

AN ANALYSIS OF MARXIST IN THE BEE MOVIE

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Abstract

The animated film Bee movie stars Jerry Seinfeld as Barry the bee, the protagonist of which is a group of worker bees. Barry, the protagonist, comes to the realization that, like bees, they are only there to work hard. He plans to sue humans after learning that bees have been exploited by humans. The film is analyzed from a Marxist perspective in this journal. This journal talked about the movie's exploitation, class struggle, and class conflict. This journal examines the film's Marxist elements using Karl Marx's theories. As a result, we can conclude that this animated film depicts Marxist elements rather than being just an ordinary animated film.

Key words: Analysis. Bee movie, Marxism,

INTRODUCTION

Marxism is a school of thought (Afrianto & Ma'rifah, 2020) founded in the middle of the 19th century by Karl Marx and, to a lesser extent, Friedrich Engels (Pranoto & Afrilita, 2019), (Samanik, 2021). At first, it was made up of three related concepts: a theory of history, an economic and political program, and a philosophical anthropology (Suprayogi, Samanik, et al., 2021), (Qodriani & Kardiansyah, 2018). Additionally, there is Marxism as understood and practiced by various socialist movements prior to 1914 (Kuswoyo & Indonesia, 2021). Then there is Soviet Marxism, developed by Vladimir Ilich Lenin and modified by Joseph Stalin (Journal et al., 2021). According to (Pranoto, 2021) this form of Marxism-Leninism, also known as Marxism-Leninism (see Leninism), became the ideology of the communist parties that were established following the Russian Revolution in 1917. This led to the interpretation of Marxism by anti-Stalinist Leon Trotsky and his followers, Mao Zedong's Chinese Marxism-Leninism, and a variety of Marxisms in developing nations (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021), (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021). There were also the nondogmatic Marxisms that emerged after World War II (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020b) and altered Marx's thought by incorporating elements of contemporary philosophy, primarily those of Edmund Husserl and Martin Heidegger, but also those of Sigmund Freud and others (Nurmalasari & Samanik, 2018), (Candra & Qodriani, 2019).

The American animated comedy *Bee Movie* was released on October 25, 2007 in theaters (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). Simon J. Smith and Steve Hickner directed *Bee Movie*, and Jerry Seinfeld, Andy Robin, Barry Marder, and Spike Feresten wrote the screenplay. In the meantime, the film features contributions from Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, John Goodman, Patrick Warburton, and Chris Rock (Amelia & Dintasi, 2019), (Setri & Setiawan, 2020). Barry B. Benson (Seinfeld), a honey bee, attempts to sue the human race for abusing bees after discovering that humans sell and consume honey from his florist friend Vanessa Bloome (Zellweger) (Novanti & Suprayogi, 2021). As stated by (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018) Barry B. Benson, a sociable and idealistic honey bee, has recently graduated from college and will join Adam Flayman in the Honex Industries workforce at the hive as a honey-maker. When Barry realizes that his career choice is final and cannot be reversed, his ambitious and insubordinate attitude emerges (Amelia & Daud, 2020), (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020). At first, Barry is excited about entering the profession (Purwaningsih & Gulö, 2021). After spotting a group of Pollen Jocks, bees that collect pollen from blossoms outside the hive, the two bees offer to take Barry with them if he is "bee enough." Barry gets lost in the storm while on his first pollen-gathering assignment in New York City and ends up on the balcony of Vanessa Bloome, a human florist. Barry's boyfriend, Ken, tries to squash him, but Vanessa sees him and lets him go out the window, saving his life.

Every expectation is defied by this friendship. Bees are not allowed to communicate with humans (Fakhrurozi & Puspita, 2021), (Suprayogi, 2019). Additionally, people have a tendency to swat bees (Barry has a good chuckle when he describes how a friend was stung by a rolled-up French Vogue). The fact that people steal honey from bees and eat it is the most shocking thing Barry learns about human culture. He even goes to a bee farm with his closest friend Adam (Matthew Broderick), which seems like the worst kind of forced labor. Their quick interpretation of the economic link between humans and bees is typical Marxism (Sari & Pranoto, 2021), (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), if only they were aware of it. We could comprehend the economic relationship between humans and bees by applying Marx's interpretation. Bees are portrayed as the proletariat in this film, while humans are portrayed as the bourgeoisie, and the film depicts how humans exploit bees for profit. Because this animated film is intended for children, these issues merit investigation.

Perhaps the proletariat's efforts to launch a revolution against the bourgeoisie were heavily influenced by Marxism in this movie.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Many people analyze movies using the Marxist approach (Puspita, 2021), (Fithratullah, 2021). This leads the author to conclude that Marxists are quite an intriguing subject to analyze (Samanik, 2019), (Suprayogi, 2021). Therefore, on this occasion, the researcher would like to audit the research of Muhammad Faizal Hira (2017) with the title "Marxist Criticism on Disney's Movie Cinderella". The author tries to analyze the Cinderella movie using Karl Marx's theories. The result shows that this is not just an ordinary animated film. The author shows that Cinderella shows the struggle and the class conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat through the scene and the characters' interactions in the movie. Another research study of Marxism is from Suwardi, Albertus (2010) with the title "A Marxist Interpretation of Shirley Jackson's 'The Lottery'". The author aims to analyze Marxist Interpretation on Society, Rebellion, and Ideology in Shirley Jackson's short story. Based on the result from this research, the author finds that The Lottery is a short story of interpretation of class oppression done by the bourgeoisie to the proletariat. The bourgeoisie is oppressing the proletariat to fulfill their needs and interests by implementing false consciousness (Ngestirosa et al., 2020), (Aminatun, 2021).

Lastly, the next research is from Siahaan, Safnidar (2018) entitled "Marxist's Ideology and Revolution Analysis of George Orwell's Novel 'Animal Farm'". The author tries to find ideology and the revolution through a Marxist perspective. The result from this research shows that Animal Farm is a novel that represents a Russian country which at that time rebellion occurred in 1917 which called the Bolshevik revolution. From the research studies above, we can conclude that there are differences between this research and theirs. This research aims to discuss the exploitation, class conflict, and class struggle in the movie.

1. Marxism

Marxism is a theory developed by a philosopher, economist, and historian, Karl Marx. Karl Marx believes that capitalist-worker power arrangements were essentially exploitative and would eventually lead to class warfare in theory based on the conflict between the capitalist and the working class in a social, political, and economic

ideology. “Marx was arguing that what we call culture is not an independent reality but is inseparable from the historical conditions which human being created their material lives (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020a); the relations of exploitation and domination which govern the social and economic order of a particular phase of human history will in some determine the whole cultural life of the society (Suprayogi & Novanti, 2021).”

2. Class Conflict

Karl Marx stated in the Communist Manifesto that classes are constituted and unity. This generally happens when the proletariat realizes their exploitation which in the case of this film occurs when Barry learns that all the honey that the bees produce is for human needs only. Direct violence, such as wars for resources and cheap labor, assassination, or revolution (Septiyana & Aminatun, 2021); indirect violence, for instance, death by poverty and starvation, illness or unsafe working conditions; and economic coercion (Mandasari & Aminatun, 2019), such as the threat of retirement and unemployment or the withdrawal capital, or ideologically. Through political literature, is an example of class conflict and political manifestation of class warfare also include legal and criminal lobbying, as well as the bribery of politicians (Fithratullah, 2019), (Qodriani & Wijana, 2021). "The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles." -Karl Marx, The Communist Manifesto

3. Sociology of Literature

The sociological approach to literature investigates the link between a literary work and the society in which it was made (Pradana & Suprayogi, 2021), as well as the society in which it was read and accepted (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). According to (Fakhrurozi et al., 2021) literature is a work created by the conditions of society. Writers live in a certain societal condition which has an impact on them and their work. There is a strong connection between sociology and literary arts. This occurs as a result of the reciprocal interaction that exists between literary works and real-life events. Sociology of literature may help you comprehend social problems, political concerns, worldviews, and author originality. “The discussion of the sociology of literature depends on the existence of the social background, changes and social development of the literary work itself. For this reason, the discussion of the sociology of literature will focus on three thin: the sociology of the author, the social content of the work itself, and the influence of literature on society.” (Wellek, 1949, p. 91)

METHOD

The author analyzes Bee Movie using the library research method for this journal. It is currently a necessary component of all other research methods to locate and describe sources that provide factual information or personal or expert opinion on the subject of the study. The author refers to a number of books and websites for this work, including Marxism and literary criticism. In this descriptive qualitative study, screenshots from Bee Movie served as the primary source of data. In contrast, material that has previously been extracted from other sources by other researchers is referred to as secondary data.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

After watching the movie several times, the author can indicate some significant part of Marxism in this movie, establishing the character awareness such as Barry being aware of his class status and class conflict. Many Marxist elements can be discovered in this film.



Image 1 & 2

If it were not for the imposed belief that they must be trapped in the system of the other bees, Barry believed that the bees will live in prosperity and enriched and the other bee will live a happy life and be well educated. As the tour guide at the start of the movie said that bee never had a day off in 27 million years. Individuals would essentially have the freedom to choose what they want to do with their life, which is a more realistic fulfillment of Marxist theory. See images 1 & 2.



Image 3

From image 3. Barry and Vanessa go into a grocery store when Barry discovers that the honey that the bees produced is sold for human needs without the bees' knowledge, which makes Barry realize the exploitation done by humans to the bees. This is the beginning of the class conflict between the bees and humans, or the working class and the bourgeoisie. Therefore Barry tries to bring justice to the bees (proletariat) by bringing up bee farmers into court trial. At the scene of the court trial, Barry manages to sue the human species for abusing bees for free honey labor. Barry argues for a socialist critique of the industrial system, claiming that bees are being alienated as a species as a result of their work because their honey is collected and sold by humans. See images 4, 5 & 6.





Image 4 ,5 & 6

This instills in Marxist philosophy the need to appreciate the laborer and the objects of his efforts, even though labor will occur anyway. This is an argument against capitalism because it separates individuals from the result of their labor, leaving them with a feeling of meaning and achievement. Barry expands on this point, claiming that when the bee farmers remove their honey, they are harming the bees by removing more than just material things. He compared the relationship between the oppressed proletariat and capitalists. The film concludes with the bees regaining control and cooperating with humans to produce honey. Bees now have a say in their operations and control over honey output. The movie provides a deeper understanding of many political and economic ideologies in society.

CONCLUSION

The Bee Movie was a movie that was intended to be an animated comedy. This entire movie is an example of an interpretation between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. A movie that lies about Marxist ideologies hides beneath the animated character. The Bee Movie is about an oppressed proletariat and how they rise to achieve their righteousness. As we could see in the movie, how Barry rises to free the bees from unpaid labor work, the class conflict in the movie, and how the bees were blinded by their fake consciousness.

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