# SOCIAL CONFLICT OF LIFE REFLECTED IN PARASITE (2019): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH

**Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of Requirement for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education In English Departement of School Teacher Training and Education**


**By:**

**BAHRIATULILLA ISWARI**

**A320170213**

**DEPARTEMENT OF ENGLISH EDUCATION**

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITAS MUHAMMADIYAH SURAKARTA**


**2021**

# APPROVAL

**SOCIAL CONFLICT OF LIFE REFLECTED IN PARASITE (2019): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**PUBLICATION ARTICLE**

**by:**
**BAHRIATULILLA ISWARI**
**A320170213**

Approved to be examined by consultant

School of Teacher Training and Education

Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta

**Consultant,**

**Fitri Kurniawan, M.Res.Ed.**
**NIDN. 0610108503**

# ACCEPTANCE

**SOCIAL CONFLICT OF LIFE REFLECTED IN PARASITE (2019): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**

**by:**

**BAHRIATULILLA ISWARI**

**A320170213**

Accepted by Board Examiner of English Education
School of Teacher and Training Education
Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta
On, 20th September 2021

**The board Examiners:**

1. **Fitri Kurniawan, M. Res, Ed** ( )
   **(Head of Exaimer)**

2. **Dr. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M. Ed** ( )
   **(Member I of Examiner)**

3. **Dra. Sumayah, M. A** ( )
   **(Member II of Examiner)**

Dekan

Pr. Dr. Sutama, M.Pd.
NIK/NIDN: 0007016002

## TESTIMONY

I testify that in this publication article there is no plagiarism of previous literary works which been raised to obtain bachelor degree of certain university, nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing is referred to the manuscript and mentioned in literary review and bibliography.

Hence later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in this testimony, I will fully be responsible.

Surakarta, 20 September 2021

The Researcher

**BAHRIATULILLA ISWARI**

**A320170213**

# SOCIAL CONFLICT OF LIFE REFLECTED IN PARASITE (2019): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH


## Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan konflik sosial dalam film Parasite (2019) karya sutradara Bong Joon-Ho. Konflik sosial tersebut merupakan cerminan dari realitas yang terjadi di masyarakat tempat film tersebut berasal, Korea Selatan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis dan metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah deskriptif kualitatif. Sumber penelitian ini adalah film Parasite (2019) karya Bong Joon-Ho. Dalam film Parasite ini disebutkan bahwa film Parasite mencerminkan konflik sosial akibat perbedaan kelas atas dan kelas bawah. Dalam film tersebut, konflik kelas diperlihatkan oleh keluarga, Mr. Rich Park dan Mr. Poor Kim. Objek penelitian ini adalah film Parasite (2019). Sumber data terdiri dari data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer berasal dari film Parasite (2019) itu sendiri, sedangkan data sekunder adalah sumber lain yang berisi analisis biografi sutradara, serta informasi lain untuk penelitian ini.



**Kata kunci**: Konflik Sosial, Film Parasit, Bong Joon-Ho, Korea Selatan



## Abstract

This study aims to describe the social conflict in the movie Parasite (2019) by director Bong Joon-Ho. The social conflict is a reflection of the reality that occurs in the society where the film originates, South Korea. This study uses a sociological approach and the method used in this research is descriptive qualitative. The source of this research is the film Parasite (2019) by Bong Joon-Ho. In this Parasite movie, it is stated that the Parasite movie reflects social conflicts due to differences between the upper and lower classes. In the movie, the class conflict is shown by the family, Mr. Rich Park and Mr. Poor Kim. The object of this research is the movie Parasite (2019). Data sources consist of primary data and secondary data. Primary data comes from the movie Parasite (2019) itself, while secondary data is another source that contains the biographical analysis of the director, as well as other information for this research.



**Keywords**: Social Conflict, Parasite Movie, Bong Joon-Ho, South Korea


## 1. INTRODUCTION

Individuals as social beings cannot be avoided from social interactions in society. The existence of this social interaction will affect the formation of a community group. In general, the grouping of people in Indonesia is divided into several groups. (Khairunisa, 2020)

In society, you can meet various groups of people who have different levels from one group to another. The existence of these group differences resulted in the emergence of social strata. The social layer is a system that differentiates individuals or groups in a society. These

differences place different social classes hierarchically and provide different rights and obligations from one individual to another. (SAFITRI, 2020)

Differences between one individual and another cause social conflict. Social conflict is a phenomenon that occurs in society where there are irreconcilable differences of opinion between individuals and groups. Social conflict cannot be separated from community life because there will always be differences in each individual or group.

This social conflict can be reflected in literary works, for example, it can be reflected in a movie, where one of the movies that reflect social conflict is the movie Parasite (2019). This social conflict is reflected in Parasite (2019), the author focuses on social conflicts between classes that create differences between the upper and lower classes. The so-called upper class is those who have jobs and high incomes and have privileges as well as opportunities, while the lower classes are those who have below-average income and will become a system that continues to support the stability of life for investors. (Kuswartiningrum, 2020)

Social conflict itself does not only occur in real life but can also be reflected in various kinds of movies. Movie Parasite itself which reflects the real world, a place or country where every place must have some different social conflicts from one country to another, for example in South Korea.

Differences in social conflicts between classes continue to occur in South Korea to this day. This is a reflection of life in South Korea. Like many South Koreans who are experiencing an economic crisis due to the difficulty of finding jobs, therefore they decide to live in an underground apartment or what is called a Bajinha, an underground apartment with affordable rental prices. (Pratiwi, 2020)

That's where the negative stigma attached to people living in underground apartments comes from. The impression of deprivation and insecurity continues to linger on the residents of the underground apartments, as South Koreans still consider having a good car and house a decent standard of living in South Korea.

Each country is reflected in one movie, although not all movies, but in this movie, there are social conflicts, one of which is the social conflict in Korea in the movie Parasite (2019). Meanwhile, what happened in the movie Parasite (2019), tells the story of the affluent and the needy, which is different from many other movies of the same genre. The assessment

of the affluent and the deprived is shown in many movies. Poor people are usually kinder and more optimistic, and affluent people oppress poor people. (Liu, 2020)

However, there are no good or bad people in the film, played by two families where Mr. Park consists of Park Dong-Ik, Park Da-Hye, and Park Da-Song is a rich family and Mr. Kim consists of Kim Ki-Taek, Kim Chung-Sook, Kim Ki Woo is a lower-middle-class person. Mr. Park represents the rich upper class who owns luxury homes and luxury cars.

The conflict in this film arises when Moon-Kwang, the housekeeper of Mr. Park, who used to hide his husband Oh Geun-Se, is in the bunker of Mr. Park's family house for about four years to avoid loan sharks. Then Mr. Kim's family appears as workers at Mr. Park's residence, using their dirty ways to infiltrate Mr. Park's family for a more intense interaction which is a working relationship.

The deception by Mr. Kim's children was carried out in a very neat and structured manner, as a manifestation of material needs and a decent life. The social conflict here is clear that those from the lower classes try to take advantage of the upper class, as said by (Weber, 1968), social relations are referred to as conflicts when the actions involved are intentionally intended to be carried out, the desire of one party to fight against the other party. Conflict is interpreted as a desire to impose its will on other parties.

Conflict resolution creates closings that may or may not occur at the end of the story. In the movie Parasite (2019) there is always a conflict that might be the climax of the movie. Like a social conflict between the upper and lower classes. Conflicts will continue to occur as long as humans live in the world when humans communicate and socialize with other people. Therefore, the movie Parasite (2019) is one of the most suitable movies to analyze.

Parasites are a reflection of life in South Korea, reflecting the current social situation in South Korea. Like the players' living arrangements which were completely inverse, people from the lower classes lived in stinky and very cramped underground apartments, while those who were rich or lived in luxurious mansions in the middle of the city. The reality is that there are still many people living in poverty and struggling to find work and some of them have little income to make them live in underground apartments. With the release of this movie, officials felt somewhat criticized, so at the end of January 2020, Bong Joon-Hoo drew the attention of the government to renovate the area believed to be part of the shooting of the movie Parasite (2019). (Michelle Angela, 2019)

The author analyzes this movie for several reasons. First, researchers were led to analyze the movie Parasite (2019) because not many have researched social conflicts that are reflected in the movie, that this research can be said to be new or fresh research. Second, because the movie has a striking visual contrast between characters, causing social conflict. And Parasite (2019) is the first non-English foreign language movie to win the main category of Best Picture. Parasite (2019) has a storyline that depicts social reality and the epic acting of the actors keeps the audience from getting bored.

## 2. METHOD

This study uses qualitative research with a sociological approach. Sociology means the science that discusses society or social life that affects people's lives. Qualitative methods are used to know the behavior or actions that occur in the Parasite movie so that social conflicts occur in the movie. According to (Creswell J. W., 2016) qualitative research is research that studies and understands the meaning in a number of individuals or groups of people originating from social problems. In general, this qualitative research can be used to examine people's lives, behavior, social problems, and others. The object of this research is the Parasite (2019) movie directed by Bong Joon-Ho which was released on June 20, 2019. This comes from South Korea. Type of The Data and The Data Source. The data from this study is a literary work in the form of a movie or film entitled Parasite 2019 which was directed by Bong Joon-Ho which was released on June 20, 2019, which came from South Korea. The source of data in this qualitative descriptive research comes from primary data and secondary data. Primary data source in this study is the Parasite (2019) movie directed by Bong Joon-Ho. This movie comes from South Korea which was released on June 20, 2019. Secondary data sources in this study were obtained from journals and articles on the internet. The data collection method used by the author in the 2019 Parasite movie research. Analyze the movie Parasite 2019, identifying the problem and data, reading some related research papers, articles, journals to find out the related theory. Technique of Analyzing Data, in literary research, always pays attention to the methods and theories that exist in a literary work. In this study, the authors used descriptive data analysis techniques. The analysis will be carried out in certain sub-sections; in this study, the author analyzes using sociological theory. And the method used by the author in analyzing the data is a qualitative descriptive method. As said by (Winartha, 2006) the qualitative descriptive analysis method is a method used to collect data in the form of observations about problems that occur in the field. In order to

check the credibility of the data, theoretical triangulation, this research uses credibility and reliability.

## 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 3.1 Finding

Based on the background of the research, the research problem is formulated as:

What social conflict is reflected in the Bong Joon-Ho`s Parasite (2019) movie?

The social conflict that is reflected in the movie Parasite (2019) is a social conflict between classes, between the upper and lower classes. And social conflicts between individuals.

#### 3.1.1 Social conflicts between the upper and lower classes

Social conflicts between the upper and lower classes are conflicts that arise because of differences, conflicts of interest between classes in society. The upper class is occupied by people who have wealth, more power, while the lower class is dominated by people with low incomes.

In this theory of social conflict, according to (DAHRENDORF, 1959) the theory of social conflict between social classes is the owner of power where the power over control and sanctions is owned by the owner of that power and makes it possible to give orders to others and can benefit from those who do not have power.

#### 3.1.2 Social conflicts between individuals

Social conflicts between individuals occur between individuals caused by personal problems. Problems that occur because of differences between individuals related to the same problem.

In this theory of social conflict between individuals according to (Coser, 1957) views conflict theory as a social system that has functional properties. And conflict is not always negative. Conflict can sometimes also strengthen the relationship between individuals in a group. Lewis A. Coser believes that the existence of conflict does not have to be dysfunctional.

The existence of conflict can trigger interaction and can trigger positive or negative consequences. In the case that occurred in the Parasite movie, it is included in a realistic conflict, which is a conflict based on individual and group disappointment over various forms of problems in individual relationships and social relationships.

What social conflict is experienced by the major character as reflected in the Bong Joon-Ho`s Parasite (2019) movie?

3.1.3 Social conflict between upper and lower classes

The first social conflict experienced by the main character is the social conflict between classes in the movie showing the contrast of life between the upper and lower classes. The main actors in the movie Parasite (2019) are Kim Ki-Taek's family. Kim Ki-Taek's family comes from the lower classes.

The data below shows the difference between the upper and lower classes.

In the movie Parasite (2019), it is shown how the differences between the classes, the lower classes are described by the lower classes that live in underground apartments, with a slum environment, and are on the outskirts of the city. And with sober work, they try to survive. Here is one of the data that shows an overview of the lower class.

Picture 1. Underground Apartment Ki-Taek

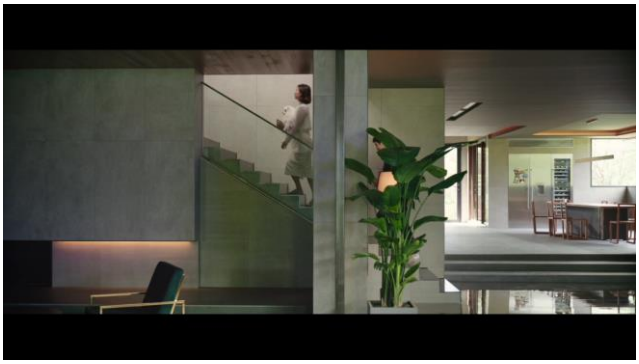
(Source: Author, 2021)

Picture 2. Looking for Wi-Fi Signal

(Source: Author, 2021)

The picture shows how the condition of the underground apartment occupied by Kim Ki-Taek's family. Here it can be concluded how difficult it is for Kim Ki-Taek's family to find work so they cannot afford to rent a bigger and cleaner apartment for them to live in.

While the upper class is dominated by people from the upper classes who can afford to buy luxury homes in the middle of the city and have private cars. And have regular jobs so they don't worry about anything because they have a lot of money. The picture below shows the luxury owned by the upper class, from here you can see how the difference between the upper and lower classes is.



Picture 3. Park Dong-Ik House

(Source: Author, 2021)

At 00:13:10 this shows that the residence of the Park Dong-Ik family is better and more luxurious than the residence of Kim Ki-Taek. Houses that have personal assistants even have luxury cars and private drivers.

The social conflict occurs when the son of Kim Ki-Taek's employer, Park Da-Song, realizes that Kim Ki-Taek and the others smell the same. Due to their body odor caused by their place of residence that is rarely exposed to sunlight, it becomes damp and causes a distinctive odor.

The difference between the upper and lower classes is so stark. The upper classes who can take refuge in their luxurious house while the lower class who tries to stay fine even though they are faced with many problems.

Picture 4. Park Dong-Ik talks with Kim Ki-Taek

(Source: Author, 2021)

This scene shows that people from the upper classes are in power with their wealth. As Park Dong-Ik said, *"You're getting paid extra"* to Kim Ki-Taek. He behaved arbitrarily because he had so much money he could afford anything with his money. Even something that money cannot buy he can buy. In contrast to the lower classes, the lower classes receive more of what they want from the upper classes so that they are able to survive.

Picture 5. Park Dong-Ik covered his nose

(Source: Author, 2021)

Picture 6. Kim Ki-Taek killed Park Dong-Ik

(Source: Author, 2021)

In the two scenes above, Kim Ki-Taek kills Park Dong-Ik out of a grudge against him. He holds a grudge because Park Dong-Ik once said that he was bothered by Kim Ki-Taek's body odor. Since Kim Ki-Taek only lived in the basement apartment, it made him stink, and the basement apartment was rarely exposed to direct sunlight, making the place damp and smelly.

This social conflict between classes causes endless strife and resentment. Murders can occur because of social conflicts between these classes. The upper class usually underestimates those from the lower class; the upper class always uses money while the lower class is forced to agree to what the upper class wants.

3.1.4 Social conflict between individuals

The second is the social conflict between individuals, this social conflict between individuals occurs because of individual differences experienced by former domestic helper Park Dong-Ik and current domestic helper, Kim Ki-Taek and his wife, where they depend on each other for life. But in the wrong way.

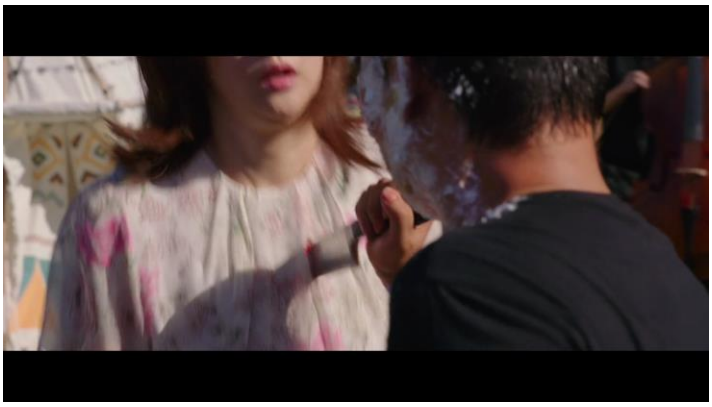
They lied to each other with Park Dong-Ik in order to stay at Park Dong-Ik's residence, Moon-Kwang, Park Dong-Ik's former assistant, hid her husband in the basement of Park Dong-Ik's residence, while Kim Ki-Taek brought his wife and children. Then they could stay at Park Dong-Ik's residence. Then they knocked each other down so that one of them could stay at Park Dong-Ik's residence.

Picture 7. Household assistant

(Source: Author, 2021)

At this 01:18:42 minute Kim Ki-Taek's wife accidentally kicked Moon-Kwang to keep her in the basement and keep silent about what happened, Moon-Kwang fell bouncing and she died. Moon-Kwang's husband finds out that his wife is dead, which makes him hold a grudge against Kim Ki-Taek's family.

On Park Da-Song's birthday, Moon-Kwang's husband bursts out of the basement with a vengeance. He subsists to Park Da-Song's birthday party, where he meets Kim Ki-Taek's family, because of a burning grudge against him. It didn't take long for him to kill Kim Ki-Taek's daughter, Jessica.



Picture 8. Jessica

(Source: Author, 2021)

This social conflict between individuals causes disputes between individuals and creates a sense of revenge so that killings arise between one individual and another.

### 3.2 Discussion

Movie Parasite is the author's data source studied in this study. From several scenes that the writer has analyzed, the writer finds several things that indicate a social conflict. Social conflicts are differences that occur between one another, both within one individual with another individual, one group with another group, as well as between classes such as the upper and lower classes.

In this case, the writer finds the existence of social conflicts between the upper and lower classes and conflicts between individuals. The social conflict between the upper and lower classes is the differences between classes where the upper class is occupied by most people who have a lot of wealth and power while the lower class is occupied by people from the lower class. While social conflict between individuals is a conflict that occurs because of differences between individuals and other individuals so that there are differences of opinion.

Parasite itself also has a concept of a kind of metaphor for the boundaries of the rich and the poor. Social conflicts between the upper and lower classes will always exist. Where they have their own boundaries, between the rich and the poor. The boundaries actually have their own perspective in each class.

This conflict also occurs in the real world in South Korea, although South Korea is known as a prosperous country and excels in its economy, this does not mean that it can eliminate the lower social class. The cost of living there is very high and jobs are very difficult to find, making some South Korean citizens decide to live in underground apartments with modest jobs because those from the lower classes have difficulty competing with the upper classes. Even there has a nickname that those who are rich from birth will get the best education and jobs, while those who are born poor will remain poor.

## 4. CLOSING

Social conflict is an aspect that will definitely be experienced by every individual if it is related to community life. In the research that has been conducted on the movie Parasite (2019), the researchers found several conclusions, namely: There are two forms of social conflict found in this study: The first is the social conflict between classes. Where this conflict distinguishes between the upper and lower classes. The second is the social conflict between individuals. Where this conflict has differences of opinion or differences in goals between one individual and another. The causes of social conflict in this study are: Social

conflicts between classes occur due to differences between the upper and lower classes. This is the upper class which is dominated by people who have more income, luxury homes, luxury cars, or commonly called the rich. While the lower class is usually dominated by the lower classes. Social conflicts between individuals occur because of differences of opinion and goals that cause disputes between one individual and another.

**REFERENCES**


Coser, L. A. (1957). Social Conflict and the Theory of Social Change. *The British Journal of Sociology, Vol. 8, No. 3*, 197-207.

Creswell, J. W. (2016). Pendekatan Metode Kualitatif, Kuantitatif dan Campuran.

DAHRENDORF, R. (1959). Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society. *London: Routledge First Pub. 1957*.

Khairunisa, A. R. (2020). REPRESENTASI DISPARITAS ANTAR KELAS SOSIAL DALAM FILM TRAGIKOMEDI KOREA SELATAN .

Kuswartiningrum, D. S. (2020). Politeness Strategies Used by The Lower-Class Kim Family and The High-Class Park Family in Parasite Movie (2019) .

Liu, C. (2020). Analysis of Social Class Inequality Based on the Movie Parasite . *Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Literature, Art and Human Development (ICLAHD)*.

Michelle Angela, S. W. (2019). Representasi Kemiskinan dalam Film Korea Selatan (Analisis Semiotika Model Saussure pada Film Parasite). *EISSN 2598-0785, Vol. 3, No. 2*, 478-484.

Pratiwi, B. (2020). BANJIHA, ANOTHER SIDE OF KOREAN CULTURE PARASITE FILM CASE STUDY ANALYSIS OF CULTURAL STUDIES .

SAFITRI, D. D. (2020). DISPLAY OF SOCIAL STRATEGIES IN THE FILM PARASITE.

Weber, M. (1968). Economy and Society: An Outline of Interpretative Sociology. *Vol. 1*.

Winartha, I. M. (2006). Metodologi Penelitian Kuantitatif dan Kualitatif.