

THE STRUGGLE OF LOWER CLASS AS SEEN IN *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD*

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the Bachelor Degree in English Literature



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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

I certify that this graduating paper is definitely my own work. I am completely responsible for the content of this research. Other writer's opinions or findings included in the research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards.

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THE STRUGGLE OF LOWER CLASS AS SEEN IN *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD*

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to find out how lower classes rise against the upper class to achieve justice and equality. *Mad Max: Fury Road* shows a class social that appears in a post-apocalyptic world. In *Mad Max: Fury Road* also shows a class struggle that is different as the marxist describes, yet the class structure of *Mad Max: Fury Road* are made of economic structure of society. This research uses objective approach by applying the theory of class struggle by Karl Marx. After analyzing all data that had been found, such as class identification and the struggle of lower class. The writer concludes that the struggle of lower classes is the way they get justice and classless community. Whereas, the class struggle itself has different cause as described by marxist. Yet it has same significance.

Keywords: *Mad Max: Fury Road*, Marxist, upper class, lower class, class struggle.



PERJUANGAN KELAS BAWAH SEPERTI YANG TERLIHAT DI *MAD MAX*:

FURY ROAD

Oleh: Khoirur rizal

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini ialah untuk mencari tahu bagaimana kelas bawah berdiri melawan kelas atas untuk mendapatkan keadilan dan persamaan. Pada *Mad Max: Fury Road* memperlihatkan kelas social yang muncul di akhir dunia. Di *Mad Max: Fury Road* juga Menunjukkan perjuangan kelas bawah yang berbeda dengan yang di jelaskan oleh Marxist. Namun kelas social *Mad Max: Fury Road* terdiri dari struktur ekonomi social. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan obyektif dengan menerapkan teori perjuangan kelas oleh Karl Marx. Setelah menganalisa semua data yang sudah ditemukan seperti identikasi kelas dan perjuangan kelas bawah. Penulis menyimpulkan bahwa perjuangan kelas bawah adalah cara meraka mendapatkan keadilan dan komunitas tanpa perbedaan golongan. Sedangkan perjuangan kelas itu sendiri mempunyai penyebab yang berbeda seperti yang di jelaskan oleh marxist. Tetapi mempunyai manfaat yang sama.

Kata Kunci: *Mad Max: Fury Road*, Marxist, kelas atas, kelas bawah, perjuangan kelas

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MOTTO

“Go for it. No Matters How It Ends, it was an Experience”



DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my beloved family.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

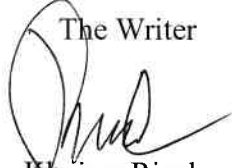
Assalamualaikum wr.wb

Praise and thanks to Allah who gives me His mercy and His guidance so I can complete this graduating paper entitled the struggle of lower class as seen in movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*. This graduating paper is submitted to fulfill one of the requirement to gain the Degree of Bachelor in State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. In finishing this graduating paper, I really give thanks and appreciation for people who helped me, they are:

1. The head of English Department, Dr. Ubaidillah Bahisan, M. Hum
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7. Everybody who helped me to finish my graduating paper that I cannot mention one by one.

Finally, I realized that this paper is far from being perfect, but hopefully, this research can make a contribution to the literary fields.

Yogyakarta, 20 Mei 2017

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

literature meant all kinds of writing, including history and philosophy. Literature have changed their meaning overtime. But it is possible to trace its gradual shift of meaning all the way up to the present. According to Carter, this all leads to inevitable conclusion that literature is what a given society at given time consider it to be (Carter.2006: 17). From explanation above, it concludes that literature can not apply a specific definition. When trying to apply one. There will be an example of non literary phenomena to which it applies and literary phenomena to which it does not. It also tells that literature grows from time to time. From the earliest writing as poetry, prose and poem, to the most recent form like movie. Most literature works are fiction, but not all fiction are literature works. For example,a movie about someone's travel journey, which is a non-fiction movie that considered to be literature.

Another example are Narrative movie and documentary movie. they differ in primarily in terms of allegiance. Narrative movie begin with commitment to dramatic story telling, while documentary movie is more concern with the recording of reality (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 65). In other words, narrative movie is a fiction movie and a documentary movie is non fiction. But both genres are considered as movie and literary works.

As one of literary works, movie has been popular for fifty years. And some scholar consider movie worthy of serious study. There are another two terms of

movie. Those are film and cinema. The three terms are essentially interchangeable. Although so, they have different designation. Cinema derives from the greek word “kinesis” which means movement. Originates from the first filmmaker pioneers August and louis lumiere. While film, it derives from the celluloid strip on which the images that make up motion pictures were originally captured, cut, and projected. And Movies is simply short for motion pictures (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 3).

For most people, movie is a mere entertainment, a break of daily obligation. But movie is more than an entertainment. When people watch movie, people do not realize that movie shapes the way they view world around them. For example, brokeback mountain (2005), a film directed by Ang lee. Brokeback mountain has earned the level of international critics, according to its story which tell about gay relationship in the context of the archetypal American west. Brokeback mountain not only earned so many critics, it also influenced the way American perceived the same-sex relationship and gay right (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 2). So, it is clear that movie influences and shapes the way people perceives something.

Movie has three types, those are narrative movie, documentary movie and experimental movie. Narrative movie is well-known to people; it is also ingrained in culture. What differ narrative movie to other type of movie is that narrative movie is directly toward fiction. Although some narrative movie purport to tell a true story, the story has been adjusted, events are added, removed and rearranged. Even the characters are composited and added some touch so the actor could look attractive. So, whatever source narrative movie from, all behavior, action and

dialogue line are arranged. While documentary movie is more concerned with the recording of reality. Although it is, it would be a mistake to think that documentary movie is using the actual people, places, and events. Because all documentary filmmakers also employ storytelling and dramatization to some degree in shaping their material. If they did not, their footage might end up as unwatchably dull. However, documentary movie is a nonfiction movie which differ to narrative movie. In other hand, experimental movie is the most difficult of all types of movie to defines, because experimental movie seeks to defy categorization and convention. What differ experimental movie to other types of movie is that it pushes the boundaries of what most people think movie are or should be (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 64). No matter what it is called, approaches, formats and types. Movie is a motion picture, a series of images when viewed in rapid it forms a movement. In other word, movies move.

From explanation about movie and all its types. The writer of this study interests to analyse movie. *Mad Max: Fury Road* as the object of this research is an post-apocalypse movie, directed by george miller. *Mad Max: Fury Road* is the fourth of its series. There were three prequels of this movie, those are *Mad Max* (1979), *Mad Max 2* (1981) and *Mad Max: Beyond Thunderstorm*. However, the researcher only takes *Mad Max: Fury Road* as the subject research. Quoted form Slashfilm website, what makes this movie special than the other prequels is that this movie was done for real. The odd cars for example, those cars were designed and modify for real, the dangerous stunts such as explosions, car crash were also done for real. On a stunt movie like *Fury Road* there is always the potential for

injury or even death. That means that the safety of crew and performers alike has to be prioritized above all else (www.slashmovie.com/fury-road-trivia/2/).

There were at least 150 vehicles that look like a home of wasteland occupied by violently insane gang that loves to wear too much sunscreen. More than 75 of them were torn in half, blown up or otherwise ripped into shreds. Not only how much number of cars that have been used, this movie also required up to 1700 workers on set to film the action, including 150 stunt performers, stunt drivers, camera crews and even a team of snake wranglers to clear the desert where the movie has been shot.

This movie was shot in Namibia, known for drought conditions that have lasted for more than a decade. Which is suitable for the wasteland movie background. Instead of relied on CGI (computer-generated imagery), Miller made this movie in old-school ways, which live-action stunts to create a unique visceral experience for the audiences. He rather made a live-action film that other movie that relies on CGI. (www.therichest.com).

This movie was set in a desert. It tells about a world after the colapse of civilization. Drought strike the earth. Where people set to a single instinct, survive. People killing each other in order to get water and food. Someone who own the water and food could rule other. The movie start with Max being chased by Warboy and designed as blood-donator or “blood-bag” in Citadel. A city ruled by tyrannical warlord, Immortan Joe. He was the one who had big amount of water and food. Meanwhile, Imperator Furiosa was getting ready to collect gasoline and bullet from the order of Immortan Joe.

Instead of heading to the bullet farm or gas town. She made a daring escape with the Five Wives of Immortan Joe, forges an alliance with Max Rocktansky. They seek a freedom and a place called green place of many mother. When Immortan Joe realize that all of his wives are gone. He set all army in pursuit of Furiosa. After a long deadly high-speed chase through the desert. Finally, Furiosa and her groups escape the pursuit. However, another bitter fact they have to face that the green place is no longer exist. They had no other choice but to go back to citadel and fight Immortan Joe and the whole army.

Marxist is well known as a political and economic system in which the proletariat as the working class is exploited by the bourgeois. The exploitation of the proletariat is the key to class struggle. It is believed that once the bourgeois is thrown, a socialist would follow. *Mad Max: Fury Road* was created by this basic structure. It is here, in Citadel where the foundation of marxist's class structure is represented.

Where Immortan Joe as the luring class, exploited the working class, those were Furiosa, Max, the Five Wives, Warboys and the Wretched. Yet, the emergences of class struggle both Marx and Miller oppose each other. It is clearly seen when Furiosa's group managed to escape from Immortan Joe capitalist system. They found out that the Green Place was no longer exist. From here, the class struggle emerged. They made a plan to go back to Citadel. They went back to Citadel and overthrown Immortan Joe. The class struggle emergence was not because of the oppression of the upper class as stated by marxist, but because the

group preferred to slain Immortan Joe off his throne instead of continue their journey. Hence, they did class struggle.

From the explanation above, *Mad Max: Fury Road* indirectly represent society nowadays. It is either seen or not, as described by Marx, the society nowadays, where the lower class is being exploited by the upper class, using superstructure to disguise their antagonism. Those are reasons of the writer interests to analyze *Mad Max: Fury Road* using marxist theory.

In Al – Qur'an surah Hujarat, verse 13, explains about human equality. Where there are no different among human in front Allah S.W.T :

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَىٰ وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا ۚ إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتَقَاكُمْ ۚ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ

Which means: O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed the most noble of you is the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed Allah is knowing and Acquainted.

The verse above explains, Allah warns people to respect each other. Although Humans have been created in different tribes but they have same degree in Allah. What differ mankind is their faith in believing Allah, not by their wealth.

1.2. Problem Statements

Based on the background study, the research tries to analyze the answer of how is the class struggle explained in the movie?

1.3. Objectives of Study

After conducting the problem statements, the research of this paper aims to discover how the class struggle is explained in the movie

1.4. Significances of Study

The significances of research are expected to be able to contribute the development literary study both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this research has used on of literary criticism. It is class struggle criticism. It can be used to understand deeper about oppression to lower class in movie based on class struggle literary criticism, especially, in the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

Practically, this research is useful to readers and students to understand about class struggle. This research applies class struggle by Karl Marx. It also can be used as reference for another research. And another significance of this research is to make people interested in understanding about Marxism on movie. Hopefully, this research also can be used as inspiration to the reader and other research about Marxism class struggle theory.

1.5. Prior Research

Some researcher finds some similarity in theoretical approach and the object of study. In previous researches like:

Rina Oktavia: Tangerang Selatan, 2015 “*Analysis of feminism Perspective in Mad Max: Fury Road Movie*”. This research aims to find out some evidence

related to the changing of woman rules and gender equality as depicted in the movie.

Septian Prasetyo: Malang, 2016. "*The Class Construction of Mad Max: Fury Road Under the Capitalist Immortan Joe*". This paper aims to demonstrate and state that the movie class structure under an avaricious capitalist and to reveal hidden message idea related to the issue.

Muhammad Faqikhudin: Yogyakarta, 2015 "*The Struggle of Lower Class against the Government as Seen in Elysium Movie*". This research analyzes how the lower class and upper class are represented in Elysium, describes how the upper class oppresses the lower class and analyzes how the lower class struggles to achieve justice and equality against upper class.

The difference between Rina Oktavia's research with this research is in theoretical approach. The first previous research used feminism as subject of the research. It aims to find out evidence of feminism in the movie

The second previous research has been done by Septian Prasetyo. This research had the same object with this research. But this research aims to state the class construction under capitalist. While this research aims to explain the class struggle that appears in *Mad Max: Fury Road Movie*. Both research has same Marxist as the theory but differ in problem and objective.

The last previous paper has the same theoretical approach. Both research aims to explain the class struggle. The subject that differ both researches. The previous one analyzed a movie entitle *Elysium*.

1.6. Theoretical Approach

1.6.1. Class Struggle Theory

Commonly, the social class appears when a group of wealthy and powerful people are discriminating lower class. Using their higher income and wealthy, the upper class divide class social between them and lower class. Hence, the upper class can easily oppress the lower class. But these arguments are invalid according to Marx, for him upper class is;

“Classes are not differentiated by income. Although members of different classes will, typically, earn different incomes, they need not do so; and, even when they do, it is not by virtue of this fact that they belong to different classes. He also rejects the idea that classes can be distinguished by the occupations of their members, that is, by the specific nature of the work they perform. The work context, not the work itself, is constitutive of class. Finally, we can exclude the idea that classes are differentiated by status, be it by the informal status criterion of honor or by the formal criterion of belonging to a legal order.” (Elster, 1986:124).

From explanation above, classes are not determined because their income. Although between lower class and upper class's income are different. According Max, what is differ the classes is by the status. Whether, it is formal or informal.

The class social in Marx's view has been divided into some classes based on their society. In the ancient Rome, it has patricians, knights, plebeians, slaves. In the middle age, it has feudal lords, vassals, guild-master, journeyman, apprentice, and serfs. In ancient Rome, the social status is divided into slaves and plebeians as the lower class whereas patricians and knights are the upper class. However, in the middle age, class status is divided into serfs, vassals, apprentice, and journeyman as the lower class and feudal lords, and guild-master as the upper class (Marx and Engels, 2007: 7).

This research focuses on the Oppression of lower class characters as object of analysis, therefore the proper theory is class struggle theory. The forms of class struggle are many and varied. they range from hidden manipulation to overt conflict, from direct confrontation between two classes involved in a relation of exploitation or domination (Elster. 1986: 134). When there are exploitation and domination toward the lower class, there will be a class struggle. Class struggle theory is theory talks about the oppression toward lower class. The identification of Class struggle is when the lower class being treated unwell and injustice.

The class struggle will appear when the lower class is oppressed, and the lower class breaks the capitalism to create new system where there is no class social in society. Marx believed that the bourgeois state would have to be smashed by proletariat and dictatorship society. As socialism gives a way to communism, the state will wither away because in classless society, no organ of class rule is required the state (Edward, 1978: 47). The new system that is made by lower class, unlike feudalism or capitalism, otherwise will show a society without class. But when there is injustice in society, it will be power for the lower class to resist and rise against the upper class that is oppressed the lower class.

1.6.2. Film Theory

Film studies deal with the problem of reality and representation by making an initial assumption and proceeding logically from it. The assumption is that all representation has meaning. The term *mise-en-scene* describes the primary feature of cinematic representation. It is the first step in understanding how film produce

and reflect meaning. Taken from French, *mise-es-scene* means that which has been put into the scene or put on stage. *Mise-en-scene* consists of all the element placed in front of camera to be photographed, settings, props, lighting, costume, make up and figure behavior (actors, their gestures and facial expressions) (Sikov. 1893:1)

The two-major's visual component of *mise-en-scene* are design and composition. Design is the process by which the look of the settings, props, lighting, and actors is determined. Set design, *décor*, prop selection, lighting setup, costuming, make-up and hairstyle design all play a role in shaping the overall design. Composition is the organization, distribution, balance, and general relationship of actors and objects within the space of each shot. (Barsam and Monahan, 2010: 156)

Since the writer takes movie as the data of the research. The writer applies film theory as secondary theory in research, especially in *mise-en-scene*. The writer uses both components of *mise-en-scene*, those are design and compotiton to analyse every scene of movie. Film theory as the support to analyze using marxist theory, especially the class struggle theory.

1.7. Method of Research

1.7.1. Type of Research

In this research, the writer uses qualitative method. “*Basic of Qualitative Research: Technique and Procedure for Developing Grounded Theory*”, a book by Strauss and Juliet said that qualitative method is a method of research that

produces by finding something and it is not arrived at by statistical procedures or other mean of quantification (Strauss and Juliet 1998: 10-11). The purpose of this method is to understand a phenomenon.

However, the writer of this research does not do interview, but only collecting data from the textual of the movie and other sources related to the movie.

1.7.2. Data Sources

In this research, the writer takes data from the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*. Then the writer uses the script and scenes of the movie as the main data. Actions, signs and symbols as unit data. The writer also uses other supporting data to analyzes paper. While the supporting data are some reviews and articles that relate to movie.

1.7.3. Data Collecting Technique

The writer collects data by using library research technique. First, the research considers the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road* as the literary work and decides what is the proper theory to analyze the movie. Second, the writer watches the movie and understands deeply about intrinsic elements of the movie.

Then, the writer selects and classifies the data which relate to the problem statements. The research also collects supporting data from internet and other sources. After collecting the data, the writer analyzes the data based on the theory that is used in this research.

1.7.4. Data Analysis Technique

The writer uses objective approach to analyze the data. It is based on the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*. First, the writer collects and categorizes proper data for this research including the event, object and action of the character. The writer analyzes this by using the theory of class struggle. The writer does not only analyze the main character, but also analyzes other characters as supporting data. The writer also uses film theory to analyze the scene, expression and dialog. Last, the writer concludes all of the analysis as conclusion.

1.8. Paper organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter includes the general information about research such as background study, problem statements, objectives of study, significances of study, prior research, theoretical approaches, method of research and paper organization. The second chapter is about intrinsic elements of the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The next chapter consists of analysis. And the last is the conclusion of the research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1. Conclusion

The purpose of this research is to analyze the class struggle of lower class as in the movie *Mad Max: Fury Road*. The social class that appears in this movie build in marxist's social class concept. The social class is divided into two categories. Those are bourgeois as represented by Immortan Joe and the lower class that is represented by all character except Immortan Joe,

According marxist, the class struggle that emerges in effect of oppression by the upper class toward the lower class. Here, where the idea of marxist are being opposed. In this movie, the cause was not because of the oppression of upper class, yet because the proletariat was being cornered. They had no choice. They had to do the class struggle. The class struggle was appeared not because of the oppression of bourgeois. Redemption was also the factor that support the appearance of class struggle.

There is only one form of struggle in this movie, that is ideological form. The group was looking for hope. Hence, they made a daring escape from citadel head to the green place. the motive of class struggle of the group was to find hopes. they headed to citadel in order to find hope. The effect of class struggle was the ruler of citadel getting killed and make the citadel being a classless city. While the significance is that all the wretched could feel the impact of class

struggle. This movie teaches that everyone is equal and have the same position. Although they have different wealth and power. Moreover, in the presence of god, what differ is their deed.

4.2. Suggestion

The writer suggests to other research that the social class can be seen in Islamic perspective. For example, Allah aid it in Hujarat verse 13. In this verse, Allah warn people to respect each other. Because what differ them is their doing, not their or their status. This verse has similarity to marxist theory. Marxist opposes the class social. In other verse can be found in Al A'raf verse 34. There is no social class that always in upper. The one who in the upper side, they will likely sink in to bottom. It has similar thought as marxist on capitalist system. As marxist describes, the upper class will be slayed by the lower class and a classless society would be followed eventually.

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