

**THE PRUDENT SOLUTION TO RECOVER THE ECONOMIC DOWNFALL
AS DEPICTED IN LILLIAN HELLMAN'S *THE LITTLE FOXES***

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Abstract: *The aims of this research is to describe the problem solution reflected in the drama 'The Little Foxes' written by Lillian Hellman, especially dealing with the problems in the South of the United States and the awakening spirit following its economic downfall.. The source of the main data is the text of the drama itself. The supporting data are collected through a librarian research. The data intrinsic and extrinsic data are analyzed and the results are presented descriptively. The findings show that the economic crisis experienced by the Southerners that are symbolized by the characters of 'The Little Foxes' was caused by the civil war, the fall of the aristocracy, the ambition of the New Southerners and the influence of the North.. Finally the author offers an alternative solution to overcome the conflicts by presenting Alexandra, who represents a young generation to realize a wise strategy of solving problems. She adopts aristocratic values that appreciate and respect very much humanity and justice, and at the same time she step forward confidently, facing the challenges as well as the opportunity of the new era. Alexandra is the symbol of an alternative solution.*

Keywords: *problems, economic downfall, awakening spirit.*

1. Introduction

1.1. Background

Economic problems are closely related to people's living condition. The availability of goods supporting life is vital. No society can create harmony without financial stability. Human needs rely absolutely on how income is received sufficiently to guarantee their existence sustainability. It is agreed that logistic stock is the key of the people's satisfaction. Consequently, people will not let their significant potency remain uncertain. They like to work hard rather than let their future remain uncertain. These people have been conscious that their fate is based on their own efforts, not the blessing of others.

The revival spirit of people who have just experienced economic downfall is portrayed in a play written by a popular American playwright Lillian Hellman in her work entitled *The Little Foxes*. It describes how hard the Southern people of the United States have to awaken themselves from the economic crisis following their defeat in the Civil War that occurred in 1861-1865. Since their cotton plantation was destructed during the war, they could not rely on their vital source of income anymore. Instead, they have to be creative to adopt the new paradigm of economic management in the beginning of industrialization era.

Instead of the general opinion on the gloominess of Hubbards family, this study spots the young generation of Hubbards_representing the New Southerners_the positive point of view. The

researchers put the characters as if they were humans <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/downfall> in this real life, as people who have two sides of reality, they are positive side and negative one. In addition, the researchers place them in the neutral state. They are of the opinion, even though a little, that The Hubbards must also possess positive reality. They show human nature, even when they are stuck, they stay strong, seeking the way out to survive.

1.2. Problems

In this study the researchers want to view the drama story from the positive side of the Hubbards' spirit to survive and to find the best alternative solution to save their economy economy following the serious bad impacts of the Civil War, as described in Lillian Hellman's *The Little Foxes*.

2. Review

2.1. Definition of 'prudent solution'

Prudent means careful or acting only after careful thought or planning; and solution means answer to a question or way of dealing with a difficulty (Hornby, 1974). In the context of this study 'prudent solution' refers to 'the act of Alexandra to overcome the conflicts of the Hubbards' family wisely.

2.2. Economic Downfall

According to the Webster's Dictionary (2022) 'downfall' means 'a sudden fall (as from power) or 'fall (as of snow or rain) especially when sudden or heavy'. Economic downfall in this context has something to do with the tragic fall of Southerners' economic glory in the past. In the story of *The Little Foxes* the Southerners as represented by the Three Hubbards (Oscar, Ben and Regina) who formerly enjoyed fantastic wealth as the result of their cotton plantation, but now suffered from the ruin of their farm.

2.3. Drama *The Little Foxes*

The Little Foxes was drama written in 1939 by Lillian Hellman, the most prominent woman playwright in American. She was born on June 20, 1905 in New Orleans, and is one of many notable Southern writers in twentieth century American literature. Her play talks about family's socio-economic problems in the South that are created by technological change and the Civil War.

It is in such a situation Lillian Hellman sets her play *The Little Foxes*. Simon (2010) stated that '*The Little Foxes* is meant to be a realistic drama about New Orleans 1900'. There are many similarities of real events in the setting of place and ones presented in the drama. Sugiantoro (2009) described there was a conceptual change among Trio Hubbards family. The materialistic concept passed down from their parents was then followed by Leo. However, his cousin Alexandra had a different concept of life. She wished her family came back to the 'track' before falling down in the more tragic circumstances.

'*The Little Foxes*' belongs to a social problem play, that is 'a play in which the situation of the protagonist is so rendered as to indicate that it represents a contemporary sociological problem' (Abrams, 2015). In '*The Little Foxes*' the author delivered her criticism of the American society in the early twentieth-century. In a country of hopes and dreams of freedom and happiness, American people still experienced many problem of life during the era called 'the Great Depression'. (Mohammed, 2015)

3. Method

3.1. Data source

This study was done with qualitative method, involving intrinsic and extrinsic data. Intrinsic data deal with the use of those coming from inside the text of *'The Little Foxes'* written by Lillian Hellman. Meanwhile extrinsic data are searched from any data sources outside the drama text. These include the information about the author and events behind the creation of the drama story.

3.2 Data collection

The intrinsic data were collected by quoting the parts of the drama entitled *The Little Foxes* written by a famous woman writer from America, Lillian Hellman. Meanwhile, extrinsic data concerning historical events relevant to the situation and condition backgrounds of the story were searched through librarian research and online browsing. The combination of the intrinsic and extrinsic data was needed to enable the researchers to perform contextual analysis.

The drama text was not created without any intention, as it was regarded as a social problem play, that is *'a play in which the situation of the protagonist is so rendered as to indicate that it represents a contemporary sociological problem'* (Abrams, 2015).¹ The conflicts among the characters symbolize the real social events of particular period of time. Taking the cultural and situational context into consideration in literary works analysis will make it clear what the author implicitly means by her story (Sumarlam, 2005).

3.3 Analysis

The qualitative analysis in this study was focused on three main points. They are: 1) the problems of the American South as the consequence of its defeat in the Civil War.. 2) the economic downfall, and 3) the prudent alternative solution of the economic crisis offered by Lillian Hellman's *'The Little Foxes'*. The researchers use comparative approach to show the correlation between intrinsic and extrinsic data.

4. Findings And Discussion

4.1 Findings

4.1.1. The Summary of *The Little Foxes*

The three Hubbards_Regina, Oscar and Ben_plan a business partnership with a Chicago businessman, Marshall, "to bring the cotton mills to the cotton." The contract says that the three are required to put up two hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, while Marshall will invest four hundred thousand dollars. The three will then get 51 percent of interest, and Marshall will get 49 percent of it.

Ben and Oscar have prepared their share, but Regina still waits for the approval of her husband, Horace, from whom her share will be paid. At that time Horace has been having treatment in a hospital in Baltimore for five months. Through correspondence, in fact, they have discussed the matter, but he does not send back any comments.

Horace has not given his approval, even when the contract is about to be signed. They are confused in trying to find a solution. Regina promises to persuade Horace to approve their plan provided that she will get more than a third profit for a third contribution. Considering that the contract may be considered null and void without Regina's settlement, the brothers accept her proposal.

Being picked up by Alexandra, Regina's daughter, Horace finally comes home. Instead of letting him take a rest, Regina immediately invites him to discuss the planned transaction with her brothers. As he does not seem to be interested in such a partnership, Horace always avoids discussing it, as he knows that it will not give them much benefit. Regina, however, does her utmost to change Horace a mind, without considering his fragile health. In the end, Horace remains firm in his decision not to join their plan.

Optimistically believing that she will gain what she plans, Regina wants to move to Chicago, a Northern city which, in her sense, the modern world and is settled by the right people, because she is bored living in the South. Ironically, however, the forceful constraint even comes from her own daughter, Alexandra. She daringly refuses to move to Chicago when Regina makes her do so. Alexandra prudently maintain the harmony of the family, treating her father Horace patiently, making her mother Regina aware of her fault, and cooling down the conflicts among the Hubbards' big family. Alexandra appears to be the rising star in her family, who is able to control the never-ending quarrels

4.1.2 Problems in the South

The Little Foxes' is regarded as a portrait of a family conflicts, in which Regina, one of the main characters, illustrated as a greedy woman who wants to dominate the business joint venture with Marshall from the North of America. She envied with her two brothers, Ben and Oscar and she said "Then Papa died and gave Ben and Oscar all the money". (Als, 2010).

A serious economic crisis happened to the Hubbards family. It was partly caused by their own fault., that is the competition among the three Hubbards to dominate the shares of the joint venture with a businessman from the North of the US, Marshall. may be decreased or 'cured'. But the damage of the Lionnet, the symbol of South plantation was a more serious factor. As the main income of the family was from the farm, that they could not rely on any longer, financial problems continued uncontrollably.

In referring to the old values, Lillian Hellman dramatizes Birdie. In the world that has changed she still acts in accordance with her ancestors' traditions. As her way of acting looks strange to others, she frequently becomes the object of laughter and is not taken into serious account. She can do nothing but dream of the return of the family's past glory.

When the Hubbards entertain the Northern guest, Mar shall, she wishes to show him that she is inherited from the dignified and generous ancestors, by showing him the music album revealing that her father and mother used to go to Europe just to listen to music. She also tells him that her parents, in their journey to Europe, meet very popular persons who then give them a sign program and a big picture.

Such romantic manners are regarded as being out of date and worthless by the other characters. Oscar, her husband, even worries if she will bore Marshall, whose visit is merely to discuss a business matter. In defending her opinion, Birdie generalizes the way of thinking, as she states that Marshall's idea is the same as hers. This is illustrated in the following dispute:

Oscar : *You have been chattering to him like a magpie. ...I can't think he came the South to be bored with you.*

Birdie : *He wasn't bored. I don't believe he was bored. He's a very educated, cultured gentleman. I just don't believe it. You always talk like that when I'm having a nice time.*

Oscar : You have had too much wine. Get yourself in hand now.
Birdie : What am I doing? I am not doing anything. What am I doing?
Oscar : I said get yourself in hand. Stop acting like a fool.
Birdie : I don't believe he was bored. I just don't believe it. Some people like music and like to talk about it (Hellman, 1979)

Shortly, Ben and Oscar can prepare their share, while. Regina still waits for approval from her husband Horace, from whom her share will be paid. Horace has been treated in a hospital in Baltimore for five months. Through correspondence they actually have discussed the matter, but he sends back no comments.

Since the contract is about to be signed, the brothers force Regina to submit her share as soon as possible. Realizing that her part is extremely valuable for the partnership, she requires, in the name of Horace, more than her fair share for a third of the investments. Otherwise, she threatens not to persuade Horace to approve their plan. Meanwhile, the contract is possibly considered null and void without Regina's settlement.

This is the beginning of their conflicts. In order to keep the prior promise to Marshall, Ben would rather comply with her request, since this seems the only way out. He asks her,

Ben : What do you want?
Regin : Twice what you offered.
Oscar : I think you've gone crazy.
Ben : You won't get it. There isn't any chance of that man, 1979)

From the above quotation it is clear that the brothers are actually heavy hearted over admitting the forty percent profits for Regina for her one-third contribution. At first Oscar bitterly refuses this unfair decision, because the extra percentage will be reduced from his share. The quarrel is somewhat pacified by Regina's promise that she will consider allowing her daughter Alexandra to marry Oscar's son Leo, and Ben's promise to give his property to the couple. Ben says, "I'll never marry". and this means that he will have no descendants. (Hellman, 1979),

The occurrence above shows that the unfairness is mainly caused by their desire to supply the need for capital, which, in fact, is beyond their power. This symbolizes the lack of the New South's capital, that is absolutely demanded for industries

Now it is Regina's fulfillment of her promise which is quickly needed. She sends Alexandra to bring Horace back from the hospital. Actually, Alexandra reminds her mother not to force her father home, in case he may be still sick. However, she gives in to her mother's vigorous reason that she can check his condition every time, and she pretends to confesses that she has been longing for him so much.

Regina's force upon others seems to grow wilder. This is proved when Horace comes with Alexandra. He is still seriously sick and hopeless. To make him stay alive, he must take the pills once every four hours. Ironically, he wonders why he is expected home so soon and in such a

bad condition. He tries to ask Alexandra, but she herself does not seem to know, either. There seems to be some secret in the family. Reminded by Regina's last service in bed ten years ago, Horace sneeringly says that he rather feels more at home in Baltimore than coming back to his own family. Husband and wife have been estranged for ten years, during which they have never slept together. He tells her,

<i>Horace</i>	<i>I didn't have a bad time....After I got used to that I liked it there.</i>
<i>Regina</i>	<i>You liked it? (Coldly) Isn't that strange? You like it so well you didn't want to come home ?....</i>
<i>Horae</i>	<i>Nor did I tell them that my wife has not wanted me in bed with her for-- (Sharply) How long is it, Regina?...Ten years? Did you bring me home for this, to make me feel guilty again? .(Hellman, 1979)</i>

The quotation above shows that the family has not been harmonious for a long time. And tragically, instead of feeling guilty about her past wrong deeds, Regina even puts further pressure on her husband to approve her plan.

Social crisis and disharmony in the South started when the Southern countries defend the policy of pro-slavery, that is opposed by Northern countries. The Civil War was lit by the burning of Fort Sumter a spot of land belonging by law to the United States government by the Confederate troops in April 12, 1861 (Smith, 1961). The day after this incident, Lincoln called 75,000 state militia into Federal service for ninety days, to put down the insurrection of the South.

Before the Civil War, the South was aristocratic with cotton plantation as the basis of their economy. Accordingly, the eleven proslavery States Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and Texas agreed to withdraw from the United States government after the 1860 election of President Abraham Lincoln. The Southerners worried about Lincoln's policy to abolish slavery-that served as one of the characteristics of aristocracy.

They would willingly confirm the Southern independence by arms, unless the Union government allowed them to retain and expand slavery. At that time Southern States were actually outnumbered by the Northern in population and war preparation. However, they thought that Great Britain would support the South, since its people needed the South's cotton for their mills. Besides, they assumed that Northern farmers, mechanics and immigrants would not fight, or if they did, they would be outmatched by Southern patriotism.

The other factor causing the South's crisis was the domination of the North. After 1893, however, an increasing amount of capital came from the North, since Northerners found it advantageous to invest their money in the low wage manufacture and plantations in the South. Until the end of the nineteenth century it was said that Yankees constituted a majority of directors in companies of the South. This proved the power of the Northern economic domination in the growing South, as one observer reported, "the Federal brigadier was almost as prominent in the iron world of the South as the Confederate brigadier was in the political world at Washington.". (McPherson, 1982)

4.1.3. The Economic Downfall

Having used to live so nobly and honorably, Birdie feels awkward to be the member of the Hubbards. In the Hubbard family whose way of life depends on the realistic and practical concerns, she still acts in the romantic behavior and, tragically, dreams of the return of her family's past glory. She wants to get the Lionnet back from the Hubbards. This shows that though she becomes a member of the Hubbards, for she marries Oscar Hubbard, she cannot psychologically join their group. Instead of trying to adjust herself to the contemporary values, she is just proud of being descended from such generous ancestors. She says, *"My mama and papa used to go to Europe for the music. Imagine going all the way to Europe just to listen to music. Wouldn't that be nice?"* (Hellman, 1979)

After the Civil War, however, this condition is in the past. Birdie's father, who used to be known as a brave soldier, was killed in the war. The others, as Ben reports, *"ride off, leave the cotton and the women."* The Lionnet, which in its time becomes the symbol of Southern prosperity, is almost ruined, and the rest of the family, instead of trying to manage it, complete the ruin of their heritage.

Their failure to maintain the Lionnet proves that they are incapable to learn the way to do it, since their ancestors did not teach them about it, or even they did not try to learn it themselves, as indicated by Ben's comments that, *"Southern aristocrat can adapt himself to nothing. Too high-tone to try It is difficult to learn new ways. But maybe that's why it's profitable"* (Hellman, 1979)

That is the tragic story of the Lionnet which is followed by their further financial depression. The Hubbards, on the other hand, always try to learn and adapt to new efforts to survive themselves. They are in trade, a kind of job that the aristocrats look down and regard as dishonorable business. When the aristocrats' plantations come into ruin, it is the most appropriate time for them to get the lands at a low price. Finally, they take over the Lionnet and Ben makes Oscar marry Birdie.

The conflicts happen as the side effect of their efforts to leave an old system and to adopt a new one. These, in turn, create further social disorder. A certain group often utilizes such a bad condition as an instrument to benefit themselves, neglecting the worse impact of their evil conduct in society. Generally, such unfair actions are constrained, however weakly, by an upright group whose integrity leads them to create social harmony. The resistance of these two opposite forces undoubtedly occurs anywhere at any time, as pointed out by an American civil rights leader, Martin Luther King, Jr. that *"In justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere"* (Barrows, 1968). In *'The Little Foxes'* such controversy is illustrated by the everlasting fight between the three Hubbards as the representative of the corrupt and Horace, Birdie and Alexandra as the representative of the upright people.

The poor South that had not been fully entering the industrial world now even faced its complete devastation from the total war. Most Southerners lost their farms, plantations and livestock. They found their large buildings and cities ruined. Economically, they faced a serious depression. Historian Charles A. Beard reported that *"Miles of Southern railways had been torn up; rolling stock had been wrecked; railway stations and offices had been burned. Families that had let in business and agricultural development were impoverished. The financial system lay in ruins. ... Confederate paper money was valueless and specie had*

Now it is clearly illustrated that instead of their lack of capital, the three Hubbards have strong ambition to step into industrial business by founding Hubbard Sons and Marshall Cotton Mills. They think that this is the only way to keep on surviving. This occurrence symbolizes the South's

experience in the end of nineteenth century and in the beginning of the twentieth century, in which its income decreases, following the drop of the price of cotton. Concerning this economic depression, one historian points out, “Southern per capita income, which had been two-thirds of the Northern average in 1860, declined to only two fifths by 1880 and remained at that level for the rest of the century (McPherson, 1982)

Such a condition seems to be caused, partly, by the cotton overproduction, as the South was intensified by a one-crop system. The result was that the output of cotton more than doubled between 1869 and 1889, but its price dropped by half, while the cost of supplies to farmers decreased by only one-fifth. Tragically, the lower the price of cotton, the more a farmer planted it in order to meet his debts. This way only drove the price down further. Most planters, in turn, could not avoid their bankruptcy, because cotton is “everything” for them, as a North Carolina farmer complainingly comments,

We ought to plant less (cotton and tobacco) and more of grain and grass, but how are we to do it; the man who rations at 50 percent interest won't let us; he wants money crop planted....It is cotton! Cotton! Cotton! Buy everything and make cotton for it (McPherson, 1982)

The drop of the cotton's price is, in fact, not the only reason of the general post-Civil War decline of the South's income. It is also situated by the destruction of the facilities by the war itself, by the shortage of hours of the Black labors as a consequence of the emancipation, and by the reluctance of outside capital after 1870 to invest in Southern agriculture when more attractive opportunities exist elsewhere.

4.1.4. The Prudent Solution

In *The Little Foxes* Lillian Hellman displays William Marshall as a representation of the North. When the Hubbards meet their financial depression, he appears and becomes their “hero” who “has opened the door” of their future. The Hubbards invite him to make a business partnership as to improve the benefits of their lands which now give them decreasing production. They will prove that investment in agriculture can equalize the one in rail roads that dominate major investment at the time. Such conviction can be observed from Ben's statement in the last drink with Marshall, when he says:

“we drink the last drink for a toast. That's to prove that the Southerner is always on his feet for the last drink It was Henry Frick, your Mr. Henry Frick, who said, “Railroads are the Rembrands of investments. “ Well, I say, “Southern cotton mills will be the Rembrands of investments.” So I give you the firm of Hubbard Sons and Marshall, cotton Mills, and to it a long and prosperous life” (Hellman, 1979).

Marshall' as a symbol of the Northern powerful influence upon the economic growth of the South that seems to be incapable to meet its own demands by their own power. This means that Southerners still face many constraints to step into industrialization. Such a condition is partly caused by their bankruptcy dealing with their lands and partly by their lack of industrial mastery.

In *'The Little Foxes'* Lillian Hellman presents a straightforward discussion of the Southern problems after the Civil War. This is a social problem play a play in which “the situation of the protagonist is so rendered as to indicate that it represents a contemporary sociological problem. (Abrams, 2015). The main problems that are portrayed in the play, as discussed in the earlier chapters, are the collapse of the old values, inability to recognize the kind of change and new values that must come, and the exploiting manners of the society as a side effect of the transitional process.

The following discussion will show Lillian Hellman's view on the aristocratic values, the concept of individualism and humanity that are delivered through her characters.

Horace recognizes that he may not succeed in realizing his idealistic opinion, but he is wise enough not to make the unharmonious conditions any worse. He leaves such conditions to any "Reginas".

In the end of the play Lillian Hellman figures Alexandra to be a heroic character, as she seems to continue her father's unfinished "duty". From the beginning of the play, the author shows her brilliant viewpoint. Pointing out the plan of her marriage with her cousin Leo, she states that such an idea is still out of her mind. This, in fact, is just her way to refuse her engagement to Leo, since she does not like his figure. This can be observed from the following conversation that is quoted from her aversion to go to Baltimore, in case that her father may be much disturbed;

As a responsible and prudent girl, Alexandra carefully considers this invitation. At last, she takes courage to refuse it. She even wants to get away from her mother, as her father once suggested, though her mother forces her to stay. Alexandra firmly informs that she will never change whatever she has decided, unlike Regina who seems to be unstable with any decisions. This is clearly reflected in the following conversation:

Alexandra	<i>I'm going to get away from you. Because I want to. Because I know Papa would want me to.</i>
Regina	<i>And if I make you stay?</i>
Alexandra	<i>This would be foolish. It wouldn't work in the end.</i>
Regina	<i>Well, you'll change your mind in a few days.</i>
Alexandra	<i>You only change your mind when you want to. And I didn't want to (Hellman, 1979)</i>

Apart from her material pursuit, Regina even wonders about her own future, especially after Alexandra refuses her invitation. She feels powerless to prevent Alexandra's desire. This is the time when she becomes conscious of having the responsibility of a mother and of her declining potentiality, as she wisely advises Alexandra: "Alexandra, I've come to the end of my rope. Life goes too fast. Do what you want; think what you want; go where you want. I'd like to keep you with me, but I won't make you stay.... No, I won't make you stay. (Hellman,1979)

It is on Alexandra's shoulders to overcome her family's problem. Consequently, she has to face any risks and challenges. She has to free herself from her mother's intimidation and the marriage forces to her cousin Leo. Besides, she must take the social responsibility by fighting those who want to disturb social harmony. This can be observed from the following courageous statement, which seems to be the messages of Lillian Hellman. Even Alexandra is also portrayed as a golden-hearted girl who has future vision of performing black and white cooperation. This is shown in her and Addie's strong spirit to fight against injustice anywhere (Watson, 2009). Lillian Hellman shows this in the following excerpt:

Addie said there were people who ate the earth and other people who stood around and watched them do it. And just now Uncle Ben said the same thing..... Well, tell him for me, Mama, I'm not going to stand around and watch you do it. Tell him I'll be fighting as hard as he'll be fighting some place where people don't just stand around and watch (Hellman,1979).

This was the best opportunity favorable to the poor farmers who used to be jostled up lands, the urban lawyers, bankers, merchants, investors or corporations to get more of the plantation lands. They were the new generation the New Southerners who replaced the position of the cornered aristocrats and tried to conduct a new concept, that might not be in accordance with the old traditions. They tried to adapt to industrialization, as exemplified by Northerners. Now they roused their spirit of improving their standard of living and, in turn, raising their social ranks. Even before the Civil War they envied the privileges of the aristocratic landlord's social position.

The development of the South gradually found its good fate. The new great farmers competed to get better lands and demonstrated their ability to create large scale farming by applying new skill and rising capital. As a result, the output of cotton in 1890 was about three fourths larger than it had been in 1860. In addition, the increasing cotton production was supported by other factors that contributed to further progress. New factories had been built, towns grew rapidly, and adequate railway lines were constructed, as shown in the following illustration:

Richmond, Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio became thriving centers of manufacturing and commerce. To cope with the demands for transportation, additional railway lines were built, old lines were improved, consolidations made among short lines. Between 1865 and 1880 the mileage was more than doubled. By 1900 it had been more than doubled again (Beard, 1960).

The high tone enthusiasm was mainly brought about by the new orientated reformers or movements that regarded the old traditions as inappropriate to maintain blindly. Such a concept was, for example, asserted by the Readjuster Movement from Virginia, that was of the opinion that South erners must abandon “dead customs and effete traditions of the old South and align itself with the great and growing States of the North to develop the industrial and human resources of the New South.”¹⁹ For this Southerners should overcome their dependence upon mere agriculture. The North was also agricultural, but it managed their lands by mixing to the great innovation useful to it. They had tried and succeeded in manufacture and commerce, for which they were known as “Yankee trader. “

The South has now shown its awakening spirit and its efforts to create economic modernization in order to overcome its inferiority, especially compared with the North. Southern thinkers called for the rise of industrialization to “save” the South. They recognized that the South had been defeated in the Civil War, but they believed Southerners would succeed in industry. Henry Grady, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* and the foremost proponent of the New South ideology, daringly stated:

“We have sown towns and cities in the place of theories, and put business above politics. We have challenged your spinners in Massachusetts and your iron makers in Pennsylvania....We have established thrift in sty and country. We have fallen in love with work” (McPherson, 1982).

Eventually, while the Southern economic growth seems to be cunning, it is not the Southerners that taste it much, but the outsiders. Although new industries grow impressively, the Southern economy remains dependent upon the North.

4.2. Discussion

Problems can affect any people anywhere. It is almost impossible to find a person who has no problem at all. The good person is not measured from the fact whether he has a problem of life or

not. Instead, he has to demonstrate his capabilities in facing his problems confidently. People, of course, need not intentionally seek any problems. At the same time, however, they should not run away when they have to face life risks. Risks must be managed prudently. The economics crisis test people to improve their capabilities to handle them wisely. They have to manage as good as possible, with risk management. If risks cannot be avoided people have to face them (Sofyan, 2005).

That is true that men are created freely and an individual has his own human rights. On the other hand, however, it is also agreed that human beings are social being, in that an individual cannot live independently one hundred percent without the help of others. If people develop the individual concept only, they do not take others into account. They act and think merely for their own benefits. They neglect other people and like to do things for their own sake

In *'The Little Foxes'* Lillian Hellman presents controversial concepts of life. The aristocratic concept, represented by the appearance of Birdie, proves to be on the contrary to the new concepts, represented by the trio Hubbards, that tend to be individualistic and materialistic. The opposition of these different orientation even brings about family gap.

Such a condition possibly happen here and there, and an alternative solution needs to be found. Lillian Hellman seems to present Regina's daughter Alexandra to show alternative concept. She is close to Birdie, her aunt, who teaches her good aristocratic values that are still relevant to new situation and condition. She even criticizes her own mother and like to fight against injustice anywhere. It is appropriate to follow Alexandra's concept, that is applying the modern concept but still adopting the good values of the old days. There is a worry that the old concepts of friendliness, solidarity and togetherness will be abandoned by the young generation who are easily affected by the great wave of globalization that lack of sense (Noor, 2022).

5. Conclusion

From the data elaboration and the discussion above, the researchers conclude as follows:

5.1 The Problem of the South

Before the Civil War the South was dominated by aristocratic plantation owners who emphasized values of nobility in their lives. After the war, however, their social position was replaced by the New Southerners the upstart poor farmers, bankers, lawyers and traders whose ideology was not in accordance with the aristocrats.

The other reason of their conflict was, especially among the new orientated persons, their individual drive to be dominant over others. Such a drive reflected a social Darwinian view that the surviving organism is one that best fits the current environment. On the contrary, that which is not adaptable will be gradually wiped out. The New Southerners tried to adapt themselves to the contemporary conditions coming about due to industrialization. As it was difficult to struggle for adequate capital in the undeveloped South, they were frequently stimulated to takes short-cut by conducting corrupt and exploitative actions.

5.2. The Economic Dwnfall

The The Little Foxes offers several insights on life, that are especially important to a developing nation like Indonesia today. First, it demonstrates that one's happiness is not necessarily accomplished by the accumulation of property. Second, Lillian Hellman suggests that people must

adapt to the realities of the current environment, without at the same time abandoning their former traditions that still reflect general truths and values of humanity.

It is also agreed today that in the present industrial era, people should still maintain our unity and solidarity, and conduct upright behavior as emphasized in our traditions popularly called ‘local wisdom’. Relating with this, it may be wise to follow the approach of Lillian Hellman’s character Alexandra in *The Little Foxes*. Alexandra tries to move ahead, controlling the risky conditions wisely, while she does not abandon the old human values bequeathed from her ancestors. It is worrying that the indication stated Alan Holder, in people’s rush to be modern, might happen that: “Industrialization had produced an atomized society. While industrial machines are geared to manufacturing cheap goods, the higher values of society are degraded (Holder, 1980).

5.3. The Prudent Solution

Regardless many conflicts and failure occurred in the past, the New Southerners were arising to find the best solution. They were aware of the facts that to survive they have to adapt themselves to the era of industrialization. To develop their industry, unfortunately, they lack of capital. That is why they need a joint venture with business men who are willing to help them to recover their economic downfall. For this project they have to improve their personality and capability, in addition to their natural resources_their farm. They needed to revitalize their cotton industry. Through the *Little Foxes* Lillian Hellman offers an alternative solution, by presenting Alexandra, a young figure who have complete good characters to follow. She is a young generation who are:

- 1) Honest : frankly speaking of what are in her mind, even when it has some consequences in the future.
- 2) Reliable : trusted to be an upright person by her surroundings.
- 3) Loyal : always close to those having good character and responsibility
- 4) Active : having initiative to realize her duty, without postponing what she do immediately
- 5) Communicative: like to contact others for a better relationship.
- 6) Wise : considering and emphasizing advantages and avoid disadvantages
- 7) Officious : giving her good service needed by others, although they do not ask her to do so.
- 8) Intensive : emphasizing the qualified result, regardless any limitation she has.
- 9) Coordinative: ready to work together with her team and all colleagues without any discrimination.

These are the features of young generation that should be prioritized.

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