CLASS STRUGGLE IN ALICE IN WONDERLAND (2010) MOVIE THROUGH MARXISM APPROACH

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Abstract

This study examines the class struggle of Alice in Wonderland (2010) movie, and bases on Lewis Carroll's story, as seen through the lens of Marxist theory. The study concentrated on the class conflict depicted by the characters in a movie. Class struggle is portrayed in the movie through scenes and dialogues in which researchers see the problems between the Queen of Hearts and the Frog Footman, Queen of Hearts and Mad Hatter and Alice and Jabberwockys.

Keywords: Marxism, Class Struggle, Alice in Wonderland

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a part of art that has developed in human society for centuries (Kuswoyo et al., 2020). While is a science that aims to discover the objective laws of social life in all expressions, including creativite art) (Heaverly & EWK, 2020). As (Woro Kasih et al., 2019) added that literature as the main tool must have values, including moral values. This literature is adapted to the preferences of the community. Furthermore, many popular literature indicates the existence of issues related to existing culture and history (Puspita & Pranoto, 2021). Fictions are separated into historical, romance, and crime fiction (Suprayogi et al., 2021), which are simply known as popular fiction or, to be more explicit, genre fiction (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021). A literary work not only to bring joy to its readers but also to provide value and education. The literary work that relies on the text has become one of the work's strong important aspects, allowing its reader to have greater imagination based on each reader (Nurmala Sari & Aminatun, 2021). While in a film, the sound effects, moving pictures, and other aspects become the work's power, it limits the viewer's imagination toward its job (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2021).

The discussion of the sociology of literature depends on the existence of the social background, changes, and social development of the literary work itself (Fithratullah, 2019) (Kuswoyo & Indonesia, 2021). Every literary work has its own uniqueness in portraying certain society's phenomenon (Wahyudin & Sari, 2018). For this reason, the discussion of the sociology of literature will focus on three thin: the sociology of the writer, the social content of the work itself, and the influence of literature on society (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2020). According to Marx, exploitation and domination that govern the social and economic order as part of human life are the determinants of the entire order of cultural life of society (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021)(Sartika & Pranoto, 2021).

Karl Marx is popularly known as the father of critical criminology (Puspita, 2019)[i]. The concept of class struggle is essential to Marxism: "Freeman and slave, patrician and plebian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another" (Marx and Friedrich, 1888, p. 79). Literary work is not only seen from intrinsic elements but also extrinsic elements (Adelina & Suprayogi, 2020). Both intrinsic and extrinsic elements can be seen in certain literary works (Sinaga & Oktaviani, 2020). The movie Alice's Adventure in Wonderland was born in the Victorian era. This era is known as the industrial revolution era (Kardiansyah, 2021). The industrial revolution made Britain a superpower with the largest area in the world (Afrianto et al., 2021). The industrial revolution created a new social class in British society. This class is the middle class.

Alice in Wonderland is a unique Disney masterpiece with multiple characters and stories (Indonesia, 2022). It tells the story for fun and doesn't seem educational compared to the later characters in the movie (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019a). Characters in this class wear little to no clothes while the upper class is dressed more extravagantly (Muliyah et al., 2020). The main character, Alice, is a teenager between the ages of ten and twelve. She's a bit younger than most of the female characters in Disney movies. Alice is not a princess who is "always ready, yearning, dreaming of a man" unlike other Disney characters. They don't want to create their own world, they want a part of their world for children to imagine their own world . Marx assumes that the tone of literature reflects the author's own social class. From this theory, Carroll ironically and exaggeratedly talks about the upper class, so one might conclude that Carol is a citizen of the lower class. (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018) shows how minorities fight for life and satisfy their desires as lower classes. Based on the explanation above, the authors conclude that in the movie entitled Alice in Wonderland there are characters where their attitudes and behavior imitate each other (Oktaviani et al., 2022). These characters are dominant with material, and power that describes the upper class who is trying to dominate and trying to control everything." They are educated and knowledgeable, but rely on their authority and power to get others to do something for them." The background of this research is the author's interest in conducting research using Karl Marx's theory and studying Marxism more deeply. The writers found three class truggles in the movie such as the Queen of Hearts and the Frog Footman, Queen of Hearts and Mad Hatter and Alice and Jabberwockys. The purpose of writing an article is to find class struggle in Alice in Wonderland movie.

LITERATURE REVIEW

In doing this research the writer is also looking for other research such as journal or article that has similar theories and similar object that are used in research but with a different point of view. There are some journals that analyze using Marxism Literary theories. The first researcher is to analyze ideology and revolution from a Marxist view. The title of the first research is *"Marxist's Ideology and Revolution Analysis of George Orwell's novel "Animal Farm"*. In this study, the writer analyzed George Orwell's novel "Animal Farm," which focused on ideology and revolution from a Marxist view. The second researcher uses Karl Marx's theory to analyze the elements contained in the film. The title of the second research is "*Marxist Criticism On Disney's Movie Cinderella*." In this study, they can summarize that Cinderella is not just an ordinary cartoon, but a movie full of Marxist elements. Marx wrote important theories about economic, social, and political systems (Puspita & Amelia, 2020). His ideology has spread all over the world. Those who followed this ideal called themselves Marxists.

The third research about "*Class Struggle in Detroit (2017) film*" by Ally and Kasih (2021). The film traces the social conflict between the white and black communities . Researchers see the social problems that arise in this film as a form of social problem associated with Marxists. The researchers found that there are social conflicts in society. Class struggles arise from conflicts between specific groups for their own benefit in order to gain freedom in society.

According to Marxist theory, It is clear that in public life we are talking not only about the impact of a language change, but also about the economic situation (Mandasari & Wahyudin, 2021). Consider how frequently the pursuit of wealth has defined characters in literature throughout history. It reflects class conflict and materialism. Marxists believe that literature is "not created according to timeless artistic standards, but is a product of the economic and ideological determinants characteristic of the time (Oktaviani, 2012).That literature describes or analyzes an writer's class or class relations (Afrianto & Restika, 2018). Marx divided into two main classes: the bourgeoisie or capitalist and the proletariat. The capitalist class, including the bourgeoisie, was the ruling class that owned factories, mines, and land (Oktaviani, 2018). The capitalist was the type of person who made a lot of money while spending very little on result (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021). They hired many lower-class workers to increase production, and, instead of employing parishes, orphanages, and even family children (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021), few aristocrats were employed as laborers or labourers. Furthermore, labor wages were paid at the lowest possible rate rather than in proportion to production income, which was the highest seller at the time.

A capitalist worker, slave, or laborer is referred to as a proletarian. They have no choice but to leave, but they have no rights at work as well. Despite the fact that their entire body is used to working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, they are treated as machines. The more workers with fewer skills there were, the most modern factories were built, causing a greater proportion of the proletarian population to be middle-class. As a result, there was no difference in age or gender among the working class (Sari & Wahyudin, 2019b) (Puspita et al., 2021).

The writings of Marx and Engels were, form the main principles of the Communist Manifesto influencing, the revolution not only through written agitation but also by igniting revolutionary groups against capitalist forces through the power of the proletariat. They discovered the unique role of the proletariat, which they believed had the potential to overthrow the capitalist class (The Communist Manifesto).

As a social theory, Marxism believed that the conflict between the social nature of production and the private capitalist way of obtaining the results of labor is that Marxists oppose capitalism to communism (Wahyudin, 2018).

METHOD

In this study, researchers applied qualitative method. It focuses on comprehension, description and narattive analysis (Fauzi & Sukoco, 2019). Descriptive research only seeks to describe situations or events; it does not attempt to discover or explain relationships, test hypotheses, or make predictions (Journal et al., 2021)(Ivana & Suprayogi, 2020).According to (Setri & Setiawan, 2020) qualitative research is a process of making

the world visible (2020). In several extent, qualitative analysis considers real phenomena in society as found in several studies (Istiani & Puspita, 2020) Furthermore, this research method is adaptable and provides for multiple perspectives on the data (Dharlie, 2021) In other words, the data for our technical qualitative research comes from the Lewis Carroll Alice in Wonderland movie data source. The researcher applied two sources of data, as follows; firstly, qualitative research data is text that includes narrative and dialogue. According to Kardiansyah (2016), scripts make it easier for researchers to create sentences and text conversations (Pranoto, 2021).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The classification in the Alice in Wonderland world is similar to that in British Victorian society. At that time, British society was also divided into three classes: upper class, middle class and lower class. There are similarities in the Victorian social class structure to the Alice in Wonderland scenario. Alice belongs to the middle class. Furthermore, research from the adventure film Alice in Wonderland shows that upper class is always synonymous with cruelty, while lower class is always synonymous with stupidity and middle class is synonymous with evil. gentle and middle class is rational, confident, educated, polite and wants to make a difference. This is consistent with Victorian society which experienced class struggle. The phenomenon of upper class leading to class struggle has existed for a long time in society. This fight can be found all over Alice in Wonderland.

Class Struggle between Queen of Hearts and Frog Footman (Minutes 25:52-27:09)

| 25:52 | 26:02 | 26:58 |

This scene shows the Queen of Hearts getting very angry with everyone in her palace because someone had stolen her tart. In this scene, She asks to Frog footmans with his strict interrogation that makes every frog footman feel scared and the coolest. The Queen of Hearts got one of the Frog Footman which had purple food left in the mouth of one of the frog footman. Then she asked with sharp interest "Did you steal my tart? At first the Frog Footman denied that he didn't steal the food. Then the Queen of Hearts took the remnants of the Frog Footman's mouth. And it turns out that Frog Footman didn't steal the tart but stole only the squimberry. Then, the Queen of Hearts ascended and Frog Footman beheaded Frog Footman for what he did. Frog Footman confessed that he did it because he

was hungry and accidentally drank squimberry juice. Frog Footman begged Queen of Hearts not to punish him because he had a family to support him. but the Queen of Hearts visits footman even the queen of hearts asks her caretaker to go home to pick up the children.

Frog Footman belongs to the lower class, where he works at the Palace of the Queen of Hearts to provide for his family. However, due to the mistake of stealing Squimberry juice from the Queen of Hearts, he was sentenced to be beheaded. His mistake could not be tolerated by the Queen of Hearts because Frog Footman lied to her, she was not only beheaded but also threatened Frog Footman's family. The Queen of Hearts uses her power to oppress the lower classes by inflicting punishments that make everyone lose everything.

Class Struggle between Mad Hatter and Queen of Hearts (Minutes 1:12:40 - 1:15:35)

The Queen of Hearts learns that Alice has returned to the palace and is in a relationship with the Mad Hatter and Dormouse. The Queen of Hearts was enraged and attempted to decapitate Dormouse and the Mad Hatter, but was tricked by the Cheshire Cat disguised as the Mad Hatter. The Mad Hatter emerges from behind the Queen of Hearts and exposes the lies of the palace people. The Queen of Hearts did not accept that she was deceived by these people, so the punishment was to behead them. The Mad Hatter descends among these people and invites all those who have been tortured and enslaved in the palace of the Queen of Hearts to pursue him. However, the Queen of Hearts is furious and devastated, telling Stayne to prepare the Jabberwocky to fight Alice.

Class Struggle between Jabberwockys and Alice (Minutes 1:24:59-1:35:13)

| 1:26:23 | 1:27:04 | 1:32:20 |

When Frabjous Day arrives, the White Queens and Queen of Hearts gather their massive armies on a chessboard-like battlefield and cast their chosen champions to decide the fate of Wonderland. When Alice begins a fight with the Jabberwocky, the White Queen's and Red Queen's forces begin to fight each other, causing the Queen of Heart's army to falter. Pushing herself with her late father's words, Alice manages to decapitate the Jabberwocky

and end the battle. The White Queen then expels her evil sister, the Queen of Heart and the ruffian, Knave of Hearts to the Outlands; Knave tries to kill the Queen of Hearts but when she is stopped by the Hatter, she begs to be killed instead of being banned. After the Hatters perform a celebratory dance called the Futterwacken, the White Queen gives Alice a bottle of Jabberwocky purple blood, which she wants to take home. The Hatter tells him that he can stay in Wonderland, but Alice decides that she must go home and promises that she will return to Wonderland. The Queen of Hearts no longer had any power, so when she again ordered her troops to attack the White Queen, no one heeded her words. In this scene, it was very clear that the upper class Inner Queen was still envious of her sister, the White Queen, so she still used her power to oppress and enslave her subordinates.

CONCLUSION

The class struggle in society mostly leads to social problems. This study focuses on the class conflict depicted by the characters in the movie and uses the approach of Karl Marx. The scenes shows that class struggle occurs in a charcter between Queen of Hearts and Frog Footman, Queen of Hearts and Mad Hatter and Alice and the Jabberwocky's.

In addition, all of the Queen's maids and soldiers are cards that do whatever she wants. Not only were they physically inhuman (like a card with a human head), but they also had the mentality to fulfill the Queen's request. This illustrates that the lower class is treated as part of the game from the upper class. These scenes show that the class struggle happens because there is a group that wants to get freedom from the Queen of Hearts.

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