

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a general description of the paper. It consists of Background of Study, Statement of Problem, Purpose and Significance of Research and Definition of Key Terms, Organization of writing.

1.1. Background of Study

In the sociology of literature, everything that exists in the literature is not only the result of empty imagination. However, there will always be a result of the correlation between literary works, authors and community reality. In this connection, it is possible if the experience of living writers and cultural context that surrounds them will inspire the entire fabric of the events in his work. Thus, as a logical effect of the relationship that will bring varying levels and types of truths presented in literature and truth in the real world.

Therefore, frequently in the social reality phenomena is raised or influence in a literature work such as feminism, conflict of races, religions, and social classes. According to Wellek and Warren (1993:3), “literature is a form of creative and productive activities in producing a work that has a sense of aesthetic value and reflects social reality”.

A film is one of a literary work that is very influential in the world. Like other literary works, it can not be separated from the influence of social reality, ideology, viewpoint and understanding of the story maker. "*The Purge*" illustrates the reality of life with various authorities. There are strong and weak authorities and a strong authority who can dominate to the weak authority. Hegemony is the imposition of a system or a view of the authorities to weak class by force and coercion to achieve the objectives of the authorities.

According to Gramsci in Barker (2008:9), "the starting point of hegemony is that a ruling class and its members exercise the power to the lower class in two ways these are violence and persuasion". In the movie can be seen clearly how the American as a superpower discriminates against race or poor people to maintain stability, security and economy of the country. Conflicts that appear in the story show that how capitalism affects many sectors of American life such as politic or human right.

Gramsci in Faruk (2010:142), says about Hegemony

Hegemony as something complex, which also are economic and political. In this case the hegemony must consider interest formed or in other words that the group leader must make certain sacrifices. However, these sacrifices can not touch the essential, namely economic interest, because even though ethical political hegemony, hegemony is also economical, should be based on functions that define the core activity of economists.

The division of society into masters and slaves, nobles and servants, businessmen and laborers, not only ended in the order of production, but spread to

other areas of life. Therefore, social relations, institutions, law, religion, philosophy, and literature, as super structure society reflect and be determined by community infrastructure in the form of production relations. According to Martin (1985 : 37), he goes on to delineate the qualities of oppressed minorities by detailing how they receive differential treatment, as they are not afforded the same rights and privileges as the dominant group.

As depicted in *The Purge*, a night of cathartic violence has invigorated and reinvented a failing country. This evening has also somehow magically solved the budget deficit and raised America's levels of self-esteem and patriotism the country is even led by a single party called "The New Founders of America." Ultimately, and through processes mentioned but not fully explained in the movie.

In the film, the poor and others who cannot afford private security to live in gated communities, and arm themselves with all variety of weapons are "liquidated" wholesale on that night. The social contract that ought to promise safety and security between citizens and the State is broken with the agreement of the mass public. Consequently, the financial pressures on the social safety net are lessened precisely because "unproductive" citizens can be culled from the herd.

The rich and the authorities are safe free or not at their own whim to decide if they will participate in the country's national bloodletting. The plot of *The Purge* revolves around Frank Grilio's character named Leo Barnes, a police sergeant who

strives to through The Purge just to take revenge on a man who had killed his son and four people who strive to through The Purge only to save themselves, which are Eva Sanchez and Sanchez Cali as two poor black women and then Shane and Liz as a couples.

The film describes how a rule set by the authorities, namely the Purge considered a good solution to keep the social and economic life in America, and so that people assume that all violence and human rights violations caused by the rules, it does not mean. The phenomenon occurs because of a standpoint that money is everything in life. Then individualism, thinking with excessive priority on personal interests that ignores moral values and the interests of other people for the sake of personal benefit, bring this ideology on the negative image that gives a bad impact and last philanthropy. The purge makes ideology with the thought that this is rated as a solution, but the solution is manipulative.

It is seen from the shifting value of generosity as the actions of those noble to be part of the economic agenda to maintain the security system and social classes and it produces resistance or reform. Domination and oppression always produces resistance or produce reform.. In this case, resistance or reform occurred because of the dominance of the upper classes to the lower classes are constantly created and won, then it creates a group that is opposed to power or domination of the dominated groups and classes.

As Gramsci's opinion in Jones (2010: 105), that man can know what they will be used by ideology, and so basically they are also able to choose to decide the hegemony chain and be themselves". For Gramsci, the struggle against authority should try to obtain support in the surrounding communities that work together beyond the formal boundaries of state power, including family, social clubs, the press, the activity in leisure time, and others before efforts were made to power country and in the movie it is represented by the character of Carmelo Johns and several other characters.

The movie represented the power as the ability of an actor to realize his or her will in a social action, even against the will of other actors. Power relates to the ability to command resources in a particular domain. Economic power, then, is the ability to control the other. Societal power includes economic power, social power, legal or political power, and so forth. Besides that the film represents the reality how the lower class resistance to the upper class is. In fact, at this moment there are a lot of researchers who conducted research on hegemony but studies using *The Purge* film as the object is still slightly found.

Based on the literature review has been carried out, a number of studies which are relevance to this research, among others are the first is research from Snyder (2013). The article entitled "*The Politic of The Purge*". He explained some politic values in the film. He concluded that the movie can not separated of the politic where the movie is created. The movie interpreted how discrimination still happening

in America where in the movie there is a Negro to be a sacrifice of an America system.

The second research was done by De Vega (2013) whose title "*The Purge is Republican Party Fantasy Come True*". In the article he explained that The Purge is a scathing indictment of contemporary American politics, the mass media and Right-wing politics in the Age of Obama and the movie reflect a society's worries, fears, and insecurities. The Purge, while not a perfect film, is wonderfully ambitious in its efforts at being socially relevant and politically provocative.

Although previous studies and this study discuss the same film that is The Purge film, there is a very important difference among them, that previous studies only focused on the political aspect in the film but other social aspects such as economics, religion, capitalism and the resistance conflict of the social class are researched in this study. Therefore this present research is interesting to study because it can complete the previous studies than the researcher thinks that this topic is important to research. The researcher decides to entitle this research "The Oppression of Upper Class to Lower Class in The Purge Film".

1.2. Statement of Problem

Based on to the background of research above, the discourse of the study is about The Purge film by James De Monaco. In this study, the researcher will discusses Gramsci's hegemony used to understand the social conflict which is caused by domination of the upper class to lower class and sub problems as follows:

1.2.1. How do the upper classes oppress the lower classes in The Purge film?

1.2.2. How are the resistances conducted by the lower class to the upper class in The Purgefilm?

1.3. Research Objective

In its practice, this research has some proposes that the writer wants to gain by doing this research.

1.3.1. To analyze how do the upper classes oppress the lower classes in The Purge Film.

1.3.2. To analyze how the resistances are conducted by the lower classes to the

Upper classes in The Purge Film

1.4. Significance of the Research

This research is expected to provide the following benefits:

1. Theoretical Significance

- a. This research can be used as an affirmation of literary theories previously existed and especially of the Gramsci's Hegemony theory.
- b. This research can add to the treasures of literary research that it can contribute to the development of literature.

2. Practical Significance

- a. For lecturers in the fields of literature this study is expected to add references to the literature to be useful in the teaching process.
- b. For readers this study is expected to increase knowledge about literature and film.
- c. For the authors, this study which discusses the literature and film expected to increase knowledge about the complexity of literature that can support to be able to produce the more creative and diverse work.
- d. For further researcher this research can be reference and help to understand the Gramsci's Hegemony theory so it can help to produce a better research.

1.5. Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misinterpretation of some terms which exist in this research, the researcher explains some terms related to this research, there are:

1. The film is other media exhibition and as a source of culture that is closely related with books, cartoons, television star and film series, as well as songs. (McQuail, 1994: 13).
2. The oppression is typically defined in terms of a dominant group subjugating another minority group. Martin in *Race and Ethnic Relations* (1985 : 37), he goes on to delineate the qualities of oppressed minorities by detailing how they receive differential treatment, as they are not afforded the same rights and privileges as the dominant group.
3. Hegemony is power of a person or group of people to influence the behavior of a person or another group with the wishes and goals of the people who have that power. Faruk(2010: 142).
4. A social class is a large group of people who rank closely to one another in wealth, power, and prestige. Henslin (2004:192).
5. Ideology is the process of production of meanings, sign and values in social life. Eagleton (1991:1).
6. The resistance is relationship of power and subordination in the form of challenges to and negotiations of the ascendant order. Resistance is relational and conjectural. (2008:200).

1.6. Organization of Writing

This paper is divided into five chapters. The first chapter is introduction, the second is theoretical basis, the third is method of research, the fourth is research analysis, the fifth is conclusion and suggestion of research.

1. Introduction

This chapter consists of background of study, statement of problems, research objective, significance of research and definition of key terms.

2. Theoretical Review

This chapter explains about the theories that has relation with the research topic that involves explanations of Gramsci's hegemony, ideology, socio- economy, racial discrimination, politic and synopsis of The Purge Movie and biographical of the film's author.

3. Method of Research

Method of Research consists of research design, sample of data, source of data, technique of collecting data, technique of analyzing data, and organization of writing.

4. Findings and Discussion

The fourth chapter is findings and discussion. This chapter deals with The Oppression of the upper class to lower class and the resistances which conducted by lower class to upper class.

5. Conclusion and Suggestion

This is the final chapter that provides the conclusion and suggestion.

