

SOCIAL CLASS AND ITS IMPLICATION IN THE RESCUE POLICY IN *TITANIC* MOVIE (1997): A MARXIST PERSPECTIVE

Nabila Salma Hasna; Dewi Candraningrum

Program Studi Pendidikan Bahasa Inggris, Fakultas Keguruan Dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Muhammadiyah Surakarta

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengidentifikasi indikator kelas sosial yang terdapat dalam film Titanic dan menganalisis implikasi kelas sosial dalam kebijakan penyelamatan dalam film Titanic berdasarkan perspektif Marxis. Data diambil dari screen capture adegan dan copy paste dialog yang berisi indikator kelas sosial dan implikasinya terhadap kebijakan penyelamatan di film Titanic. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan tiga indikator kelas sosial yaitu latar belakang ekonomi, fasilitas di kapal, dan pelayanan di kapal serta implikasi kelas sosial dalam kebijakan penyelamatan menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar penumpang kelas satu memiliki peluang bertahan hidup lebih tinggi dibandingkan kelas ketiga. penumpang kelas.

Kata Kunci: Kelas sosial, Marxis, film Titanic

Abstract

This research aimed to identify the indicators of social class found in Titanic movie and to analyze the implication of social class in the rescue policy in Titanic movie based on Marxist perspective. The data were taken from screen capturing the scenes and copy paste the dialogues containing indicators of social class and its implication in the rescue policy in Titanic movie. The result showed three indicators of social class namely economic background, facilities on the ship, and service on the ship and the implication of social class in the rescue policy showed that most of the first-class passengers are had a higher chance of survival than third class passengers.

Keyword: Social class, Marxist, Titanic movie

1. INTRODUCTION

The literary work was not a vehicle for ideas, a mirror of social reality, or the embodiment of some transcendental truth: it was a tangible facts, the operation of which might be examined in the same way as a machine could according to (Eagleton, 1998). In addition Haugom Olsen (1982) stated that literary work is a verbal expression, a verbal construct, or an utterance, and that its particular character is determined by the unique manner it means.

Movie as the one of literature framework consists of the expression of feeling such as experiences, motivation, idea, beliefs in the real description by using any language. A lot of movie writers make a story based on the reality, so movie can also represent various ideas about all of sides in human life. The writer is interested in studying the social class of

movie . When people watching a movie, they are automatically can add our knowledge and feel the emotion of the film that related with social norm in human real life .

Social class refers to a group of people within a society who take consideration in the same socioeconomic status. In 19th century, theory of social class was elaborated as the modern social sciences. According to Marx & Engels (1969) the social class formed by a particular mode of production that tend to initiated a particular form of animate political conflicts, state and get about changes in the structure of society in majority. When we talk about social class it will be connected with Marxism's theory. Marxism theory tell us about social values, social norms and equality. The Marxism concern with the current condition of several fields of life, such as political, economic, and social. In the literature, Marxism explained the perspective as to how this theory effected on society or we can say that literature in Marxism's explained the story of correlation between workers and partiess.

Marxism theory proposed as an argument that contra with capitalism and conflict of class. In this theory, the approached is according to the system of the capitalist and its demise. Capitalist divided into two classes, which are the bourgeoisie and proletariat (working class). The bourgeoisie itself defined as a business owner or controller of the production. The workers are the ones that usually asked to do a bourgeoisie class. It's concluded that the bourgeoisie is the higher class and the workers are the lowest class.

In 1997, the movie Titanic must be one of the most popular movies around the world until this day. The Titanic movie story is inspired by real story, which Titanic is the name of the biggest existing ship that stuck an iceberg and sink into the ocean. In the Titanic movie also talks about the love story between Rose and Jack which is come from different social classes. The movie also reflected on social inequality and social conflict. In this research, the aim are to identify the indicators of social class in Titanic movie and to analyse implication of social class in the rescue policy when the ship sinks in the film Titanic.

2. METHOD

The type of this study is literary study. In this study the researcher used qualitative method. The object of this study is social class and its implication in the rescue policy in Titanic Movie. This research used two types of data sources namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data source is from the movie itself, Titanic that can be obtained directly from the dialogues, situation and scenes. The secondary data is from journals, articles, and other internet sources that related to this study. In analyzing the data, researcher used miles and Huberman model, namely data reduction, data display, and data verification. The researcher

used Marxist perspective to identify social class and its implication in the rescue policy in movie.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Marxism commonly encompasses the concepts put forth by the German philosopher Karl Marx, who was born in Trier in the Kingdom of Prussia on the 5th of May 1818. He was a philosopher and economist who is most famous for the creation, although Marxism extends beyond his individual ideas and it also encompasses the thoughts Friedrich Engels, and those who align themselves with their viewpoints, identifying as Marxists. The class theory of Marxism asserts that an individual's position within a class hierarchy is determined by their role in the process of production. It argues that one's political and ideological perspectives are influenced by their standing in the class structure.

3.1 Indicators of social class

According to marxist, there are two main class in capitalist namely bourgeoisie and proletariat. Bourgeoisie are owner of property and production and also who possess capital acquire and exploit labor power, then proletariat are the working class. In Titanic movie, the researcher found three indicators of social class that were reflected of the characters namely economic background, facilities on the ship, and service.

3.1.1 Economic background

Bourgeoisie according to Marxist are shaped and organized based on ownership or possession of property and the means of production, as well as the individuals engaged in the work within the production process. In Titanic movie, the first class passengers were depicted as bourgeoisie based on their economic background. In the movie shown that mostly the first class passengers came from royalty and owner property and production. The characters that were royalty are Rose Dewitt Bukater, Ruth Dewitt Bukater, and Noel Lucy Martha. Then, for the owner of property and production characters are Caledon Hockley, Thomas Andrew, Bruce Ismay, Margaret Brown, and Sir Cosmo and Lucile Lady Duff-Gordon. Proletariat in the movie were depicted as third class passengers because most of them were emigrant who headed to United States to get better life. The third class passengers characters are Jack Dawson, Fabrizio de Rossi, Tommy Ryan, and Helga Dahl.

3.1.2 Facilities on the ship

First class passenger and third class passengers had different facilities on the ship. For the first class passengers had luxurious accommodation and had more flexible access on board the ship. they entering the ship easily and They had millionaire suite room with private decks,

fancy dining saloon, entertainment on the ship such as orchestral music, gymnasium, divine service, and smoking room. In addition, first class passengers also had their own servants. Meanwhile, third class passengers had simple accommodation on board and limited access on board.

3.1.3 Service

The first class are well served and their needs are met. The ship crews are friendly and serve them wholeheartedly. Compared to third class passengers who have limited service and have to take care of themselves and sometimes experience discrimination from the ship's crew

3.2 The implication of social class in the rescue policy

In rescue when a ship is sinking, the depiction of social class is also reflected in the rescue efforts when the ship is sinking. limited number of lifeboats and lack of proper safety measures to rescue passengers there was a "Women and children first" policy for boarding lifeboats. However, due to the limited number of lifeboats involved in the rescue effort, there was chaos among both first- and third-class passengers. Despite the "Women and children first" policy, it is often found that first class passengers are given priority. They benefited from the proximity of the lifeboats to the first-class deck, making it easier for them to board the ship. Meanwhile there was discrimination against third class passengers, where they were locked by the crew in the corridor, resulting in chaos among the third-class passengers who wanted to immediately escape and boarded the lifeboats.

The film also depicts corruption committed by the ship's crew, where lifeboats capable of accommodating more passengers were only loaded at half capacity, and some passengers were left behind. Cal, a first-class passenger, is seen committing corruption by bribing the ship's crew member, Murdoch, with a sum of money that is put in Murdoch's pocket.

There was a marked social class difference in the survival of Titanic passengers, caused by the placement of the lifeboats on the deck where the first-class passengers were. This policy prioritizes first class passengers, ignoring third class passengers who have to fend for themselves and find their own way to safety.

The rescue scenario mirrored the conditions of that period, wherein the handling and rescue efforts during disasters were significantly impacted by social class hierarchies. Additionally, this event underscored the insufficient readiness and safety precautions aboard the ship, leading to widespread disorder and a notable loss of lives.

4. CLOSING

From the previous chapter, which has described result and discussion, in this study it can be concluded that: first, First, there is some evidence regarding the indicators of social class shown in the characters in the film Titanic (1997). Based on Marxist theory, there are two main types of classes namely bourgeoisie and proletariat. In Titanic, the bourgeoisie are illustrated by first class passengers and the proletariat are illustrated by third class passengers. There are two indicators of social class in the film, namely economic background and accommodation on the ship. The first class passengers came from royalty backgrounds and owned property and production and the first class passengers had luxurious accommodation and had more flexible access on board the ship. Meanwhile, first class passengers are emigrant workers who went to the United States to get a better life. They have simple accommodation on board and limited access on board.

Second, the implications of social class in the rescue policy when the RMS Titanic sank. During passenger rescue efforts there is a policy of "Women and children" first, but in reality, first class passengers have priority in rescue efforts. And also the location of the lifeboat is located on the first class passenger deck, making the chances of first class passengers surviving higher. Meanwhile, third class passengers experienced riots due to the limited number of lifeboats, they experienced discrimination by the ship's crew who locked them in the third class corridor, therefore third class passengers had a smaller chance of survival than first class. There was also fraud committed by the first class passenger, Caledon, by bribing the ship's crew so that he and his bodyguards could immediately board the lifeboat without waiting for the women and children's turn.

REFERENCES

- Akandi, B., & Taurina Mila, D. (2019). *THE ANALYSIS OF MARXISM IN THE MOVIE JACK THE GIANT SLAYER* (Vol. 11).
- Eagleton, T. (1998). *Literary Theory*.
- Eka Saidatunnisa, N., & Sili, S. (2019). THE INEQUALITY ISSUES OF MALE SUPREMACY TOWARDS ROSE CHARACTER IN TITANIC MOVIE. In *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya* (Vol. 3, Issue 4).
- Fabrianne, N., Sucahyo, D., Wardani, I., & Mulawarman, U. (2022). *Class Struggle In Bong Joon-Ho's Film Parasite: An Analysis by Using Marxist Theory*.
- Haugom Olsen, S. I. (1982). *The "Meaning" of a Literary Work*.
- Helemejko, T. (2012). The concept of Marxism. In *Semantic Scholar* (Issue May 1818, pp. 9–20).
https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ac94/0670569e5020dba62f523d1419e4ee21086b.pdf?_ga=2.25339454.2009270161.1572196442-1836718592.1572196442
- Hendriwani, S. (2022). Teori Kelas Sosial Dan Marxisme Karl Marx. *Paradigma: Jurnal Kalam Dan Filsafat*, 2(01), 13–28. <https://doi.org/10.15408/paradigma.v2i01.26617>

- Hira, M. F. (2017). *MARXIST CRITICISM ON DISNEY'S MOVIE CINDERELLA*.
- Jones, B. (n.d.). *Max Weber concept of Social class*.
- Klarer, M. (2023). *An Introduction to Literary Studies*.
- Ladini, I. P., & Heryono, H. (2022). *Ambiguity in the Movie "Titanic" by James Cameron: Semantics Analysis*. <https://doi.org/10.33258/birci.v5i3.5863>
- Long, W. J. (1854). English literature. In *Notes and Queries* (Vols. s1-IX, Issue 229). <https://doi.org/10.1093/nq/s1-IX.229.244-c>
- Magnis-Suseno, F. (1999). *Pemikiran Karl Marx: dari sosialisme utopis ke perselisihan revisionisme*. Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Marx, K., & Engels, F. (1969). Manifesto of the Communist Party. In *Source: Marx/Engels Selected Works: Vol. One*. Progress Publishers.
- Miles, M. B., & Huberman, A. M. (1994). *milesandhuberman1994*.
- Mutiara, G., Mulyati, S., & Manar, M. (2022). CLASS CONFLICT IN PARASITE FILM USING MARXIST CRITICISM. *AKRAB JUARA*, 7, 180–194.
- Ningsih, T. D., & Agung Prasaja, Y. B. (2022). *SOCIAL CLASS IN VICTORIA AVEYARD'S RED QUEEN*.
- Parkin, F. (1979). Marx's theory of history: A bourgeois critique. *New York*.
- Parkin, F. (1983). *Marxism and class theory: A bourgeois critique*.
- Prananta, A. W. (2014). "Sebuah Kontestasi Stratifikasi Dominasi Dalam Kapitalisme dan Konsumerisme" (Dalam Perspektif Teori Sosio Historis Kritis C. Wright Mills) Arie. *Paper Knowledge . Toward a Media History of Documents*, 7(2), 107–115.
- Rubiyanto, Y. (2016). SOCIAL CLASS CONFLICT PRESENTED IN THE KITE RUNNER NOVEL BASED ON MARXISM THEORY. *Journal of English Language and Education*, 2(2), 1–12.
- Siahaan, M. I., & Satria, R. (2022). Reflection of Social Class Conflict in "the Notebook" Novel By Sparks. In *Jurnal Basis* (Vol. 9, Issue 2). <https://doi.org/10.33884/basisupb.v9i2.5775>
- Stephenie Meyer, K., Asih Handayani, T., Setiawan, I., & Basuki, I. (n.d.). *A MARXIAN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL CLASS IN STEPHENIE MEYER'S THE HOST (Analisis Marxis tentang Kelas Sosial dalam The Host)*.
- Sugiyono. (2010). *Prof_dr_sugiyono_metode_penelitian_kuant*.
- Willey, M. M., & Vine, M. W. (1970). An Introduction to Sociological Theory. *American Sociological Review*, 35(3), 531. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2092999>

-TERAKREDITASI A-