AN ANALYSIS OF POWER ABUSE FOUND IN THE FANANY'S UNDER THE WANING MOON

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Abstract

Under The Waning Moon is a novel written by Ismet Fanany. The novel has a theme about social and economy. Related to social and economic issues, this novel shows several phenomena of social problems that occur in social life. This phenomenon consists of class division, injustice, and abuse of power. Thus, researchers discuss the problem of abuse of power committed by the upper class. Abuse of power is an attempt to maintain upper-class power. This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive research design. This research focuses on Marxist theory of social struggle to illustrate the problem of abuse of power as reflected in the story. This research data was collected and presented in the form of words by describing it, and without presenting numbers. Based on the analysis of this research, the researcher concludes that power abuse from a social aspect can be seen from the scene where the police use their status (as police officers) to threaten the main characters and other characters so that they can enjoy blood money from them.

Key words: class struggle, marxism, power abuse, social class

INTRODUCTION

The term literature seems best if limit it to the art of literature [1], [2], that is, to imaginative literature [3], [4], [5]. Literature is also produced by imagination of the author [6], [7]. Literature is not just a document of facts [8], [9], [10], it is not just the collection of real events though it may happen in the real life [11], [12], [13]. Literature can create its own world [14], [15], as a product of the unlimited imagination [16], [17], [18]. It means that the literature arises from events that occur in society [19], [20], [21]. In literature, the writer presents the work to convey his ideas to the reader [22], [23]. Here, it can be understand that in each work have its own characteristics [24], [25] and the objectives of the author [26], [27], [28]. It is clear that the writer's idea in a work can be very influential on the reader's mindset [29], [30]. Under The Waning Moon is an Indonesian fiction novel written by Ismet Fanany [31], [32]. This novel was released in August 2016 by the Angkasa Publisher [33]. This novel explores social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, cultural aspects, and religious aspects [34], [35]. This novel is dominated by social class problems.

Social class is also referred to as a group of people in society who have the same socioeconomic status [36], [37], [38]. Besides being important in social theory, the concept of class as a collection of individuals who share similar economic conditions has been widely used in censuses [39], [40] and in the study of social mobility [41], [42]. The term class first came into wide use in the early 19th century, replacing such terms as rank and order as descriptions of the major hierarchical groupings in society [43], [44], [45]. Social classes must be distinguished from status groups; the former are based primarily upon economic interests [46], [47], while the latter are constituted by evaluations of the honor or prestige of an occupation, cultural position, or family descent [48], [49].

Power abuse is one of the social problems in the society [50]. It is happen because there are two social class namely upper classes and lower class [51], [52]. Power abuse can be used as subject in literary work because literary work is a picture of human life [53]. This phenomenon is common case that happens in society [54]. It is important case because as social creature who lives in society people face those of the conflict [55], [56]. Those of the phenomenon also occur in society because as Marx said that social class has a power to other classes [57], [58]. Thus, the separation of class can create some conflicts in a society [59]. One of them is about abuse of power [60]. One of the literary work that use power abuses as subject is Under The Waning Moon. The author of Under The Waning Moon is Ismet Fanany. Power abuse is also related to the oppression so that so that it can be analyze by using Marxist Approach [61], [62].

Marxist Approach is one of the literary [63], which based on economic and political theories or Karl Marx [64]. Literary work is picture of human [65], [66]. It means that the society influences literary work in many aspects such as social aspects, economic aspects, political aspects, science and technological aspect, cultural aspects, and religious aspects [67], [68]. In this novel, power abuse can be seen from characters and characterization, plot, style, and theme. In this novel, power abuse is portrayed in many aspects such as social aspects, economic aspects, and politic aspects. In social aspects, power abuse can be seen from character and characterization, plot, style, and theme. In economic aspects, power abuse can be seen from character and characterization, plot, and theme [69]. In politic aspects, power abuse can be seen from character and characterization [70].

Research Questions:

1.   What social conditions in capitalist society are portrayed in Ismet Fanany's Under The Waning Moon?

2.   How does the lower class struggle in capitalist society as described in the novel?

Research Objective:

1.   To describe the social conditions in capitalist society are portrayed in Ismet Fanany's Under The Waning Moon.

2.   To describe the lower class struggles in capitalist society as described in novel Ismet Fanany's Under The Waning Moon.

Use of Study

The uses of this research are divided into theoretical and practical use. This research will answer and it can be help people by using two main uses.

Theoretical Use

This study gives contribution on literature study related to sociology about power Abuse. The present writer expects that it will give additional knowledge about power Abuse from the social aspect by using theory of Karl Marx.

Practical Use

This research might be useful for the reader. Enriching the knowledge and experience of current researchers in scientific research especially about the sociology of abuse of power caused by greed. This research hopes to reduce the abuse of power against people who do not have power.

Scope of the Study

The intrinsic element to be analyzed is the characterization of the main characters. This research focuses on Marxist theory of social struggle to illustrate the problem of abuse of power as reflected in the story.

The basic step to analyze a literary work is by examining its structure or called intrinsic element. Here are some intrinsic elements discussed in this research:

Characters are persons that represented by the author in the story. Short stories use few characters. In Birkerts (1993:22-23) Characters are portrayed as deliberately flat, and characters are customarily divided into several types, firs is rounded and second is dynamic characters that are more lifelike. In Birkerts (1993:53-54) setting refers both to the physical location of the events and to the time in which they happen. Setting then is the environment that surrounds the characters and influences them and their action. Setting is the times and places in which the events of the story occur. Most stories have multiple setting which has been created by the author to tell the story. In identifying the setting, one may start by naming the town and year in which the story takes place (if these are identified by the author), and then by identifying the more specific locations of the story where the actions takes place.

Marx social class is at the centre of understanding and organizing social change, as interpreted by Lenin the working class, organized by its politically advanced vanguard, constituted the path toward emancipation and the realization of human potential. Emile Durkheim and Max Weber construct models of society that highlight ways of building and or maintaining "community" connections and social functions. There is classical call for a class-struggle social science that is intent on reinvigorating hope for a better, more just world. This is a social science that places its analytical eye and its political hopes upon the working class as the pivotal social agent of change and upon the ruling class as the agent of reaction and deception. The theory inspired and informed by the writings and political engagements of Karl Marx and Fredrick Engels.

Marxism is a theory and a practice united in the objective of achieving a classless society. As a theory, Marxism is a body of conceptual tools that allows an informed analyst an effective mechanism by which to make sense of the myriad ways and means the ruling class of a particular society deploys to hold onto their privileged position in society. Among the central concepts of Marxism is the social class that is defined most fundamentally as a person's place relative to the means of production, tools, machines, and knowledge that are used to change the world around us into things that can be used by humans. While primarily focused upon the workings of capitalism, Marxist theory has also

been used to understand the workings of kin-ordered and tributary societies. As a practice, Marxism, through the identification of the main problems of divided class society, which is the exploitation of the majority by a minority that controls the ability of society to produce goods and services, shows how and how to overthrow the rules of society, minority by majority. Here the main focus is on social conflict between and between classes. Marxism argues that conflict becomes an inevitable part of economic law concerning the motion of an expansion system that is built on economic competition between capitalists for social surplus and between workers and capitalists for social wages. As Marxists advocate and fervently desire, it can be class struggle emerging from a conscious working class that has the political means and will to increase its power over production, eventually fighting for the eradication of classes and thereby the privileges associated with private property: what Marx called class for itself. Privileges associated with private property: what Marx called class for itself.

METHOD

This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive research design. This research focuses on Marxist theory of social struggle to illustrate the problem of abuse of power as reflected in the story. This research data was collected and presented in the form of words by describing it, and without presenting numbers. In this chapter the researcher explained one by one the research method.

Research Design

This study used a qualitative research design with descriptive analysis as part of the method, since it was related to spoken and written language rather than numbers. More precisely, this research collects data in the form of written texts -the excerpts of characters' focalization in the novel which were consequently interpreted, elaborated and explained for basic data which are proven based on findings that drawn depending on the single writer's interpretation regarding power abuse that found in the Fanany's Under The Waning Moon. In this case the researchers divided them into two categories, they are primary source and the secondary source. For the primary source, the researchers used the novel itself "Under The Waning Moon" and for the secondary source consists of the books and internet which have the relevancy with this research.

Data and Data Source

The source of data in the study was subjects from which the data can be obtained. In conducting research, researchers use Novel Under The Waning Moon by Ismet Fanany because this is an interesting story to discuss, this novel, power abuse and class struggle can be seen from characters and characterization, plot, style, and theme. Power abuse is portrayed in many aspects such as social aspects, and economic aspects.

Data Collecting Technique

The script of the novel "Under The Waning Moon (2016)" and the researchers were the instruments to collect the data and analyze the data. It is due to the fact that qualitative research design with descriptive analysis method was applied as the guiding to examine the data needed to answer the research questions. In the attempt to answer the research questions, intensive reading regarding related framework was conducted following these sequences adapted from Cresswell (2009):

a. Read the entire novel carefully, to understand the whole story line, the main problems and general understanding of the story.

b. Preparing for collecting the data analysis by re-reading the novel in detail, to gain more comprehensive understanding of the main characters in the story and then take a memo about it.

c. Highlights the key narrative events in the story where the story highlights the bullying behavior that occurs in the main character, and the personal impact that the main character receives.

d. Generating the data analysis into narrative passage, by making elaboration and interpretation to draw the findings in connection with the theories applied.

e. Discussing the findings to draw the conclusion and giving some suggestions eventually.

Analyzing Technique

After collecting the data, the researcher continues to analyze through some steps as follow:

a. Reviewing the data which have been collected as the proof to answer the research questions.

b. Analyze data to find out the social conditions in capitalist society are portrayed in Ismet Fanany's Under The Waning Moon.

c. Analyze data to find the class struggles in capitalist society as described in novel Ismet Fanany's Under The Waning Moon.

d. Confirming the data with the theory.

e. Drawing the conclusion based on the result of the data analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Class struggle is a fundamental theory and as central part of Marxism. It is a hypothesis used by Karl Marx to explain an environment. Class struggle happens between two classes, there are the higher social class and the lower social status. Thus, in the story, the lower social status is no one but the people who live in Koto, Batusangkar. They are categorized as the society who has lower status since they are the one who need work in order to fulfill their needs.

> **Many of the women brought young children when there was no one at home to leave them with while they milled their rice. The children helped to mind the drying rice so that chickens didn't eat it.** Before leaving, the women bathed the children in the valley, where the bathing place was better than most other places in the village, especially as most of the houses in Koto had no bathroom
>
> *(Under the Waning Moon, page 10)*

The quotation above shows that society in Koto, especially women will bring along their children with them in the work place if there are no one who can help them to keep their children at home. However, the children of Koto also helping their parents in drying the rice so that chicken did not eat it. The quotation is also showing the information about the condition in each house in Koto where there are no bathrooms in the houses of the villagers. Hence, after done drying rice, women will bath their children in the valley that build by Datuak Malik,the Bourgeoise (higher class) in Koto village.

There is also another situation where the villagers are shown as the lower class in the story as it can be seen from this quotation,

When Ridwan entered junior high school, Rosni was a grade ahead of him. But, in the middle of the year, **she dropped out**. **Her parents couldn't pay the school fees**, Ridwan heard. **Rosni was helping her parents by hulling for pay**. She did not like working in the fields, planting or weeding rice like many Koto girls who did not go to school. **She preferred to dry and mill the rice even though it was harder work and isolated her from other girls her age**.

(Under the Waning Moon, page 28)

The quotation shows that one of the daughters from the villagers, Rosni is helping her parent in the field by hulling the rice. However, she preferred to dry and mill the rice. She must work helping parents since she needs money to continue her education in school. However, Rosni is only one of many unlucky children in her age in the village who cannot continue the study to the higher education.

Most of them will end up by helping their parents on the field working for Datuak Malik. This kind of situation happens are not only because the cost of education in school quite expensive, but also because the wage from each labor in the village sometimes do not enough to fulfill the daily needs of one family. Yet, although Rosni must quit her school and she is must helping her parents on the field, she can choose her job to dry and mill the rice rather than planting or weeding the rice on the field just like most of girls in Koto.

His duties at the mill continued as usual during the Fasting Month. In fact, it was busier than at other times. **The women had a lot of work to do during the day and were tired. They had to cook for the fast breaking meal in addition to what they usually did**.

(Under the Waning Moon, page 52)

During the fruit season, **Datuak Malik would pay any of the women who brought rice to his mill or any of his employees to pick the fruit and take it to market in Batusangkar or sell it in the schoolyard in the village**.

(Under the Waning Moon, page 9 - 10)

Based on the quotations, it shows the most significant status exist in Koto. Most of them are the proletariat, or also known as the working class who spend their time on the field working for the bourgeois or the land lord. The land lord however, is giving freedom to the society so that they can do the business in the form of profit sharing.

However, the story shows that Datuak Malik as one of the persons with power (bourgeoise), he never misuses his status to do something inappropriate. On the other hand, the researcher found that the main character, Ridwan starts to realize about how power is can be misused when he experienced to be the right hand of Datuak Malik in the village.

> **All the inhabitants of the Valley and the village vied for a social position that would allow them to do what they wanted to other people. The higher a person's statuses, the more forbidden things they could do and the more rules they could ignore.** The person at the very top could do anything at all. There were no risks and no sanctions. In fact, there were people who were willing to be used at will by people whose status was higher.
>
> *(Under the Waning Moon, page 60)*

The quotation above is the scene where the main character, Ridwan is believed that when someone achieved higher status, they are able to do forbid things that other cannot do. In that case, Ridwan is tempted to reach his goal that is to get highest position. It can be noticed from this quotation,

> What troubled Ridwan when he was living in Koto was that he was unsure what would allow a person to reach the highest position. **He wanted to be able to do what he wanted, including ignoring orders and doing what was prohibited. He wanted to know everything that was necessary to achieve his goal.** He did know that there were several things that would certainly give him a higher status in society. The first and one of the most important, was to be associated with

someone who already had a higher and more important position and he already was on Datuak Malik's good side.

(Under the Waning Moon, page 61)

Based on the quotation, it can be seen that Ridwan is really want to be the person who has highest position so that he has power just like Datuak Malik. However, he also believed that in order to achieve his goal, the first step that he must do is gain trust to the person who has power, in this case is Datuak Malik.

Further, the form of power abuse is can be seen when Ridwan and his friends are getting caught by police officers on the next Koto village in a barn where they are all partying and drinking. Yet, when the police officers are about to arrest them, Herman, the oldest person on the group is talking to the police officers and bribe them with all the money they got.

Ridwan knew the police realized that Herman was the leader of the group and they should talk to him. Soon after, Herman rejoined them. Ridwan saw the confusion leave his friends' faces. Herman whispered something to Bakhtiar. **The two of them took out all the money they had hidden and handed it to the police officer who was still standing in the corner where he and Herman had spoken before.**

(Under the Waning Moon, page 81)

The quotation above is the scene where Ridwan and others are bribing the police officers so that they are not getting arrest. In this situation, it can be noticed that this is one of the forms of power abuse where the police officers use their power to scare Ridwan and his friends so that they will do anything to make them not get arrested. Further, because of this event, Ridwan is more realized that he needs to be the person whose gain power so that he can do whatever he wants.

That night, outside the hut in the middle of a rice field witnessed by the waning moon and a few stars that could compete with the bright moonshine, **Ridwan became even more certain that the key to success in life, in Koto as well as outside of Koto was achieving the**

> **highest possible position in the society in which he lived.** In the real
> world. Only in this way, like the policemen, would he able to do
> things that he was not allowed to do but that he wanted to do.
>
> The police officers, Ridwan thought, came to the hut because they
> were doing their "duty" to enforce those abstract laws of society that
> existed in the unreal world, in this case the prohibitions against
> gambling, drinking and certain types of social relations. But **when
> they left the hut, their pockets would be full of gambling money,
> they would have slept with three young girls and they would go
> away carrying six full bottles of beer.**
>
> *(Under the Waning Moon, Page 83)*

The quotations above show that Ridwan is pretty much sure about his goal in achieving highest status since he just witnessed with his own eyes what people can do with their power. In this case, Ridwan just saw policemen who supposed to do their job in stopping gambling and drinking but instead, they are took the money from the gambling for themselves and take six bottles of beer for them. Hence, Ridwan is getting more inspired and more passionate to become the person with high status so that he can gain power.

CONCLUSION

From the previous discussion, the conclusion can be drawn in this research. The aims of this research are to discover the problem relate to power abuse. In the novel of Under The Waning Moon, the power abuse is portrayed from two important aspects, they are economy and social aspect. In the economy aspect, the power abuse is can be seen from how society of Koto must work hard to the land lord that is Datuak Malik, the person who has the highest status in the village (also known as the bourgeoise). Meanwhile the power abuse from the social aspect is can be noticed from the scene where the policemen use their status (as police officers) to threat Ridwan and others so they can enjoy blood money from them. Thus, in this research discusses about those of the problem. The researcher applies Marxist theory which discusses about class conflict in order to find answer those of the research question.

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