

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of problem

Every single human are having a different born, either physically, character, lifestyle, even destiny. Likewise with the destiny where was he born, where will he live, in what environment, with what physical characteristics, everything is arranged by the supreme creator. Even in the Qur'an the letter A-Hujurat verse 13 is mentioned: *"O mankind, we created you from a man and a woman and made you nations and tribes so that you know each other. Actually the noblest person among you by Allah is the person who is most devout among you. Indeed, Allah knows more about all knowing. "*

In this verse we can interpret that God created his creatures differently on purpose because he is all-knowing what is best for his creation and what his fate will be. But this ignorance is often used as an excuse for every human who feels injustice over the differences he has. For example, class differences. Many of those in the lower class position suffer from the authoritarian attitude of the government. Which a government like this is usually more in favor of the welfare of the upper classes than the lower classes. This is what demands the lower classes to rise up and carry out various movements to fight for their justice and prosperity.

One of the person who is also concerned about this situation is Karl Heinrich Marx who was born in 1818 in the German city of Thier. Which was at that time Marx grew up amidst political upheaval and was being dominated by the capitalist forces of the bourgeoisie who opposed the power of the feudal aristocracy so that it affected social change.

Marx is a person who is known as a reductionist in seeing social life. Marx saw that human life is based and driven by economic motives. Therefore, in the flow of philosophy, Marx saw that humans are economic creatures (*homo economicus*). According to his thought, human relations are basically production relations in which there are always oppressed people and there are always two conflicting positions. Namely slave-employers, land-tenants, and so forth (Hashem, 1984, p. 71). Things like this continue to develop day by day along with the demand of industrial capitalism in Europe, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Therefore, Marxism emerged as a form of Marx's concern over the suppression of the proletariat.

Marxism itself is an understanding which argues that capitalists make use of the proletariat to increase its own profit, Marxism is also a philosophy of the struggle of the working class to subvert capitalism and bring socialism to the human earth. This understanding exists on the basis of the spirit of class struggle for the proletariat to pursue prosperity and justice (Sprague, Mengenal Dasar-dasar Filsafat Marxisme: Bagian I. Matrealisme Dialektis, 2011, p. 1).

The Italian Communist Party became one of the groups that pioneered the birth of the communist sect in Western Europe. This understanding grew and developed after the end of Leninism and the anti-essence of communism. This change is what they call the Euro-Communism Era. The ideologies embraced by the Italian Communist Party in essence adopted a lot of his ideas Karl Marx, where Marxism is a basis for the birth of communist ideology (Tendency, 2010).

As for the flow of Marxism itself is an understanding that was born from Karl Marx's dissatisfaction who saw the social conditions in his place which was very alarming. Where social conditions at that time occurred a number of disputes, all involving large factories where a large number of workers lost their jobs, there are also people who have jobs but all profits are prioritized to the bourgeoisie.

There are many disagreements that occurred. Neither the opposition to the policy of the proletariat towards the bourgeoisie nor the contradiction experienced by Karl Marx himself towards that policy which he considered incompatible with the goals of broad welfare. An example of the contradiction at the time was student mobilization and general strikes. This contradiction arose because the proletariat seemed so oppressed by the policies made by the bourgeoisie.

The oppressions accepted by the bourgeoisie on the policies made by the proletariat include wanting everyone to be given the freedom to work and try in perfect competition by completely eliminating government

intervention. Which, this system is used by the bourgeoisie to gain as much profit as possible without regard to the adverse effects that will be obtained by the proletariat (Agustiati).

In line with Marx, Arthur Fleck who instead became a proletarian figure in his own city Gotham City also felt the actions of his country's capitalism. Starting with the scene Arthur Fleck who was working as a clown in front of a music store that was holding a discount board sign. He was assigned to dance while twirling discounted sign boards. In the midst of his work, in addition to getting scolded in the form of words he also found ridicule in the form of action. Some young people took the signboard roughly, playing with it, and even threw it in Arthur's face.

In the next few scenes Todd Phillips (script writer) tries to show other examples of government injustice in the lower classes. Because the government tends to prioritize the existence, safety, cleanliness, and health of upper class rather than lower class. For example, when Arthur Fleck asked the people around him to stop the children who took the discount board, people did not care about Arthur at all. Another case with the murder of three government executives who were killed on the subway which was constantly being preached repeatedly with a good image even though before the murder actually they showed bad behavior.

This text indirectly shows the reader that the government of capitalism, in addition to utilizing proletarian power to increase profits for the capital, but also lowering the proletarian image for the perfection of the good

image that continues to be applied to the wider community. Responding to this, Atar Semi (in Nurholis, 2016, p. 7) argues that by using humans as objects, language as a medium, a creative art form called literature will be created. That is, in reflecting the reality that occurs in literary society can be a powerful medium to convey it. Whether it's in the form of poetry, prose, or drama. Both the theme of love, friendship, opposition, to social class.

To analyze this, the literary criticism theory of Marxism is used to determine the behavior and patterns of society in dealing with the class struggle of the proletariat in eliminating capitalism in the Joker film script by Todd Phillips and Scott Silver. In addition to supporting the course of this research, it was found that previous research as a reference so that this scientific work has its originality tested by not imitating other works.

The first research is *Class Struggle In Capitalist Society In Ally Condie's Novel "Crossed"* by Astri Amri Yani Yaris in 2014 that published by Universitas Islam Negeri Alauddin Makassar. This research contains class struggle in the capitalist society environment by using Karl Marx's theory as the basic theory of class struggle in the novel *Crossed* by Ally Condie. This thesis tried to showed the social condition in capitalist society like class distinction and human exploitation. The implication of this thesis is to inform the readers about class struggle because of the capitalist oppression.

The second research is a graduating paper that written by Khoirur Rizal in 2017 entitled *A Struggle Of Lower Class As Seen In Mad Max : Fury Road*. The thesis that published by Universitas Islam Negeri Sunan Kalijaga

Yogyakarta talks about how lower classes rise against the upper class to achieve justice and equality. Same as the first previous research, this research also applying objective approach by using Karl Marx's theory of capitalism and class struggle.

The third research is *Ideologi Sosialisme Marxisme Dan Perjuangan Kelas Dalam Puisi "Solidaritätslied" Karya Bertolt Brecht:Kajian Semiotika Riffaterre* by Sri Ayu Habibah in 2015 at Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta. This research is about Karl Marx's ideology of the class struggle pursued through an analysis of the study of semiotics and hermeneutics contained in the poem "Solidaritätslied" by Bertolt Brecht. This research is also supported by some semiotics theory of Roland Barthes, Charles Sanders Pierce, and Michael Riffaterre. There is also some understanding of some of the styles of language contained in literary works, as well as their analysis.

The fourth research is *Class Conflict In Film In Time : An Analysing Using Marxism Literary Criticism* by Yudaris Octian in 2015 at Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. This research focusing on analysing a class conflict by using Marxism theory as a main theory. Almost in line with previous studies that talk about the class struggle of the proletariat, but there are things that distinguish this research with previous studies. Namely the motive of the class struggle that was carried out not from the lower classes for the welfare of the lower classes but from the upper classes for the lower classes. In a sense, the main character in this film made several attempts to fight for

equal rights between the lower and upper classes even though he himself is the upper class.

The fifth study is research by Saputra Hadi in 2011 entitled *The Representation of Class Struggle in The Movie TITANIC* that published at Universitas Diponegoro Semarang. It talks about reflection of two classes using the concepts of intrinsic, extrinsic, and cinematic studies. To support this analysis, this research uses the ideology of Marxism in class classifying between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, as well as the existence of class resistance in the film Titanic. The previous studies containing *JOKER* movie script as an objects have not been found yet. Therefore this research can be regarded as the first study of the object *JOKER* movie script.

The writer chose this movie script because it reflects the social condition about class struggle. Reading this movie script, then motivated the writer to examine more deeply about class struggle through the novel *JOKER* by Todd Phillips and Scott Silver. The writer used the sociological approach to know about the social condition in the novel. Moreover, the writer used Karl Marx's theory to classify a form of class struggle in capitalist society.

1.2 Statements of problem

Based on the background of problem it can be formulated into the research questions as follows:

1. What are the upper class oppressions toward Joker as a representation of lower class in *JOKER* Movie Script?
2. How does Joker represent the lower class struggle against upper class oppression in capitalist society in *JOKER* Movie Script?

1.3 Research Objectives

1. To find out the upper class oppressions toward Joker as a representation of lower class in *JOKER* Movie Script.
2. To find out Joker's representation of the lower class struggle against upper class oppression in capitalist society in *JOKER* Movie Script.

1.4 Research Significance

This research is expected to be useful for academics who need a reference in making scientific work related to the same object and topic both theoretically and practically. The expected benefits of this study are as follows.

Theoretically, this research are expected to contribute to readers in understanding literary works, especially movie script. This research can hopefully be used as reference material for the academics who will conduct the next research. As a reference for research the emergence of new studies so as to foster motivation in literature.

Practically this research hopefully could add research repertoire to readers about literary knowledge in understanding marxisme thought in Joker movie script as a representation of lower class struggle against the upper class. This

research is expected to contribute to efforts to solve problems, including understanding marxisme and social classes in society. The results of Joker movie script research are expected to enrich the repertoire of literary criticism and knowledge of literary works, especially in the analysis of social facts and class struggle in movie script.

