

SOCIAL MOBILITY IN SOFIA COPPOLA'S *MARIE ANTOINETTE* MOVIE: A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Marie Antoinette is a historical movie released on October 20th, 2006 in USA. This movie based on the award winning biography “Marie Antoinette: the journey (2001, 2002)” by British Author, Lady Antonia Fraser This movie written and directed by Sofia Coppola. The producers are Rozz Katz and Francis Ford Coppola and the running time this movie in 2 hours 3 minutes. This movie is produced in USA but only the setting of the movie located in France. *Marie Antoinette* movie is a great movie with a great actor to match. This movie stared by Rose Byrne, Asia Argento, Molly Shannon and Steve Coogan. This movie use English language and some French. This movie is distributed by Columbia Picture.

This movie tells about life of Marie Antoinette. She is a beautiful girl. She is selected by her mother to marry with Louis XVI from France. This step uses by her mother to firm up the relationship between Austria and France. Louis XVI and Marie hoped to marry immediately to get a child. But until some time they are not found the indicate that Dauphine Louis doing something. So, Versailles people consider her as a foreigner and also they blame Marie because she has not a child immediately. With a lot of pressure to become pregnant, especially from her mother, Antoinette attempts several times to seduce her husband, and says that she will be

humiliated if her sister gives a child before her. Because of it, she feels ashamed but she remains to continuous her spending sprees ignoring France's political and financial situation. She is indifferent to the common French people and continues her life in luxury. After a few years, she finally has children with her husband. Now, Marie struggling with new lifestyle, she spends a lot of money in jewels, furniture and clothes and loses a lot of money by playing cards and roulette. Finally the French revolution is at its peak and has begun their march from Paris to Versailles, forcing the family to flee.

This movie gets some responses from the viewers in the world, especially about positive response and negative response. One of them is L.J Capobianco 64 years old. He gives positive response about this movie. He said that "this film was visually sumptuous. The acting was good expected for Kirsten Dunst (Marie) who had the emotional range of turnip. The script was interesting in revealing the inner workings of court life and it was creative in its portrayal of Marie's experiences although no one can say with certainty it was absolutely factual. There were a few nude scenes and reverences to loyal dalliances, but compared to the average film out today, this very mild stuff. Other than shown blessing official court events there was a glaring lack of spirituality. Perhaps it was this glaring absence of Christ's love and guidance within Versailles that was one of major reasons for the storming of the Bastille". The other people which give positive responses are Cristina 24. She said that "I really enjoyed this movie. I would

say that it is mostly a movie made with women in mind. Viewers may find a couple of scenes offensive, I recall were Maria's but being shown as she is being changed by maids. And another scene was she has little but a fan and her leg to cover her body. The affairs Marie and her husband have pollute the movie a bit and she wonder if they are even truly historical. I'd say the biggest letdown of this movie is how it drags on with what "fun" Marie had in life, but cuts off the end when trouble comes upon her family, leaving the audience hanging. She feels it does teach the lesson in the end that ungodliness doesn't pay off". From the viewer the researcher concludes that the positive response is the script of this movie is interesting and *Marie Antoinette* is mostly a movie made with women in mind.

The negative response from the viewer they are from Linda fifteen years old and Kay sixteen years old. Linda said that "Could they have taken any longer to get to the point? This is definitely one of the most boring movies I have seen this year. I mainly saw it to see if it deserved its Oscar Nomination; best costume design was the only rightful one. Morally it wasn't so bad but story wise, it didn't hold my interest for long. Overall I was pretty disappointed with it". And Kay said that "I liked this movie because of the lavish costume and fancy scenery but the movie had no substance and you don't really understand or like the characters". The other viewer is Echo Bunny from France. He said that "the negative points of the film are that Sofia Coppola uses the same technique, the same scenes through out the movie". From the viewer responses, the researcher

concludes that the negative response is this movie was boring and had no substance and usually you do not really understand or like the character in this movie and the costume only good thing about this movie (<http://christiananswers.net/spotlight/movies/2006/marieantoinette2006.html#issues>).

In the USA this film opened with \$5,361,050 in just 859 theaters, with a respectable \$6,241 per theater. Nevertheless, the film quickly faded, grossing \$15 million domestically and has grossed around \$60 million worldwide. This decline can be largely blamed on the fact that few theatres actually showed the film on the advertised released date. Despite the fact that the trailer advertised “Opening everywhere October 20th, 2006”, the movie only showed up in larger city on its opening weekend and in select theatres. It took nearly a month for it to trickle down to most local cinemas and by this time it was too late for a decent gross ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/marie antoinette \(2006 film\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/marie_antoINETte_(2006_film))).

This movie succeed by received many awards. There are at the 2006 Cannes film festival, *Marie Antoinette* movie was entry for official selection of Golden Palm and won the cinema prize of the French National Education System. This movie also gets won for the best art direction from Las Vegas Film Critics Society Awards and best costume design at 2006 from Phoenix Film Critic Society Awards. It also nominated for three BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television) awards for best art direction, best costume design and best make up & hair. The movie was

nominated for best feature at the Gotham Awards. This movie also won the best art direction at the Washington DC area Film Critics Association Awards.

Marie Antoinette movie is a historical movie. There are many points of interest in this movie, such as it can be seen from the character and characterization, plot, casting, costume and properties, and the message of this movie.

The main character in this movie is Marie Antoinette. She is a French nationality and a beautiful woman with blonde hair. She is an eccentric woman. She has average intelligence and physique. She is sensitive to others' feelings. The secondary main character is Louis XVI. He is the teenage husband of Marie. He is French nationality.

The plot of *Marie Antoinette* movie is interest because Kirsten Dunst stars as the youthful princess whose fateful life became the stuff of myth and legend. The story begins when 14 years old Marie was arrange to marry with Louis XVI and was much unprepared for the woes of politics. She continued to be ridiculed by France and was decapitated during the French revolution.

Coppola's is an American film director, actress, producer and academic award winning screen writer. She is the third female director and only one from American women to be nominated for an academy award for directing. She is a successful movie director. She used many the best actors and actress in this movie. The film's star is Kirsten Dunst. She plays as

Marie Antoinette the title character who marries with King Louis XVI, played by Jason Schwartzman.

In costume designs and properties, Sofia Coppola entrusts it to Milena Canonero as the costume designer. Milena helps by six assistant designers are responsible for hundreds of gown, hats, suits, and prop costume pieces. Ten rental houses are also employed and the wardrobe units have it own total of seven transport. Shoes are made by Manolo Blahnik and Pompei. Wig and hair pieces are made by Roccheti and Roccheti. The gown which is use by Marie Antoinette is an expensive gown. The look of Count Fersen is influenced by 1980's rock stars such Adam Ant.

From the plot of this movie and the character of Marie Antoinette as a major character, this movie brings the moral teaching. We should economize if we have much money and make our life full happiness. We must use of our life useful and not only spoiling our self in luxurious because we cannot live only with the luxurious.

Marie Antoinette can be investigated by using some approach. One of them is a Marxist approach. The researcher here uses a Marxist approach in investigating this movie, because the researcher wants to analyze social mobility in French court shown in the movie.

The phenomenon of social mobility in this movie is interesting to be investigated. Thus, the researcher entitles this study "Social Mobility in Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* movie: A Marxist perspective."

B. Literary Review

The research of Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* movie is one of a new thing. There is no researcher who has analyzed this movie, but social mobility using Marxist approach is not a new thing. The other researcher tends to use this analysis to analyze poem or short stories. There is Yeni Prastiwi (2000) entitled *Social Mobility in DH Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's lover: Marxist perspective*.

From the literature above, the present researcher assumes that there is no researcher who has analyzed *social mobility in Sofia Coppola's Marie Antoinette movie using a Marxist approach*.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the study above, the problem statements of the study is "*how the social mobility occurred in Sofia Coppola's Marie Antoinette movie.*"

D. Limitation of the Study

To make the study easier, the writer makes a limitation of the study which focuses on the analysis of the social mobility in *Marie Antoinette* movie by employing a Marxist approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study of social mobilization in Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* as follow:

1. To analyze the movie in term of structural elements based on the Marxist approach.
2. To analyze the social mobility based on the Marxist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

By analyzing *Marie Antoinette* movie, the researcher hopes that the study will have benefits as follow:

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to contribute the larger body of knowledge particularly the literary studies on Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* movie.

2. Practical Benefits

This study gives more knowledge of the researcher and the reader also the result of this study can be as reference for the other researchers who want to conduct the same object.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

The type of the research conducted by writer is descriptive qualitative research.

2. The Object of the Research

The object of the research is social mobilization in Sofia Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* movie.

3. The Data and Data Source

The data sourced used in the researched can be categorized into two sources data. They are primary data and secondary data.

a. The primary data

The primary data source comes from the Video Compact Disc *Marie Antoinette* movie.

b. The secondary data

The secondary data source is the other source related to the primary data such as information from internet director's biography, essay, command, website about movie and many other pieces of relevant information as the data source to analyze the research.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The method of data collection is documentation. In this research, the document is the *Marie Antoinette* movie script and the director's biography. And then the steps of data collection are:

- a. Collecting the Video Compact Disc of *Marie Antoinette* movie and then watching the movie repeatedly and carefully to get the best understanding messages, ideas and other significance points as well as its structure elements.

- b. Collecting of *Marie Antoinette* movie script and synopsis by browsing the internet.
- c. Reading some relevant books to get the theory being used to analyze the movie.
- d. Taking the significance data, then writes some notes of the important part of sources and then writing the data.
- e. Classifying the data into groups according to the category of elements of literary study.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The method employed in analysis the data is descriptive analysis, in which the writer tries to describe the structural element of the movie, social historical background of American society in the turn of twenty first century and Marxist analysis of the movie.

H. Research Organization

The researcher is going to organize the research in order to make easier to understand. The research will be arranged into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which cover the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist perspective. The third chapter deals with social historical background of American society in the turn of twenty first century. The fourth chapter discusses structural analysis

of the movie and discussion. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on Marxist perspective. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.