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Social Actions of Rex Walls' *The Glass Castle:* A Weberian Analysis

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ABSTRACT

This research aimed to describe the kinds of social actions carried out by one of the main characters, Rex Sevanson Walls, in Jeannette Walls' book The Glass Castle, and to determine how social actions contributed to Rex Walls' life in achieving his goals. The researcher used Social Action Theory by Max Weber and applied a sociology of literature approach. The researcher collected data by reading the novel periodically, highlighting, and gathering data relevant to the formulation of the problems and theories used. After collecting the data, the researcher analyzed and categorized it into the social action components proposed by Max Weber. The social actions of Rex Walls found by the researcher included all components of Max Weber's social action. The dominant form of social action performed by Rex Walls was affectual action. Specifically, there were four instrumentally rational actions, two value-rational actions, five affectual actions, and four traditional actions. Finally, the researcher concluded how social action contributed to Rex Walls' life in achieving his goals. The purpose of Rex Walls' social actions was to develop the character of his children and to be a good father figure for them. The contribution of social action to Rex Walls' life was that it gave him a sense of fulfillment in carrying out his obligations as a father.

Keywords: *Main Character, Social Action, Sociology of Literature*

INTRODUCTION

In living life, as a human being, of course you have the drive or motivation to do something. Whether it's encouragement from other things or encouragement from ourself, in doing big things or small things. In sociology, this situation is called social action. In addition,

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to examine the existing social action on objects, researcher uses the sociology of literature approach.

Social action theory is a theory developed by German sociologists named Karl Emil Maximilian Weber or commonly known as Max Weber. In his book entitled Economy and Society, in sub-chapter *The Definition of Sociology and Social Action*, Max Weber (1978) told Sociology (in the sense in which this-highly ambiguous word is used here) is a science concerning itself with the interpretive understanding of social action and thereby with a causal explanation of its course and consequences. We shall speak of "action" insofar as the acting individual attaches a subjective meaning to his behaviour-be it overt or covert, omission or acquiescence. Action is "social" insofar as its subjective meaning takes account of the behaviour of others and is thereby oriented in its course."

The Glass Castle is a novel written based on the author's the true story, she is Jeannette Walls published in 2005. In the book she wrote, she tells how her parents raised Jeannette and her three siblings with a mediocre economic situation. The author describes the condition of his father who is very great in giving life lessons, about how to survive in a harsh life, how exciting it is to live with adventure, and how important it is to be yourself. However, not infrequently the father also disappoints his children because the future plans that until Jeanette grows up, the plan is just bullshit.

There are six main characters in *The Glass Castle* novel, each of which has its own uniqueness and goals in life. they are Rex Sevanson Walls as a father, who has the goal of educating his children to be independent and strong in their own way. Then there is Rose Marry as the mother of 4 amazing children, she aims to make all of her children free spirited and adventurous. There is Lori as the oldest sibling, she is the smartest and has a dream of becoming an illustrator. The second child is Jeannette Walls, the author of a novel entitled *The Glass Castle*, she has always dreamed of a quiet life and wants her father to stop drinking. Then Brian as the third child who wants to live a decent life. Maureen as the last and youngest child, she just wants to live in California. In addition, the actions they perform in the story are referred to as social actions.

In this social study, the researcher chose a novel written by Jeanette Walls entitled *The Glass Castle*, which was published in 2005 and had become *The First New York Times Best Seller*. The reason why researcher chooses this object is not only the story that is interesting, but also many lessons that can be taken and even used as research studies. From some of the stories written by Jeanette, including how her parents raised four of their children with a mediocre economic condition, then about her mother who remains an artist and is free, then her father is very smart in all science, and also how Jeanette motivates herself to out of her environment and live life according to her desire.

From some of the scope of the story described above, the researcher narrowed the study by choosing social action carried out by Jeanette's father, namely Rex Walls in educating his children about real life. This is because according to researcher, in the story written by Jeanette, her father played more important in the formation of the character of the child. In addition, the social action carried out by Rex Walls also makes researcher motivated to open the reader's view that everything that parents want is always good, even though according to the child the method is not right.

According to Jones, Bradbury and Boutillier (2016), social action taken in accordance to individual interpretation about others action in a certain situation. The implementation of

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social action is always conducted with other individual who is involved and also the other activity that occur simultaneously. There are four types of rational social action and those are: instrumental rational action, value rational action, affectual action, and traditional action.

As a support and complement to the research, the researcher used journals, articles, and theses related to the same theory. Several studies applied Social Action Theory. The first study, titled *Social Action Edward Kenway at Assassin's Creed Black Flag Oliver Bowden*, written by Firmansyah (2022), focused on Edward Kenway, the main character, who aspired to become wealthy after marrying Caroline Scott, hoping to return home rich. The second study, written by Pratama (2022) and titled *Social Actions of The Main Character in Chinua Achebe's A Man of The People*, examined how the two main characters had different political goals based on their social actions as individuals. The third study, *The Social Action of Main Characters in Jessica Shattuck's The Women in The Castle*, written by Kusumohastuti (2020), analyzed how the main character's social actions influenced their surrounding environment and shaped their lives.

In addition, the researcher also found several previous studies focusing on *The Glass Castle*. Gou and Ge (2020) examined *The Glass Castle* from the perspective of Natural Education in America. Yang and Congzhou (2018) analyzed Sino-American family education differences. Fike (2018) used *The Glass Castle* to explore *Jeannette Walls' Memoir: Four Perspectives on Teaching*. Yusnaviza (2019) analyzed the influence of the environment on Jeanette Walls' personality development. Salvati (2021) studied *The Subtle Distinctions of Memoir: Reclassifying Jeanette Walls*, while Basuki (2021) focused on Jeannette's struggle to achieve a better life.

This research aimed to fill the gap and contribute new knowledge to literary criticism, particularly regarding the chosen object. The key difference between this research and previous studies lay in the object and topic analyzed. The researcher applied Max Weber's Social Action Theory through a sociology of literature approach.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research was a literary criticism study, as it analyzed a literary work. Literary criticism served as the method for analyzing the data and elements within the literary work under study. The research aimed to explore in depth the social actions that occurred in the novel. Additionally, this study employed a sociology of literature approach to identify social actions through the social phenomena depicted in *The Glass Castl*e.

The primary data source for this research was the novel *The Glass Castle*, published in 2005 and written by Jeannette Walls, who was also one of the main characters in the novel. The book consisted of five chapters and 269 pages and was published in New York. To enhance the researcher's understanding of the object of study, the researcher also watched the 2017 film adaptation of *The Glass Castle*, directed by Destin Daniel Cretton.

In collecting data, the researcher applied several steps. The first step was carefully reading *The Glass Castle* little by little and repeating the process multiple times. After identifying instances of social action within the novel, the researcher highlighted the relevant parts of the text. After highlighting data related to Rex Sevanson Walls, the researcher analyzed and classified the social actions occurring in the novel based on Max Weber's Social Action Theory. The social action components included instrumentally rational action, value-rational action, affectual action, and traditional action.

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FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Rex Sevanson Walls' Forms of Social Action

According to Weber (1978), there are four components of social action: instrumentally rational action (*zweckrational*), value-rational action (*wertrational*), affectual action, and traditional action. These components are categorized into two groups: rational and irrational social actions. Instrumentally rational action and value-rational action fall under rational social actions, while affectual action and traditional action are classified as irrational social actions. The researcher used these types of social actions as a foundation for analyzing the actions taken by Rex Walls in achieving his goals.

Instrumental Rational Action (Zweck Rational)

The most effective and efficient way to accomplish one's goals is through instrumentally rational action, which is based on logical consideration and a complete awareness of one's actions. This type of action motivates individuals to engage in activities that contribute to achieving their goals. Since people act with a specific target in mind, instrumentally rational action is oriented toward a clear and absolute objective. According to Weber (1978), instrumentally rational action involves using appropriate means or tools as facilitators to achieve an individual's purpose.

The first instrumentally rational action demonstrated by Rex Walls was teaching his son how to shoot properly and throw knives. Rex Walls imparted these skills so that his children could defend themselves in dangerous situations. This is evident in the following quotation:

Datum 1:

> *He showed us how to aim and fire his pistol, how to shoot Mom's bow and arrows, and how to throw a knife by the blade so that it landed in the middle of a target with a satisfying thwock (Walls, 2005, p.16).*

This quote was included in the instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), instrumental rational action was a means of achieving an individual purpose by using tools as a facilitator to do so, and from the words *"how to aim and fire his pistol"* and the word *"how to shoot Mom's bow and arrows, and how to throw a knife by the blade"* showed that social action by Rex Walls was included in instrumental rational action.

The next instrumental action that found was when Rex Walls advised Jeannette not to be afraid of ghosts. Then Rex gave him a knife as a weapon against ghosts. Have a look at the quotation below:

Datum 2:

> *I got dad his knife with the carved bone handle and blade of blue German steel, and he gave me a pipe wrench, and we went looking for Demon. We looked under my bed, where I had seen it, but it was gone (Walls, 2005, p.31).*

Rex helped Jeannette conquer her fear by giving her his knife and taking Jeannette to look for the ghost that scared her, even though when she searched for the place where Jeannette was sure she would find her, the ghost was not there. The quote above was included in the instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), instrumental action was a

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means of achieving an individual purpose by using tools as a facilitator to do so, and from the words *"I got his dad's knife"* and the words *"he gave me a pipe wrench"* showed that the social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in instrumental social action.

The third instrumental action by Rex Walls described when Rex Walls punished their children because they argued and disobeyed the house rules. Here was the quotation:

Datum 3:

> *Dad whipped us with his belt, but never out of anger. Only if we back-talked or disobeyed a direct order, which was rare (Walls, 2005, p.52).*

From the words *"Dad whipped us with his belt, but never out of anger"* it could be concluded that his father punished his childern not because he was angry, but because his son violated the house rules. As explained in the quote that read *"Only if we back-talked or disobeyed a direct order".* The quote above was included in the instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), instrumental action was a means of achieving an individual purpose by using tools as a facilitator to do so, and from the words *"Dad whipped us with his belt"* showed that social action what Rex Walls did was included in the instrumental social action.

The last instrumental rational action that researcher found was when Rex Walls came home last night and he came in with a gash in his arm. then he asked Jeannette to sew it up. Here was the quotation:

Datum 4:

> *He threaded a needle with black thread, handed it to me, and pointed at the gash. "Sew it up," he said "Dad! I can't do that."*
> *"Oh, go ahead, honey," he said. "I'd do it myself, except I can't do diddly with my left hand." He smiled. "Don't worry about me. I'm so thoroughly pickled, I won't feel a thing." Dad lit a cigarette and placed his arm on the table. "Go ahead," he said (Walls, 2005, p.157-158).*

The quote above was included in the instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), instrumental action was a means of achieving an individual purpose by using tools as a facilitator to do so, and from Jeannette's expression which read "He threaded a needle with black thread, handed it to me, and pointed at the gash" shows that Rex asked Jeannette to stitch up his injured arm, and the social action that Rex Walls did was included in the instrumental social action.

Value Rational Action (Wert Rational)

According to Max Weber (1978), value rational action is come from a conscious belief in the value such as religious, aesthetic, ethical, or other kind of value. He also elaborates about example of a pure value-rational orientation would be the actions of an individual who act to put into practice their convictions of what seems to them to be requires by duty, honor, a religious call, personal loyalty, or another value they believe. Value Rational Action refers to behavior that is motivated by moral principles that an individual applies and upholds. Every person has an own moral code that drives their behavior.

The first value rational action that showed by Rex Walls was teaching subjects that are not taught in their school. It was showed in the quotation bellow:

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Datum 5:

> *We might enrol in school, but not always Mom and Dad did most of our teaching. Mom had us all reading books without pictures by the time we were five, and Dad taught us math. He also taught us the things that were really important and useful, like how to tap out Morse code and how we should never eat the liver of a polar bear because all the vitamin A in it could kill us. (Walls, 2005, p.16)*

The quote above was included in instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), value rational action was come from a conscious belief in the value such as religious, aesthetic, ethical, or other kind of value, and from Jeannette's statement which read *"Mom had we all read books without pictures by the time we were five, and Dad taught us math. He also taught us things that were really important and useful, like how to tap out Morse code and how we should never eat the liver of a polar bear because all the vitamin A in it could kill us."* showed that Rex taught his children mathematics, as well as subjects that were not studied at school such as Morse code and health information that eating polar bear liver was dangerous because of the existing vitamin A content, and the social actions carried out by Rex Walls were included in instrumental social action.

The next value rational action occured when Rex Walls showing Jeannette how to swim, and taught her to swim his way.

Datum 6:

> *Dad pried my fingers from around his neck and pushed me away. My arms flailed around, and I sank inti the hot, smelly water. "sink or swim!" he called out. I kicked at him and pushed away through the water with my arms, and finally, I was able to propel myself beyond his grasp. "you are doing it, baby!" Dad shouted. "you are swimming!" (Walls, 2005, p.59).*

The quote above was included in instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), value rational action was come from a conscious belief in the value such as religious, aesthetic, ethical, or other kind of value, and from Rex Walls' expression in Jeannette's quote reads *"sink or swim!"* shows that Rex wanted Jeannette to be able to swim like her siblings, and Rex believed that the way he was doing was the right way and made Jeannette able to swim, and it turned out to be true. From Jeannette's statement which read *"I was able to propel myself beyond his grasp. "you are doing it, baby!" Dad shouted. "You are swimming!"".* So, the social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in the instrumental social action.

Affectual Action (Especially Emotional)

An activity that originates from a human feeling is known as an affectual action. Max Weber (1978) argues that this action comes from actor's emotional states and certain affects. Affectual Action is determined by the actor's specific affects and feeling states. People are influenced to act in accordance with their inner emotions. exemplified by a specific behavior, such as happiness, rage, jealousy, or fear.

The first affectual action that found was when Rex Walls advised his son not to be prejudiced against something, and not to judge other people. As told in the quotation bellow:

Datum 7:

> *Mom and Dad like to make a big point about never surrendering to fear or to prejudice or to the narrow-minded conformist sticks-in-the-mud who try to tell everyone else what was proper. We were supposed to ignore those benighted sheep, as Dad called him (Walls, 2005, p.67).*

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The quote above was included in instrumental social action because according to Max Weber (1978), affectual action was action comes from the actor's emotional states and certain affects and was determined by the actor's specific affects and feeling states. From Jeannette's expression which sounded *"Mom and Dad like to make a big point about never surrendering to fear or to prejudice or to the narrow-minded conformist sticks-in-the-mud who try to tell everyone else what was proper"* showed that Rex and Rose wanted their child not to meddle in other people's affairs or judge other people's affairs. They even told their children not to care about things that didn't concern themselves, as in Jeannette's saying *"We were supposed to ignore those benighted sheep"*. So, the social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in affectual action because of his concern for his childern.

The next affectual action occured when Rex Walls opened his son eyes to be kind to animals and control himself around animals. Here is the quotation:

Datum 8:

> *Dad pointed to the biggest, scaliest alligator. "Me and that nasty-looking bastard's going to have us a staring contest". Dad stood on the bridge glowering at the alligator. At first it seemed to be asleep, but then it blinked and looked up at Dad. Dad continued staring, his eyes in a fierce squint. After a minute the alligator thrashed its tail, looked away, and slid into the water. "see, you just have to communicate your position" Dad said (Walls, 2005, p.100).*

Rex emphasized to his children to be kind to all the animals they met, because animals were living things just like humans. The above quote was categorized as affectual action because, according to Max Weber (1978), affectual action was driven by an individual's emotional states and specific feelings. Such actions were determined by the actor's emotions rather than rational calculation. This was evident through Jeannette's expression, which reflected the emotional motivation behind Rex Walls' actions, which read *"Dad stood on the bridge glowing at the alligator. At first it seemed to be asleep, but then it blinked and looked up at Dad. Dad continued staring, his eyes in a fierce squint. After a minute the alligator thrashed its tail, looked away, and slid into the water. "see, you just have to communicate your position" Dad said"*, indicating that Rex wanted to show his children how to be kind to wild animals and show that wild animals wouldn't be mean as long as humans treated them well. the social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in affectual action because of his concern for her child so that her child.

Then the third affectual action was when Rex Walls offered Jeannette a birthday present, and she asked her father to stop drinking. So, he did it. Here was the quotation:

Datum 9:

> *In the morning Dad told me that for the next few days, he was going to keep to himself in his bed room. He wanted us kids to steer clear of him, to stay outside all day and play. A few days later, Dad was able to walk around, but he had no appetite, and his hands still trembled. I told Mom that maybe I had made a terrible mistake, but Mom said sometimes you have to get sicker before you can get better. Within a few more days, Dad seemed almost normal, except that he'd become tentative, even kind of shy. He smiled at us kids a lot and squeezed our shoulders, sometimes leaning on us to steady himself (Walls, 2005, p.109-110).*

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After having a long chat about Jeannette's birthday, Rex offers something that Jeannette might want on her birthday with the sentence *"If there's anything I can do for you now, before you're gone, I want to do it"* (p.108). After that, Jeannette asked Rex to stop drinking alcohol with the phrase *"Do you think you could maybe stop drinking?"* (p. 109). Finally, after a few days of thinking, Rex decided to obey Jeannette's wishes and stop getting drunk as Jeannette said above, *"Within a few more days, Dad seemed almost normal, except that he'd become tentative, even kind of shy. He smiled at us a lot and squeezed our shoulders, sometimes leaning on us to steady himself.".* The quote above was included in affectual action because according to Max Weber (1978), emotional action was action comes from the actor's emotional states and certain affects and was determined by the actor's specific affects and feeling states. The social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in affectual action, because the action taken by Rex Walls shows his love for Jeannette.

For the next affectual action that showed by Rex Walls was helping Jeannette understand the courses she took in the class. It was explained in the quotation bellow:

Datum 10:

> *In August, Dad called to go over my course selection for the fall semester. He also wanted to discuss some of the books on the reading lists. Since he'd come to New York, he'd been borrowing my assigned books from the public library. He read every single one, he said, so he could answer any questions I might have. Mom said it was his way of getting a college education along with me. (Walls, 2005, p.248)*

The quote above was categorized as affectual action because, according to Max Weber (1978), affectual action came from the actor's emotional states and certain affects and was determined by the actor's specific affects and feeling states. From Jeannette's expression which read *"Dad called to go over my course selection for the fall semester. He also wanted to discuss some of the books on the reading lists"*, and the phrase *"he'd been borrowing my assigned books from the public library. He read every single one, he said, so he could answer any questions I might have"* that Rex wanted to help Jeannette understand the lessons that Jeannette found difficulties. Before discussing Jeannette's question, Rex had first gone to the public library to study every subject Jeannette took in the semester that took place. The social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in affectual action, because Rex's action showed his great love for Jeannette, as well as his concern for his child's education.

The fifth Rex Walls' affectual action was when Jeannette wanted to quit college because in the final semester she took she had to pay two thousand dollars and Jeannette couldn't afford it, because all this time she was studying on a scholarship. However, Rex Walls prevented Jeannette from dropping out of college and helped pay for it. Here was the quotation:

Datum 11:

> *When he asked me what courses I had signed up for. I said, "I'm thinking of dropping out." "The hell you are," Dad said. "Why didn't you tell me sooner?" Dad asked. Dad called a week later and told me to meet him at Lori's. when he arrived with Mom, he was carrying a large plastic garbage bag and hand a small brown paper bag tucked under his arm. I assumed it was a bottle of booze, but then he opened the paper bag and turned it upside down. Hundreds of dollar bills-one, five, tens, twenties, all wrinkled and worn-spilled into my lap. "There's nine hundred and fifty bucks," Dad said. He opened the plastic bag, and a fur coat tumbled out. "That there's mink. You should be able to pawn it for fifty, at least."* (*Walls, 2005, p.248)*

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The quote above was included in affectual action because according to Max Weber (1978), affectual action was action comes from the actor's emotional states and certain affects and was determined by the actor's specific affects and feeling states. From Jeannette's expression, which sounded *"I said, "I'm thinking of dropping out."*, it showed that Jeannette wanted to drop out of college because of a lack of funds to pay next semester's fees. But Rex Walls forbade it with the sentence *""The hell you are," Dad said."* Then Rex helped her by bringing some money he had and a leather coat worth the money Jeannette needed to pay off the next semester's college tuition. That action was expressed by Jeannette in the sentence *"he was carrying a large plastic garbage bag and hand a small brown paper bag tucked under his arm. I assumed it was a bottle of booze, but then he opened the paper bag and turned it upside down. Hundreds of dollar bills-one, five, tens, twenties, all wrinkled and worn-spilled into my lap. "There's nine hundred and fifty bucks," Dad said. He opened the plastic bag, and a fur coat tumbled out. "That there's mink. You should be able to pawn it for fifty, at least."*. The social action carried out by Rex Walls was included in affectual action, because the action taken by Rex showed his great love for Jeannette, as well as his concern for his child's education. In addition, because of Rex's action above, finally Jeannette could attend the lecture next semester which she would be taking.

Traditional Action

Traditional action was determined by ingrained habituation. According to Weber (1978), he stated that purely conventional conduct, such as the reactive imitation type that had been previously discussed, was often on the other side of what might be considered meaningfully focused action. He also stated that traditional action was based on traditions that had been rooted for generations. This type of action referred to behaviors that were based on tradition or had been repeated since ancient times. Since behavior was frequently guided by an almost instinctive response to habitual stimuli, it followed a course that had been repeated multiple times. The vast majority of daily activities to which people had grown accustomed resembled this type of action.

The first traditional action demonstrated by Rex Walls was when Jeannette was admitted to the hospital, and her family brought her home in their own way. Here is the quotation:

Datum 12:

> *A few days later, when I had been at hospital for about six weeks, dad appeared alone in the doorway of my room. He told me we were going to check out, Rex Walls-style. He unhooked my right arm from the sling over my head. As he held me close, I breathed in his familiar smell of Viitalis, whiskey, and cigarette smoke. It reminded me of house. He unhooked my right arm from the sling over my head. As he held me close, I breathed in his familiar smell of Vitalis, whiskey, and cigarette smoke. It reminded me of home. (Walls, 2005, p.10-11)*

The quote above was categorized as traditional action because, according to Max Weber (1978), traditional action was based on traditions that had been rooted for generations. This type of action referred to behaviors that were based on tradition or had been repeated since ancient times. From the line *"He told me we were going to check out, Rex Walls-style."* shows Rex carrying Jeannette out of the hospital Rex Walls style. So, it can be concluded from the word *"Rex Walls-style"* that the Walls family always did the same thing when they brought their children out of the hospital.

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The next traditional action shown by Rex Walls was when his family had to stay in the desert and had no mat or pillow, he said that sleeping with no mat and pillow would build good posture. Here was the quotation:

Datum 13:

> *Later that night, dad stopped the car out in the middle of the desert, and we slept under the stars. We had no pillows, but Dad said that was part of his plan. He was teaching us to have good posture. The Indians didn't use pillows, either, he explained, and look how straight they stood. We did have our scratchy army-surplus blankets, so we spread them out and lay there, looking up at the field of stars. I told Lori how lucky we were to be sleeping out under the sky like Indians. (Walls, 2005, p.14)*

The above quote was included in traditional action. According to Max Weber (1978), traditional action was an action based on traditions that had been rooted for generations. This action referred to actions that were based on tradition or actions that had been repeated since ancient times. From the sentence *"but Dad said that was part of his plan. He was teaching us to have good posture. The Indians didn't use pillows, either, he explained, and look how straight they stood."* shows that Rex showed his childern how Indians could have good posture, by not using pillow and mat when sleeping. After his son understood and followed his words, sleeping without using a pillow and mat became a tradition every time they spent the night in the desert. The third traditional action shown by Rex Walls was when he taught his children not to be afraid of rain and mingle with nature.

Datum 14:

> *Some parents worried that their kids might get hit by lightning, but Mom and Dad never did, and they let us go out and play in the warm, driving water. We splashed and sang and danced. Great bolts of lightning cracked from the low-hanging clouds, and thunder shook the ground. We gasped over the most spectacular bolts, as if we were all watching a fireworks show (Walls, 2005, p.17-18)*

It was often found that some parents were really worried when their children were playing in the rain because maybe other parents thought that playing in the rain would cause colds, chills, or possibly slipping. The Jeannette's quotation above was included in traditional action. According to Max Weber (1978), traditional action was an action based on traditions that had been rooted for generations. This action referred to actions that were based on tradition or actions that had been repeated since ancient times. From the sentence *"but Mom and Dad never did, and they let us go out and play in the warm, driving water. We splashed and sang and danced. Great bolts of lightning cracked from the low-hanging clouds, and thunder shook the ground. We gasped over the most spectacular bolts, as if we were all watching a fireworks show."* showed that Rex and Rose never forbade their children to play in the rain. The above quote was included in traditional action because it could be seen from the words *"but Mom and Dad never did"*, showed that Rex and Rose always allowed their children to play when it rained and mingle with nature.

Another traditional action taken by Rex Walls was when he told his son that Santa Clause didn't exist because of the Walls family's tradition of not being able to afford to buy their children gifts every Christmas.

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Datum 15:

> *I never believed in Santa Claus. None of us kids did. Mom and Dad refused to let us. They couldn't efford expensive presents, and they didn't want us to think we weren't as good as other kids who, on Christmas morning, found all sorts of fancy toys under the tree that were supposedly left by Santa Claus. (Walls, 2005, p.34)*

Santa Claus was a favorite character for children, but generally, they did not know that Santa Claus was not a real figure like in fairy tales, who brought Christmas gifts and drove a flying sleigh when Christmas arrived. The quotation above was included in traditional action. According to Max Weber (1978), traditional action was an action based on traditions that had been rooted for generations. This action referred to actions that were based on tradition or actions that had been repeated since ancient times. From the line *"I never believed in Santa Claus. None of us kids did. Mom and Dad refused to let us."* showed that Rex and Rose educated their children not to believe in Santa Claus. With the reason they couldn't buy good toys like other parents, as stated in the sentence *"They couldn't efford expensive presents, and they didn't want us to think we weren't as good as other kids who, on Christmas morning , found all sorts of fancy toys under the tree that were supposedly left by Santa Claus".* could be inferred from the quote *"Mom and Dad refused to let us."* that Rex and Rose never let their children believe in Santa Claus, and this situation had became a tradition in her family.

The Social Action Contribution in Rex Walls' Life to Achieve His Goals

The social action carried out by Rex Walls had certain goals that he thought were the right way to achieve his objectives. Even though he was a heavy drinker, Rex Walls still tried to fulfill his role as a father in the best way he believed. Researchers grouped Rex Walls' goals into two points. The following was Rex Walls' goal in carrying out social action in a story written by his daughter, Jeannette Walls, the second of four children.

Developing Children's Character

In educating his children, Rex Walls always had his own way of developing their character and knowledge. He wanted his children to have an adventurous spirit, be brave and tough, and possess a self-aware attitude while still being kind to others. In addition, Rex Walls also instilled in his children's minds that they had to be able to adapt to all the conditions experienced by the family.

In her writing, Jeannette stated that her father, Rex Walls, had many ways to teach new things, open up new insights, and train his children's abilities. Some of the things he taught were lessons that were not covered in academic schools. The following quotes provide evidence of how Rex Walls achieved his goals.

The first quote that demonstrates social action in the form of character development by Rex Walls is shown below:

Datum 16:

> *He was teaching us to have good posture. The Indians didn't use pillows, either, he explained, and look how straight they stood. We did have our scratchy army-surplus blankets, so we spread them out and lay there, looking up at the field of stars. I told Lori how lucky we were to be sleeping out under the sky like Indians.* (*Walls, 2005*, p.14)

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In the quote above, the author described how Rex Walls trained his children to be able to live in any situation they faced. The quote took place when his family was traveling and spending the night in a rocky desert.

The next quote that demonstrates social action in the form of character development by Rex Walls is shown below:

Datum 17:

> *Mom had us all reading books without pictures by the time we were five, and Dad taught us math. He also taught us the things that were really important and useful, like how to tap out Morse code and how we should never eat the liver of a polar bear because all the vitamin A in it could kill us. (Walls, 2005, p.16)*

The author, Jeannette, described in the quote above how Rex Walls provided knowledge and lessons that were not taught in schools, such as complicated math, Morse code, and a warning not to eat polar bear liver because it contained vitamins that could be fatal to humans. The next quote that demonstrates social action in the form of character development by Rex Walls is shown below::

Datum 18:

> *That was the thing to remember about all monsters, Dad said: The love to frighten people but the minute you state the down, they run tail and run. "All you have to do, Mountain Goat, is show old Demin that you are not afraid" (Walls, 2005, p.32)*

As written in the quote above, Rex Walls advised and guided Jennette not to be afraid of ghosts while sleeping in the desert that night. He gave his knife to Jeannette as a weapon. The next character development by Rex Walls to his children is in the quotation bellow:

Datum 19:

> *I never believed in Santa Claus. None of us kids did. Mom and Dad refused to let us. The couldn't efford expensive presents, and they didn't want us to think we weren't as good as other kids who, on Christmas morning, found all sorts of fancy toys under the tree that were supposedly left by Santa Claus. "I want that one" I said. Dad grinned, "That's Venus," he said Venus was only a planet, he went on, and pretty dinky compared to real stars. She looked bigger and brighter because she was much closer than stars. (Walls, 2005, p.34-35)*

In the quote written by Jeannette above, she described how Rex Walls instilled in his child's mind that Santa Claus was not real. He did this because he did not want his children to feel deceived, and he also did not have the money to buy gifts for them. Therefore, Rex gave a unique gift to his child in the form of a star in the sky, which he let them choose alternately.

Being a good father figure

Even though he was known as a heavy drinker, Rex Walls still wanted to be a good father figure for his children. He always tried to help his children with their difficulties, even though the family's economic conditions were quite challenging. He found ways to do things that normally required money without spending any. Below are some quotes that describe how Rex Walls tried to be a good person for his children. The following quote is proof that Rex Walls attempted to be a good father figure for his children:

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Datum 20:

> *He unhooked my right arm from the sling over my head. As he held me close, I breathed in his familiar smell of Viitalis, whiskey, and cigarette smoke. It reminded me of house. (Walls, 2005, p.11)*

From the quote above, Jeannette describes how Rex Walls had to take Jeannette away from the hospital in the style of the Walls family, by taking her away. This was done because Rex didn't have the money to take him home the usual way.
Further quotes showing that Rex Walls wanted to be a good father figure to his children are mentioned below:

Datum 21:

> *A few days later, Dad was able to walk around, but he had no appetite, and his hands still trembled. I told Mom that maybe I had made a terrible mistake, but Mom said sometimes you have to get sicker before you can get better. Within a few more days, Dad seemed almost normal, except that he'd become tentative, even kind of shy. He smiled at us kids a lot and squeezed our shoulders, sometimes leaning on us to steady himself. (Walls, 2005, p.110-111)*

The quote above showed how Rex Walls tried to stop drinking alcohol and make Jeannette's wishes come true. She wanted her father to stop drinking as a gift for his tenth birthday.

The following is the next quote which shows that Rex Walls wants to be a good father figure for his children:

Datum 22:

> *Since he'd come to New York, he'd been borrowing my assigned books from the public library. He read every single one, he said, so he could answer any questions I might have. Mom said it was his way of getting a college education along with me. (Walls, 2005, p.248)*

As a father figure, Rex Walls tried to fulfill his role well by helping Jeannette understand and discuss the courses she took each semester. Due to a lack of funds to buy books, Rex Walls went to the library to borrow books and find reference materials to discuss with Jeannette.
The following is the last quote that shows that Rex Walls wanted to be a good father figure for his children:

Datum 23:

> *Dad called a week later and told me to meet him at Lori's. when he arrived with Mom, he was carrying a large plastic garbage bag and hand a small brown paper bag tucked under his arm. I assumed it was a bottle of booze, but then he opened the paper bag and turned it upside down. Hundreds of dollar bills-one, five, tens, twenties, all wrinkled and worn-spilled into my lap. "There's nine hundred and fifty bucks," Dad said. He opened the plastic bag, and a fur coat tumbled out. "That there's mink. You should be able to pawn it for fifty, at least." (Walls, 2005, p.248-249)*

At the end of the semester, Jeannette wanted to drop out of college because she did not have the means to pay her tuition fees. She only had a thousand dollars, which was half of the amount she owed. During this time, Jeannette had been studying at university with a government scholarship. However, Rex Walls forbade her from dropping out, and after a few weeks, he came to her with money and a jacket to sell, which together would cover the remaining amount needed to pay for college. The contribution of social action to Rex Walls' life

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was that it allowed him to feel he was fulfilling his obligations as a father. This is reflected in the quotation above.

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

This study applied Max Weber's Social Action with a sociology of literature approach to one of the main characters, namely Rex Walls, in a novel entitled The Glass Castle, written by his second child, Jeannette Walls. The purpose of this study was to find out the forms of social action by Rex Walls and how social action contributed to his life in achieving his goals.

After analyzing the novel, the researcher found that Rex Walls' dominant form of social action was affectual action. With the following details: there were four instrumentally rational actions, two value rational actions, five affectual actions, and four actions in the form of traditional actions. In addition, the researcher examined how social action contributed to Rex Walls' life in achieving his goals. Rex Walls had two main goals. The first goal was to develop the character of his children, and the second goal was to be a good father figure for them. Despite his habit of being a heavy drinker, Rex Walls always tried his best for his children.

In the end, the researcher hoped that this research would be useful for readers, both scientifically and technically. After examining *The Glass Castle* as a research object using social action theory and a sociology of literature approach, the researcher found several issues that might be explored by future researchers. Some potential research topics included poverty, ecranization, character development, and parenting. If readers were interested in researching *The Glass Castle*, the researcher advised them to read it first to identify relevant data or issues suitable for research.

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