Breaking down the System of Dominant Power as Seen in

Ghost Rider 2 Spirit of Vengeance Movie

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Saya menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi sebagian syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

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MOTTO

"The best of men are those who benefits others" (Muhammad SAW)

I DEDICATE MY GRADUATING PAPER TO

.

My Beloved Parents
My Brothers and Sisters
My English Fellows

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ABSTRACT

The Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance is a movie that shows a story of a main character's struggling to get freedom for his life. There is an interesting thing to be discussed. It is about alienation. The deal that Johnny makes with a devil named Roarke occurs in this movie is a unique point where it shows a mystical story in a modern age.

This thesis is intended to present a discussion of alienations experienced by Johnny Blaze, the labor/worker representation and how Johnny Blaze struggles to overcome those alienations. The writer uses qualitative research as the method.

The approach used on this research is Marxist theory. The writer analyses Ghost Rider 2 story based on Marxist perspective; capitalist mode of production and Marx theory of alienations

The result of this study shows that Johnny Blaze experiences four alienations in Marx's perspective. Johnny Blaze is alienated from object he produces, from his productive activity, from himself and from his fellow human being. Therefore, Johnny struggled to become free. Capitalism has a rule that process of production and product are controlled by capitalist. However, Johnny Blaze, as the labor reflection, breaks that rule. He controls the process and owns the product. Johnny breaks the rule.



INTISARI

Film Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance ini menceritakan tentang sebuah perjuangan seseorang untuk mendapatkan kebebasan dalam kehidupannya. Ada sebuah hal menarik untuk dibahas yaitu tetntang alienasi. Perjanjian yang dibuat oleh Johnny Blaze dengan setan bernama Roarke menjadikan film ini lebih menarik dimana film ini menampilkan cerita tentang mistis yang terjadi di masa modern.

Penelitian in bertujuan untuk menampilkan sebuah pembahasan tentang alienasi yang dialami oleh Johnny Blaze dan bagaimana cara Johnny Blaze untuk mengatasi alienasi tersebut.. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif.

Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan teori Marxist. Penulis menganalisa cerita dalam film berdasarkan pandangan Karl Marx tentang capitalist mode of production dan alienasi.

Dari hasil analisa, dapat disimpulkan bahwa Johnny Blaze mengalami keempat jenis alienasi yang diutarakan oleh Karl Marx. Johnny mengalami alienasi dari objek produksi, aktifitas produksi, dari orang lain dan dari dirinya sendiri. Cara Johnny mengatasi alienasi tersebut adalah dengan cara merusak aturan yang sudah ada di kapitalisme bahwa proses produksi dikendalikan oleh seorang kapitalis. Namun, Johnny mengendalikan prosesnya dan merubahnya menjadi kekuatannya sehingga dia bisa lepas dari belenggu alienasi.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Fairness is very necessary in every aspect of this life. For example in a company, fairness should be in a rule between the boss and his workers. After a labor has done his job, he/she should be paid as much as the deal. The salary should also be standardized. It is one way to respect other people, to humanize human beings. For Moslems, Islam also teaches its followers to pay the salary before their worker's sweat is dry. It has been proved by Prophet Muhammad's speech above. However, what Prophet Muhammad taught is very contradictory with the present condition when the principle of enslavement exists, with the condition whereby the private actors are allowed to own and control the use and property, with the condition whereby workers are over-exploited.

In present social life, the rapid economic growth brings some changes in daily social life. Unconsciously, society is brought to the globalization era. Most western countries adhere to the idea of capitalism as their economic system. There are some definitions of what capitalism is. According to Ayn Rand, capitalism is a social system based on the recognition of individual rights, including property rights; in roommates, all property is privately owned (1966:28).

Bruce R.Scott states, "Capitalism is often defined as an economic system where private actors are allowed to own and control the use and property in accord with their own interest, and where the invisible hand of the pricing mechanism coordinates supply and demand in markets in way that is automatically in the best interest of society. Government, in this

perspective, is often described as responsible for peace, justice, and tolerable taxes". (2006: abstract)

According to the passage "The Capitalist Mode of Production" the second basic characteristic of capitalism is the existence of two classes. They are capitalist and labor (1978: 75). Taken from *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary*, capitalist is defined as a person who supports capitalism. He or she owns and controls capital (1994:167). Meanwhile, labors are people who sell their ability, energy or service but do not have equipment to produce. They really depend on someone who gives them salary in order to survive.

Capitalism helps government to reduce unemployment problem in a state. Alejandro Reuss in his article that is published states http://www.dollarsandsense.org, "The capitalist-citizen accord included the government commitment to preventing mass unemployment and the establishment of the social welfare state" (2009). However, it also causes another problem. Capitalist's control often makes labors being exploited. On May 2013, Detik.com wrote "Perbudakan di Tangerang dilaporkan, tapi tidak ada tindakan" (Slavery in Tangerang was reported, but there was no action). It is a proof that enslavement still happens in this world. Capitalists exploit labors to do works. Then, labor gets some problems because of his/her work. Labor can feel that he/she is alienated from his/her work. Quoted from the book Concept of Alienation in Marx, Manuel A. Caoili states, "Alienation is the consequence of the development of capitalist mode production which has transformed man's labor, conceived onerous and dehumanizing existence". (1984:365)

Social inequality caused by capitalism makes conflict between bourgeois—the capitalist, and proletarian—the labor. Then, proletarians revolt in order to get prosperity for their lives. They make movement. One of their movements is held every 1 May, which is called May Day or international workers' day. On May Day, workers celebrate and have voice to show what they want. They prosecute income balances and ignore exploitation.

The similar condition with capitalism is also represented in the movie. As a part of popular culture, movie represents story and is published in mass media. Therefore, movie become something that is well-liked by many people. The similar contradictive condition is seen in the *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie where there is an actor who has power, always determines people who have nothing. The story probably does not deeply and specifically divide the component of capitalism and people insulted in, yet it can be a representation.

Movies can describe emotion clearer than any other works. Movies can help audiences to comprehend the story by giving video and audio visual on it. Because of the directors, actors and actresses, movies look more interesting for audiences. They can make the movie as a real condition and often remind the audiences of the true story of this life.

The *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie has an interesting story to be analyzed. It has the story of mystic in modern age. In this movie, audience can see evils living among human. Moreover, they take control and take advantage of human life. Furthermore, something that makes this movie more interesting than

the first version is that this movie shows a dilemmatic struggles of Johnny Blaze to get freedom and to take his right (as a human) back. The process is not really simple, yet it was a little bit complicated. Johnny must choose whether he release the Ghost inside him (means that he will not have power anymore), or saving a kid named Danny by using power (means that the Ghost will stay inside him). That is why; the writer chooses the *Ghost Rider 2* movie as the object of this research.

Ghost Rider movie has two sequels. The first sequel is Ghost Rider. The second one is Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance. The Ghost Rider 2 movie is the last sequel of the movie. The writer has also found some problems that need to be answered after analyzing the movie. The writer sees some problems caused by capitalism. Those are some kinds of alienation. As the explanation above, capitalism creates alienation. Then, the writer connects between alienation based on Marx's theory and alienation seen in Ghost Rider 2. After that, the writer analyses the way in which Johnny Blaze (the main character) struggles to overcome that alienation.

The writer is interested in analyzing *Ghost Rider 2 movie* seen from Marxist perspective. The writer analyzes this movie based on Marxist perspective since the concept of alienation and suffering of people captured with capitalism are Marx's way of thinking. The writer wants to reveal capitalism and alienation representation in *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie. The writer analyzes the capitalism seen in the movie *Ghost Rider 2 Spirit of Vengeance* at first and analyzes alienation caused by capitalism at second.

Furthermore, the writer focuses on the characters in *Ghost Rider 2 Spirit of Vengeance* movie. The writer focuses on the main character of this movie named Johnny Blaze and some characters that may influence his suffering. The reason is that the writer wants to reveal some problems (alienations) caused by capitalism and how the characters try to overcome those problems. By focusing on the main characters named Johnny Blaze and some characters may influence the main character's problem, the writer classifies class existence the character represents in the movie, what problems he experiences, and how he struggles to overcome the problems.

This research focuses on analyzing some characters that represent class existence in capitalism, such as the worker and capitalist. The study stresses the alienation of the character. Specifically, the writer analyzes how Johnny struggles to remove the black power from his body which always forces him to do anything his boss wants. Then, he tries to release the black power by removing the ghost soul inside him. Before analyzing the characterization, this research begins from the analysis of intrinsic elements of the movie. Furthermore, the writer analyzes sentences on conversation, monolog and other utterances spoken by characters in *Ghost Rider 2* that can be related to and reflect the capitalism and alienation using the Marxist theory.

B. Problem Statements

This research focuses on the character in *Ghost Rider 2* movie. The study stresses what problems Johnny Blaze experiences and how he struggles to overcome those problems. The problem statements are:

- 1. What kind of alienation does the character, Johnny Blaze, experience?
- 2. How does Johnny struggle to overcome alienation in order to break down the dominant power which bounds him?

C. Objectives of Study

Considering the problem statements above, the writer also has two objectives of study in this research; they are:

- 1. To comprehend what kind of alienation that Johnny Blaze experiences.
- To find the way Johnny Blaze struggles to overcome the alienation in order to break down the dominant power.

D. Significance of Study

- 1. Theoretically, this research can be a comparison for other people to make other similar researches so that people will have better researches than the previous one. Furthermore, this research may be storage of knowledge.
- 2. Practically, this research aims to reveal reflection of Marxist capitalism and alienation theory as seen in *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie. Since the writer analyzes some problems caused by capitalism, the writer wishes this research becomes a sharp and clear description of capitalism. Then, the reader

will have a good comprehension of the capitalism and the problems inside by finding the reflection in *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie.

E. Prior Research

After searching several pervious researches, the writer believes that it is essential to find out previous related sources. However, the writer does not find that the other researchers discussing about *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie in the view of linguistic or literature, especially alienation. However, the writer found a research which has a similar relation to the theory used on this research, alienation. The previous research related to theory of alienation is written by Fajar Ahmad, a graduate student of UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

In his graduating paper entitled "An Analysis Marxist: Alienation in The Lorax Movie" (State Islamic University, 2014). Fajar uses Marxist theory of alienation and focuses on how capitalist society happens in *The Lorax* movie. He convinces that alienations are experienced by main character living in capitalist society. He convinces that alienations are experienced by O'her's labors and bodyguards. Fajar focuses on the way of capitalist alienating the commodity to take the profit from the product. His research also presents a discussion about the alienation effect in commodity.

F. Theoretical Approach

Since the writer aims to find kind of alienations experienced by Johnny Blaze, the writer uses Marxist Theory to reveal the alienation phenomenon in *Ghost Rider 2: Spirit of Vengeance* movie. Specifically, this research uses some

theories by Karl Marx to analyze because the writer considers that Marxist theory can be a way to study literary works. David Carter states in his book *Literary Theory*:

There is no scope in the present to expound Marxist theory adequately. All that can be done is to stress the aspects of it, the essential concepts, which are relevant to understanding a Marxist approach to the study of literature. (2006: 55)

In this research, the writer analyzes the alienation representation in this movie. Yet, the writer also needs not only Marx's theory of alienation but also the capitalist mode of production theory. The writer believes that alienation happens under the capitalism. Marx and Mandel have the same idea about capitalism and alienation.

Marx introduced the concept of alienation to analyze the situation of workers in a capitalist enterprise. For Marx, alienation does not describe a subjective feeling on the part of workers; rather, it refers to an objective situation which they find themselves under the capitalist mode of production. (Edward,1978:265)

Ernest Mandel states in his essay "The cause of alienation": Alienation results from a certain form of organization of society. More concretely, only in a society which is based on commodity production and only under the specific economic and social circumstances of a market economy, can the objects which we project out of us when we produce acquire a socially oppressive existence of their own and be integrated in an economic and social mechanism which becomes oppressive and exploitative of human beings. (Mandel,1970)

The reference above convinces the writer to use the theory of capitalism. This research should also be completed with the capitalist mode of production theory. The capitalist mode of production theory is needed in order to analyze the characteristics of capitalism and also class existence in capitalism. After finding the characteristics and class existence, the writer analyzes alienation that is experienced by a class existence which is a labor reflected in the story of *Ghost Rider 2* by the main character, Johnny Blaze.

Capitalism and alienation in *Ghost Rider 2: The Spirit of Vengeance* movie are seen in some conditions; one of them is spoken by the main character, Johnny Blaze:

JOHNNY. When my dad got sick, I did something way crazier than that.

ROARKE. You look like you could use a little help? Are you willing to make a deal? John! That a boy! Do it! Save his life! Do it!

JOHNNY. Yah, that is right. I'm the guy who made the deal with the Devil. (2012: 00:05:06-00:05:34)

The condition above is capitalism representation seen in the *Ghost Rider 2*. The same condition with what it is truly happened in capitalist society. Workers need job, capitalists offer them a deal by giving employment agreement. In the movie, Johnny is offered a deal by Roarke. Roarke helps Johnny if Johnny wants to make a deal.

1. Capitalist Mode of Production

According to the book *The Capitalist System*, there are three basic characteristics that distinguish the capitalist mode of production. They are form of

production of commodity, existence of two classes, and capitalist control to the process of production (Edward,1978:75-76). In this research, the writer analyzes those three basic characteristics of the capitalism mode of production. Here are some statements of Richard that are quoted from his book *The Capitalist System*:

a) Form of Production

First of all, the production of goods and services takes the form of production of commodities; that is, goods and services are produced for sale on a market rather than for direct use by the producers. (1978:75)

b) Existence of Two Classes

There are two classes exist in capitalist society; a class of capitalist who among themselves, have a class monopoly over the means of production, and a class of propertyless wage-workers who sell their capacity to work, or `labor-power, to capitalist in exchange for a wage or salary (1978:75). Capitalists are people who have capital and own their business, while worker are people who do some works in order to get salary.

c) Capitalist Control over the Process of Production

Edwar states that the third basic characteristic of the capitalist mode of production is that capitalist and not workers control the process of production itself (1978:76). In the process of production, a works do not have control over the process. They work according to the direction from his boss, the capitalist. Capitalists determine workers how to do a work and have fully control over it, the workers do not have any control.

2. Marx's Theory of Alienation

In the passage "Alienation" in *The Capitalist System*, Richard states, "Alienation means powerlessness or lack of control. A person is alienated from something (e.g., a job) if he or she has no control over it" (1978:265). Robert Blauner explains the worker experiences alienation from work in the form of powerlessness, meaningless, isolation, and self estrangement. (as cited in "*The Capitalist System*", 1978:275). In alienation simple meaning, Harold Bloom states that alienation is a condition of being estranged from someone or something (2009:2).

There are some kinds of alienation according to Karl Marx's perspective. Marx outlines four forms of alienation of workers under capitalism. First, workers are alienated from the product of their labor. Second, workers are alienated from their productive activity. Third, workers are alienated from their essential species being. Fourth, workers are alienated from man/ human being. (2009:28-35)

a) Workers are alienated from the product of their labor

A worker who is involved in capitalism does his job to produce product. He spends his energy and uses his skills to make the product. However, the product does not belong to him. The product is fully owned by the capitalist. The worker only has obligation to make the product but the product cannot be owned by him. The worker does not have control to use it. That is the condition when a worker is alienated from the product he makes.

The alienation of the worker from his product means not only that his labor becomes an object, an external existence, but that it exists outside him, independently, as something alien to him, and that it becomes a

power on its own confronting him. It means that the life which he has conferred on the object confronts him as something hostile and alien. (Marx, 1932:29)

b) Workers are alienated from their productive activity.

The second alienation Marx outlines is alienation of workers from their productive activity. It means that workers are alienated from the process of production. When a worker is doing his job, he cannot do anything he wants. He must obey his boss's rules. He is determined by his boss who takes control of the process of production. In the process of production, he cannot fully own himself. He belongs to his boss. He loses control of himself and his own activity. Marx states:

"The worker therefore only feels himself outside his work, and in his work feels outside himself. He feels at home when he is not working, and when he is working he does not feel at home. His labor is therefore not voluntary, but coerced; it is forced labor." (2009:30)

c) Workers are alienated from their essential species-being.

This kind of alienation means that a worker is alienated from himself. He does not have any control over him. In capitalism, a worker cannot fully take control of himself because there is a man maintaining and undertaking him, the boss. Hence, He gets no control over himself. Marx argues that

The object of labor is, therefore, the objectification of man's species-life: for he duplicates himself not only, as in consciousness, intellectually, but also actively, in reality, and therefore he sees himself in a world that he has created. In tearing away from man the object of his production, therefore, estranged labor tears from him, his species-life, his real objectivity as a member of the species and transforms his advantage over animals into the disadvantage that his inorganic body, nature, is taken from him." (Marx, 2009:32)

d) Workers are alienated of man from man/human being

This kind of alienation means that a worker is alienated from others. He has to compete other workers in order to keep or express his existence. As the consequence, the writer believes that their existence can decrease if he cannot compete and exist to other workers. In the contrary, his existence can increase if he can compete.

G. Method of Research

1. Type of Research

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. Here, the qualitative research uses library research. Since this research is library research, the writer uses method of collecting data from the books.

2. Data Sources

The primary data comes from the *Ghost Rider 2* movie. For the secondary data, the writer collects from all information, some books references and internet. The books references are about Marxist theory.

3. Technique of Collecting Data

Firstly, the writer watches the *Ghost Rider 2* movie in order to comprehend the story. Secondly, the writer focuses on character Johnny Blaze to

see what his suffering is. Thirdly, the writer considers other characters that may influence the suffering of Johnny Blaze. Finally, the writer analysis Johnny's suffering and applies it to Marxist theory of alienation.

4. Data Analysis Technique

After completing the steps above, the writer processes the data. The technique applied in this study is descriptive analysis. In the book *Teori, Metode, dan Teknik Penelitian Sastra*, Ratna states that descriptive analysis is aimed at describing the facts continued by the analysis (2004:53).

In this research, the writer has some steps in analyzing data. The steps are:

- a. identifying the capitalism reflection seen in the movie
- b. classifying each class in capitalist society
- c. analyzing what kind of alienation experienced by Johnny Blaze as labor reflection and analyzing how Johnny Blaze struggles to overcome the alienation he experienced and how he breaks down the dominant power which bounds him.
- d. drawing a conclusion

H. Thesis Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significance of study, prior research, theoretical approach, method of research, and thesis organization. The second chapter consists of intrinsic elements and movie record

of the *Ghost Rider 2 Movie*. The third chapter is discussion or analysis. The writer analyzes the data using Marxist theory. The last chapter consists of two parts. They are conclusion, suggestion and implication.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

In the chapter I, the writer states that there are two problem statements in this research. After analyzing the chapter III, the writer has already found the answers of those problem statements. Firstly, the writer concludes that Johnny Blaze experiences four kind of alienations that Karl Marx's outlines. the writer concludes that Johnny Blaze experiences alienation of man from the product of his labor, alienation of man from the process of production, alienation of man from his essential species-being, alienation of man from his fellow human being. Secondly, the writer has already found the answer how Johnny Blaze struggled to overcome his alienation.

Johnny blaze experiences alienation of man from the product of his labor. According to the analysis, Johnny represents as labor and the ghost soul inside himself is his machine. They both are involved in a process of production. From the process, Johnny can produce power. The power reflects the product which will be profit of the production. However, Johnny cannot own the product (power). He cannot use the product for himself because the product belongs to the capitalist, Roarke.

Johnny also experiences alienation of man from the process of production.

The indication of this alienation can be seen when Johnny states that he was

possessed by an ancient demon, Roarke. His body does not belong to him anymore, but to another.

Johnny experiences alienation of man from his essential species-being. The indications can be seen when Johnny said that he changes into a monster, then he cannot be what he is supposed to be, a true human. Furthermore, he is afraid of light and he likes darkness. Those conditions are indications that he is alienated from his species-being, from what he should be as a true human.

Johnny also experienced alienation of man from his fellow human being. The indication of this alienation can be found by focusing in a condition when Moreau says that Johnny lives so far away from Johnny's town of birth. Johnny stayes away from the crowd. He prefers to go far away and stays living alone.

From the alienation that Johnny experiences, the writer gives more explanation about how the alienation happens to him. Those all of alienation are caused by Roarke, a character who represents as the capitalist. Roarke forces Johnny to make a deal and sign in a contract. This is closely similar to capitalism where the capitalist offers labor/ worker an employment agreement and makes the labor do some works for him.

The writer also finds the way Johnny Blaze struggles to overcome his alienation. Johnny Blaze struggles to overcome those problems by breaking the rule of capitalism. The idea in the capitalist system that the capitalist controls the process of production and owns the profit is broken down by Johnny. Johnny uses the product (power) for his advantage. He owns the product and uses the product

to break down the capitalist's rule. He breaks down the deal with his boss. Johnny, as labor, does not do what he is supposed to do, to serve his boss. He does not serve his boss. The power that comes out from him does not belong to Roarke anymore, yet he uses the power to fight against his boss, Roarke. Therefore, Johnny, as labor, struggles to overcome the alienation he experiences by breaking down the rule of capitalism.

B. Suggestion and Implication

After analyzing *The Ghost Rider 2* movie by using the Marxist theory, the writer finds another problem that Johnny Blaze experiences. Johnny really wants to release himself from the Ghost inside him, but on the other hand, he is the only one who can save a kid named Danny. If Johnny decides to help Danny, he will have a consequence that he has to keep the ghost soul inside him. However, if he decides to release the ghost inside him, he no longer has power to save Danny. It is such a dilemmatic condition while Johnny has to decide whether he releases the Ghost inside him or helped Danny by using the Ghost power inside him. It probably can be a psychoanalysis study.

Since this study investigates alienation representation in capitalist society, it has some implications. It shows that having freedom is what every people dreams. However, people may have many conflicts to get this dream. There's a factor that influence people to get freedom, it is a relationship to other people. To realize freedom among people, they should respect another. They have to be fair.

It means that people who want to get freedom should also respect other people's right. Then, they will have their freedom together.

Moreover, Islam is a religion which teaches its followers to keep peace and harmony between one another. Islam is also a religion that teaches people to make fairness in every occupation they do. Wherever and whoever they are, they have to be fair to other people. Islam teaches people to take things which are theirs, and never lets them take the things which are not their right. Fairness is like a balance that will make a good social relationship. That is what Islam teaches to its followers, doing fairness without giving any oppression between each other. The latest Moslems' prophet, Muhammad SAW said:

Ibnu Majah told this hadits from Ibnu Umar Radhialahu'anhuma, and Thabrani also told this hadits from Jabir Radhialahu'anhu, and also Abu Ya'la told this hadits from Abu Hurairah Radhialahu'anhu, he said, "Prophet Muhammad SAW said:

"Give the employee wages before his sweat dries"

The story experienced by Johnny Blaze shows unfairness condition which represents in a movie. What Johnny Blaze gets is contradictive with what it should be. Johnny Blaze as a worker does not get his wage, yet he has been over-exploited by his boss, Roarke. For moslems, Islam is a religion which teaches his follower to be fair. When they become a worker, he must be honest and commit. When they become boss, they must be fair to their workers. Islam does not teach

its follower to exploit his worker, yet the boss should be cooperative and think his worker prosperity. Islam teaches not to be arrogant because of wealth. Islam teaches to care and to share to another people.



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