

**CLASS STRUGGLE IN ERIC TILL'S *LUTHER*:
MARXIST APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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By

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Luther movie is the biography movie with drama religious gender; film directed by England director was born at 24 November 1929 in London Eric Till and produced by Lutheran America; Alexander Thies, Brigitte Rochow and Christian Strehr. In 2005 Mr Till was awarded the Governor General's Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Arts from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. On August 12 2008 it was announced that Mr Till would be receiving the 2008 Director's Guild of Canada Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr Till has resided in Toronto, Canada since 1954. The *Luther* movie is film to reflect the habitual people in 16 century, this can saw from the custom and attribute Eric Till used in make this movie like in the last habits.

The movie is adapted from biography Martin Luther king, the dedication equal human right people. The movie explores the social class discrimination between the levels of class. The movie tells about Murder Martin Luther journey to get the peaceful. He promises to become a Goodman and always in god away to life. He goes to Rome to deliver a priest's letters and sees how corrupt Rome has become. He buys an indulgence for his grandfather, Hendrick Luther. He wants his grandfather enter to heaven because he bought the indulgence. He realizes that things shouldn't be this way and goes back to Germany to talk to the priest. The priest sends him to

Wittenberg to study about theology. The priest believes that Martin will be able to "change minds and open eyes" in Leipzig university. Martin often goes to confession and becomes really aggravated with himself. He makes the society to perceive things differently, such as the burial of a suicidal child outside sacred grounds and he preaches in a church and tells everyone how his views toward God have changed. He lectures in his theology class and makes fun of indulgences and the money that the Prince Frederick collects.

The Prince's secretary, Spalatin, warns Luther that he should stop embarrassing the Prince because he is the one paying for him at the University. After seeing the effects of the preaching of John Tetzel, Martin Luther comes up with the 95 Theses and nails them onto the door of the church. Bystanders take the theses and use a printing press to turn them into books. This allows everyone to have a copy and his ideas spread faster and easier. Pope Leo X thinks that Martin is a government rule destroyed. Spalatin tells Luther that he is threatened with excommunication and is summoned to appear in Augsburg by Rome. Aleander prepares Martin and tells him that all he should say in front of Cardinal Cajetan is that he recants but Martin doesn't follow through. Pope Leo X orders Martin's books to be burned and Luther is excommunicated. Then, Martin translates the New Testament into German because he believes that the common people need to be able to understand the scriptures. Martin is given a hearing and when he is asked if he will recant, he asks for one day to ponder his answer. That night he goes to confession. The next day he refuses to recant. The Cardinal demands that Martin is delivered

to Rome, but Prince Frederick doesn't want that, so he kidnaps Luther and keeps him in Wartburg Castle. When Luther disappears, chaos occurs.

The people start to break down the church, and set it on fire. Luther disguises himself as a knight, and goes and stops the people from ruining the church. He finishes translating the New Testament into German and dedicates it to Prince Frederick. He meets a nun named Katharine Von Bora and marries her. The Emperor Charles calls upon all the princes to settle what began at Worms. Luther encourages the princes to speak. He says, "Silence will not save us." All the princes stand up against Charles.

Actually Based on the Luther movie make some public response, there are pro and contra from the watcher, market and industrial response. Many people consider to Luther movie is very nice the public response can show by email there are:

Comment by Kirk Honeycutt (Hollywood Reporter) at 10/06/03
 “Shot on 100 locations in three countries and outfitted with impressive props, costumes, art direction and medieval streets, Luther makes up for what it lacks in vigorous storytelling with such production values”
 (<http://en.luthermovieincomment.htm>)

Comment by Marjorie Austin (Chronicle) at 10/01/03 “Though it fails when providing a rounded history of the life of Martin Luther, it succeeds in giving viewers a little taste of the other social factors influencing things during the 16th century in Europe”. (<http://en.luthermovieincomment.htm>)

Comment by Chris Hewitt (St. Paul Pioneer Press) at 09/25/03 “It's a film that dashes through much of the life and many of the works of Martin Luther without really getting at the personal or spiritual motivations for his crusade to reform the Catholic Church”.
<http://en.luthermovieincomment.htm>

Comment by Kenneth Turan (Los Angeles Times) at 09/26/03 “After a summer of numbing mindlessness, there is something frankly refreshing about a movie that deals even superficially with as significant a figure as the rebellious 16th century theologian Martin Luther”.
<http://en.luthermovieincomment.htm>

Comment by Annlee Ellingson (Boxoffice Magazine) at 09/26/03 Actor Fiennes, writers Camille Thomasson and Bart Gavigan and director Eric Till have done a laudable job of bringing this dusty historical character to life”.
<http://en.luthermovieincomment.htm>

Based on the comment above , it shows if Luther movie an inspiration movie so this is a pro comment for Luther movie, sure sometime people can change be more god man after watch it and Luther movie is more than creative and brave young man and can be the motivator to the next generation

Actually every good movie always makes the controversial to spring kind of response and sometime movie can be the debate material and build the different point of view for the public. Movies have the pro and contra for

example the contra we will show by Aldo, Tony and Anggie comment. There have the different contra comment.

Comment by Aldo at December 4, 2006. 9:09 pm said: “For Luther movie crew please sent to me 95 Luther arguments based on the movie” (<http://www.catholic.com/thisrock/1994/0411fea1sb2.asp>) State Aldo’s argument can explain if Aldo didn’t agree with this movie and look if Aldo not believe with Luther message movie. So he wants 95 Luther arguments to get the reality. The other mean Luther movie is controversial and make hesitant with human religion.

Comment by Tony, Sunday 22-04-2007, 3:19 pm wrote:” Luther movie is not history or theology” (<http://luthercoment>), From Tony comment the writers try to explain about Luther movie, if the movie very unpredictable and can make new point of view. The other means the movie is a media to study. The movie makes the watcher to thinking about the story and can to pin up with the reality with open some book to pin up with the history.

Comment by Anggie at Monday 24-04-2007, 11:10 pm wrote;”Nor is it at all true that the Catholic Church was opposed to the printing and distribution of bible translation vernacular language (it did oppose some protestation translations which it felt were inaccurate) for instance cutlery contrary to the myths in this regard which are pathetically promulgated by the movie Luther.” (<http://webpagedaveamstrong.lutherpublictrespon>). Based on the comment will show if this movie is not basic in catholic crunch history and the writer not believe and not agree with this movie.

Luther movie make some market and industrial response, this movie is eight editions written by Bart Gavian and Camille Thomasson relies at September 26 2003 in international and relies at December 30 2005 in Indonesia with duration 121 minutes, this movie get the MPAA: PG 13 award and be the best biography movie. Beside get the award the movie can relies with kind of language. For example: German, English, and Indonesian. The other meaning *Luther* movie can receive in many place and many class although get the different response and good market response with income statistic *Luther* movie US \$29,475,432 after relies.

This movie is interesting; they are some aspects that make this movie interesting to study. The first aspect, *Luther* movie is film with beautiful mise en scene. From this aspect we will show about the habitual people in 16 century, this can saw from the custom and attribute Eric Till used in make this movie like in the last habits beside the setting place and time. From the customs we can imagination the real situation, so we can feel if we are part of them.

The second aspect, the movie has the good plot; the beautiful plot can show from the way of story. The simple conflict this movie can show if this is a complex problem, because this simple conflict can to influence the other part. This is can show when this movie just show the *Luther* internal conflict to get the comfortable about his religion but step by step the *Luther*'s manner to get the peaceful in his soul be influence the human habits, because *Luther* show his problem to other people if religion habitual is false, and he want to

change to show the deviation for other people by the literary work because if our think strongly enough, we will be forced by science to believe in God. Sometime religion is the sigh of the oppressed creatures, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people the other meanings the religion can be inspiration but if we did not know how to apply in our life can make a big trouble.

The third aspect, the character and characterization of the movie is very good. The movie consists of protagonist and antagonist character. The different character make the movie is very amazing. For example Luther is very good man in this movie but Cardinal Cajetan is very bad and egoist man, while the prince Frederick is old prudent man.

The fourth aspect, casting process to get the actor and actress is success, the actor and actress well to do to deepen the character so make the watchers unconscious and get the new spirits to get something that they want. From Luther manner to get the equal human right, the first time see the movie audience will feel pessimist but the last people can feel proud to Luther, because he successful although with long journey. Which is people can get the zeal to try and try to get anything that they want and the last time we can say if “impossible is nothing”.

The sixth aspect Luther movie is not only something to show but also this movie can be a study material. For example this movie can be media to study about social problem. From the show of the movie, it can be known if in usual habits always consist and hooked of one part and another. People are not

reflecting their opinion by the attitudes but by the literary work. Literary work is a product of human soul and reflection of human experience and knowledge. Something the author thinks as reality and also imagination of his thought. The creation of literary work is often related to social condition.

The last aspect, Class struggle is one of inspirations for director in Luther movie, because it tells about the social conflict with the differences class struggle and the end this conflict make the discrimination habitual. This movie can reflect the usual habits when the low class is easier discrimination by the higher class based on religion. The other meaning in movie can explain if Christianity became more and more the exclusive possession of the ruling classes, and these applied it as a mere means of government to keep the lower classes within limits. Prosperity also influences the class conflict. No one can ignore the prosperity of their life. With the prosperity, people will feel safe, therefore rather far from social conflict. But to have prosperity people have to fight for it, to struggle it, then when they have it, they struggle to keep it.

The Luther brave can make anything possible and change the situation. There are some ways of fighting of something, not only actively but also passively. Some active ways can be seen by the struggle movement; on the other hand passive ways can be seen by the opinion or criticism. People make some opinion and criticisms by using written media. The movie can know if discrimination can warn by the literary work but not by the radical attitudes. Literary work is one of written media. It is to reflect the real life. This way usually forgets by many people because people always based on the emotion

then on ration so Eric till try to show from the movie. This conflict can remember about Karl Marx theory. The theory is Marxism, theory about differences between bourgeois and proletariat in class society.

Then, the writer wants to analyze the problem in *Luther* by using Marxist approach. In this study, the writers choose himself to give a title: “Class Struggle in Eric Till’s *Luther*: Marxist Approach”.

B. Literary Review

Based on the researches in the library of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta and Sebelas Maret State University of Surakarta, there is no research paper which is examining Luther movie directed by Eric Till. So, the writer tries to become a pioneer in examining the movie.

C. Problem Statement

Problem statement is one of the most essential parts for the research, because it makes the study clearer and focus. The main problem statement is ‘How is class struggle reflected in Eric Till’s *Luther* movie?’

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer limits the research in the class struggle of Luther of reflected in Eric Till’s *Luther* movie.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. to analyze the structural element of Eric Till’s in *Luther* movie and
2. to analyze *Luther* movie through Marxist perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. **Theoretical Benefit**

To give information about the movie and what are the messages behind the movie to the readers if in 16 century has the discrimination based on the class level.

2. **Practical Benefit**

To get deeper understanding about social problems viewed from Marxist theory based on the movie with theme of class struggle.

G. Research Method

1. **Type of the Study**

In conducting the research, the writer applies qualitative type of research, because it is a subjective research and without calculation. Qualitative research is especially effective in obtaining culturally specific information about the values, opinion, behaviors and social context of particular population.

2. **Type of the Data and Data Sources**

In doing the research, the writer uses two sources of data, they are:

- a. **Primary data source:**

The primary data source is Luther, and

- b. **Secondary data sources:**

The secondary of data source are *Luther* movie script and data which are related to the research.

3. **Technique of Data Collecting**

Technique of data collecting in conducting the research is library research. The important data which related to the research are collected and recorded in sort of document as evidence.

Technique of collection data are follows:

- a. Watching the film,
- b. Browsing to the internet to find the related data,
- c. Taking notes,
- d. Reading the movie script,
- e. Arranging the data in to several part a according to its classification,
- f. Selecting particular parts which are considered important and relevant for the analysis, and
- g. Drawing the conclusion.

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique the data analyzing is descriptive analysis, in which the writer tries the structural element of identifies the correlation between the film and the social background according to the Marxist perspective.

H. Researcher Paper Organization

The researcher organizes research paper into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory, it consists of notion of Marxist, major of principle, theoretical. Chapter III is social historical background of American in the

early twenty first century. Chapter IV is structural analysis. Chapter V is Marxist analysis. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion