

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

In the world, discrimination is a classic problem. There are some discrimination in this world, discrimination of class, race, education and the others, and all of them have relationship. Discriminations are usually based on social status and a replay of losing power, especially discrimination of race. When power is forced, discrimination is done. It has happened in the story of countries in the world. And it will be continued until the end of human life. It is caused by the desire of a race or class to take the power, so take revenge will happen to be continued. By the issue above, there is a movie that has been released at 1999. It is a simple story, but this is not easy to tell. Like a fable, there are sorrow, happiness, and full of wonder. This is struggle for life. The title is *Life is Beautiful*. Based on the story that has relationship with the issue, the writer wants to analyze the movie.

Life Is Beautiful is a movie directed by Roberto Benigni. The duration is about 114 minutes. The movie is released in 9th November 1999. Before the movie is released, the theatrical had been showed in 1998. The language used is English but there are some switching to Italy and Dutch. The content of the

movie is congealing with the history of NAZI, a discrimination of class and race. It is a struggle for getting and keeping love.

This movie also gets response, it gets a little criticism. This movie gets good value from its audiences. Moreover, they regard that the movie is perfect, having beautiful package of story. There are sorrow, happiness, and full of wonder. The director of the movie in Italy gives seven stars for this movie more than the limited of starts achievement. This movie also gets award in AFTA.

Roberto Benigni is the master the exacting art of improvisational humor early. Inspired by Charles Chaplin, Buster Keaton, and Peter Sellers, Benigni gained fame in his native country with his acting in TV series. One of his best known monologues, "Cioni Mario", was expanded into the feature movie *I love You Berlinger / Berlinguer Ti Voglio Bene* (1977). After that, Benigni went on to star in a number of popular movies in Italy.

Benigni demonstrated his comedic talents to a worldwide audience, he started to follow the casting of Inspector Clouseau in Blake Edwards' 1992 *Son of the pink panther*. Unfortunately, he is not received by the audience. The comedian more than proved himself five years later, starting in *Life Is Beautiful*. The movie which had the potentially ungainly premise of a comedy set in a NAZI concentration camp proved to be a huge international success, both critically and commercially. It won the grand jury prize at the Cannes movie festival.

Immediately lambasted by critics upon release in 2002, the visually extravagant movie proved a notable failure at the box office with the dubbed stateside version of the movie taking exceptional heat. By this point no one doubted Benigni's talent, but his misguided execution left many wonder. Benigni married actress with Nicoletta Braschi in 1991, and she appeared with him in a number of movies, including *Johnny Stecchino* and *Life Is Beautiful*.

The movie has three major characteristics and eight minor characteristics. *Life is beautiful* is the movie that directed by Roberto Benigni. The movie has two parts. The first part is the struggle to fight the discrimination of race and class for getting love, the name of a woman is Dora. Guido is Jewish and a low class. Jewish is a race that wants to disappear by NAZI. Dora is a high class. Guido comes to city for work in his uncle's restaurant. The name of his uncle is Leo. Dora has been matched with the one of employer in the city. The first meeting between Guido and Dora is in animal husbandry. Guido always gives surprise for Dora. The matter make Dora love Guido. And at the party, Dora asks Guido to ask her go out from home. From this struggle, finally they were marrying.

They have a son, his name is Joshua. Guido has a bookstore. It is a source of Guido's wage. Once day, the Germans come to take away Guido and his son, but his wife is not caught because she is not Jewish. But, she determined to follow them.

The second part shows the existence of a father. Guido entertains his son in the conflict. Guido takes a huge risk by treating the whole exercise as a joke. He explains to his son that they have just bought the tickets to take part in a contest to win a tank (not a toy one, but a real one, thought of which lights up Joshua's eyes). Once time, US force the camp of German. The situation in camp has been disturbed. Guido exploit of this to save his son. He said for his son that it is a final game, so you must hide. After this, Guido looks for Dora. But he is caught by the German's soldier, and he is death by them.

The writer wants to analyze *Life Is Beautiful* due to some reasons. The first, the writer is interested by the story of this movie, a historical movie about historical events. This is a minority story from the big moment. The second reason is the visualization and the cast of the movie. Benigni makes the audience feel enthusiastic with this epic drama movie.

The third reason is the effect of the discrimination of race is reflected in this movie. The discrimination of race causes the unharmonious and unbalancing in the life. And the fourth, the movie has interesting major characters, especially Guido Orifice that is acted by Roberto Benigni. He shows the existence of father.

From the previous, the writer wants to analyze the discrimination of race in Guido's struggle with Marxist perspective and the title is

DISCRIMINATION OF RACE IN ROBERTO BENIGNI'S : *LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL* (1999) A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE.

B. Literature Review

Actually, the writer is not the first person who analyzes the movie of *Life Is Beautiful* by Roberto Benigni. It does not mean that the writer plagiarizes the previous study. To develop the originality of the research, the writer shows the previous studies.

The first of literature review is "Holocaust meets comedy in Benigni's *Life Is Beautiful*" by Ben Zaretsky (1998) in university of Wire. He concerns to analyze the comedy action in this movie. Some examples of comedy action in this movie is showed in this research. Such as, Guido is Italian Jew who is rounded to keep his son from being scared. Guido tells him that they are playing a game to get a tank. Ben Zaretsky elaborated this action as the best moment. In the scaring situation, Guido can still entertain his son for he does not know the real situation. Beside this is a sad moment, Ben Zaretsky regards that this is a comedy action. Besides watching the movie, Ben Zaretsky gets the date from the script of movie, review of movie, and article in newspapers.

The second is "Holocaust in *life is beautiful*", by Grace Russo. He writes about the background of the movie's story. The story of movie is elaborated in World War II, when the NAZI Germany strategically eliminated the Jewish faith. Because the event of world war II evoke such strong

emotions. Grace Russo also regard that a signed between Mussolini and Hitler. In this situation, Guido does not regard this is scaring. He enjoys his life in Italy. He also gets his love and keeps them with force the situation. Grace Russo gets the data from the review and script of this movie and relation of this movie with the situation in World War II.

Based on the studies above, the writer wants to analyze with different focus on the research, although concern with same object. In this research the writer emphasizes the struggle to fight the discrimination of race using the Marxist perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Knowing that the problem is the important part of research, the writer proposes the problem statement, “How Guido’s struggle to fight discrimination of race reflected in Roberto Benigni’s movie?”

D. Limitation of the study

The writer focuses this research on analyzing the discrimination of race in Roberto Benigni’s *Life is Beautiful* movie based on Marxist perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

1. To analyze the structural elements in *Life is Beautiful* movie.
2. To analyze the discrimination of race in *Life is Beautiful* movie based on Marxist perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the body of knowledge particularly studies in Roberto Benigni's *life is beautiful*.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from Marxist perspective.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the writer uses a qualitative research. Qualitative research is the research that does not need a statistic data and calculation.

2. Types of the Data and the Data Source

In this research the writer takes two kinds of data:

a. Primary data

The primary data sources of the study are *Life is Beautiful* movie directed by Roberto Benigni and the script movie written by Roberto Benigni.

b. Secondary data

Secondary data source are books such as *Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society*, *Movie Art (An Introduction) Third Edition*, *The Social and Political Thought of Karl Marx* and the other sources that support the analysis.

3. Object of the Study

The object of the research is the movie of Roberto Benigni's *Life Is Beautiful*, released in 9th November 1999.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In this research, the writer uses library research. The data are collected from the books related to the topic. The first step is watching the movie *Life is Beautiful* many times to identify the problem and find the data. Then it is continued by reading the relevant theory with the subject, finally collecting the supporting data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and Marxist perspective.

H. Research Organization

This research consists of six chapters. Chapter I is introduction which contains background of the study, literature review, problem statement,

limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II deals with review of underlying theory that is Marxist theory and theoretical application. Chapter III is social background of the Italian society, in this chapter the researcher explains the situation and condition when the movie is released. Chapter IV constitutes structural elements analysis. Chapter V consists of analysis theory. Finally, Chapter VI is conclusion of the analysis and some suggestions.