

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Health is an important thing in our life. It is a condition that must be fulfilled for people to do activities. Many people are willing to spend a lot of money when they are sick just to be health. Sometimes, a superfluous treatment will be takes to get it.

But nowadays, to get healthy is not cheap, especially for poor people. They should pay some money that sometimes too high for them. Sometimes they get different treatment in a hospital because they can't pay the charge. In fact, money is an important part in this life. Social class appears because high of differentiation especially in economic. Marx argues that "the economic means of production within a society" (Bressler, 1999: 212). Based on this assumption, money plays an important role in life. Marx stated in *Timon of Athens* (Shakespeares play) that "a play reflects money as social function" (Suseno, 2001:25). This idea shows that money is very important and it can decide the human position in society. The writer wants to try analyzing those phenomena that reflected in a movie, the movie entitled *John-Q*.

*John-Q* is a 2002 American movie drama. It was directed by Nick Cassavetes, written by James Kearns. The movie was produced by Evolution Entertainment, and distributed by New Line Cinema release at

February 15, 2002. The movie that has duration 116 minutes takes on drama Movie genre and English as the dialogue.

John Q. Archibald as a main character is an ordinary man who works at a factory and takes care of his family. His wife Denise and young son Michael are his world. But when Michael falls seriously ill and needs an emergency heart transplant operation that John Q. can't afford and his health insurance won't cover, he vows to do whatever it will take to keep his son alive. With time and options running out, a desperate gamble becomes his only hope; he takes the emergency room hostage. As John Q. barricades himself inside the hospital along with his unwitting group of emergency room hostages, many of them in need of medical care themselves, he faces off with a veteran police hostage negotiator and a quick-tempered police chief who both want to bring a swift end to the stand-off.

There are some reasons why this movie is very exciting; first, this is a very outstanding dramatic movie because it catches the exact problems that are present in our society. Every minute of this movie demonstrates the way we can feel and the things we can do for our love ones. We can clearly see the frustration, desperation and impotence that one can have when needs something that is relatively impossible to achieve, obviously by following the society rules. Knowing that his son needed a heart transplant, John Quincy did what he could to obtain the money needed for his son operation. The doctors and health plan did not care, so John Q

assaulted the hospital and threaten to kill every body if his son was not placed on the list for patients in need of a heart.

The second aspect, it is interesting because if we try to find an answer to this moral problem using the two ways of thinking we see that both are used according to John Q's actions. First let's use the ethic of norms. In the beginning John Q followed all the rules and did everything by the book. He sold his car, his TV and other things. He follow all the procedures established by the hospital. Because of the stress, the frustration, the desperation, the feeling that his son was slowly suffering and the doctors were not doing anything to help we see that his thinking dramatically changed. John Q did not obey the rules he just did what he thought was the only thing left to save his son. He was now using the ethic of aspiration. We know what made him change his thinking, but who is the primarily suspect that push him to make this action? The only suspect that we can think of is the famous love. He loved so much his son that he assaulted the hospital and even more he offered his life to save his son. This heroic action can only be made by pure love.

The third aspect is about the cast of the movie. Denzel Washington put his soul onto this role, being by far the best of all. Kimberly Elise does good too, but a little exaggerated sometimes, Daniel Smith as Mike is pretty poor in his acting, he didn't had to do that much but this kid still isn't a good actor; he has years to perfect his performance. James Woods acting as Dr. Raymond Turner, as always is very good and professional; also

Anne Hache as Rebecca Payne is great and shows a coldness that ripped the audience out. Robert Duvall acting is good but his character could have been deployed even more, for the good of the film. Ray Liotta does well; Eddie Griffin is good too as one of the characters of the emergency room.

The last, from all that we have presented here we can say that John Q's actions were based on love and survival, not for harming any one .We can then say that his actions, base on the circumstances, were correct. We might think that they were incorrect, but if John Q had not done this, would his son have remained alive today? This lets you thinking but we absolutely know, in our hearts, that the boy would not survive if it weren't for John Q's actions.

Unfortunately, a survival to keep alive is not cheap nowadays. Some parts of this movie show how money can buy anything, including health. So, the writer is interested in doing research on the different treatment between the poor and the rich of John-Q Movie by using Marxist Approach. The writer conducts a research entitled: **DIFFERENT TREATMENT BETWEEN THE POOR AND THE RICH REFLECTED IN NICK CASSAVETE'S *JOHN-Q* MOVIE (2002): MARXIST APPROACH.**

## **B. Literature Review**

As far as the writer knows, there is one research who analyze *John-Q* movie. The research was conducted by Rita Rachmawati (Universitas Gunadarma, 2006) entitled “An Analysis of John’s Character by using Psychological Approach in John-Q Film”. From the result of data analysis, she found some characteristics of John in this film, there are: John is a hard worker, because he wants to find any job. John is also sacrificing of him self, a loving person because many people love him, emotional or sensitive, and then he feels guilty because he can not make his family happy.

This research will be different since the writer analyzes the different treatment between the poor and the rich influencing in the story of the movie. The research entitled “Different Treatment between the Poor and the Rich Reflected in Nick Cassavetes’s *John-Q* Movie (2002): Marxist Approach”.

## **C. Problem Statement**

The problem statement of this study is “How is different Treatment between the Poor and the Rich reflected in Nick Cassavetes’s *John-Q* Movie (2002): Marxist Approach?”

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

In this research, the writer will limit the study on the analysis of the different treatment between the poor and the rich that is reflected in Nick Cassavetes's *John-Q* viewed by Marxist Approach.

#### **E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the research are:

1. To describe the structural element of the movie.
2. To analyze the movie based on the Marxist perspective.

#### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of study is expected to support the Marxist theory and to implement its principle into the literary work.

##### **2. Practical Benefit**

For getting deeper understanding in literary field as the reference to the other researcher about the content of the movie that consist structural elements which viewed from Marxist approach.

## **G. Research Method**

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

The research of this study is qualitative research, which takes the sources from words and other written text.

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

The object of the study is *John-Q* Movie directed by Nick Cassavetes. It is analyzed by using Marxist Approach.

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

- a. Primary Data Source of the study is the movie itself: *John-Q* Movie by Nick Cassavetes.
- b. Secondary Data Source is taken from other sources such as internet, article, book, author's biography, comments, criticism, and other relevant data.

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

The data collecting technique used in the study are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie for several times.
- b. Reading the script of movie.
- c. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary sources.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and the analysis.

## 5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique of the analyzing data is descriptive analysis that analyzes structural elements of the movie and the Marxist perspective of work.

## H. Research Paper Organization

In order to make the research easier to follow, the research paper is organized into six chapters, as follow: chapter one is introduction, covering background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter two covers Marxist approach containing Marxist literary criticism, especially the nature of Marxist, the founders, the principles and the Marxist theory and literary criticism. Chapter three includes the social background with all of the aspects of the social reality of the American society in the twenty first century. Chapter four includes the structural analysis of *John-Q* movie; (1) The structural elements of *John-Q* movie; consists of structural elements of *John-Q* movie including character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, theme, and technical elements of the movie; (2) Discussion. Chapter five presents Marxist Analysis of *John-Q* movie, which deals with the analysis of the problem's movie that is related with the theory. There is also discussion in this chapter. Chapter six includes Conclusion and Suggestion.