CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*Black Book* is a drama action movie directed by Paul Verhoeven, and written by Gerard Soeteman and Verhoeven’s as screenwriter. Actually, this movie is one of his greatest works because it becomes one of the best Dutch films in 2006. It was released on September 14, 2006 in the Netherlands and released in general on 4 April 2007. It has 2 hours and 25 minutes of the duration. The genres of this movie are drama, thriller and war, that the settings of place are the Netherlands and Israel with setting of time in 1944. Black book is a movie which contains moral discourse and human measure. This movie is produced by Motel Films, EgoliTossell Film, Clockwork Pictures, and Fu Works and distributed by Sony Pictures Classics.

*Black Book* movie is directed by Paul Verhoeven, a Holland movie director, producer and actor. Paul Verhoeven was born on July 18, 1938 in Amsterdam, Netherlands. He was born during the dark years of World War II. He is one of the most provocative, daring, challenging and controversial storytellers creating film entertainment. He attended University Of Leiden. He earned a doctorate in mathematics and physics in 1964. He was interested in cinematography during six years at the college and tried to make a documentary movie. The first movie that he made is The Marine Corps; it is a documentary movie with 23 minutes of the duration.
Black Book movie is set during the last years of the Second World War. The film opens with Ronnie a Dutch woman who is on a tourist package trip in Israel. She meets with her struggle friend in war at the Dutch that is Rachel Rosenthal Stain. After that, Rachel remembers about incident that she knew during the Second World War in Dutch. Rachel Stain is a most popular singer in Dutch. She is a Jewish woman who hides from the German infantry in Netherland. The hidden house has destroyed and her family is killed by German infantry. After that, She joins a resistance group under Gerben Kuipers as aleader at Hague. Rachel changes her name with new name that is Ellis de Vries. She gets a job as a spy after meet Commander Ludwig Müntze in the train. He is a Commandant of German Soldier in Nederland. Rachel gets a job as a secretary at SD headquarters.

While, after the country got the freedom Commandant Ludwig Müntze has punishment for his mistake. That is death sentence. Then, Rachel is proved about her innocence of the crime to British intelligence and the former resistance leader Gerben Kuipers. And than, they have means for the incident with title the black book. It show that many Jews are brought to Akkermans for medical help just prior to their murders. The end of movie show that Rachel meets her husband and two children, it means that Rachel life is happy after the war finished.

Black Book 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. In the United States premiere of Black Book was a gala screened at Palm Springs High School on January 5, 2007 during the Palm Springs International Film Festival. On March 2, 2007, Black Book was the opening film of the Miami International Film Festival. In 2008, the Dutch public voted it the best Dutch film ever.

Black Book movie has good responses from the public. Before the film was released, the rights for distribution had been sold to distributors in 52 countries. According to the production company Fu Works these sales made the film Black Book the most commercially successful Dutch film production ever, at the time of its release. Black Book received a Golden Film (100,000 tickets sold) within a record breaking three days and a Platinum Film (400,000 tickets sold) within three weeks after the Dutch premiere. The film had its millionth visitor on January 12; 2007. Black Book had the highest box office gross for a Dutch film in 2006. As of 2006-12-31 the box office gross in the Netherlands was €6,953,118. In U.S box office was $4,398,392.

The good acceptance does not only from the market, but also from the viewer movie responses. There are positive response and negative response. The positive responses come from The International press that is positively responded, especially to the performance of van Houten. Besides that, according to Jason Solomon’s in The Observer: "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. This being
Verhoeven, there's lots of sex and a scene in which the extremely attractive star (Carice van Houten) dyes her pubic hair blond. That aside, hers is a star-making performance, putting even Scarlett Johansson in the shade". And then, Jacques Mandelbaum writes in his review in Le Monde: "This lesson about humanity and about fear can be situated in the wake of several rare masterpieces that are solemnly confronted by this story".

The negative responses from the viewer are from Dana Linsen who writes in NRC Handelsblad: "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". The next is Belinda van de Graaf in Trouw who writes: "Breathless we run along burning farms, ugly resistance fighters, pretty kraut whores, spies, traitors, and because the story has to go on the coincidences pile up until it makes you laugh. When Carice van Houten screams 'Will it never stop, then!' it is almost kitsch, and not surprisingly already a classic film quote". And Literary critic Jessica Durlacher, daughter of an Auschwitz survivor, describes the film in Vrij Nederland with the following comparison: “The reality of 1940–1945 as portrayed in Black Book compared to reality is like the Eiffel Tower in Las Vegas compared to the original in Paris”.

After watching the Black Book movie, the writer is interested to analyze. There are three reasons why the writer analyzes the Black Book movie by Paul Verhounen.
The first reason is about the character and the characterization. There are three major characters in Black Book movie. The first major character is Carice Van Houten as Rachel Stain. She is a singer from Dutch Jewish family. She has a short and curly hair, white skin, chocolate eyes and beautiful woman. She is a clever, good person, and hard worker. The second major character is Sebastian Koch as Ludwig Müntze. He is a German man and work as a commandant of Nazi in Dutch territory. He has a short and straight hair, white skin, blue eyes and handsome man. He is a wise man, cooperative and great man. The third major character is Thom Hoffman as Hans Akkermans. He is a doctor from Dutch. He has short and straight hair, white skin, and blue eyes. He is an intelligent man because he is a doctor. He is a bad man, falsehood man, and betrayal man.

The second reason is plot of the movie; the plot is flash back because the story begins with Rachel Stain who meets with her friend’s in Israel. Then the movie is flash back to 1944 by Rachel Stain, and the movie tells about the journey of Rachel Stain in Dutch. Finally, the end of the movie shows Rachel Stain and her family in Israel.

The third reason is the issue of this movie is interested to be analyzed. The issue of the movie is against oppression. Black Book movie shows struggle against oppression that is done by the Dutch resistance and the German Soldier. The movie shows the cruelty of war, including bomber, fire, robbery, conspiracy and betrayal to get self-interest. It can be motivated for them to get freedom and decide to against the German Military, that they
have some human rights. The power of British intelligence is used as way to reach their purpose. The different motive in an ideology can create a conflict. They must lose everything like their human rights, family, and house during the war.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe Black Book movie by using Marxist theory by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. So the writer constructs the title AGAINST OPPRESSION IN PAUL VERHOUVEN’S BLACK BOOK (2006): A MARXIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

In analyzing this movie, the writer finds other researchers that discuss the same approach, Iskawati (2008) in her research entitled” Oppression against Labor in Edward Zwick’s Blood Diamond: A Marxist Approach. This research elaborates the portraits of oppression against labor in Edward Zwick’s movie, Blood Diamond film that is analyzed through article Marxist approach. Having analyzed the movie, she draws some conclusions. First, the director wants to express that the lower people become the marginalized and oppressed in the process of development, and the director criticizes injustice of American society particularly the oppression against labor in the capitalist system.

According to the previous writer, the writer has different object in analyzing the data and same perspective. The writer uses Marxist Approach to analyze the data and using Black Book movie as an object. The writer

C. Problem Statement

The problem of the study is how the revolt against oppression is reflected in Paul Verhouven’s *Black Book* movie.

D. Limitation of the study

Based on the title and the background, the writer focuses on analyzing the fight against oppression on *Black Book*, viewed from the Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the study

The Objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the movie based on A Marxist Perspective.

F. Benefit of the study

There are two benefits can be gained as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Black Book* movie.
2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the novel and how to use literary theory in analyzing the movie.

G. Research Method

The methods that will be used in the research are:

1. Type of the Study

Type of the study is descriptive qualitative.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is the fight against oppression in Paul Verhouven’s *Black Book* (2006): A Marxist Approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

The type of data for this study are text (words, phrases and sentences) and images (captures of *Black Book* movie). The data sources of the study there are primary and secondary data sources

a. Primary data source is the movie itself, *Black Book* movie.

b. Secondary data source are biography at the author, the website internet about *Black Book* movie and other resources that support to analyze.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collecting technique used in this study as follows:

a. Watching the movie repeatedly.

b. Taking notes and write the text of information in both primary and secondary data then taking the image capture of the movie.

c. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
d. Analyzing the data.

e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis data.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The data step is analyzing the data of this research. Analyzing the data of this research is firstly trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessaries ones. Second step is analyzing data based on article Marxist theory conducted by Karl Marx and Fredrich Hegel.

H. Research Organization

This research consists of six chapters. Chapter I is introduction. This chapter involves the Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, and Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Benefit of the Study, Research Methodology and Paper Organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consisting of Marxist theory, especially the nature of Marxist and the principle of Marxist. Chapter III is the social background of Holland in the nineteenth century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the movie by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot and theme of the movie and a brief discussion. Chapter V is Marxist Analysis dealing with the problems in the movie. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.