

**CLASS STRUGGLE IN FRANK LLOYD'S  
*MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY* (1935): A MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*Mutiny on the Bounty* was produced by [Irving Thalberg](#), directed by Frank Lloyd and distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer. It was released at November, 8<sup>th</sup> 1935. The duration is around 132 minutes. The screenplay was written by Talbot Jennings, Jules Furthman, and Carey Wilson. The music was created by Walter Jurman and Bronislaw Kaper. The editing was done by Margaret Booth. The film was shot on location in the South Pacific's Tahiti, as well as on Catalina Island, Santa Barbara, and in MGM's Culver City studios; over a period of three month and the budget is about \$2 million. The language is English.

Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1867. His parents, William Cary Wright and Anna Lloyd-Jones, originally named him Frank Lincoln Wright. On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 1938 Wright appeared on the cover of Time magazine; later it would be a two cent stamp. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1959 at age ninety-two, Wright died at his home in Phoenix, Arizona.

*Mutiny on the Bounty* is an adventure story. It opens of the sailing of the H. M. S. Bounty in 1787, departing from Portsmouth, England for two year voyage. The mission is distributing breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies as a cheap food source for plantation slave laborers. The ship is captained by a

cruel, brutal, arrogant Captain William Bligh and his well-respected master's first mate Fletcher Christian.

On the journey, Bligh shows his character for his crews, and treats them with brutality. The voyage is long and difficult, but the *Bounty* finally arrives in Tahiti. Christian is ordered to stay on deck, but Byam is allowed to go ashore, where he is befriended by Hitigiti, the island's chieftain. Byam is quickly entranced after meeting and falling in love with one of the beautiful Tahitian women, Tehani. When the chief arranges for Christian to come ashore for one day, the Master's mate also meets and falls in love with Hitigiti's granddaughter, Maimity.

After six months in Tahiti, where most of the man merry Tahitian natives, they must leave the island after securing their breadfruit tree. It does not take long for Bligh to continue his act. The incident that triggers the famous mutiny on board is Bligh's insistence that the sick, elderly ship's Dr. Bacchus come topside to witness the flogging of five crew members caught trying to desert the ship and return to Tahiti. When Dr. Bacchus dies while struggling in his effort to get up to the deck, Christian feels infuriated. He calls for mutineers and then they tie the Captain to the mast and taunt him. Christian saves Bligh from certain death at the hands of the mutineers, but refuses to give up the mutiny. The Captain cannot believe that he is being cast adrift in an open boat with eighteen other men- Byam and several others who are not part of the mutiny remain on board due to lack of room in the boat. In the end, the

mutineers and Christian back to Tahiti Island to pick up their wife and occupy in Pitcairn Island to build their own region.

Some opinion arises from the reviewer when *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) movie was released. Some of them gave opinion that it is a fantastic movie, the scene where all the passengers managed to survive in the small boat, the actors are handsome, the plot is attractive, and not boring to watch. Besides that, there is a negative opinion which arises. Some of them said that the actor's act of this movie was not good; Charles Laughton as Captain Bligh is not has a competent to be a Captain.

It was the first remake to win best Picture (it was a remake of *In the Wake of the Bounty* (1933) starring Errol Flynn as Fletcher Christian). It was nominated for a total of eight Academy Awards, and its sole Oscar was for Best Picture. It was very unusual that the profitable film received no other Oscar than Best Picture (two other earlier MGM production had done the same thing-*Broadway Melody* (1928-29) and *Grand Hotel* (1932)). The other seven nominations included three Best Actor nominations (Clark Gable, Charles Laughton, and Franchot Tone, who split the vote and gave the award to Victor McLaglen for the informer) – a unique accomplishment (although Tone's performance was more like a supporting role, but the awards category had not been created yet), Best Director (Frank Lloyd), Best Screenplay (Tolbot Jennings, Jules Furthman, and Carey Wilson), Best Film Editing (Margaret Booth), and Best Score.

The effect of class stratification is one class dominates and controls the surplus goods produced in the society for its own need. There is exploitation by one class over another. One basic reason of the class struggle is economic. The proletariat is anyone who earns their live hood by selling their labor power and being paid a wage or salary for their labor time. They have little choice but to work for capital, since they typically have no independent way to survive. In the other hand, the capitalist is anyone who gets their income not from the labor as much as from surplus value they appropriate from the workers who create wealth. The income of capitalist is based on their exploitation of worker (proletariat).

The writer is interested in analyzing *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) due to the following reasons: first, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) is a realistic movie. The second reason, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) movie is suitable to analyze with Marxist Approach. The third reason is the attractive plot. The fourth reason is the characterization in this movie is very strong. And the last reason is class struggle that becomes the main issue of the film is reflected well.

The first reason is because this movie is a realistic film. It is near with the daily life. Everyone who watches this movie would think that story tells about them. Being a fictive film, his story is familiar to the society. Not many authors can cover the society's problem in a movie as well as Frank Lloyd. He tells the detail of the problem well.

The second reason is *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) movie is suitable to analyze with Marxist Approach. In *Mutiny on the Bounty* also tells about how

the mutineers try to get the freedom from the Captain's oppression. The mutineers are taking over the ship only after eliminating several loyal crewmen.

The third reason is the attractive plot. The conflict build from the early moment play the viewer's emotion. It makes the movie become not boring to watch. This movie has perfect plot structure. The author uses traditional plot structure; there are exposition, complication, and resolution.

The fourth reason is 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.

And the last, class struggle that becomes the main issue of the movie is reflected well. It tells about class struggle in Bounty ship from Captain to ship's crews which the Captain has a cruel, brutal, and arrogant characters. That is why, the writer intends to conduct a study entitled: **“CLASS STRUGGLE IN FRANK LLOYD'S *MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY* (1935): A MARXIST APPROACH”**.

## **B. Literature Review**

The movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) by Frank Lloyd is an interesting movie. As far the writer concerns, the researcher on the movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) has been conducted by two researchers.

The first researcher is Glenn Hueckel (2002-13) Pomona College. The title is Smith's *Mutiny on the Bounty: The Perils of Polemic*. Smith's attack on the bounty, Smith pressed his argument beyond its limits and the Smith's attack on the corn bounty prompted vigorous rebuttals from two influential countrymen, and his principle that the bounty produces no more than a proportionate rise in all prices would later bedevil Ricardo and his contemporaries. Yet these interpretive difficulties fall away when we place Smith's argument within the context of his larger theory of economic growth.

The second researcher is Ed Reardon (2002). The title is *Films about Polynesia: Scholarly Interpretations Captain Bligh in Film*. Each film depicting the Mutiny Saga has invariably become a commentary on the times in which it was made. The Bounty saga with its attendant ambiguities still resonates with audiences. Above all, the characterization of William Bligh remains an enigmatic Rorschach ink blot begging definition. Bligh, the product of a repressive tradition that nourished him as enigma, does not provide answers to questions so much as insights into human behavior, both his and our own.

Different from two previous researchers this study focuses on the class struggle of mutineers by Marxist approach. In this study the researcher gives the title *Class Struggle in Frank Lloyd's Mutiny on the Bounty (1935): A Marxist Approach*".

### **C. Problem Statement**

The major problem of the study is “How class struggle is reflected in *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935)?”

### **D. Research Limitation**

The researcher limits the study of class struggle on Marxist Approach. It is emphasized on *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935), by employing primary approach (Marxist Approach).

### **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the movie in terms of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on Marxist Approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

By presenting this research paper, the writer hopes that it will give some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit
  - a. To give some information which can be used by the other researcher who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
  - b. To give a contribution to other literary research especially in the study of movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935).



2. Practical Benefit
  - a. For getting deep understanding about Marxist issue in movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935).
  - b. For getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of Research**

This research uses descriptive qualitative method.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935).

### **3. Type of Data and Data Source**

Data in this research are texts and images are expressed by the characters and from the appropriate scenes.

In this study there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources.

#### **a. Primary Data**

Primary data are taken from the script of *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935) movie.

#### **b. Secondary Data**

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. Technique of Data Collection**

The techniques of the data are note taking and image capturing data are sources of information. The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Watching movie and reading the books that are connected to the research repeatedly.
- b. Finding out the importance data.
- c. Arranging data into several parts based on its classification.
- d. Developing data that are provided.

#### **5. Technique of Data Analysis**

The data analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis. This is an interpretation of the text and content analysis to get characteristic of the data for Marxism analysis of Karl Marx's theory at the movie *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935).

### **H. Paper Organization**

The research consist of six chapter which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, theoretical approach, and research method, and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consist of Marxist and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III deals with the social background with all of the aspect of the social reality of the English society in the early twentieth century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the movie by describing

character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, and theme of the movie and brief discussion. Chapter V is Marxist Analysis dealing with the problems in the movie. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.