

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

In every society there is a disparity, which is shown with high and low status. For example, the income of society group is different depending on the ability in every person. For they who have the highest income, they are belonging to upper class. And, for they who have the lowest income, they can be categorized in lower class. This thing can cause a disparity of social class in society.

A social class is a category of people similar in socioeconomic status when compared to other such categories in a stratified society. The equality characterizes all societies larger than non literate tribes is an equal distribution of material goods, prestige or honor and power over others. The formation of a hierarchy or pyramid of groups differentiated by their possession of greater and lesser amounts of these advantages constitutes the class structure of society. (Sill, 1972:40)

According to *Shadily*, social class is a group which is formed by existence of the status disparity between upper and lower class and it's caused by sense of a group in every class. Therefore one class can be different from other class. Thus, the disparity is always curtailed by lifestyles and their social behavior (Shadily, 1983:90).

Then, Marx (in Suseno, 1999:113) said that society consists of upper class and lower class. The differences in material achievement make the lifestyles between the rich and the poor different. The rich who has the wealth will get higher education and prestige than the poor. Everything is easy for the rich by using their wealth. In feudal societies based on land and agricultural production the two great classes are the lord and the serf or the larded aristocracy and the peasant. The lord or aristocracy owns the land (the means of production) while the serf and peasant own but their labor power.

The disparity of social classes can be reflected in literary work. One of the literary works is film. Film has an important role in recent society since it exposes many issues in daily life. As a means of entertainment, film provides the audience with pleasure in the spectacular of its representation on the screen in recognition of the stars, style, genre, and in enjoyment of the event itself. In addition, it is also a social practice for its maker and their audience for it is able to give influence the audience consciousness to their environment and society.

Allen and Gomery (1985:156) discusses the relation between films and society as follow “The making of film also has a social dimension for several reasons. Film makers are members of society and as such are no less subject to social pressures and norms than anyone else. So, all film making occurs within some social context” (Allen and Gomery, 1985:156).

*Titanic* is one of the block buster movie directed by James Cameron. The movie was released by Paramount Pictures and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox on

December 19, 1997. And the running time is 194 minutes. *Titanic* had spent \$ 200,000,000. James Cameron's *Titanic* was not the first *Titanic* movie. The previously *Titanic* are; *Saved from Titanic (1912)*, *Titanic (1943)*, *A Night to Remember (1958)*, *SOS Titanic (1979)*, *Raise The Titanic (1980)* and *Titanic (1996)*. *Titanic* is an Academy Award winning in 1997. This movie won 11 Academy Award on March 23, 1998 including best picture of 1997. (www.a night to remember titanic.com.3/20/2006)

*Titanic* is a consummate movie experience. The category shares some features with romantic drama. Romance films make the love story the main plot focus. The movie turns abruptly into a more action-oriented movie as soon as the *Titanic* hits an iceberg and begins to sink. These are love stories or affairs of the heart that center on passion, emotion and the romantic, affectionate involvement of the main characters. Their passionate love affair between low class society and high class society becomes a thrilling race for survival.

One of the greatest film makers is James Cameron. James Cameron is a directed and also as a screenwriter makes *Titanic* to be an amazing film. He was born in Kapuskasing, Ontario, Canada on August 16, 1954. He has a nickname "Iron Jim". He got the nickname Iron Jim because of his stern, stubborn ways as a director. He moved to the USA in 1971. The son of an engineer, he majored in physics at California State University but, after graduating, he tries to support his screen writing ambition. Another work beside *Titanic* are: *The Terminator (1984)*, *Aliens (1986)*, *The Abyss (1989)*,

*Terminator 2: Judgment Day (1991), True Lies (1994) and Strange Days (1995).* (www.James Cameron's Titanic.com.3/13/2006)

*Titanic* by James Cameron is a film that describes social disparity. Therefore the right approach is Marxist, which was introduced by German's philosopher Karl Marx. He perceives that human history consists of high class and lower class and it causes a disparity. So, this study is entitled **DISPARITY OF SOCIAL CLASSES IN JAMES CAMERON'S TITANIC. A MARXIST APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

In analyzing the film the writer has read other paper that is relevant with her analysis. After doing some observation in Surakarta, the writer finds the film has been analyzed. *First*, by Niken Sulisty Herdini (Sebelas Maret University of Surakarta). Her research paper is entitled "A Conversation Analysis of Dialogue in the Film Entitled *Titanic*: Pragmatics Study". *Second*, by Nita Ariyani (Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta) in her thesis entitled "Social Relation and Stratification in James Cameron's *Titanic* Film Script: A Marxist Perspective". While in this study the writer uses Marxist Approach in order to give emphasis on social disparity that is dominated by the lower class. However the previous researchers about the same film are helpful for the writer to analyze the film better.

**C. Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problems of this research can be determined as follows:

1. What is the disparity of social classes in James Cameron's *TITANIC* ?
2. How is the disparity of social classes reflected in James Cameron's *TITANIC*?

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher limits the study to analyze social disparity between the lower class and upper class in social classes based on Marxist Approach.

**E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the research are:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To explain the disparity of social classes based on Marxist perspective.

**F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

- a. To give some information that can be used by the other researcher that is interested in analyzing James Cameron's *TITANIC*.
- b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in this research.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

For getting the bachelor degree of education in English Department.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Research**

This study uses descriptive qualitative method

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is James Cameron's *Titanic*

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources**

Data are divided in two, primary and secondary data. Primary data is the DVD from James Cameron's *Titanic*; published by Paramount Pictures. While secondary data are gained from other books and thesis related to the research.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method used for collecting data is library research. The first step is watching film and other books or sources that are connected to the research repeatedly, then finding out the important data and arranging data into several parts based on its classification and finally developing data are provided.

### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis and hermeneutics.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research is going to be organized into six chapters. Chapter I consists of research background, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory of Marxist Approach. Chapter III is the social background in the late of twentieth century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the film by describing character and characterizations, setting, plot, point of view, casting, theme, *mise en scene* and design, sound, cinematography, and editing of the film. Chapter V is the Marxist analysis deals with the problem of the film. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.