

**STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN SHEKAR KAPUR'S *THE
GOLDEN AGE* (2007):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Golden Age was produced by Universal Picture and the producer crew are [Michael Hirst](#) as Executive Producer, [Debra Hayward](#) as Executive Producer, [Liza Chasin](#) as Executive Producer, [Eric Fellner](#) as Producer, [Tim Bevan](#) as Producer, [Jonathan Cavendish](#) as Producer, [Mary Richards](#) as Co-Producer (*Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. 2007). It was released at September, 9th 2007 in Toronto International Movie festival, October 12th 2007 in United States and Canada, October 23rd 2007 in London, November 2nd 2007 in UK and Republic Irelandia, then the last at November 15th in Australia and New Zealand. The duration is around 115 minutes. It was filmed at [Shepperton Studios](#) and various locations around the [United Kingdom](#) with an estimated [production budget](#) of \$50 to \$60 million. The screenplay was written by [William Nicholson](#) and [Michael Hirst](#) and directed by Shekar Kapur (Release dates, 2009).

Shekar Kapur as *The Golden Age* movie director was born in Lahore, Pakistan on December 6th, 1951. He is a great movie director. It is proven by some award that he had got. He started his career as actor in the movie *Tute Khilone* and then directing the Hindi movie entitled *Masoom* in 1983. This movie brought him to get the first award in his career as the best movie in India Film Critics Award. Then he got the second India Film Critics Award by

his movie entitled *Bandit Queen* in 1994 as the best movie. In 1998, he has been nominated as the best director by his movie *Elizabeth* in National Board of Review Award (Shekar Kapur: Profile Graphics. 2009).

The Golden Age is an historical movie. It opened in 1585 when Spanish had a greatest power in Europe. The King of Spanish, Philips II seeing Protestant England as a threat for Spanish, so he wanted to force Elizabeth and replaced her position with her daughter, Isabella. Afterward he decided to make holy war on his long time enemy. Since after the time, some problems became to Elizabeth's life.

Elizabeth has being 52 years old but she has no married. In other side her cousin, Mary who also as Scoot's Queen ever gave Elizabeth an ultimatum that she will replace Elizabeth position if she no found someone who can being her husband quickly and then has a child. Walshingham as England Kingdom advisor suggested her to prefer one of her visitor to be her husband. He also gave some photos of prince who want to be her husband. But no one preferred by her. Then there is a visitor namely Sir Walter Raleigh. He is a pirate. In this chance, he say that he had high-sea adventure and found a New World. Then he gave it a name with Virginia to shows his wonder to Elizabeth. He also offer her some New World's riches such as potatoes, tobacco, and two Native Americans. Beside that he also offer some gold which are taken from Spanish ship but Elizabeth refused the gold and she wants to treath both Native American well.

Elizabeth was interested to Sir Walter Raleigh. She found him as an attractive man. Then she ask to her favourite ladies in waiting, Elizabeth Throckmorton who always called Bess to observe him. She agree with her queen. She also found him as an attractive man.

In other place, Spanish arranged strategy to replace Elizabeth positions. With Mary's name, they sent an expropriation of power letter for Elizabeth. After that time, Elizabeth was very afraid and restless about the expropriation. She thought that Mary will take over her position and then kill her. Then, it was really happen. When she pray, there is a man came to kill her. The man is Anthony Babington. But his work is failed by Raleigh. Then Mary is imprisoned and she get punishment of decapitation.

After Mary died, Philips took this chance to work his holy war. And in England Raleigh also wants to leave Elizabeth and go to the New World but he knows Bess has pregnant. They decided to marry in secret. Then Elizabeth knew about these. She banished Bess from court and has Raleigh imprisoned. At that time, she's feeling betrayed.

The Spanish Armada began aproach England Channel. Then Elizabeth forgived Bess and set Raleigh free to join on England Armada. Elizabeth was wearing full plate armour and gave speech to the Troops seated on a war horse. Spanish ships vastly outnumber England's, but at the last moment the storm began to blow Spanish Armada toward the beaches and Raleigh arranged for the English to set fire to five of their ships and steer them into the

Armada. Then the Spanish Armada sink in flames and Philip's planning was shattered.

On the ends, Elizabeth visited Walsingham on his deathbed. Then visited Raleigh and Bess to bless their child. After that Elizabeth continued her role as a virgin queen in England.

Some opinion arised from the reviewer when *The Golden Age* movie was released. There are positive and negative opinions. Some of them gave opinion that it is a fantastic movie, the scene where Elizabeth rallies her troops was mesmerizing, the themes are Shakespearean, the acting is world class, the sets and costumes range from spectacular to magnificent, and this has about as much credibility for depicting history. Beside that there are some negative opinions which arise. Some people also said that it was not an interesting movie because they didn't find interesting or intriguing Elizabeth, they also look that the action of Clive Owen as Sir Walter Raleigh was not good in this movie, and the historically based on the movie make them bit bother which departs too much from the history, and underemphasizes some vital points. (Costumer review, 2009)

DVD released on February 5th, 2008. DVD Units sold is 499,141 units and the consumer spending is \$9,841,937. According to Rotten Tomatoes rating, Theatrical Performance Total in US Gross is \$16,285,240, International Gross is \$53,602,438, Worldwide Gross is \$69,887,678. And then Home Market Performance Total in US DVD Sales is \$9,840,092 (Elizabeth: *The Golden Age* - DVD Sales. 2008)

The Golden Age movie also got some award. In Academy Awards, USA, this movie won an oscar as the best achievement in costume design ([Alexandra Byrne](#)), and nominated as best performance by an actress in a leading role ([Cate Blanchett](#)). In [Art Directors Guild](#), it was nominated as Excellence in Production Design Award. In [Australian Film Institute](#), it won International Award for category the Best Actrees (Cate Blanket). In BAFTA Film Award, it was nominated for category Best Costume Design, Best Leading Actress, Best Make-Up & Hair, Best Production Design. In [Broadcast Film Critics Association Awards](#), it was nominated for category Best Actress (Cate Blanket). In [Costume Designers Guild Awards](#), it was nominated for category Excellence in Costume Design for Film – Period. In [David di Donatello Awards](#) it's nominated as the Best European Union Film (Miglior Film dell'Unione Europea). In [Empire Awards, UK](#) it's nominated as Best Actrees. In Golden Globe, USA it's nominated as Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture – Drama. In [Irish Film and Television Awards](#) it's nominated as Best International Actress. [Sant Jordi Awards](#), It won for category the Best Foreign Actress (Mejor Actriz Extranjera). In [Satellite Awards](#) It won Best Art Direction & Production Design and Best Costume Design category. In [Screen Actors Guild Awards](#), It's nominated for category Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role (Awards for [Elizabeth: The Golden Age](#). 2009).

From those synopsis above, it can be known that power and fundamental form have strong influence in social life. There are many people who wants a power in the society may be to make them more to be respected so it always arise some struggle for the power.

These social phenomena may be as an inspire part for literary work. A literary work may contribute to a reader a more concrete insight about reality and it reflects not only individual phenomena on isolation, but also the full process of life (Selden, 1985:29). Accordingly, the creation of literary work is closely related to each other and in the turn humanity, the author is conditioned by certain circumstances. So literary work and social problems are possibly represented on the basic of the author's background and experience or an example of social problems can be reflected in the movie.

There are many kinds of a work of art. For example novel, drama, film, but not only the film that can be able to appreciate, but we can also treat the film script as a work of art. Basically, a text is as a literature text that content some values if literature there (Aminudin, 2000:55). So we can treat film script as a work of art and are able to appreciate it.

By watching and understanding "*The Golden Age*", the writer was interested to analyze this movie because of four reasons. Firstly, the writer see the movie reflected some historical events which are really happened. This movie opened in 1585. In England history, it is a fact that the queen of England is Elizabeth at that time and she is a virgin queen. She has a sister, Mary and she is Scoot's queen. Beside that , Philips II is also a character who

is taken from the reality. In the fact, He is really Spanish King. And then, the author said that he was very interested to the queen of English Kingdom, Elizabeth. So in *The Golden Age movie* he taken up the story of Elizabeth. So by this one the writer is interested to analyze the author's social background to know some kinds of social aspect such as religion, politics and power which are often arising some perspective in the society. And it can be supported by the history of this movie.

Secondly, the characterization in this movie is very strong. In each event that happened in this movie reflected the positive side and negative side of each character. It can be seen from their behavior, and then from how did they face and solve their conflicts not only conflict with them self but also conflict with other person or social condition. For example the characterization of Elizabeth was illustrated as a woman who really stubborn in the beginning but when she got some treason and some force, her fear came. And then she almost gives up in face her problem. It means that she has positiveness and negativeness in herself. Because of those, the writer is interested to analyze the structural elements in this movie.

Thirdly, conflicts about religions and politics are very complex. These conflicts which are reflected on this movie can give some reference for the society to anticipate their life. So by analyzed this movie, the writer would like to give more reference for the audience.

The last reason, the writer think the phenomenon which are happen in this movie especially the struggle for power is very interesting and need to deeper analyzed. Usually, some people can do anything to get power in their life. They do not consider who are being their rivals. It may their own friend or even their own family, because they think that power can make them more respectable. So by analyze this movie the writer wants to get deeper information about the struggle which is reflected on this movie and relate these with the fact.

According to those reason above, in this research the writer plans to analyze **“STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN SHEKAR KAPUR’S *THE GOLDEN AGE* (2007): SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”**.

B. Literature Review

In this study, the researcher presents the previous study dealing with the movie entitled *The Golden Age* by Shekar Kapur. As far as her understanding, there are two studies which is analyzed *The Golden Age* movie. The first was conducted by Bayu Agustari Adha, a student of Padang University in 2008. His research entitled “England Democracy Practices in 16th Century on Sekhar Khapur’s movie *The Golden Age*” focused on the social politics; it is about democracy in England at 16th Century while the parliament is ultimately required in democracy system (Adha, 2008). In this study he found Shekar Kapur represents the existence of parliament, freedom

of religion belief, and the involvement of civil society in *The Golden Age* movie.

The second, it is conducted by Fentina Kurnia Sari in her research entitled “Against the Ruling Power in Shekar Kapur’s *The Golden Age: Marxist Approach*”. It is focused on many against of the ruling power that happened while England was governed by Elizabeth (Sari, 2009). In this study she found there is a relation between several events especially many against that happened in England when this movie was released and the story through the plot of this movie.

Those studies are useful for the writer as a guide to analyzed *The Golden Age* movie. Although the research’s object is similar with both researches but there are several differences from those in research focused and research approach. The writer plans to develop those researches by analyzing the struggle for power on this movie and use sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement in this research is “How the struggle for power is reflected in *The Golden Age*”.

D. Limitation Of the Study

The research focuses on analyzing the struggle for power in *The Golden Age* movie, viewed from sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objective of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the sociology of literature.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical benefit

- a. To give some information which can be used by the other researchers who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
- b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study of *The Golden Age* movie.

2. Practical benefit

- a. For getting deeper understanding about social issues in *The Golden Age* movie.
- b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer analysis the struggle for power in *The Golden Age* movie by using qualitative method. The study of struggle for power in this research paper will cover:

1. Type Of Research

The type of this study is qualitative study in the form of library.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Golden Age* movie.

3. Type of Data and Data Source

In this study, there are two source of data namely primary data and secondary data source

a. Primary Data

The primary data are taken from the video and script of *The Golden Age* movie.

b. Secondary Data Source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study whether picking up from the books and the internet.

4. Method of Collecting Data

a. Watching *The Golden Age* movie

b. Reading the script

c. Browsing to the internet to get some information, article that related to the research.

d. Taking notes or information in both primary and the secondary data and finding out the important data.

e. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.

f. Developing data which are provided.

5. Techniques for Analyzing Data

The data are analyzed by using descriptive analysis. It concern with structural elements of the movie and sociological analysis.

H. Research Paper Organization

In order to give the guidance for the writer and the reader in reading the research paper the writer divides this research paper into five chapters. Chapter 1 is introduction that consist of Background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, research objective, research benefit, research methodology, research organization. Chapter II is Underlying theory. It presents the notion of Sociology, major principles of Sociology of literature, structural elements literary and theoretical application. Chapter III is Historical Background. It presents the Social historical background of America in early twentieth century and Biography of Shekar Kapur as the movie director. Chapter VI is Structural analysis of the movie, which is consist of structural elements of character and characterization, setting, point of view, plot, style, theme, and discussion. Chapter IV is consist of Sociological analysis. The last chapter is Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.