NASKAH PUBLIKASI

FAILED JUSTICE OF JAMIE WALLACE IN GLUCK’S FRIENDS
WITH BENEFITS (2011): A MARXIST APPROACH

Ditulis oleh:
RINA NOVI WULANDARI
A 320 080 046

PENDIDIKAN BAHASA INGGRIS
FAKULTAS KEGURUAN DAN ILMU PENDIDIKAN
UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA
2012
APPROVAL

FAILED JUSTICE OF JAMIE WALLACE IN GLUCK’S
FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS (2011): A MARXIST APPROACH

by:

RINA NOVI WULANDARI
A 320 080 046

Approved to be Examined by the Consultant Team

Consultant I
(Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S.Pd, M.Ed)

Consultant II
(Titis Setyabudi, S.S, M.Hum)
ACCEPTANCE

FAILED JUSTICE OF JAMIE WALLACE IN GLUCK’S
FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS (2011): A MARXIST APPROACH

Publication Articles
Written by

RINA NOVI WULANDARI
A 320 080 046

Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiners School of Teacher Training and Education Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

Team of Examiners

1. Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, S.pd., M.Ed (Advisor I)

2. Titis Setyabudi, S.S., M.Hum (Advisor II)

Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M.Si
NIK. 547
FAILED JUSTICE OF JAMIE WALLACE IN GLUCK’S FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS (2011): A MARXIST APPROACH

Rina Novi Wulandari (Student)  
Dewi Candraningrum (Consultant I)  
Titis Setyabudi (Consultant II)  
(School of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta)  
rhiena.novi@yahoo.co.id

ABSTRACT

This study is aimed to show the search of failed justice of Jammie Wallace in Friends with Benefits movie (2011). The objective of this study is to analyze the film based on the structural analysis and based on the Marxist approach to analyze the failed justice in Friends with Benefits. The writer uses Class Struggle major point of Marxist to answer the problem of the study. The study is descriptive qualitative research which data are taken from script and pictures in Friends with Benefits. The technique of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. The study comes to the following conclusions. First, based on the structural analysis of each elements, it shows that the character and characterization, plot, setting, point of view, theme, casting, mise-en-scene, cinematography, sound, and editing are related to each other and form the unity. Second, based on the Marxist analysis, Justice is important for any person in life to maintain her rights. Will Gluck wants to convey a moral message that everyone is entitled to get their right. Failure to obtain the right about the one’s feeling is oppression mental. Jammie feeling was suppressed by Dylan. In the end, Dylan is already aware strummed the Jammie’s feelings.

Key words: Failed justice, Friends with Benefits, a Marxist approach.
1. Introduction

Background of the Study: As human being, people have many problems in their lives. The problems are about education, economic, gender, social relation and stratification. In this research, the researcher only focuses on social relation especially failed justice. Before the researcher talks about failed justice, firstly the researcher will talk about justice. According to John Rawls (1973: 26-27), Justice is the difference principle and the principle of fair equality of opportunity.

In this paper, the researcher focuses on social relation especially failed justice. Failed justice means an act that does not get benevolence, charity, mercy, generosity or compassion. Failed justice involves fail with another or violation of one’s right. In this case the means of failed justice is when the people cannot get justice like justice to belonging or get something especially they want. It is fact that happens in the social relation that becomes basic reason for the researcher to create the work of art; in this case, the researcher focuses on the fact that happens in the society described in Friends with Benefits movie.

Friends with Benefits is a 2011 American romantic comedy film directed by Will Gluck and starring Mila Kunis and Justin Timberlake. The film features a supporting cast which includes Woody Harrelson, Bryan Greenberg, Jenna Elfman, Richard Jenkins, Nolan Gould and Patricia Clarkson. Jamie and Dylan, who meet in New York City and naively believe adding sex to their relationship, will not lead to complications. Over time they begin to develop deep mutual feelings for each other, only to deny it each time they are together.

Released on July 22, 2011 in the North America, Friends with Benefits was generally well received by film critics, and became a commercial success at the box office grossing over $ 149.5 million worldwide. It was nominated for two People’s Choice Awards: one for best comedy and one for Mila Kunis as Best Comedy Actress.
Will Gluck was born in New York. He began the career as a writer on The John Larroquette Show in the mid-’90s. He moved on to write for shows like Working, Grosse Pointe, and The Loop, projects that also helped Gluck become a producer. Gluck went on to direct “Easy A” (2010) and “Friends with Benefits” (2011), two of the wittiest and most crowd-pleasing comedies to emerge from Hollywood in many years. Meanwhile, he displayed an ability to draw winning comic turns from actors outside the Hollywood laugh track, like Emma Stone, Justin Timberlake, Patricia Clarkson, Thomas Haden Church, Richard Jenkins and Woody Harrelson. Though his feature career was relatively brief in comparison to his television efforts, Gluck’s work underscored the all-too-often-forgotten fact that talent, taste and hard work yield positive and can lead to a successful career.

Jamie (Mila Kunis) is an executive recruiter for a leading job agency in New York City and Dylan (Justin Timberlake) works as an art director for a small internet company in Los Angeles. Jamie has the task of trying to recruit Dylan to interview for a job with GQ magazine and begin working in New York City. Dylan comes to New York and after interviewing for the position learns from Jamie that he has been given an offer to work for GQ. At first Dylan is hesitant to accept and move from Los Angeles to New York, but in an effort to get Dylan to accept the job Jamie spends the evening taking him around the city trying to sell him on the opportunity and the city.

The researcher takes Friends with Benefits movie as data source because this movie is interesting to be studied in some reasons. The first, the movie has a good story; it is about failed justice by Jamie Wallace. She is just a friend with Dylan, but suddenly Jamie has some another feeling beside friendship and partner with Dylan.

The second reason is about the chemistry between Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis. Chemistry is intertwined well enough between Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis. Their intimacy, ways of talking and joking with each other is almost approaching the situation of an atmosphere of the real world. This makes the audience feel any affinity with both her character.
The third reason is about friendship and relationship. Jamie’s friendship with a guy named Dylan. She feels enjoyable with their friendship, until she started to have feelings of love from her friendship. In this situation, Jamie does not get suitable treatment. She is disappointed and hurt about the Dylan’s behavior.

The last reason, this movie has a good genre that relates to romantic comedy, social relation, about justice and especially failed justice. There are not only one theme of this movie, many themes in this movie; they are love, family, disappointment and hope. All of the theme related to this movie is talking about the real problem in life.

Here, the researcher will use Marxist theory to analyze the movie, especially the failed justice of Jamie Wallace. This theory is used because in this movie there is a lot of failed justice. The person does not always get the good response from another people about their private feelings. The writer would like to analyze failed justice that is faced by Jamie Wallace, and the title is FAILED JUSTICE OF JAMMIE WALLACE IN GLUCK’S FRIENDS WITH BENEFITS (2011): A MARXIST APPROACH.

Problem Statement of the research background of choosing the subject above, the problem is “How failed justice faced by Jamie Wallace reflected in this movie?”

Objectives: To reveal the failed justice of Jamie Wallace in Friends with Benefits by using Marxist Approach.

Literature Review: Friends with Benefits was released in 2011. The researcher found that there is no literature review and no other researcher who examined this movie before at least in UMS, but the researcher found same research or movie review from Mathew Asher, in Emory University (2011), entitled “Film Review of Friends with Benefits.” William P. Baird, (2011),
entitled “Friends with Benefits: other Regard in Epicurean Ethics.” Based on the two reviews only one which is similar with the research, it is coming from Mathew Asher.

Similarly to the previous researcher, the writer has the same perspective and object in analyzing the data. The different thing is, the previous researcher has no specification in analyzing the movie especially to the failed justice of the main character “Jamie Wallace.” The previous researcher only elaborates the general thing from the movie. Here the writer wants to focus and to specify with the feeling of the main character by observing the failed justice of the Dylan Harper.

2. Research Method

   Data: there are two type of data; Text and Image. Text data in this research is movie manuscript, which consists of words, phrases and sentences. Image data in this research are image capturing of an action in the movie which is related to the research.

   Data Source: the researcher uses two data; there are Primary Data, which will be taken from the play of Jamie Wallace, and Secondary Data, which are taken from other sources that relate to the primary data, such as author’s biography, books and website relate to failed justice and many other data related this research.

   Data Collection: the technique of data collection in this study is documentation. The writer views the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding of resource. Next, the writer takes, compares, quotes, and studies other data into some categories and develops them into unity.

   Data Analysis: technique of data analysis for this movie uses descriptive qualitative method that consists of three steps: classifying the data, verifying the data and interpreting the data based on Marxist approach into conclusion.
3. Marxist Theory

a. Notion of Marxist

Marxism is a social theory that originated as a response to the social problems engendered by the capitalist mode of production: Imperialism war, massive impoverishment, racism, oppression, alienation, the destruction of the environment, and the like. According to Suseno (2001: 5), “Marxism is the term for ideology about the relation between economic, social and politic concept.” Marxism is not same as communism; Marxism is one of the components in the system of communist ideology. The term Marxism itself is the term that is used for the formal Karl Marx followers.

Marxist explains about a social theory about human life in the world. The fact of Marxist is to be realized in Marxist approach. Marxist approach written in the West has often been adventurous and exhilarating, but socialist realism, as the official communist “artistic method”, seemed drab and blinkered to Western readers. (Selden, et al., 2005: 84). For Karl Marx, and those closest to his way of thinking, all those modes of thought, including literary creativity, are ideological and are products of social and economic existence.

Marxism is also used in literary approach. Related to the historical background of literary works; Marxism is one of the theories that is used as perspective of some certain literary works. Rane Wellek and Austin Warren in theory of literature, 1956: 94 states that “Marxist critic not only study these relations between literature and society, but also they have their clearly defined conception of what these relations should be, both in our present society and in future ‘classes’ society.” Marxism has a concept, superstructure of ideology: in this case literary work seems determined by the material infrastructure, which is the society (Ratna, 2005:165).
b. Major principles of Marxism

1) Dialectical Materialism

The meaning of dialectical in the tradition of Hegel can be summed up as ‘the development which arises from the resolution of contradictions inherent in a particular aspect of reality’ (Selden, 2005: 105).

Dialectical is a term coming from ancient Greek. Dialectical views as a process dialog where a contradiction opinion can be brought to peace one another to find the truth. “Dialectical is a concept with conflict, antagonism or contradiction. It is condition that needed to reach some certain result (Elster, 2007: 47)”. While, materialism means a belief that only money, possession, etcetera are important. Thus, dialectical materialism can also mean the process that builds reality materialism trough the process of contradiction to reach the absolute truth and understand of its movement. Dialectical materialism admits the fundamental differences between death material, life, life consciousness, and second life.

2) Historical Materialism

Every product of labour is, in all states of society, a use-value; but it is only at a definite historical epoch in society’s development that such as a product becomes a commodity, viz., at the epoch when the labour spent on the production of a useful article becomes expressed as one of the objective qualities of that article, i.e., as its value. It therefore follows that the elementary value-form is also the primitive form under which a product of labour appear historically as a commodity, and that the gradual transformation of such products into commodities, proceeds pari passu with the development of the value-form (Engels, 1887: 23).

3) Class Struggle

According to Carter Marxist basically Man’s social being determines his consciousness and the material interests of the dominant social class determine how all classes perceive their existence. All
forms of culture, therefore, do not exist in an ideal, abstract form but are inseparable from the historical determining social conditions. (Carter, 2006: 55).

Marx’s theory of classes and class struggle is homologically necessary (or at least extremely probable) that capitalism will give way to socialism, given the following assumption. First, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat are the two remaining major classes in capitalist society, i.e., the only two classes capable of setting up state that conforms to their historical interest. Second, the proletariat has the power, once it becomes organized and motivated, to alter society to conform more to its own interest, i.e., to affect the transformation to socialism. Third, classes that are historically aligned with progressive economic forces generally achieve at least in the long run the organization and motivation necessary to promote their interest (the common interests of their members) in the struggle over the surplus social product, available leisure time, etc. (Peffer, 1990: 215). Class struggle is the active expression of a theoretical class conflict looked at from any kind of socialist perspective.

4) Alienation

Marx sees that human being is alienated from his society because of his work in capitalist economy (Suseno, 2001: 88). Being alienated in work is the basic of all human alienation. Because according to Karl Marx, work is fundamental human activity. In work, human makes he is real (Suseno, 2001: 89).

The alienation of labor-power and its actual appropriation by the buyer is separated by an interval time. In this case, the formal alienation by sale of the use-value of a commodity is not simultaneous with its actual delivery to the buyer. The money of its process has the functions as a payment.
5) Revolution

The revolution happens after the struggle of class, exactly the struggle of the proletariat, and then they change the social structure from the old into the new one. Marx in Stalin (1938) states that the proletariat contests with the bourgeoisie is compelled, by the force of circumstances, to organize itself as a class. With a revolution, it makes itself the ruling class, and sweeps away, by forcing the old conditions of production. In this case, it means that the proletariats become the ruling class, and there is a revolution that forced an effort to against it.

4. Theory of Justice

a. Notion of Justice

According to John Rawls (1973: 26-27), Justice is the difference principle and the principle of fair equality of opportunity. The core of the difference principle that the economic and social differences should be regulated in order to provide the greatest benefit to those who are most disadvantaged.

Justice is a concept of moral rightness based on ethics, rationality, law, natural law, religion, or equity, along with the punishment of the breach of said ethics; justice is the act of being just and/ or fair.

b. Aspects of Justice

1) Distributive

Distributive justice is the fairness of outcomes received as a result of a decision, was first described by Homans (1961), and was followed nearly 15 years later by research on procedural justice (the fairness of the process used in making a decision) (Thibaut & Walker, 1975).

2) Retributive

Theories of retributive justice are concerned with punishment for wrongdoing. Wrongdoing must be balanced or made good in some way, and so criminal deserves to be punished.
Retributive emphasis retribution – payback – rather than maximization of welfare. Like the theory of distributive justice as giving everyone what they deserve.

5. Research Finding

a. Dialectical Materialism

*Friends with Benefits* movie shows the process of dialectical materialism. The thesis in the *Friends with Benefits* is Jammie has the task of trying to recruit Dylan to interview for a job with GQ magazine and begin working in New York. Dylan comes to New York and after interviewing he has been given an offer to work for GQ. Dylan approves the contract with Jammie in GQ office.

Jammie: “Ok here’s your contract. Sign it and I’ll be out of here.”
Dylan: “A whole year?”
Jammie: “Why do I get the feeling this is the first real commitment you ever made?”
Dylan: “It’s not. T-Mobile. Two years. And fuck do I regret that one.”
Jammie: “Do me a favor. Don’t quit or get fired before the year is up...because otherwise I don’t get my bonus.”
Dylan: “You mean I can leave whenever I want? What’s the point of this contract?”
Jammie: “Just sign the damn thing.”
Dylan: “Ok”

FWB, 2011, (00: 19: 38-00: 20: 07)

The antithesis is Jammie overhears a conversation between Annie and Dylan indicating he has no real feelings for her. Hurt, she flies back to New York. A few days later Dylan returns to New York trying to reconcile his friendship with Jammie and find out why she has been ignoring him. Finally he finds Jammie and she informs him, she overhears everything he says and has no interest in maintaining any kind of a friendship with him.

b. Historical Materialism

The conflict within the characters in *Friends with Benefits* describes the process of historical materialism. The movie presents Dylan Harper as oppressor. He is upper class and has an authority about the
agreement with Jammie to have sex without emotion or commitment involved.

Dylan : “What are you doing?”
Jammie : “I’m pulling up my Bible app.”
Dylan : “You have Bible up?”
Jammie : “Yes, I’m a good girl.”
Dylan : “I can’t figure this out.”
Jammie : “Keep your hand still, I’m moving...”
Dylan : “There we go.”
Jammie : “No relationship, no emotions, just sex.”
Dylan : “Whatever happens...we stay friends. swear ”
Jammie : “Swear..”

FWB, 2011, (00: 27: 27-00: 28: 03)

On the contrary, the oppressed is Jammie Wallace. Jamie comes to the realization that this is not really what she wants, and she would like to start dating again and informs Dylan that they need to stop. Jammie is hurt, after she overhears a conversation between Dylan and his sister about the relationship with Jammie. It indicates that he has no real feeling with Jammie. Jammie is disappointed with Dylan, then she flies back to New York. She tries to hide her feeling with Dylan’s family.

c. Class Struggle

In *Friends with Benefits*, Jammie is described as a headhunter and she has task to recruit Dylan in GQ magazine. First, they become a friend. They make a commitment to do sex without ties of relationship, emotion and should never fall in love. She cannot get the chance to express her feeling to Dylan. Finally, Jammie understands that Dylan does not love her and just wants her body for sex and fun.

Dylan : “Jammie..”
Jammie : “How did you know I was up here.”
Dylan : “Only place in the city you don not get reception.”
Jammie : “Right..”
Dylan : “Why are you avoiding me?”
Jammie : “I am not.”
Jammie : “Well Dylan, I don’t know if you heard but I am seriously fucked up. Magnum PI could not solve the shit on up here.”
Dylan : “My God, I am sorry.”
Jammie : “I am just gonna go. Try to fix the shit going on my head, if that’s even possible.”
Dylan : “I should not have said that. I was just trying to get my sister off my back. I thought we liked each other.”
Jammie: “Me too, Dylan. I thought we were friends, but friends don’t go talking shit about each other. That all you wanted, was to get in my pants.”

Dylan: “What?”

Jammie: “You jumped at the chance at your dad’s house.”


Dylan as the oppressor does not care about Jammie’s feeling. But, finally Dylan catches up with Jammie and tells her how he really feels. After sharing a kiss, Dylan suggests it is the time for them to go on their first real date. Annie feels that Dylan has special relationship with Jammie.

d. Alienation

It can cause the difference of classes. There are upper class and lower class.

Annie: “So, when are we gonna see Jammie again?”

Dylan: “I don’t know. What’s your problem? Did you have a fight with your girlfriend?” In *Friends with Benefits*, Dylan alienates Jammie’s feels from him. He wants the relationship just as friends and no more.

Dylan: “She is not my girlfriend. Why don’t you believe me?”


e. Revolution

In *Friends with Benefits*, the revolution happens when Jammie gets her love. Dylan tells her about how he really feels. The struggle of Jammie shows how she gets her love. Jammie’s struggle is the real revolution. She fights to get justice about her feelings to Dylan. Nevertheless, she does not admit about it.

Jammie: “I don’t know what it is. I just can’t get myself to start looking for a replacement for him, assuming that he leaves.”

Lorna: “Do you want some motherly love advice?”

Jammie: “Not really.”

Lorna: “Not really. Good, coz I don’t know how to do that. What I do know is that it’s not great God damn secret your live in fear of repeating my mistakes.”

FWB, 2011, (01: 27: 02-01: 27: 10)
f. Aspects of Justice

1) Distributive

Distributive justice shows in the Jammie’s. She does not get her right about her feeling. She is the oppressed, because she is doing sex without commitment with Dylan. In this position, Jammie has right to deliver her feeling to Dylan. So, the justice can make if the same freedom of right for everyone is realized.

The distributive justice is proven by the conversation between

Dylan and Jammie in the movie as follows:

Dylan : “Jammie..”
Jammie : “How did you know I was up here.”
Dylan : “Only place in the city you don not get reception.”
Jammie : “Right..”
Dylan : “Why are you avoiding me?”
Jammie : “I am not.”
Jammie : “Well Dylan, I don’t know if you heard but I am seriously fucked up. Magnum PI could not solve the shit on up here.”
Dylan : “My God, I am sorry.”
Jammie : “I am just gonna go. Try to fix the shit going on my head, if that’s even possible.”
Dylan : “I should not have said that. I was just trying to get my sister off my back. I thought we liked each other.”
Jammie : “Me too, Dylan. I thought we were friends. but friends don’t go talking shit about each other. That all you wanted, was to get in my pants.”
Dylan : “What?”
Jammie : “You jumped at the chance at your dad’s house”

In this conversation between Jammie and Dylan, Dylan as oppressor just wants to do sex with her, without commitment and love. In the Jammies side, she wants their relationship is not just friend. Finally, those are all persons who get the real justice.

2) Retributive

The retributive justice shows in characters of Dylan Harper. He feels regret after leaving Jammie. In the beginning, Dylan and Jammie are the work partner. Long time ago, Jammie and Dylan does physical contact without commitment in Jammie’s appartment. Dylan just needs sex with Jammie’s and has no feeling to her. This is very damaging to
Jammie as a woman. She is hurt and disappointed after she overhears the conversation between Annie and Dylan.

This is the fact in this movie about retributive justice:

Annie : “Sit down. What more are you looking for?”
Dylan : “Who says I’m looking for anything?”
Annie : “Dylan!”
Dylan : “I don’t know, but it’s not Jammie.”
Annie : “Why, because you’re great together? because you’re actually friends with each other. Because this is the happiest I have ever seen you?”
Dylan : “I don’t know what to tell you Annie. She is not for me. I don’t like her like that.”
Annie : “You like her enough to have sex with her. It’s just physical. Like playing tennis."
Annie : “I don’t even know what that means, Dylan.”
FWB, 2011, (01: 15: 03-01: 15: 23)

The retributive justice is shown by Dylan’s behaviour to Jammie. Retributive justice is the resposns that are received by the morals as the result of wickedness. This bring some satisfaction benefit that can be given to the lose his feeling.

6. Conclusion

After analyzing Friends with Benefits movie, the writer takes some conclusions:

Firstly, based on structural analysis, it is evident that in the movie, Will Gluck has a message that all of people want to live without oppression. The character of Jammie can show the suffering as oppressed. The continuity of plots makes the audience understand the story of this movie, the point of view have been done in all ways and precisely suitable applied in the story in the most setting of place. The visualization from mise-en-scene, black and white cinematography, editing, and the other technical elements have a unity to make the movie successful.

In this paper, the researcher focuses on social relation especially failed justice. Failed justice means an act that does not get benevolence, charity, mercy, generosity or compassion. Failed justice involves failed with another or violation of one’s right. In this case the means of failed justice is when the people cannot get justice like justice to belonging or get something especially
they want. It is a fact that happens in the social relation that becomes basic reason for the researcher to create the work of art; in this case, the researcher focuses on the fact that happens in the society described in *Friends with Benefits* movie.

Secondly, based on Marxist analysis, it is clear in this movie, there is an failed justice about Jammie feels to Dylan. Will Gluck as the director of this movie wants to show one of failed justice about feeling that happens in human being especially woman. This movie also shows about friendship between man and woman in working relationship. In the end of movie is Jammie can be get the right about her feels to Dylan.

After analyzing the failed justice of Jammie feels in Will Gluck’s *Friends with Benefits* movie, the researcher realizes that the study is far from being perfect because of her limited knowledge on literature. This research is analyzed by using Marxist approach, the researcher suggests to other researcher to convey analyzing *Friends with Benefits* movie deeper in different ways. Especially, for feminist approach, because Jammie shows the figure feminism in the real world to get her right about feels. Secondly, it can be analyzed by psychoanalytic approach focuses on major character Jammie Wallace.

The researcher realizes that this study is far from being perfect. Finally, the researcher hopes that the readers can take the lesson from this study and it can be useful to the readers as comparison to the other research in widening the knowledge of literary studies.

This research paper hopefully can contribute to English teaching proeses. It can be used to understand literary works mainly fiction from Marxist approach. It can also be used to enrich student’s vocabulary by using the movie script as reading material. Beside Fiction and Vocabulary, this research can be useful to add other skills such as speaking and listening.
REFERENCES


VIRTUAL REFERENCES

Http://en.wikipedia.org/.../Friends_with_Benefits_film. (Acessed on 5 February 2012 at 09: 00 am).


Http://american_society.html. (Acessed on 4 March 2012 at 12: 00 am).