

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

As living in a society nowadays, social class has become a core of issue appearance. Social class distinguishes one who is upper and another who is lower. The upper, exactly has power that furtherly defeats the position of the lower. The lower class, in the other hand, has no enough capability to against or even equalize their position with the upper one. The social class influenced by economic, politic, education, race, etc that being majority in a country. As the impact of this, those who have higher capability, however do any oppression toward the lower. They easily do that due to the power they own and then realizing that those who are in lower position will not against them due to their insufficient capability.

Social class in society has varied over time. According to philosopher Karl Marx, "class" is defined as the relationship to the means of production (their relations of production). The classes in modern capitalist society, according to Marx, are the proletariat, who are in lower class that do not own the means of production; and the bourgeoisie, who are in upper that invest and live off of the surplus generated by the former.

As the effect of gap existence between upper and lower social class, those who are in upper class or are called as capitalist one oftentimes do some oppression to the lower class or usually called proletariat. Gill (1994:233) states

that oppression refers to relations of domination and exploitation-economic, social and psychologic-between individuals; between social groups and classes within and beyond societies; and, globally, between entire societies. Injustice refers to discriminatory, dehumanizing, and development-inhibiting conditions of living (e.g., unemployment, poverty, homeless, and lack of health care), imposed by oppressors upon dominated and exploited individuals, social groups, classes and peoples. These conditions will often cause people to turn to social services for help. Oppression seems motivated by an intent to do any exploitation (i.e., benefit disproportionately from the resources, capacities, and productivity of others) and it results typically in disadvantageous, unjust conditions of living for its victims. It serves as a means to enforce exploitation toward the goal of securing advantageous conditions of living for its perpetrators.

Young (1990), there are five kinds of oppression, they are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, culture imperialism, and violence. Oppression consists in systematic institutional processes which prevent some people from learning and using satisfying and expansive skills in socially recognized settings, or institutionalized social processes which inhibit people's ability to play and communicate with others or to express their feelings and perspective on social life in contexts where others can listen.

In related to the oppression the upper class do, the lower class make forceful or violent efforts to get free of restraint or constriction named struggle. Mbengo (1978) stated that there are three classifications of class struggle obtained in society, they are economic, politic, and ideology. It is

conducted as the result of the oppression they got from the upper class that has more powerful than them. To maintain their life and against what they have experienced, they do struggle even they know how hard it is.

Over recent years there has been a growth in support for what can broadly be described as struggle among many mainly young people who are rightly angry about any radical matter, their experience of sexism, racism, homophobia, prejudice against disabled people and other forms of oppression. Getting know that people are oppressed, and that they can fight against the oppression through a common struggle with others who share the same oppression become a vital first step.

The realization of oppression and also lower class struggle to against it can be represented in many forms. Having background in the real life, many people try to pour it into some fictive or non fictive forms in order people know how the existence of oppression is. One of them is in a literary work.

Literature represents life which deals with internal and external factors of human life. A literary work is a relate part of human experiences, civilizations and evolution. It will be interested to criticize it, because people will get a lot of knowledge by the criticism. Analyzing literature means analyzing human life as experience, ideas, motivations, emotions which are expressed into the words. By analyzing literary work people can get a better view of things that happen in people's character.

Film is one of literary works people love to see. Nowadays many people love watching films. This phenomenon can be seen from the number of people

coming to the cinema. This is due to the fact that watching film is enjoyable and entertaining. Many people enjoy fictional stories whether in the form of films or novels. A film creates an illusion that what occurs on the screen is an objective recording of events. A film has become part of that extensive cultural system of constructions that represent social reality. A film describes the psychological aspects of character.

Snowpiercer is one of several films that shows oppression and also class struggle involvement. It is the enthralling and thought-provoking post-apocalyptic graphic novel that inspired the critically acclaimed movie starring Chris Evans. Originally published in French, this marks the first time that Snowpiercer will be available in English. In a harsh, uncompromisingly cold future where Earth has succumbed to treacherously low temperatures, the last remaining members of humanity travel on a train while the outside world remains encased in ice.

The surviving community are not without those that travel at the front of the train live in relative luxury whilst those unfortunate enough to be at the rear remain clustered like cattle in claustrophobic darkness. Yet, things are about to change aboard the train as passengers become disgruntled.

Due to the film implied the realization of oppression and social class struggle, the writer is attracted to analyze it. The theory used is Karl Marx's that categorizes class struggle into three parts. In addition, this film also has unusual plot and story which is very interesting to be watched become additional mark of the writer to choose it as the subject of the study.

B. The Problems of the Study

Based on the background above, the focus issues to discuss in this study was formulated as follows:

1. What kinds of oppression are experienced by working class community?
2. How are the struggle to the oppression realised in the movie?

C. The Objectives of The Study

1. To find out kinds of oppression experienced by the lower class.
2. To explain the realization of lower class struggle when against the oppression.

D. The Scope of The Study

In conducting this research, the writer limited the social class struggle of lower class toward oppression acted by upper class shown by some characters. So, the classes were divided into two; those who do the oppression, e.i upper class and those who receive the oppression, e.i lower class. The writer focused on their statements, dialogues, or actions in this film.

E. The Significance of Study

That was expected that findings of the study offer theoretical and practical significans:

Theoretically, the writer conducted this research in order to know kinds of struggle of lower class toward oppression done by upper class. The writer expected the result of this research would be useful for him and the readers generally in order to know more information about social class struggle and oppression itself

Practically, the writer expected that this research can give more contributions for everyone especially for the whole members of English and Literature Department State University of Medan. Last, the writer also expected that the result trigger the readers to be aware on this issue because this also becomes a hot issue until now.

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