

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. 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 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.

Gluck began his career in television, first as story editor on the NBC sitcom “The Single Guy” (1995-1997) and later as a writer for “The John Laroquette Show” (NBC, 1993-1996) in its final, sanitized year on the air. In 2006, he delivered his second turn as series creator with “The Loop” (Fox, 2006-2007), a witty sitcom starring Bret Harrison as a young employee who balances a diet of eccentric co-workers and friends. Critically praised for its fast-paced dialogue and clever, quirky character, the show’s premise was nonetheless reworked prior to its second season in order to focus on Harrison’s relationship with his co-workers. Apparently dissatisfied with the results, Fox cancelled the series before the retooled effort aired. The remaining episodes were burned off with no fanfare in the summer of 2007.

In 2011, Gluck solidified his standing in the industry with “Friends with Benefits” (2011), a racy comedy with Justin Timberlake and Mila Kunis as newly minted friends who decide to solve their respective issues with romance by launching a relationship based purely and physical needs. The producer –director was soon attached to several high-profile comedies, including a remake of “About Last Night” (1986) and “Sex on the Moon” (2013), an adaptation of Ben Mezrich’s book about a NASA employee who stops a 2 moon rock in order to impress the objects of the affections.

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.

After a fun night together exploring the city Dylan agrees to take the job. The next day Jamie presents Dylan with the contract to sign so she can land her commission for recruiting him. Not knowing anyone else in the city he and Jamie quickly develop a friendship. One night, while hanging out at Jamie's apartment watching a romantic comedy, they get on the topic of sex and relationships. They come to the conclusion that sex should not come with so many emotional attachments. Jamie and Dylan feeling the need for a physical connection they agree to have sex without emotion or commitment involved. After several trysts together Jamie comes to the realization that this isn't really what she wants, and she would like to start dating again and informs Dylan that they need to stop.

Jamie meets Parker (Bryan Greenberg) and they begin dating. After five dates they consummate their relationship but the next morning Parker leaves and informs Jamie he really wasn't looking for anything more. Furious, Jamie tells Parker off, assuring the end of their relationship. Trying to be sympathetic and to help Jamie get over the pain of the situation Dylan suggests she come with him to California over the July 4th weekend while he visits his family. Jamie is very hesitant, but agrees after much persistence from

Dylan. They fly to California where Jamie meets his sister Annie (Jenna Elfman) and father (Richard Jenkins). While in California emotional feelings for each other begin to form and they share a passionate kiss, which leads to a night of close intimacy unlike any they had shared before. However the next day Jamie 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 Jamie and find out why she has been ignoring him. He finally finds Jamie and she informs him she overheard everything he said and has no interest in maintaining any kind of a friendship with him.

Soon after this Jamie discovers that Dylan may be leaving the *GQ* position for another job, which would affect her commission. She confronts Dylan about this which leads to another argument. Both begin to do some soul searching trying to come to terms with their feelings about their relationship. Jamie spends time with her mother (Patricia Clarkson), while Dylan discusses it with his sister over the phone. His sister informs him that their father, who suffers from the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, will be flying to New York and he needs to be picked up at the airport. While eating at the airport with his father, his father, in a moment of Alzheimer's-induced confusion, incorrectly recognizes a passerby as a woman from his past. Dylan asks him about this woman, and his father, upon regaining his lucidity, says that she was a woman he met in the Navy, that she was the love of his life, and regrets decisions he made in his youth to let her go.

Dylan realizes how he feels about Jamie and after a talk with his friend and coworker, Tommy (Woody Harrelson), decides to go after her. He calls Jamie's mother to set up an excuse to get Jamie to go to Grand Central Station thinking she will be picking her mother up and arranges to have a flash mob scene set up to surprise Jamie at Grand Central. When the moment comes he catches up with Jamie and tells her how he really feels. Surprised and happy by this turn of events Jamie tells him to kiss her. After sharing a kiss Dylan suggests it is time they go on their first real date. They go to the café across the street, and although they attempt to keep the date casual and relaxed, the film ends with them in a sensual embrace and passionate kiss.

In this movie, director leaves theme about failed justice faced by Jamie Wallace. Jamie wants to get justice about her feeling with Dylan Harper. Jamie was a girl who had a relationship with Dylan a job originating from Los Angeles. Beginning only as a partner and helps Dylan on New York. One day they both are in the apartment of Jamie. Starting from watching the movie comedy, they both later carried talks towards sex and relationships. Then they made a commitment to do sex without ties of relationships, emotions and should never fall in love. Jamie has slowly started there feeling other than just a friend; Jamie wants more from Dylan's feelings. A when Jamie invited to go, Los Angeles, along with Dylan. Jamie is well received by the family of Dylan. At home they do sex, Dylan is a heartfelt and Jamie feel there are other with her feelings. Until a while without intentional Jamie heard a conversation between Dylan with her brother about his feelings and relationship to Jamie,

Dylan Jamie's feelings are hurt and she felt it failed in getting justice about her feelings with Dylan.

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.**

B. 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.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background of choosing the subject above, the problem is “How is failed justice faced by Jamie Wallace reflected in *Friends With Benefits* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

To make easy for the writer to conduct the study, she gives limitation of the problem on the failed justice *Friends with Benefits* movie that features the way to face this problem using Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie, such as a character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme, *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To reveal the failed justice of Jamie Wallace in *Friends with Benefits* by using Marxist Approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this research are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give some contributions to the larger body of knowledge particularly studies in Will Gluck’s *Friends with Benefits*. For teacher, it

might to be one of example references in teaching related Marxism theory. For students, it is expected to give useful information about the movie analyzed by Marxist perspective. This research is also useful for the researcher, it is to enrich the Marxism perspective applied in analyzing movie.

2. Practical Benefit

To give deeper understandings in literary field as the reference to the other researcher, and to enrich the literary study, particularly among the students especially on Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities especially about Marxist approach in literary study on the movie.

G. Research Method

In this research the writer tries to describe the research method used in this research. There are five points that should be fulfilled:

1. Type of the Study

The type of research conducted by the writer is in the dominant of descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (1983: 3) states that “Qualitative research is a type of research that has descriptive data in the forms of written or oral from observing people or behavior.”

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the 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.

b. 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.

3. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Friends with Benefits* movie directed Will Gluck and published in 2011. It is analyzed by using Marxist criticism.

4. Technique of the 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.

5. Technique of the 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.

H. Research Paper Organization

This researcher systematizes this research into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II comprises of the underlying theory, which presents Notion of Marxism, Basic Concept of Marxism, Structural Elements of the Movie and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is Social Background of American Society. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of the Movie, which includes structural elements of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme and discussion. Chapter V is Marxism Analysis related the problem. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.