Introduction:

They hang the man and flog the woman
That steal the goose from off the common,
But let the greater villain loose
That steals the common from the goose.
-English folk poem, ca,1750.

The term capitalism is referring to an owner of capital shows earlier use than the term capitalism, dating back to the mid-seventeenth century. Capitalism is derived from capital. It was frequently interchanged with a number of other words-wealth, money, funds, goods, assets, property and so on. David Ricardo, in his Principles of Political Economy and Taxation (1817), referred to “the capitalist” many times. S.T.Coleridge, an English poet, used capitalist in his work Table Talk (1823). According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term capitalism was first used by novelist William Makepeace Thackeray in 1854 in The Newcomes, where he meant “having ownership of capital”. I have cited some definitions of capitalism from various places to put forward the meaning of capitalism and its use in literature and daily life.

The word Capitalism meant “an economic and political system in which a Country’s trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit.”…Dictionary com.

“Capitalism is a social system based on the principle of individual rights.”

“Capitalism is an economic system characterized by the following: private property ownership exists; individuals and companies are allowed to compete for their own economic gain; and free market forces determine the prices of goods and services. Such a system is based on the premise of separating the state and business activities. Capitalists believe that markets are efficient and should thus function without interference, and the role of the state is to regulate and protect.” Theory of Economic Development (1912, p.21), portrays the notion fairly accurate.

It is easy to forget that CAPITALISM was not so long ago in the mid 19th century, when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing, and individual entrepreneurs
were creating new industries and amassing wealth. Terms for the other two major competing economic systems of the past two centuries are socialism and communism. At the same time it became common to designate all such coinages as “isms”: terms formed by adding the suffix-ism to a root word in order to expand its meaning to encompass a related system, theory, or practice. Thus from a fairy word, Capital the relatively newer word, Capitalism was formed to describe the emerging economics of the west.

In the general sense, the meaning of Capitalism seems straightforward; referring to an economic system in which private individuals, rather than governments, own property and businesses. But beneath the surface, strong currents of opinion and theory swirl about the term. Many people fiercely espouse capitalism as an economic freedom inseparable from democracy, as reflected in several books considered classics and still avidly read today: for eg. Capitalism and Freedom by Milton Friedman (1962), and Capitalism, Socialism and Democracy by Joseph A. Schumpeter (1943). So it may be a challenge to use the term without triggering a discussion of its broader political context. Thomas hardy very skillfully inserted the theme of capitalism in his novels. His novels exuberance capitalist views with the help of characters, setting, color, themes etc. Hardy records a great many incidents which taken together, help us better to understand the formation of his idiosyncratic imagination and to account for the pervasive capitalism in his novels and poetry. Hardy’s early sense of capitalist grow rejection of a self life. He reflected on a world that neglects us, a full of agony, sorrow, death also. Hardy’s characters suffer from disparity between their goals and economic status. His characters are mostly from rural era, rustics who suffer from lower economic status. It is necessary to put forward that how capitalism is a major part of Hardy’s writing which remained neglected.

Thomas hardy was an English novelist and poet. He was born at Higher Bockhamptona, hamlet in the parish of Stinsford to the east of Dorchester, England. His father Thomas worked as a stonemason and local builder. His mother Jemima was well-read. For several years he attended Mr. Last’s Academy for young gentlemen in Dorchester. Here he learned Latin and demonstrated academic potential. However, a
family of Hardy’s social position lacked the means for a university education, and his formal education ended at the age of sixteen when he became apprenticed to James Hicks, a local architect. He was acutely conscious of class divisions and his social inferiority. However, he was interested in social reform and was familiar with the works of John Stuart Mill. He was also introduced to the works of Charles Fourier and Auguste Comteduring this period by his Dorset friend, Horase Moule.

His works typically belonged to the capitalism which was a literary movement taking place in mid 18th century. That used detailed realistic description of social conditions; heredity and environment had inescapable force in shaping human character. It was depicted as a literary move that seeks to replicate a believable everyday reality, as opposed to such movements as Romanticism or Surrealism. His works are inserted with capitalistic means. He created such plots which show us disparity between master and worker, landlord and slave, richness and poverty etc. Hardy’s works exposed the dark harshness of life, including poverty, racism, sex, violence, prejudice, disease, corruption, prostitution, and filth because of capitalistic means in the novel.