

**HORIZONTAL CONFLICT
IN *PARTITION* MOVIE DIRECTED BY VIC SARIN (2007):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



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**HORIZONTAL CONFLICT IN PARTITION MOVIE DIRECTED BY VIC
SARIN (2007): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

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Abstract: The major problem of this study is how conflict between the Muslims and Sikhs in *Partition* movie based on sociological approach. The study analyze of structural elements in *Partition* movie and aspects based on sociological point of view. The researcher uses qualitative study in analyzing the movie. The object of study is conflict between the Muslims and Sikhs. The primary datum is *Partition* movie itself. The secondary data are script of the movie and internet websites related to the study. The method of collecting data is purpose sampling by watching carefully the movie and then the researcher took sample dialogue and picture of the movie then used it as a starting point to analyze the issue. The technique of data analysis is descriptive technique. The analysis shows a result in the following conclusions. Based on the sociological analysis, it is apparent that in this movie the director wants to reflect the social reality of Indian society at the end of twentieth century and early twenty first century, especially the diverse ethnic and religious groups can make horizontal conflict. The director also criticizes how people should recognize others in order to build peace in this movie.

Keywords: *Partition*, Horizontal Conflict, India-Pakistan, Sociological Approach

A. INTRODUCTION

Partition movie shows some scenes describe the conflict, especially because of different religions. Religions may make a conflict because the people cannot receive the diverse of ethnic and religions. The people accustomed with homogeneous society so that think other religious groups is threat. *Partition* movie shows many of conflict like in the society. This movie represents the massacre in India on 1947 which make hundreds people died. The writer found some movie reviews in network that have relationship. First review by Cheryl Kaye Tardif, she focuses on cast and synopsis of the movie and commend about the cast. Second review by Nikhat Kazmi, in her article explains about the true history background of the movie. The last or the third by Triniman, he tells briefly the history India and Pakistan that become the background have been created of the movie. In addition, different from before study, this study will analyzed by using Sociological approach.

Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of human in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972: 11). The sociology of literature is a part of literary study that examines the relationships between literary works and their social contexts. Swingewood and Laurenson state, “The main purpose of any viable sociology of literature must be to discover the core of meaning” (1972: 16). It means that sociology has function as an instrument to grasp the meaning of the authors and to improve understanding of society based on the phenomena as social life.

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation (Wellek and Warren, 1948: 89). Furthermore, literature is imitation of life. It is in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary “imitation” (Wellek and Warren, 1948: 89). The relationship literature with social situation related in economic, political, social, and cultural system. The effort made to describe and define the influence of society on literature

and to prescribe and judge the position of literature in society (Wellek and Warren, 1948: 90). Literature is actually determined by or dependent on its social setting, social change, and development.

The writer uses the sociology of the society in analyzing this literary work, because the social background shows the acceptance of the sexual identity crisis by the society. By knowing, the social background of the society the writer can analyze what the director wants to deliver in this movie. It also shows that the literary work as a media to give criticism and representation of the society itself. Sociology of literature related to the author's origin and his environment. It shows how the society can give a contribution in creating literary work. Therefrom, the writer focuses on analyzing conflict between Muslims and Sikhs and the objective of the study is to describe conflict between Muslims and Sikhs in *Partition* movie based on Sociological approach.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The writer uses Vic Sarin's *Partition* movie that was released on February, 2007 as the object of the study. The primary data sources in this study is the movie entitled *Partition* directed by Vic Sarin and the script. Then, the secondary data sources are taken from other data that have relation with the study and other relevant information that is got from book, network, article, movie review, and the other relevant sources.

The writer uses note taking and scene capturing in technique of data collection. The techniques of data collecting steps applied in this research are watching the movie, reading the movie script, classifying the data, determining the character that will analyzed, browsing to look for related information, such as identity of the movie, public response, and reading relevant books. The technique of data description in this study started from studying material of sociological theory.

C. RESEARCH FINDING

To some extent, the movie reflects the social realities of India in which the movie was produced. Among other aspects reflected in the movie are the social aspect, economic aspect, political aspect, cultural aspect, religions aspect, and the last science and technology aspect.

1. Social aspect

Social aspect which defined in *Partition* movie can be looked from the condition and bad relations between Muslims and Sikhs, in cases both of them have conflict which caused by the enmity since past period. The enmity damage people in society because many of family who lost their member. Some of family member become victims because of the massacred toward people who had not sin.

India is divided into two nations, Islamic Pakistan and secular India. More than 14 million people were displaced the migration of Muslims in Pakistan Sikh and Hindus in India. Ancient hatreds again broke to the surface and over one million have died.

From the characters show that India has social structure in that period. The social structures in India called caste and divided into God and Goddesses, priests and scholars, rajas and noblemen, and craftsmen. The existence of British, Indian army, and Indian people reflect that British in priests and scholars because they had feature in society and India government, because British colonize India at the time. Indian army, seller, and farmer included rajas and noblemen.

Dialogue Margareth and Andrew:

Messenger: Search from your regiment to report to duty. Immediately.

Andrew: I guess that's it.

Margareth: Imagine, my younger brother will lead you into battle.

Andrew: Dad's legacy. Lt. Stillwell, this should be sealed.

2. Economic aspect

The economic aspect in *Partition* movie is not dominant, only showed the livelihood Punjab society who most of them as farmer and partly as seller in Punjab market. Gian is one of the societies who become farmer after retired from army, because he does not want any war again. In addition, Kasur society in Pakistan who more populous have livelihood as seller and employee at companies.

Dialogue between Avtar and Gian

Gian: Avtar? Uranio're morning.

Avtar: We need to talk. And talk. I watched you yesterday. You've been busy working on the farm while others have done your part.

Gian: My Part? What? Killing innocent people?

Avtar: They got what they deserve. For me there is no compromise.

Dialogue between Gian and seller in market

Seller: I heard you for the recent carnage?

Gian: One third of the lens and two thirds of peas.

Seller: It was bloody. Very close to the village. I heard that many Muslims have died. The festival of Holi is just for that week.

Gian: What praise? Four feet, please.

Seller: This is for someone your age, Gian.

From two dialogues above, Gian Singh work as a farmer and he does not want to kill other people again, because he regrets with his experience when became army. While Gian at the market, he bought some foods and some sheets of cloth for Naseem.

3. Political aspect

The beginning plot can know the political aspect in *Partition* movie while Gian and Avtar are played Polo in New Delhi with British people. Gian and Avtar is composite army of India in which is raised by British. At that time, many of Indian man who becoming army for helping British military in war. Because on that year, British still colonize India territory.

Dialogue between Andrew and Margareth

Margareth: Imagine, my younger brother will lead you into battle.

Andrew: Dad's legacy. Lt. Stillwell, this should be sealed.

From the dialogue about, British dominate government structure in India because many Indian people who become employee in lower class. British dominate India as colonizer, because British have influence toward society or people at the society.

4. Cultural aspect

The social reality in cultural aspect also described at the movie. The examples are society still fixated by money and position or popularity. It described when Gian trying to pay with some money to change in order to Naseem did not killed by the society. Besides that, while Margareth try to lobby the police officer in order to Gian only prisoned in Lahore.

Gian talked to the people

Gian: This is all I have. Hopefully it will be helpful. For those who had to leave everything behind in Pakistan.

Sikh man: More than 500 rupees friends. Maybe more.

Let this be an inspiration to us all.

Margareth talked to the police

Margareth: Do you cannot send it back to Lahore, Sergeant?

Police: It is impossible.

Margareth: Well, maybe we manage to arrange something. I work for the government in Lahore, I suspect that a person who works for the state might want to have a new friend.

Police: Friends who can help. Take him in Lahore.

From the dialogue above can conclude that Gian give some money to the society as replacement in order to Naseem did not catches and killed. He willing gives all money to safe Naseem's life, because he does not want any homicide. From dialogue two, Margareth asked the police officer to take Gian to Lahore. At early, the police officer is refusing, but Margareth persuade the police that she works in Lahore government and

she has a position to the police in order to work at the state. Finally, police receive the enticement and he takes Gian to Lahore.

5. Science and Technology aspect

Partition movie did not explain about development of science at the society. It only shows the modern transportation, such as bus and train. It is show that the setting of time on modern era, although the number of modern transportation still few, because used of horse cart and bicycle are majority especially in village areas. Besides that, at the movie also show the use of electronic tool such as camera to take picture. Beside newspaper, radio is a communication tool, because news about India and surrounding announced.

Andrew: Will you paint. We need to go.

Margareth: Just one, please. OK.

Andrew: Let's get together pictures.

Margareth: Get closer. Look at the camera.

Andrew: OK.

Naseem: I would like to go with me.

Gian: You're going to only briefly. Here's your ticket. For one there and to return here. For exactly a month. Do not lose them.

The ticket on the text above is train ticket, because transportation that fastest at the time is train and many people interested with the transportation. Nevertheless, the train only in the city or state, at Punjab village only available a bus that deliver the people to the city include to the train station.

6. Religions aspect

The prominent aspect is religions because *Partition* movie show the relation between Muslim and Sikh at that time was bad. It showed at the beginning plot when Sikhs killed the Muslim India who transmigration to Pakistan. Then, Muslims settle with killing Sikhs and Hindi from Pakistan to India. The war of both parties is continuing, massacred happen, and cause many victims. The real problems is not explain clearly at this movie, only mention that the conflict caused by enmity since ancient

period. Moreover, the enmity is still continue after independence India and partition both India and Pakistan territory.

Shanti: Rani's son was on the train. The whole family. All of them together. And now ... dead.

Gian: Poor Rani.

Shanti: These Muslims ... How can they kill innocent people? They are killers. I hate them. I'm so glad you're not involved, my son.

Sikh man: Open the door. We know you're inside.

Avtar: Destroy the door. Where is the Muslim woman?

Gian: She is a young girl. She is not responsible for anyone's death.

Avtar: How can you hide one of them after all they have done to our nation?

Gian: She did nothing. I'll tell you who has not done anything.

Rani: My son, his wife, his children, my grandchildren! They killed them damn Muslims!

Akbar: You are attacked and massacred us as we Belial.

Margareth: Leave him alone!

Gian: Margaret!

Police: What happens?

Akbar: He is a Sikh.

Gian: I am a Muslim. My name is Mohammed Hasan.

Akbar: He is a Sikh. He tried to take her our sister.

Gian: If the crime was being born as a Sikh, it is a crime to be born as a Muslim. Akbar: I do not want to hear this.

From the dialogue above, describe that between two religions are hate each other. The problem since past period had been arise animosity and give bad impact. The example is massacred which happened in Punjab and it make resentment and increase the conflict between Sikh and Muslim.

D. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The analysis above shows there is a close relation between the movie and social reality. The political aspect describe about separated India become India and Pakistan. India is secular country and Pakistan is Muslim country. Social aspect describes conflict between India and Pakistan that happened during for years and make cause many victims. Economic aspect shows the livelihood of Indian and Pakistani society, who becomes farmer and seller. Cultural aspect

shows that Indian society, especially Sikh still celebrates some traditional festival. Moreover, the society still wearing traditional clothes as their identity as Indian. Religion aspect is big problem in India and Pakistan because of differences religion, which causes big conflict between them since past period. The conflict causes some war, such as Kashmir war 1, Kashmir war 2, and Kashmir war 3 after independence India.

The *Partition* movie promotes different religion which package in simple story. The story tells about two persons who have different religion and culture and they were married, but their social background which different become problem in their family and society. Although the movie tells about love, but only few the love story here, because this movie is package in complete story. Social life is described clearly, especially about the conflict religion between India and Pakistan. Social life that described clearly is about their cultural, livelihood, daily activities, house constructor, and the others.

Vic Sarin builds meaningful story with describe to the audience about the conflict happened. Conflict makes the animosity toward people who do not know anything. The conflict is never giving good effect for everyone and it make disadvantage for our life. Conflict makes lost humanity feeling each other, because they are killing other people without compassionate. Therefore, Sarin reflect India and Pakistan in past era in order to the audience know that the conflict may not happen again. The aspect of sociological is occur in the movie, social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, cultural aspect, science

and technology aspect, and finally religions aspect build in this movie. It represent that there are sociological aspect in this movie.

Based on the analysis the writer would like to build conclusion as follows. Based on the sociological analysis can be concluded that this movie reflects the social reality of the Indian society at the end of the twentieth century and early twenty-first century. The dominant aspect of the social reality is the diverse ethnic and religious groups. The director of the movie also criticizes that people should recognize others in order to build peace.

The writer hopes the study gives benefit for the readers, especially in pedagogical benefit. There are elements in the movie that gives positive effect for education. The movie teaches religions and us for having tolerance toward diverse ethnic. We have to understand and respect each other as social human. The writer is aware of this study is far from being perfect and comprehensive. So that the writer hopes that, the reader can catch the lessons from this study and it can be useful to the readers as the consideration in conducting another, especially widening the knowledge of literary studies.

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