

WOMEN'S OPPRESSION AS SEEN IN MUSICAL EPIC MOVIE: *LES MISÉRABLES*

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WOMEN'S OPPRESSION AS SEEN IN MUSICAL EPIC MOVIE:

LES MISÉRABLES

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ABSTRACT

Les Misérables Movie is an adaptation movie from a French novel under the same title. It tells about social phenomena in 19th century France. The 'men' dominate many events in this movie. However, in fact, this movie echoes various gender problems. The stories about four major woman characters who are portrayed in miserable condition dominate the plot of this movie. This proves that gender problem is important problem to be analyzed in this movie. That problem background encouraged the writer to analyze about gender problems in this movie, especially about women's oppression in the movie. Besides, the writer also analyzed about Islamic perspective regarding the women's oppression in the movie. Here, the writer intends to analyze how women's oppression is represented in *Les Misérables* Movie and how Islam views the women's oppression in this movie. The analysis used Marxist Feminist Theory. Furthermore, the writer also used Film Theory to support the analysis. This research is a qualitative research. The data were analyzed with qualitative descriptive method. The analysis about women's oppression here was divided into two domains: family and society domains. The writer concluded that women were more oppressed in the family than in the society. It is because marital and parental status in the family makes the men have the sense of 'owning' or 'ownership' toward women in the family. Moreover, the narrower domain of the family and the closeness relationship among the family members make the interaction that leads to women's oppression more intense than in the society. On the other hand, Islam viewed that women's oppression was not caused by the men's power. Instead, it was caused by the men's misconduct. It is because Islam views that the men's power should not cause any fear or threat upon women; instead, in Islam, the men's power supposes to be used to support women in various ways they can to make the women better.

Key words: Women's oppression, Capitalist, Family, Society, Islamic perspective

WOMEN'S OPPRESSION AS SEEN IN MUSICAL EPIC MOVIE:

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ABSTRAK

Film *Les Misérables* merupakan film adaptasi dari novel perancis berjudul sama yang menceritakan tentang fenomena sosial Prancis abad ke-19. Banyak peristiwa dalam film tersebut didominasi oleh 'laki-laki.' Namun, pada kenyataannya film ini menampilkan sebuah pola berulang mengenai masalah gender. Empat tokoh mayor wanita yang ditampilkan dalam kondisi menderita menjadi bagian dari cerita yang mendominasi. Ini membuktikan bahwa masalah gender merupakan masalah yang penting untuk diteliti dalam karya ini. Latar belakang tersebutlah yang akhirnya mendorong penulis untuk menganalisis masalah gender di film ini, terutama tentang penderitaan wanita. Selain itu, penulis juga meneliti tentang Islam dalam memandang penyebab penderitaan wanita di film ini. Di sini, Penulis bermaksud untuk menganalisis penderitaan wanita yang direpresentasikan dalam film *Les Misérables* dan menganalisis pandangan Islam mengenai penderitaan wanita dalam film ini. Analisis dalam penelitian ini menggunakan teori Marxist Feminist. Disamping itu, karena subjek penelitian ini adalah film, penulis juga menggunakan Teori Film untuk mendukung analisis. Penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif dengan metode analisis deskriptif kualitatif. Analisis masalah penderitaan wanita ini dibagi dalam dua domain; yaitu domain keluarga dan masyarakat. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa penderitaan yang dialami wanita cenderung lebih berat dalam keluarga dibandingkan dengan dalam masyarakat. Hal ini karena status pernikahan dan status ayah sebagai orang tua membuat laki-laki seperti mempunyai status 'memiliki' atau kepemilikan atas wanita dalam rumah tangga. Di samping itu, lebih sempitnya area keluarga dan kedekatan hubungan antar anggota keluarga membuat interaksi yang dapat menyebabkan penderitaan wanita lebih intens dari pada di masyarakat. Di sisi lain, Islam memandang dengan cara yang berbeda dengan Marxist Feminist. Islam memandang penderitaan wanita bukanlah disebabkan oleh kekuatan atau kekuasaan laki-laki, tapi penderitaan tersebut disebabkan oleh kelakuan tidak pantas mereka. Hal ini karena Islam memandang bahwa kekuatan atau kekuasaan tidak menyebabkan ketakutan dan ancaman bagi wanita. Sebaliknya, kekuatan atau kekuasaan laki-laki dimaksudkan untuk menyupport wanita dalam berbagai hal untuk membuat wanita lebih baik.

Kata Kunci: Penderitaan wanita, Kapitalis, Keluarga, Masyarakat, pandangan Islam

MOTTO

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference*

~Robert Frost~

DEDICATION

I dedicate this graduating paper for

My beloved Abi and Mama

My dearest sisters and brother

and

The altar of knowledge

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Assalamu'alaikum Wr. Wb.

The praise is to Allah, The Cherisher and The Sustainer of the world, who has been accompanying me in writing this graduating paper. Without His mercy, surely I could never finish this paper. Without His support, surely I would not have any courage and spirit to finish this paper. He makes think that this long, boring, tough, and complicated journey is challenging, intricate, and possible to be passed. I thank Him for always reminding me that He never leaves me and always watches over me.

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I realize that this paper is not a perfect one; therefore, I gladly and warmly welcome all criticisms and suggestions for the improvement of this paper.

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Jeni Diana Wati

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

Les Misérables (2012) is a movie adaptation of stage musical performance directed by Tom Hooper. It is originally an adaptation of a great French novel by Victor Hugo under the same title. After its publication in 1862, *Les Misérables* is adapted to be the stage musical play. The first play was performed in 1985 in London's West End and in Broadway. Then, in 2002 *Les Misérables* was adapted into the movie version and won the Academic Award for the best picture (www.articles.orlandosentinel.com). In January 2010, *Les Misérables* was celebrating its historical performance in the West End. Until now, *Les Misérables* was seen by more than 60 million people in 42 countries and was translated into 21 languages worldwide (Universal Picture, 2012: 25). In line with the great response of the earlier adaptation, *Les Misérables* movie adaptation in 2012 was also considered as a great movie. The *Les Misérables* movie is a musical movie that combines acting, musical, and the outside stage setting at once. Here, the audience can feel the emotion of the characters directly and deeply through the expression of the actors. Moreover, the sound illustration also gives the more dramatic effect in the movie.

Les Misérables movie tells about Jean Valjean's life. He is an ex-convict who changes his way of life in nineteenth century France. Firstly, he hates the world because his life is hard and difficult. He thinks life has nothing for him. He has been in prison for 19 years. The cause is he steals a loaf of bread for his starving sister's child. After he is released from the prison, he lives at parole for thirty days. In parole, Valjean's life is even worse. There is no one accepting his existence. People treat him rather like a dog than a human. Yet, there is still a person who accepts him as a human being. That person is a bishop of Digne. This indeed touches his soul. Moreover, this bishop forgives him when Valjean steals his silvers. The bishop even gives more silvers instead of handing him to the police. The Bishop's kindness encourages him to change his life to be a righteous man. He changes his name and breaks the parole. He begins his new life as Monsieur Madeline and becomes a great businessman and a Mayor of a town.

Valjean's life is in peace until one day Javert comes to the town to capture him. Javert is an overseer in the prison back then. He intends to catch Valjean because Valjean breaks his parole. Javert meets Valjean, but Javert does not recognize him. It is because he completely changes to be a different person. Yet, even though Valjean's appearance is different, his unusual massive strength makes Javert wonders and suspects. His suspicion emerges when he sees Valjean lift a huge carriage only by himself. Javert remembers that the only person who has this kind of strength he ever met is Jean Valjean. Javert's suspicion fades when he receives a

letter from Paris telling that ex-convict that he is looking for is captured. Valjean knows that Javert captures a wrong convict. That makes him feel so guilty to the person who is captured on behalf of his mistake. Valjean finally decides to confess that he is the ex-convict whom Javert has been looking for.

Javert intends to capture Valjean, but he runs away. It is because he promises to Fantine, his ex-employee that he will be her child's guardian. He runs away to Paris and lives in a sanctuary. His life in the sanctuary is in peace until one day, at the days of June Rebellion, he meets Javert again. He becomes so worried about his life and his child. It makes him decide to go to England, but then he cancels it for his child's sake. His child, Cosette, is falling in love with a man from a barricade named Marius. Valjean even joins the barricade to protect him. There, Valjean meets Javert who is captured by the barricade. Valjean is rewarded by the barricade to kill Javert for his deed in helping the barricade. Yet, Valjean releases Javert instead of killing him. Valjean fights with the barricade until the end. Unfortunately, all of them are dead, except Marius because he is saved by Valjean. Finally, Marius marries Valjean's daughter. Meanwhile Valjean repents his sin in a convent. In the end, his sins are forgiven, and he is dead peacefully.

The story of *Les Misérables* movie has many moral values. It tells about someone's struggle to change his bitter life to become a meaningful life and to earn the real freedom. It also tells about the importance of sharing, loving, forgiving, and fighting. Furthermore, as an epic literature, it does not only tell about someone's life,

but also about the various social phenomena such as economy, law, religion, family, romantic story, politics, social class, and gender issues. Abrams says the term ‘epic’ is usually used to mention a long narrative poem on great and serious subject, formal style, and centered on heroic or almost God-like figure on whose action depends on the fate of a tribe, a nation, or the human race (Abrams, 2009: 97). Furthermore, he says in addition to the strict use, the term epic is also often to refer works that differ in many features from this model (poem), but it shows clearly the epic spirit in scale, scope, and profound human importance of their subject (Abrams, 2009: 99). Meanwhile, the term ‘epic’ as one of movie genre refers to a movie that the central of its complication involves the changes of historical portion (www.skwirk.com). Here, the story of *Les Misérables* movie is a long narrative and having a serious subject of story. Moreover, it does not only tell about a heroic figure, but also the nation and the complexity of its social and historical phenomena. Thus, *Les Misérables* movie can be categorized as an epic literature.

Here, the complex social problems along with the values in this movie are very interesting to discuss especially about those gender issues. In the writer’s opinion, *Les Misérables* story actually echoes various gender problems in many ways. Even though the center of the story is about a man, who wants to earn his freedom, this story also draws various kinds of women’s conditions. Furthermore, interestingly, in this story all woman major characters are portrayed as the oppressed and subordinated people. Men as well as their social circumstance treat them unfairly

because of their gender and social economic condition. This is indeed not a coincident. It proves that gender problems actually have become the concern of some writers since long time ago.

The condition of woman characters in this movie is different from each other. However, they are similarly depicted in oppressed condition. For example, in *Les Misérables*, there is a story about a proletariat and a bourgeois woman. Both of them live in oppressed conditions; whereas, their financial, education, and family background are different. Yet, why are they depicted similarly in oppressed condition. The bourgeois woman is supposed to have more convenient life, but the fact here; she is just depicted as miserable as the proletariat one. Then more interestingly, those who are depicted as the miserable ones live side by side with a man. Here, men are depicted as the powerful one. Meanwhile, the women are more often depicted subordinate of the man. Is the existence of the man one of the cause of women's oppression? Therefore, it is interesting to find out about women's oppression in this movie. The analysis is aimed to find out about the form, the cause, and the way the characters overcome their oppression. Hence, through *Les Misérables* movie as a popular literary work, along with the analysis about women's oppression, hopefully people can figure out more the gender issues. Thus, it also can make them aware about women's oppression, and lead them to decrease women's oppression and subordination in the real circumstance. Even, from the subjective side of the writer as a Moslem, the writer believes that a woman is a God's creation who ought not to be

discriminated, oppressed, or subordinated. It is because God says in holy Qur'an at surah At-Teen verse 4, that He created people in the best form. It means there is no one lower or even subordinate than the other is.

(<http://quran.com/95>) ﴿لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي أَحْسَنِ تَقْوِيمٍ﴾

Means: "We have indeed created man in the best of moulds" ((QS. At-Teen: 4) Trans. Ali, 2008: 373).

The verse above tells that God has created 'man' (human being) in best of 'moulds' (typical characteristic, behavior, and ability). The *Ulamas* says in Tafseer Ibnu Katseer the sentence, "We have indeed created man" is God's vow regarding the creation of an object, which here the object itself is a human being. Then "in the best moulds" means God has created that object (human being) in the best form in erect posture, perfect or complete body part, and normal (Furi, 2006: 643-644). The word 'man' (human being) here comes from Arabic word *الانسن*, which means 'human being.' It means Islam through Qur'an believes that no one, including woman, is reasonable to be subordinated and discriminated. It is because the subordination and discrimination can cause the oppression. However, in Surah An-Annisa: 34, God says that 'He has given man more (strength) than the other' (Trans. Ali, 2008: 42). In this way, how does actually Islam regard women's oppression? Does Islam agree that man is also one of the sources of women's oppression? This issue is also interesting

to be analyzed. Hence, this analysis does not only analyze women's oppression from social economic point of view, but the analysis based on the Islamic view. However, the analysis of the Islamic perspective regarding the women's oppression in *Les Misérables* movie is not meant to compare and contrast it with Marxist Feminist point of view. Here, the writer only analyzes the women's oppression in this movies from other perspective. Then here, that 'other' perspective is Islamic perspective as the writer's religion.

In order to find out about women's oppression in *Les Misérables* movie, in this analysis, the writer uses Marxist Feminist theory. Marxist Feminist argues that the capitalist system and patriarchy are sources of women's oppression. According to Marxist Feminist, the capitalist does not only refer to the capitalist in economic system in the society, but it also refers to the man in a family. A man (husband or father) is the power holder and considered as the controller in the family. Thus, Engels stated that in a family, a man (husband) is the bourgeois and wife (woman) is a proletariat (2008: 67-137). Hence, in this research the writer analyzes women's oppression both in the family and in the society by using Marx's concept of capitalist system and feminist concept of gender issue.

To limit the analysis about women's oppression in *Les Misérables* , the writer focuses on four woman major characters: Fantine, Madame Thénardier, Cosette, and Eponine. Fantine and Madame Thénardier are represented as married women and parents. Fantine is a single parent, while Madame Thénardier is a mother and a wife.

Meanwhile, Cosette and Eponine are represented as single women. Cosette is a bourgeois, while Eponine is a proletariat. To support the analysis, the writer also analyzes about the cinematography of the movie. It is because all things that are presented in the movie have their own meaning to support the theme of the movie. Therefore, the analysis about cinematography of the movie cannot be neglected.

1.2. Problem Statements

The research of this paper aims to find the answer of the questions:

1. How are women's oppressions represented in *Les Misérables* movie?
2. How does Islamic perspective regard the gender issue related to the women's oppression as seen in *Les Misérables* movie?

1.3. Objectives of Study

The research of *Les Misérables* movie is firstly aimed to find out how women's oppressions are represented in *Les Misérables* movie. Then, the second aim is to find out how does Islamic perspective regard the gender issue related to the women's oppression in *Les Misérables* movie.

1.4. Significances of Study

This research is significant to the development of literature, social science, and cultural study both theoretically and practically:

1. Theoretically, as the gender issue in the reality and in the movie becomes more complex along with the literature development, the research of *Les Misérables* movie, which pictures about women's oppression as part of gender issue is needed in order to find out how the women's oppression is represented in the literary works. The next significance is to guide the spectators of the movie and the reader of this research to understand easily about the gender issue related to the woman oppression in their life through literary works.
2. Practically, this research is important for:
 - a. students; this research is significant to help them understand about gender issues in literary works;
 - b. lecturers; this research can be used as a reference to give an overview about gender issues in literary works;
 - c. literati, this research can stimulate them to do more researches related to the gender issues in literary works;
 - d. women liberation activists and women study centers; this research can give them more reference and other viewpoint related to the gender issue in literary works;

- e. common people; hopefully this research can attract their interest to learn about gender issues, especially about how women's oppression are represented in literary works to help them figure out about the patriarchy in their society. Thus, it can decrease the women's oppression and increase the respect and love for women.

1.5. Literature Review

Les Misérables story has been discussed in some graduating papers, books, and essays. However, none of those discussions analyzes the movie version. Thus, this research is the first analysis. Therefore, here the writer only states the works, which discuss *Les Misérables* novel version. There are many works discussing *Les Misérables* novel version around the world. It is because *Les Misérables* is considered as a great work. Yet here, the writer only states the works, which arouses the writer's interest to analyze this subject.

The first work is a graduating paper of Sanata Dharma University student, Fernando Bangun (2002). It is entitled *The Portrait of Humanism in France in the Age of Les Misérables through the Analysis of the Character of Fantine as Seen in Victor Hugo's Les Misérables*. In this paper, Bangun analyzed the social phenomena in France, especially about humanism. The focus of his analysis is Fantine, one of the women characters in this novel that becomes a prostitute to live her life and her child's life. Meanwhile, the theories used by Bangun to analyze his paper are Ian Milligan's theory about character and characterization, humanism theory by

Frederick Edwords, and Bullough's theory about prostitution (Bangun, 2000: viii). Bangun concluded that Fantine as a prostitute underwent two things. Firstly, she was a part of sinful people that was stated as a dangerous class by the government. Secondly, although as a prostitute she was ignored by everyone, she proved herself as a true mother for Cosette. It was proven by her effort to keep herself and her child alive (Bangun, 2000: 58).

Another work which analyzes *Les Misérables* is graduating paper by Umi Wardah Ma'rifah entitled *Poverty in French of Early Revolution in Victor Hugo's Les Misérables*. Ma'rifah analyzed about the social problems especially about the poverty of Early Revolution in France through Victor Hugo's description in *Les Misérables*. Ma'rifah used sociological approach in applying the concept of social theory to analyze the subject. Here, Ma'rifah analyzed the poverty through the characters and analyzed how the characters fulfill their necessity.

Then, another work is a book by Kathryn M. Grossman (1996) entitled *Les Misérables: Conversion, Revolution, Redemption (Twayne's Masterwork Studies)*. This book contains the study guide of literature for students to gain more background knowledge on great literature as *Les Misérables*. It also discusses about the theme and the concepts of a classic text, conversational language, and the author's life and era. It means Victor Hugo's life and era. Furthermore, this book also discusses the historical context and critical perception about *Les Misérables*.

Those prior researches make the writer interested to analyze the social phenomena in *Les Misérables* movie. However, in this research the writer focuses on

the gender issue, especially about the women's oppression. Furthermore, the writer focuses on analyzing four woman characters in *Les Misérables* movie to find out about the oppression. Therefore, this research is different from the prior researches. The object of this research has not been discussed in any other research yet.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

In this research, the writer uses two theories to analyze the subject. They are Marxist Feminist theory and Film theory. The explanations about those theories are below:

1.6.1. Marxist Feminist Theory

The research of *Les Misérables* movie is aimed to analyze about women's oppression. Then according to the writer's documentation, this movie is further highlighting about the social economic condition. Therefore, the main theory, which is applied in this research, is Marxist Feminist theory. It is because this theory concerns about women's condition from the economic point of view. Here, the writer only explain general concept of Marxist Feminist theory. Meanwhile, the more specific explanation about this theory along with the theoretical framework is explained in the chapter two.

The basic concept of Marxist Feminism is Marx's analysis of capitalism and Feminist's analysis of gender issue. Marxist Feminist explains two ways in analyzing of women's oppression: interactive-system explanation of women's oppression and

two-system explanation of women's oppression. In interactive-system explanation, Young, Hartmann, and Walby believe that the causes of women's oppression are capitalist and patriarchy in interactive relation (as cited in Tong, 2009: 115). Meanwhile, in two-system explanation of women's oppression, Mithcell identifies that the primary cause of women's oppression is capitalist, and the patriarchy is something that makes it worse. On the other hand, Jaggar identifies that the primary cause of women's oppression is the patriarchy, and the capitalist makes it worse (as cited in Tong, 2009: 111-113).

1.6.2. Film Theory

As the main data of this research is a movie, the second theory, which is used, is film theory. Film theory is aimed to explore the cinematography, Mise-en-scène, lighting, and story structure of the movie that can support the analysis. Those elements of movie have their own meaning in the movie. For example, the bluish color of the lighting emphasizes about the coldness of the scene atmosphere, the low camera angle gives vulnerable sense of the character, and so on. The writer uses film theory to support the analysis of women's oppression in the movie. The film theory gives more specific and clear explanation about what moviemaker intends to say in the movie. Because everything that presented in the screen of the movie has its own meaning, thus the analysis of movie elements is needed in order to find out the meaning behind it. The more specific explanation of Film theory is explained in the chapter two.

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

This research uses qualitative method. Qualitative method is also called as interpretative method because the result of the research is the interpretation of the data which are found in the data source (Sugiyono, 2010: 13-14). This method uses emergent design which aims to understand the social phenomena from the perspective of the researcher (Sukmadinata, 2012: 12). The qualitative method is also a method of gathering data. Thus, the writer does not do any interviews or distribute any questionnaire to collect the data, but only gathers and observes the data from some referential books, website, and other data sources.

1.7.2. Data Sources

The main data of this research is the musical epic movie: *Les Misérables*. Thus, the data which are analyzed including the movie and the movie script. The writer also uses some critical works about the movie and some theory books to support the data analysis of this research.

1.7.3. Data Collecting Technique

To collect the data, the writer uses the documentation method. The writer firstly watches *Les Misérables* movie. *Les Misérables* movie is a musical movie which needs deeper interpretation, so the writer compares the movie and the script. After watching the movie and comparing it with the script, the writer interprets the script and gives some marks in order to find the important acts and dialogues which support the analysis.

Besides, to collect the supporting data related to the movie, the writer also documents the data from the library and website. The supporting data which are documented to support this research are for example the movie review, the movie production note, and the movie record. This way, the writer reads and summarizes those data.

Furthermore, after collecting data and doing the documentation, the writer sorts the data in order to find the proper data which need to be analyzed. This research is aimed to analyze women's oppression in *Les Misérables* movie. Thus, the writer only focuses on analyzing four woman characters in this movie and categorizes them in the same category. Those woman characters are Fantine, Cosette, Eponine and Madam Thénardier. Firstly, the writer classifies each woman character's dialogues and marks the supporting dialogues from the other characters. After that, the writer eliminates the dialogues which do not support the analysis. Then, the writer classifies the data based on the form, the cause, and the way they overcome their oppressions. Finally, the writer gets the appropriate data including the family conditions and the social conditions of the woman characters in the movie. This way, the data are ready to be analyzed to answer the problem statements objectively.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

The analysis of the data in this research is descriptive qualitative. This way, the data are analyzed using film theory and literary theory descriptively. The results of the analysis are presented on the description of the main data to draw the conclusion of the analysis. Here, the writer does some steps in writing this paper

including the planning, collecting data, doing the analysis, and completing the research.

The first writing step is planning. The writer does the planning of the research including finding the main data of this research. After that, the writer limits the problem, states the problem statement, and begins to collect the data which is used in the research. Then, the writer determines the appropriate information to support the data of the research. Besides, the writer also reduces some data that do not support the research.

After the writer gets the appropriate data, the next step is analyzing data by using Marxist Feminist theory and Film theory. However, before the writer analyzes the focus of the research, the writer firstly analyzes the intrinsic element of the narration including character and characterization, setting, plot, and theme. After that, the writer analyzes the focus of this research. The focuses of this research are to find out the women's oppressions in family and social domain along with the cinematography to support the analysis. Finally, after the analysis is completed, the writer concludes the analysis comprehensively.

1.8. Paper Organization

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter describes the general information of the research including the background of study, problem statements, objectives of study, significances of study, literary review, theoretical approach, method of research, and paper organization. The second chapter explains the

theoretical framework used in this paper. The third chapter explains the intrinsic elements of the *Les Misérables* movie including the theme, character and characterization, setting, and plot. The fourth chapter is the analysis that contains the data analysis including the analysis of the movie using film theory and Marxist Feminist theory. The last chapter is the conclusion of the research. This chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis of the third chapter.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

5.1. Conclusion

This research firstly is aimed to figure out about how women's oppression is represented in *Les Misérables* movie. Here, the writer discovers the women's oppressions are in the forms of alienation, inequity, and gender based violence including physical, psychological, and sexual violence. It happens both in the family and society domains. In the family, the main cause of women's oppression is the man as the symbol of capitalists in the family. The men's power dominates the women. It mostly happens because the women are economically dependent on their husband or father. Meanwhile, women's oppression in the society is mostly caused by society values. Then the rests are caused by the capitalist in the formal work market, the law, the state, and the sexist.

The average result of oppressions from the analysis shows that in the family, the women experience more various kinds of oppressions than in the society. They are in the forms of alienation, inequity, and gender based violence including physical, psychological, and sexual violence. Meanwhile, in the society, the result shows that the women mostly only experience inequity and psychological violence. Even though especially in Fantine's case, she experiences all forms of oppressions because she

joins the formal work market, yet the other three women only experience inequity and psychological violence. Besides, the women more often experience oppressions in the family than in the society.

However, the heavier oppression in the family happens when the man, the symbol of the capitalist in the family, exists. It happens in the Thénardier family; whereas the oppression does not exist in Fantine's family because the man is absent. Furthermore, the economical and educational condition of the family also influences the women's oppression in the family. In Cosette's case, her oppression is not heavy, because her family economic condition is good; it does not push her to work. Then Cosette's family proper education also arouses consciousness to treat people well. It is different from the Thénardier family that is less educated and poor. That makes Madame Thénardier and Eponine experience more various and more often oppressions.

Hence, the more various and more often oppressions that are experienced by the women in the family make the women more oppressed in the family domain than in the society domain. That is caused by the marital and parental status of the family. The marital status and parental status in the family make the men have the sense of 'owning' women in the family. It gives more power for the men to 'own' and to 'dominate' the women. As the men feel 'owning' the women, they can do anything they want toward the women. Besides, the narrower area of the family domain and the close relationship among the family members make the interaction that leads to

women's oppression more intense than that in the society domain. It is collateral with the hypothesis 'the violence is usually caused by the people who is closer to the victim'. Therefore, the economically independent condition of the woman in the family—although it gives more power for women—cannot be the guarantee for the absence of the man's domination in the family. That is why Eponine and Madame Thénardier's effort to emancipate themselves by trying to be economically independent fails.

Secondly, this research is aimed to figure out the Islamic perspective regarding women's oppression in this movie. Islam believes that the women's oppression is caused by the men's misconduct and bad behavior. It is proven in Cosette's family. Cosette's father is an educated and religious man. He never treats Cosette so badly. The only oppression that Cosette experiences is psychological violence caused by her father's over protectiveness. It is different from Monsieur Thénardier. He behaves rudely and irresponsibly, and he is a criminal. He also treats his family badly. Thus, the oppression in Thénardier's family is greater than that in Cosette's family. It is obvious that women's oppression in the family is caused by the man's misconduct, and it is the same as what happens in the society.

Thus, Islam has a different perspective from Marxist Feminist regarding the women's oppression. Islam views that women's oppression is not caused by the men's power in the family as well as in the society. Here, if Marxist Feminist believes that women's oppression is caused by capitalism and patriarchy; instead, Islam

believes that women's oppression is caused by misconduct and bad behavior of the men and people who has greater power than the other does. Actually, it is because in Islamic perspective, the men's power should not cause any fear or threat upon woman. Instead, in Islamic view, the men's power is supposed to be used to support women in various ways they can to make the women better as in the Holy Qur'an, Surah An-Nisa: 34.

5.2. Suggestion

Les Misérables is a story that tells various social phenomena such as gender issues, religions, economics, politics, and so on. On the other hand, in this research, the writer only analyzes the gender issue. Moreover, the writer only analyzes it by using Marxist Feminist theory. The writer believes that this research is far from perfection. Thus, the writer humbly opens the chance for the readers to give the criticism and the suggestion to make this research better. This research either can be criticized by the next researchers by conducting the other research. Moreover, the story of *Les Misérables* is complex, and there are many objects than can be analyzed from this movie. Therefore, still, there are many possibilities for the next researchers to conduct other research by using this movie as the subject. The next researcher can analyze how women are influenced in the political movement or how women are positioned in the religion tenet. The next researcher also can analyze symbols of political movement in *Les Misérables* movie, the influence of religion belief on Jean Valjean's life, and many more.

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