REBELLION AGAINST RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY
IN DAVID BENIOFF'S *TROY*: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

Research Paper

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By:

GILANG AQRIZAL

A 320 040 088

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY

MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Many stories are presented in film. Some of them are fictive but some of them are based on true stories. Even fictive, films are also based on the reflection of the society's live. Film is an instrument of its author to show his idea to other. The idea of the author doesn't come by itself. It comes from social phenomena around the author. Then the author presents the phenomena into film. In other words, film reflects the condition of society in which it is made. Laurenson and Swingewood (1972: 13) said that "The most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspects of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror to the age".

As described in wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Troy_%28film%29), *Troy* is a film, released on May 14, 2004, about the battle between Greek and Troy (Trojan War) which happened in the year 1250 B.C. during the late Bronze Age as described in Homer's *Iliad*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, and other myths. The war begins after Prince Paris of Troy takes Helen, Queen of Sparta. It makes her husband, King Menelaus angry and together with his brother, King Agamemnon, and all Greek armies sail to Troy to take Helen back. In the war, it shown that Greek has their best soldier Achilles, and Troy has Hector. Achilles is a great warrior and he always wins in his battle. It makes him a little arrogant and neglects the

existence of God. While Hector is also the great warrior and always obey his father, Priam King of Troy, who always acts based on the decision of the priest. The war end after Achilles kills Hector and gives Troy 12 day truce. During the truce, the Greek builds horse statue and entered into it. Troy finds nothing in war location but horse statue. Then, the horse statue is brought into the city. At night, the men inside the horse go out and burn the city.

The film, which was an Oscar-nominated movie, received many public comments. As described in imdb, (http://www.imdb.com/title/ tt0332452/usercomments), there are up to 1542 comments for *Troy* from its users starting from favorable comments up to unfavorable comments. One favorable comment comes from a Professor from Italy in Classics in the University which submitted on 22 March 2005. Professor said that *Troy* was a fine work especially in its screenplay because elaborated many sources with some personal touch and adapted the myth to an anti-militarist and anti-imperialistic point of view. More, professor said that the actors were convincing in their role, the scenery was magnificent and the accuracy in reproducing weapons and armour. While one unfavorable comment comes from New York, USA in 9 January 2005 a graduate student of literature. He/she said that basically he/she likes an action movie but he/she didn't like with some parts in this movie. He/she was annoyed with such of cutting down the women in this tale (overplaying Helen who never speaks in the *Illiad*, and cutting out Hecuba, Priam's

wife, and Queen of Troy completely, cutting out Cassandra) and also the adaptation of different tale like *Illiad* by Hormer and *Aeneid* by Virgil which both are taken in different time.

Besides getting many comments, based on the report in imdb, (http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0332452/awards) *Troy* also got many movie awards. It is won in ASCAP Film and Television Music Awards 2005 for Top Box Office Films, nominated in Best Achievement in Costume Design from Academy Awards USA 2005, nominated in Best Foreign Film from Awards of Japanese Academy 2005, nominated in Golden Trailer Awards 2004 for Best Music and Summer 2004 Blockbuster for "Greatest war", won in Irish Film and Television Awards 2004 for Best Supporting Actor in Film/TV (Peter O'Toole), nominated in MTV Movie Awards 2005 for Best Fight (Brad Pitt and Eric Bana) and Best Male Performance (Brad Pitt), nominated in Motion Picture Sound Editors USA 2005 for Best Sound Editing in Foreign Features, Teen Choice Awards 2004 won for Choice Movie Actor - Drama/Action Adventure (Brad Pitt) and nominated for Choice Breakout Movie Star-Male (Garrett Hedlund), Choice Movie-Drama/Action Adventure, Choice Movie Actor-Drama/Action Adventure (Orlando Bloom), and Choice Movie Fight/Action Sequence, nominated in Visual Effects Society Awards 2005 for Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Motion Picture, nominated in World Soundtrack Awards 2004 for Best Original Song Written for

Film, and nominated in World Stunt Awards 2005 for Best Fight and Best Stunt Coordinator and/or 2nd Unit Director.

As described in wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_ Benioff), *Troy* is a film written by David Benioff (screen play) as described in Homer's *Iliad*, Virgil's *Aeneid*, and other myths. He is an American author who was born in New York in 1970 and he was the Dartmouth College alumnus. Born David Friedman, he changed his name to David Benioff, his mother's maiden name. He worked as a club bouncer and high school English teacher until he won recognition for his book, *The 25th Hour*. He later adapted the book into a film, starring Edward Norton and directed by Spike Lee. Thus began his career as a Hollywood screenwriter. He adapted a screenplay of the mythological epic *Troy* (2004).

This film was also played by famous actors and actress; there were Brad Pitt as Achilles, Orlando Bloom as Paris, Eric Bana as Hector, Brian Cox as Agamemnon, Brendan Gleeson as Menelaus, Diane Kruger as Helen, Peter O'Toole as Priam, Sean Bean as Odysseus and the other. And last but not least, Wolfgang Petersen is the director and producer of this film. Besides from the famous actors, *Troy* is also great in cinematography. Cinematography is "the discipline of making lighting and camera choices when recording photographic images for the cinema", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cinematography). It is closely related to the art of photography, though many additional issues arise

when both the camera and elements of the scene may be in motion. For example is the great scenery (the palaces of Agamemnon and Priam, and the Greek camp), the accuracy in reproducing weapons and armour (Ajax fights in the Mycenean way, while Achilles and Hector use more recent tactics).

Moreover, the main subject which would be analyzed in this film is the major different character of Greek and Troy as a society viewing from religious aspect. Viewing from religious aspect, there is such rebellion against religious authority shown in this film. Rebellion is "act of rebelling", while rebel "is fight against or refuse to obey an authority" (Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary). According to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, religious is "believing in and practicing a religion". While authority is refers to "the legitimacy, justification and right to exercise that power", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority). So, rebellion against religious authority is fight against or refuses to obey a religious authority. It is such act without consider religious rule and doing something freely, for example, it likes underestimate the priest as the servant of God, does not believe in God authority or rebels/mocks Him. The Greek especially their main character Achilles is showing the rebellion against religious authority. He mocks the God by his motion in beheading Apollo head. While Troy is a kingdom who always acts based on religious rule, King Priam always acts based on priest suggestions. The Greek as the world power kingdom at that time claims that they can

concord the world. That is why; Greek colonizes other country (kingdom) and builds an emporium led by King Agamemnon. Because of the superiority, they claim that they always won because of their own effort (their own tactic) and neglected God intervention (religious rule.).

Christopher Lamb in Samovar and Porter, (1995: 115), states that "it is clear that religion and culture are inextricably entwined." Social aspect relate to religion is the condition of the society toward the religion it self. Religion has ruled to organize the society. That is why, there is a society which is all their life aspects are organized by religion rule and there is a society which ignores the religion rule.

Religion in society is also called sociology of religion. The sociology of religion is "primarily the study of the practices, social structures, historical backgrounds, development, universal themes, and roles of religion in society", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki /Sociology_of_religion). There is particular emphasis on the recurring role of religion in nearly all societies on Earth today and throughout recorded history. Sociologists of religion attempt to explain the effects of society on religion and the effects of religion on society; in other words, their dialectical relationship. How far religion influences the society and how far a certain society neglects it.

Relate to that condition, the role of religion among the society is portrayed by many authors in their literary work. Laurenson and Swingewood, (1972: 13) explain that "The most popular perspective

adopts the documentary aspects of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror to the age". That is why, when an author makes a literary work, he expresses the social condition where he lives.

Based on the social phenomena shown in *Troy* film, the writer was interested in analyzing the rebellion against religious authority in David Benioff' *Troy* by using sociological approach. That's why the writer will take a research entitles "**REBELLION AGAINST RELIGIOUS AUTHORITY IN DAVID BENIOFF'S *TROY*: SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH"**.

B. Literature Review

The writer has not found the research about *Troy* film done by the other writers after looking for several literary reviews in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Here, the writer will analyze *Troy* film focusing on rebellion against religious authority by using sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

After knowing the background of the study above, the writer tries to formulate his research by arranging the problem, as follow: "How is the rebellion against religious authority reflected in David Benioff's *Troy*?"

Due to the problem statement above, the writer formulates the notion of rebellion against religious authority. Rebellion is "act of rebelling", while rebel "is fight against or refuse to obey an authority"

(Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary). While described in wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rebellion), rebellion is, "in the most general sense, a refusal to accept authority".

Meanwhile, religion is "a set of beliefs and practices often organized around supernatural and moral claims and often codified as prayer, ritual, and religious law", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ Religion). Religion also encompasses ancestral or cultural traditions, writings, history, and mythology, as well as personal faith and mystic experience. The term religion refers to both the personal practices related to communal faith and to group rituals and communication stemming from shared conviction.

Durkheim in Malcolm B Hamilton, (the sociology of religion, page: 12), states that religion is "a unified system of beliefs and practices relative to sacred things, that is to say, things set apart and forbidden – beliefs and practices which unite into one single moral community called a Church all those who adhere to them". According to Robertson in Malcolm B Hamilton, (the sociology of religion, page: 15), religious culture is "that set of beliefs and symbols (and values deriving directly therefrom) pertaining to a distinction between an empirical and a super-empirical, transcendent reality; the affairs of the empirical being subordinated in significance to the non-empirical. Secondly, we define religious action simply as; action shaped by an acknowledgement of the empirical/super-empirical distinction". Christopher Lamb in Samovar and

Porter, (1995: 115), states that "it is clear that religion and culture are inextricably entwined". While according to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, religious is "believing in and practicing a religion".

Authority refers to "the legitimacy, justification and right to exercise of power", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority). Weberian sociology defines authority as "power which is recognized as legitimate and justified by both the powerful and the powerless", wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority). Moreover, according to Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, authority is "power to give orders, and official permission to do something."

Weber in wikipedia, (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Authority) explains that there are three kinds of authority. The first is an authority relates with customs, habits and social structures which are long established in such society are called traditional society. For example is when power passes from one generation to another. The next is rational-legal authority. It is an authority which depends for its legitimacy on formal rules and established laws of the state. It is usually in the form of written, and is often very complex. Modern societies depend on legal-rational authority, for example is government officials. And last but not least is charismatic authority. Charismatic authority is such authority which is derived from the gift of grace, for example when someone (e.g. a leader) claims that his authority is derived from a higher power (e.g. God or natural law or rights) or inspiration. This authority is superior to both

the validity of traditional and rational-legal authority, and followers accept this and are willing to follow this higher or inspired authority in the place of the authority that they have hitherto been following.

Viewed from the case above, the writer knows that the authority which is used in the research title refers to charismatic authority. That is because it deals with the grace and derives from higher power. More, it also has relation with religion or God law. So, the writer concludes that rebellion against religious authority is fight against or refuses to obey a religious authority. Furthermore, the rebels act without considering the religious rule even fight its authority and don't believe in God authority or the existence of God by mocking Him and underestimate the priest as the servant of God.

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer limits the study on how rebellion against religious authority shown in David Benioff's *Troy* by using sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

This research that the writer wants to analyze focuses on:

1. To analyze the film based on its structural elements.

2. To analyze the rebellion against religious authority shown in David Benioff's *Troy* based on sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The result of the study will contribute to:

1. Theoretical Benefit:

   This research will give contribution in criticizing a literary work and producing the objective criticism.

2. Practical Benefit

   Practically, this research can add the knowledge to the writer and other researcher of the sociological theory applied in a literary work, particularly on David Benioff's *Troy*.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer takes a certain procedure covering five steps. They are as follows:

1. Type of the Research

The type of the research, which is used by the writer, is qualitative type. Moleong (1989: 3) said that qualitative research is "a research which result is in the descriptive data".

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Troy* film by David Benioff.

3. Data and Data Sources

a. Type of the Data

The data of this research are text in the form of film manuscript and also the motion pictures of *Troy*.

b. The Data Sources

    1. Primary Data Sources.

       The primary data source is the film itself, *Troy* by David Benioff.

    2. Secondary Data Source.

       The secondary data sources are the other literatures which are relevant to the film and to sociological approach.

4. Data Collecting Method and Technique

In this study, the writer applies library research, release document to be observed. The techniques are:

a. Watching the film repeatedly.

b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.

c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its classifications.

d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.

e. Drawing conclusion and formulating suggestion.

5. Data Analyzing Technique

In analyzing the data, the writer applies descriptive approach. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first step is analyzing the data of this

research. Analyzing the data of this research is trying to clarify the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones. Second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer uses several steps of his research to make it easier to understand. Chapter I is introduction which covers 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 II is underlying theory which covers theory about the rebellion against religious authority, sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, and structural elements of film. Chapter III is social background of America under George Walker Bush's leadership which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, cultural aspect, science and technology, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is structural analysis. Chapter V is sociological analysis. And chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.