

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the study

*Black Book* is a Dutch movie which tells about a young [Jews](#) woman in the [Netherlands](#) who becomes a spy for the resistance during Second World War after tragedy befalls her in an confront with the [Nazis](#). This movie was directed by Paul Verhoeven and produced by Frans Van Gestel. The music of *Black Book* movie was arranged by Anne Dudley and the cinematography was made by Karl Walter Lindenlaub. This movie uses Dutch as the language and Netherland as the country in the process and also as the setting of place. The film had its world premiere on September 1, 2006, at the Venice Film Festival and its public release on September 14, 2006, in the Netherlands with running time 145 minutes.

The *Black Book* movie by Paul Verhoeven was a thriller novel by Dutch writer Laurens Abbink Spaink. The book was published in September 2006 by Uitgeverij Podium with contains 224 pages. This novel also contains photos and an afterword by Verhoeven. The novelization adds something to the film. It gave Rachel Stein a past, memories and a house. In the film she did not tell more of her life after Second World War.

The director of the *Black Book* is a man who has full name Paul Verhoeven. He was born in Amsterdam, Netherland on July, 18<sup>th</sup> 1938. He is a Dutch BAFTA Award-nominated film director, screenwriter, and film producer who has made movies in both the Netherlands and the United States. He is the son of [school teacher](#) Wim Verhoeven and Nel van Schaardenburg. Although born in Amsterdam, the family lived in the village of [Slikkerveer](#).

Paul Verhoeven graduated from the University of Leiden with a degree in math and physics. He entered the Royal Netherlands Navy, where he began his film career by making documentaries for the Navy and later for TV. Explicitly violent and/or sexual content are trademarks of both his drama and science fiction films. In 1969 he directed the popular Dutch TV series *Floris* (1969), about a medieval knight. When his films, especially [Soldier of Orange](#) (1977) and [The Fourth Man](#) (1983), received international recognition, Verhoeven moved to the US. His first US film was *Flesh & Blood* (1985), 1985, but it was [RoboCop](#) (1987) and especially [Total Recall](#) (1990) that made him a big box office success. Verhoeven has co-scripted two of his films: [Soldier of Orange](#) (1977) and *Flesh & Blood* (1985). He also directed an episode of the HBO [The Hitchhiker](#) (1983) TV series. (<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000682/bio>).

After about 20 years of working and living in the United States, Paul Verhoeven returned to the Netherlands for the shooting of a new film.

Together with his screenwriter [Gerard Soeteman](#) he made *Black Book* (2006). The director was hailed by the host of the [Netherlands Film Festival](#) with the words "The return of a hero". *Black Book* eventually won six [Golden Calves](#) at this festival, including one for Paul Verhoeven as Best Director. When the shooting of *Black Book* was delayed due to financial issues, there were speculations about a new production. The film *Beast of Bataan* had been announced, but when the shooting for *Black Book* resumed, the film was never realized.

*Black Book* movie takes off in September 1944. This movie tells about a young Jews woman named Rachel Stein in the [Netherlands](#) who becomes a spy for the resistance during [Second](#) World War after tragedy befalls her in an encounter with the [Nazis](#).

The story starts from Rachel's friends. In October 1956, Ronnie, a Dutch woman married to a Canadian clergyman, is on a package tour of Israel. While visiting a kibbutz, she bumps into a schoolteacher, Rachel Rosenthal, whom she realizes she knew during the Second World War. The film then flashes back to 1944, and begins the story of Rachel Stein, a Dutch Jews singer who had lived in Berlin before the war and is now hiding from the Nazi regime in the occupied Netherlands.

When the house where she had been hiding is destroyed, Rachel manages to escape from Netherlands. She visits a lawyer named Mr. Smaal, who gives her some of her father's money so that she can flee, helped by a member of the resistance named Van Gein. Rachel with her

family tries to flee by boat through the Biesbosch with other Jews. In the river, members of the Nazi slaughter all of Jews in the boat and seize property that is brought by them, but Rachel can flee.

Rachel becomes involved with a resistance group in The Hague, under the leadership of Gerben Kuipers. He assumes the non-Jews alias of Ellis de Vries, and bleaches her hair blonde. She Works closely with physician and fellow resistance member Hans Akkermans. Ellis is given a duty as a spy for Dutch. She knows Captain Ludwig Müntze , and makes him to fall in love with her. She also becomes friends with her Dutch colleague Ronnie, who collaborates with the Germans.

In the middle of her duty, she knows that she and other members of Jews society have been deceived by Van Gein and Franken. Franken is accused that he have been committed with government, but he accused Müntze that he did a conferring with Müntze is immediately executed by a firing squad of German troops after the country is liberated by the Allies. Franken is killed by Akkermans when attempts to escape by boat. Ellis gets a black book from Mr. Small. This book contains the entire secret of the Nazi's activity but she caught and gets a punishment. Then she is helped by Akkermans and brings her in his home. Akkermans shows Ellis the treasure horde stolen from the Nazi's Jews victims. Ellis realizes that Akkermans who had been working with Franken, and that also murdered Smaal and Franken, taking all the money, gold and jewels stolen from the Jews. Akkermans tries to kill her with an overdose of insulin. She survives

by eating a bar of chocolate to counteract the drug. Ellis proves her innocence to British intelligence and to the former resistance leader Gerben Kuipers by means of the black book, which shows that many Jews were brought to Akkermans for medical help just prior to their murders. Together, Ellis and Kuipers intercept the fleeing Akkermans. They killed him.

The film then flashes forwards again to Israel and shows Rachel meeting her husband and two children and entering Kibbutz Stein, as the film ends, Israeli soldiers arrive to protect the kibbutz as the Suez Crisis begins.

This movie generally gets some good reception. A site in internet reported that 77% of critics gave the film positive reviews, based on 132 reviews. They gave a good response on this movie because they thought that in *Black Book*, Verhoeven does not focus on moral discourse but rather on human measure, and with the non-cynical approach of his female lead and of love he has given new color to his work. Another reason is that *Black Book* is great fun, an old-fashioned war movie in parts, but with deep undercurrents about fugitive Jews, the Resistance, collaborators and the messy politics of war.

Besides positive reaction of this movie, there are also some contradictions from several societies. Most of them, criticize this movie based on the costume of the character in this movie. Jeffries in his article said that, Verhoeven shows the action of the character is not available to the Dutch culture. It is shown in the clothes who wear by Rachel and Ronnie. Their clothes were opened expressly and did not shut their chest.

This movie also declared as a success movie after it was released with the gross revenue \$26,768,563 from the budget \$21 million. This movie had its world premiere on September 1, 2006 in Venice, as part of the official selection of the Venice International Film Festival Here it was nominated for a Golden Lion and won the Young Cinema Award for best international film. The film was also in the official selection of the 2006 Toronto Film Festival

*Black Book* also received many awards and nominations. This movie was nominated for four Golden Calves at the Netherlands Film Festival in 2006. It won in three categories: the Golden Calf for Best Actress (Carice van Houten), for Best Director (Paul Verhoeven), and for Best Film (San Fu Maltha). *Black Book* was the most awarded film of the 2006 festival.

There are three interesting sides of the movie, namely the character and characterization, the cinematography, and the theme of the movie. The first is about character and characterization. Character and characterization are important element of movie. The character that mostly explored in this

movie is Rachel Stein. She is a young Jewish singer. She is beautiful, loyal and smart. In her fighting, she has many ideas to do her duty. Rachel Stein is a gentle woman. With her power of love, she is able to make Captain Ludwig Muntze, who has a hard character, fall in love with her. In the final of her fighting, she proves that she is not a liar. She opens the contents of Mr. Small's black book as the secret of the activity during Second World War.

The second is about the cinematography of the movie. *Black Book* movie takes off in September 1944 when Second World War happens. The movie is set in the place where the real event happens. This movie is old-fashioned stylistically, and rather manipulative in its plotting. The reality of September 1944 is portrayed in *Black Book* compared to reality. It makes the audience feel as if they are in the setting of time.

The third interesting part of the plot in this movie is the theme. The theme of this movie is the colonization between German and Netherlands. This event is well known as Second World War. This movie describes the conflict between the main character of this movie and Nazi in the Second World War. Rachel Stein as the main character together with the resistance group in tries to fight independence especially for Jewish society. This theme is very attractive for the researcher. The movie draws the situation that not all of people can feel the situation of Second World War.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher proposed to conduct a research entitled '**FIGHT AGAINST OPPRESSION IN**

**PAUL VERHOEVEN'S *BLACK BOOK* (2006): A MARXIST CRITICISM".**

**B. Literature Review**

Many students of English department have ever studied Marxist Criticism analysis as a research problem. Literature review is limited in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. As long as the writer knows, the study of *Black Book* movie has not ever been conducted yet. At least among the student of university in the neighborhood, especially in Surakarta scope (Sebelas Maret University and Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta) and some universities in Yogyakarta. Therefore, the writer tries to find the literary trough the website. As the result, the writer finds several articles.

The first is article entitled "of course there are nude scenes...I'm Dutch" was written by Stuart Jeffries. The article focuses on the critical of *Black Book* movie based on cinematography especially in Dutch culture that is shown in this movie. According to Jeffries, Verhoeven shows the action of the character is not available to the Dutch culture. It is shown in the clothes who wear by Rachel and Ronnie. Their clothes were opened expressly and did not shut their chest.

The second article entitled "old-fashioned entertainment" was written by [Bobotonto](#). In his blog he wrote the excess of *Black Book*



movie. He said that this movie was old-fashioned and makes the audience really on the situation when this movie was produced.

The article above is different with the researcher topic. In this research, the researcher analyzed this movie by applying Marxist criticism. This research is focused on the fighting against oppression in the character of *Black Book* movie.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problem of the study is “how is fighting against oppression in Paul Verhoeven’s *Black Book*?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

For making easy to conduct the study, the writer gives limitation of the problem on the fighting against oppression reflected in *Black Book* movie, especially Viewed by Marxist.

### **E. Objective of the study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme *mise en scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the movie based on Marxist criticism.

## **F. Benefit of the study**

The study is expected to give benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit: to give some contribution on understanding of *Black Book* movie by a Marxist Criticism.
2. Practical Benefit: To improve the researcher's understanding and competence in applying a Marxist criticism into literature.

## **G. Research Method**

The writer divided this research into four chapters. There are types of study, object of the study, data and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis.

### **1. Type of Study**

Type of the study is qualitative method besides book and other related references to support the subject matter. Qualitative research is a type of scientific research.

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

The object of this study is the fight against oppression of Rachel Stein in *Black Book* movie in Marxist criticism.

### **3. Data and Data Source**

The researchers here uses qualitative. This is a library research, which takes the source of the data from the movie. The writer divides the data source into two categories:

- a. A primary data source of the study is the movie *Black Book*.

- b. Secondary data source are from the book, website, and another data related to this movie and analysis.

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

The data collection is done through note taking and image capturing. Some steps of collecting data are:

- a. Watching movie and finding out the important sentence on the dialogues.
- b. Capturing image from movie that is needed to complete the data.
- c. Reading script of the movie.
- d. Reading the books that are connected to the research.
- e. Browsing to the internet to get some information or articles that related to the research.
- f. Finding out the important data.
- g. Arranging the important data based on its.
- h. Developing the data that are provided.

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

The technique of data analysis used in this study is descriptive analysis. The structural elements of the movie and the collected data are described and analyzed in the detail through Marxist Criticism.

### **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of “Fight Against Oppression in Paul Verhoeven’s *Black Book* movie (2006): A Marxist Criticism” is as

follows: chapter I is Introduction; it consists of background of the study, Literature review, problem statement, Limitation of the study, objective of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory; it consists of the notion of Marxism, the major principle of Marxism, structural element of the movie and theoretical application. Chapter III is Social background of Netherland society at the early of twentieth first century. Chapter IV is analysis of *Black Book* movie (2006). Chapter V is Marxist analysis of *Black Book* movie (2006). Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.