecting it, making him stagger sideways and lose his balance. He had righted himself, almost too quickly, like a boxer or fencer, raising himself on his toes. They looked for a moment, the pair of them, as if they might begin to exchange blows, not keys. (Maggie, 2020, pp.104)*

In this quote, it is explained that Agnes used coercion against her child to respect her new father; Agnes did that because she respected her husband, and the marriage she was doing was not what she wanted.

4.2.3 Fear

In the book *Fears and Phobias*, dr. Tony Whitehead defines fear as a complex relationship between emotional and physical feelings. According to Gunarsa, fear can be caused by threats, so a person will tend to feel anxious to avoid it. Fear is classified as an essential emotion. Fear becomes a way to prevent or protect oneself so that feelings appear simultaneously. In the novel, you can see how scared the characters Agnes and Hamnet are.

- a. *"'No,' Hamnet cries, 'get away.' He tries to shut the door, but the creature puts out a hand and presses it back with horrible, preternatural strength. 'Get away,' Hamnet screams again, kicking out. Then his grandmother is there, pushing him. (Maggie, 2020, pp.114)*

In this quote, Hamnet's fear is described when he closes the door, and a creature measures its hand toward Hamnet.

- b. *"The baby is alive: Agnes doesn't realize, despite her intimations, how much she fears this might not be until she sees it twist its head and scrunch up its features into a yell of outrage. Her daughter's face is wet and greyish, with an expression of dismay. She holds her fists up on either side of her head and..... (Maggie, 2020, p. 123).*

In this quote, Agnes is afraid of her baby daughter, who is sick; her daughter's face is pale, and the passage says Agnes is crying because of her fear.

- c. *"'No,' Agnes says, panic beating, like a pulse, against her brow. She has to get to the forest; she must. She doesn't know what will happen if she is made to stay here. It won't bode well. Something will go wrong." (Maggie, 2020, pp.170)*

In this quote, we can see an image of Agnes' fear of choosing to live in the forest rather than living in a place she doesn't want to live.

4.2.4 Unwanted Life

The purpose of life is what a person plans for his life today, tomorrow, the next month, the following year, and even the next few years. People's life goals will differ from each other. My life goals will be different from the life goals that fellow readers have. According to experts, understanding the purpose of life is the process of establishing a person's self-identity. In other words, someone with a sense has a robust daily self-identity.

In today's modern society, individuals who know their life goals have met the main criteria for happiness. Only some people who know their purpose in life can quickly achieve true happiness. Few people end up suppressing their lives because they are too ambitious with their life goals. However, in this novel, the author shows the opposite, where Agnes no longer wants to have children and no longer wants her life.

- a. *"'No,' Agnes is shouting now, 'let me go.' How can she explain to these people that she cannot remain here, she cannot birth the child in this way? How can she make them understand the dread that has been filling her ever since she heard the words of that letter?" (Maggie, 2020, pp.171)*

This quote explains Agnes's life after her marriage. Agnes did not want to give birth in a way she did not wish to, and the life that Agnes faced after her marriage was very far from what she had expected.

- b. "Agnes is taken, half carried, half dragged, not to her narrow slip of a house, but to theirs, through their wide door, down the passage, and up the narrow stairs. A door is pushed open, and through she sails, her ankles held together, like a criminal, like a lunatic." (Maggie, 2020, pp.171)

This quote explains that Agnes did not do well; she was dragged away by being carried. This is not the life Agnes wants.

5. CONCLUSION

Conclusions regarding the social situation in Maggie O'Farrell's "Hamnet" can be made based on a general understanding of the story. The novel focuses on the life and death of William Shakespeare's son Hamnet in the 16th century. Some of the main points that may be included in this conclusion are Shakespeare's Family Life: "Hamnet" explores Shakespeare's family life, primarily through the lens of the character Agnes, Shakespeare's wife. The family's social situation can be reflected by their interactions and relationships with the surrounding community, including the challenges and dynamics they experience. Social Situation of the 16th Century: The novel provides an overview of the social situation of the time, including cultural norms, social class, and the role of women in society in the 16th century. This can include the limitations of women during that time and their role in the family and society. The Influence of Pandemics and Death: The theme of death and the influence of pandemics at the time can also reflect the difficult social situation in society. People's daily lives and responses to the outbreak of the disease can provide a deeper understanding of the social life of the time. Art and Culture: Through the character of William Shakespeare, the novel may also portray the world of art and culture of the time, including the challenges and opportunities writers and artists face.

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