

MARX'S MATERIALISM IN THE MOVIE ENTITLED HUNGER GAMES TRILOGY

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Abstract

The Hunger Games is a trilogy of novels that were made into movies. The Hunger Games are related to social life, such as class conflict and materialism, this is interesting to examine in literary criticism using a Marxist approach. The topic of this research is Marx's materialism in the movies entitled Hunger Games trilogy. This research analyzes materialism related to class conflict, there are two class conflicts, namely, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. This research focuses on two problems, namely, (1) the depiction of the bourgeoisie and proletariat in the movie Hunger Games sequel and (2) the effect of being bourgeoisie and proletariat toward the main characters. This research uses the theory of Marx (1998). This research uses descriptive qualitative methods. The results found a depiction of the bourgeoisie as powerful, wealth, and leadership. Meanwhile, the proletariat is a laborer or worker, poor, and powerless. This research finds the effects of being a bourgeoisie, namely, being powerful and oppressor while the proletariat becomes obedient and oppressed. Therefore, the aim of this research is that readers can learn about Marxism, especially about materialism related to class conflict namely, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Keywords: *Marxism, Materialism, Class Conflict, Bourgeoisie and Proletariat*

1. INTRODUCTION

The movie is a visually produced work of art. Each movie has its message and movies have many theories or philosophies. Social life is depicted in movies, the stories in movies cannot be separated from the problems that exist in society. Problems in society are brought to the big screen or what we could call movies. There is a message from a story that it wants to convey to the movie audience, especially those related to social problems, which we often encounter in everyday life. The views or ideologies of the figures are also applied to a movie that is also related to social problems. Therefore movies contain several views from figures, one of them is Marxism, about class in society, which is the reality in society. Marxism is an understanding based on the views of Karl Marx.

Literary works have several approaches, namely feminism, marxism, psychoanalysis, ecocriticism, and others approaches. Kumar Panda (2015) explains that Marxist ideology has an impact on 20th-century literary criticism. According to Marxism, literature is a part of the superstructure that results from the foundational truths. Marxist analysis links the literary work to society, history, and the social, cultural, and political contexts in which it was produced. In that century, Marxist ideology was used in literature, especially in literary criticism. This is used because literary works are still related to Marxist ideology and existing fields in society.

Marx (1998) said that this government is a working-class government, which is the result of the struggle of the production group against the taking over class, a political form that was ultimately found to realize the economic emancipation of workers. Marxism is related to

economic power, materialism, capitalism, class conflict, and spirituality. There are classes in society that create conflict, such as the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. It has also been explained earlier that several movies and novels describe Marxist elements to support the movie or novel. One of them is the sequel to the movie entitled “The Hunger Games”.

Marx (1998), materialism is the notion that the universe according to its properties is material or consists of material to material. Materialism explains that the perception of a person's nature is about material things. People generally need materials to survive, in the form of money or goods. Excessive use of materials is also not good, it can cause someone to refer to materials in their life. And that person can do anything to fulfill the material within him. Materialism relates to someone who has power and who does not have power.

Materialism is also related to class conflict and this class conflict is divided into two, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Marx and Engels (2019) stated that the bourgeoisie has ended all feudal, patriarchal, and idealized relationships wherever they have the upper hand. The proletariat is made up of small traders, typically retired traders, craftsmen, farmers, and laborers. The bourgeoisie is a group of people who own the means of production such as machines, factory buildings that generate profits, and landowners whose income is in the form of rent. Meanwhile, the proletariat is a group of people who have the energy to work and sell it to get wages. The bourgeoisie and the proletariat are depicted in the movie entitled “Hunger Games”.

Each Hunger Games movie sequel discusses the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. The characters that will often stand out are Katniss Everdeen, the main character, and President Snow, where the bourgeoisie and the proletariat will be examined. Several types of research have been taken, and there are differences and similarities with this research. Loobeek (2014) has researched a similar movie, The Hunger Games. The difference is the theory that Loobeek used the feminist approach in her research. Dzikriya (2019) examines the actantial model in The Hunger Games. A different theory was used in her research. The researcher used the Greimas approach and also analyzed structuralism. Made & Wiryani (2022) researched class differences in the Hunger Games movie and used a Marxist approach. However, their research focuses more on the exploitation and discrimination of social classes in movies.

The movie Hunger Games tells a story in which the differences between the lives of rich people and poor people are visible. The former represents the bourgeoisie while the latter represents the proletariat. The bourgeoisie conducts such a survival tournament that looks like the short story entitled “The Most Dangerous Game”. Moreover, the residents in each district take part in the tournament. For the powerful people, the tournament is an entertainment. Due to such phenomena, the movie is used as the data of the research, and the topic of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat is taken. Regarding the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, the Marxist approach is relevant in the research. Therefore, the problems that are related are the description of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat and the effects of being bourgeoisie and proletariat toward the main characters in the sequel to the Hunger Games movie.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

This research uses the descriptive qualitative method. Following Merriam and Tisdell (2016), the approaches used in qualitative research share some traits and fall within the qualitative research category. It is important to keep in mind that each methodology has a unique focus, which leads to variations in how questions are formulated, sample techniques, data gathering, analysis, and reporting. Qualitative research is used to gain an in-depth understanding, based on observations and interpretations, and research that develops theory. Researchers will collect, classify, and analyze data and then draw conclusions from the data obtained. Therefore, this study uses this method because the data used are not statistical. This

method is used to analyze the data and make conclusions, namely, to analyze the bourgeoisie and the proletariat described in the movie *Hunger Games* sequels and the effects of being bourgeoisie and proletariat toward the main characters.

The research data consists of words, phrases, and clauses found in the subtitles of the sequel movie “*The Hunger Games*”. The data focuses on dialogue or scripts from the main characters which show the proletariat and the bourgeoisie. This research takes data from the movies *The Hunger Games*, *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*, and *The Hunger Games Mockingjay Part 1* movies. In practice, this technique is done by watching the sequel to the movie and understanding the content of the story. Then the data are made into a transcript and identified according to the description of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. In the final stage, the data is analyzed to produce answers to this research problem.

Coding data is based on characters, quotations, and minutes of the movie. The coding data in this study is as follows. 1KE50:30, 1stSq means that 1 refers to the number of data. KE refers to the names of the characters in the movie, as KE means Katniss Everdeen, one of the characters in the *Hunger Games*. 50:30 refers to minutes and the second explains the time when the characters' conversation, and describes the class conflict. 1stSq means the first sequel of *The Hunger Games* movie. 2ndSq means the second sequel, it is *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. 3rdSq means the third sequel, it is *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay Part 1*.

Data analysis in this research uses Spradley's theory in ethnography. Spradley (1980) explains that data analysis in ethnography has several stages, namely, domain analysis, taxonomy analysis, component analysis, and cultural theme analysis. This research uses theme analysis. When researching literature, you need to use theme analysis because it is related to the theme or topic in the story. Dealing with the topic of Marx's materialism in the movie entitled *Hunger Games*, the Marxist approach and sociological approach are suitable. Guerin, Wilfred L. (2005), marxism is related to literature in its development, which is still a relevant approach to literature. Marxism provides an important aspect in the literature on the use of class conflict and materialism. Therefore, Marxism enters literary criticism, and literary work is always related to society. This Marxist approach is used in this research to support research on the themes of class conflict and materialism.

The latter is the sociological approach in the literature. Since literature is a social product, the ideas and emotions it expresses are influenced by the cultural reality that society has built. Literature has several approaches, one of which is the sociological approach. Jadhav (2014), the sociological approach discusses the relationship between literature and society which influence each other, such as politics, economics, and so on. Literature has a sociological connection, where people's lives influence the literary works created because this is related to real life in society, such as thoughts and feelings. This research discusses the thoughts and feelings in society that influence a story.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the statements of the problem in this research. There are two problems in this research. The first is the depiction of the bourgeoisie and proletariat in the sequel to the movie *The Hunger Games*. The second one is the effect of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. The chapter also discusses

1. The Description of the Bourgeoisie and Proletariat in the movie *Hunger Games* the sequels.

The depiction of these two classes is in several movies, one of which is the sequel to the movie *The Hunger Games*. The characters in the movie depict the class conflict between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat through their conversations. The depiction of the bourgeoisie

and proletariat can be seen from their power, the materialist nature that appears, and their social status.

Previously, this research would explain the words that often appear in movies. This explanation aims to ensure that readers are not confused by the terms often used in the movie *The Hunger Games*. Readers can also find out the meaning of the word. Tribute is a term for participants who take part in the Hunger Games tournament, for example, 24 tributes mean 24 people. Victor means the winner in the Hunger Games tournament; another meaning is the person who wins the games. For example, Finnick Odair is a victor from the 65th Hunger Games.

The Capitol is a technologically advanced metropolis that is home to the richest and most powerful citizens in Panem. The district is a place where simple and poor proletariat residents live with minimal technology. There are 13 districts in Panem and residents in all districts are generally laborers or workers. For example, Katniss Everdeen lives in District 12. Panem is a country in the movie *The Hunger Games* and The Capitol is the capital of Panem. The people in the Capitol and Districts include the citizens of Panem. The Quarter Quell is a special edition of the venerable Hunger Games held every twenty-five years.

a. The Bourgeoisie

The bourgeoisie is one part of the class conflict. The bourgeoisie is described as owning a company, factory, machine, and so on by Karl Marx. In movies, the bourgeoisie is sometimes depicted as rich people who own companies or are leaders of the community. The following is data that shows the bourgeoisie in one of the sequels to the movie *The Hunger Games*.

1PS46:02, 2ndSq

President Snow	: Her entire species has to be eliminated.
Plutarch Heavensbee	: Her species, sir?
President Snow	: The other victors. Now, because of her, they all pose a threat. Because of her, they all think they're invincible. Whatever game you think you're playing, those out there are not playing it with you.
Plutarch Heavensbee	: There's a way we can still win.
President Snow	: 75 th anniversary of our defeat of the rebellion, we celebrate the 3 rd quarter quell as a reminder that even the strongest cannot overcome the power of the capitol. On this, the 3 rd quarter quell games, the male and female tributes are to be reaped from the existing pool of Victors in each district.

The conversation between President Snow, a leader in the Capitol, and Plutarch Heavensbee, a game maker, describes them as bourgeois. Snow is a leader or President, who can manage anything in his country and Heavensbee is a game maker for the Hunger Games. They have the power to change the existing rules in the game and create new games.

The Hunger Games usually takes players from each district who have never participated in the games. However, this time, President Snow changed the game, he has the power to change the rules of the game. He is the President in Panem, therefore he is able to do anything because of the power he has. The Hunger Games takes players from the victors in each district that year.

President Snow wants to maintain his place as the bourgeoisie, he does not want the proletariat to rebel and fight him.

The data describe the bourgeoisie, especially with regard to its behavior. This data shows the characters of Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark. Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark come from District 12. They are chosen as tributes for The Hunger Games. They are both from the proletariat. Katniss and Peeta represent their District to take part in the Hunger Games tournament. Katniss is an idealist and easily rebels when it comes to justice. Meanwhile, Peeta can still follow the given path or can adapt to the situation. Then, they get a mentor to train them, the mentor is Haymitch Abernathy.

b. The Proletariat

The proletariat are workers who work for the bourgeoisie, for example, they work as factory workers, waiters, employees in companies, and miners. These people are not from the upper class, they will work hard to make ends meet. The proletariat is depicted as someone who is in the middle or lower class in several movies. The data explains the life of the proletariat in District 13. Panem has 13 Districts, however, only 12 Districts often participate in the Hunger Games. District 13 was bombed by the Capitol during an insurrection in all districts of the Capitol. Therefore, the Capitol considers that District 13 is gone.

12BO04:17, 3rdSq

Katniss Everdeen : We were always told there was nothing left of 13.

Boggs : Capitol bombed the surface to rubble. But we're military, so we learned to survive down here. Preparing. Training. The war never stopped for us.

Boggs is the head of security in District 13 and Katniss was saved by District 13. Everyone thinks District 13 has been destroyed. The people in District 13 are struggling to live underground, they are surviving to prepare for a rebellion. Boggs said they were military. Residents in District 13 work in the military and they produce nuclear weapons. Residents in District 13 train and prepare for war every day.

District 13 also depicts the proletariat living underground. Even though they can produce weapons, they still have difficulty living their lives. Residents in District 13 have a monotonous life. The food menu is always the same, nothing special or delicious. They could not leave as they pleased because they were afraid of being discovered by the Capitol. They have the same clothes and accommodation and no entertainment. District 13 is just preparing itself for the next war or rebellion.

2. The Effect of Being Bourgeoisie and Proletariat Toward the Main Characters

The second problem is the effects of being the bourgeoisie and the proletariat towards the main characters. This research explains the effect of being bourgeois and proletariat towards the main character. Furthermore, this research shows data that explains the effects of being a bourgeoisie and a proletariat.

a. The Effects of Being Bourgeoisie

There are two effects of being bourgeois. The first is to become powerful. The second one is to become an oppressor.

1. Being Powerful

The bourgeoisie has the power that can be used to do anything. For example, he destroyed a District because the people in that District were disobedient. Then, the bourgeoisie can change anything. For example, the bourgeoisie can change the rules of the Hunger Games to its advantage. Therefore, this effect belongs to the bourgeoisie, namely, being a powerful person. This data shows the effects of being bourgeois. The bourgeoisie can change the rules if they want. The bourgeoisie also uses the power to do anything.

8GM02:08:33, 1stSq

Game Maker	: Attention. Attention, Tributes. There has been a slight rule change. The previous revision, allowing for two victors from the same district, has been revoked. Only one victor may be crowned. Good luck. And may the odds be ever in your favor.
Peeta Mellark	: Go ahead. One of us should go home. One of us has to die. They have to have their victor.
Katniss Everdeen	: No. they don't. Why should they?
Peeta Mellark	: No!
Katniss Everdeen	: Trust me.

Game Maker gets the rights and power to organize the Hunger Games from President Snow. Game Maker can add a level of challenge to the Hunger Games. Game Maker can change the gameplay of the Hunger Games as he is pleased. Game Maker wants the Hunger Games to be an interesting television show. Therefore, Game Maker changed the plot and rules of the Hunger Games without thinking about the tributes.

In this scene there are two tributes left, namely Katniss and Peeta, they come from the same district. Game Maker made the rules that can only be one Victor in these Hunger Games. Previously, the victor is taken from two people in the district, not just one victor. However, Game Maker changed the rules by taking one Victor even though they were from the same district. This is the effect of being bourgeois. When a person becomes bourgeois, he has power and rights.

2. Being Oppressor

A bourgeois can also oppress weak people, this is also the effect of being a bourgeois. Oppressors can use their power to oppress people who are weak or have no power. Any form of oppression is based on the power possessed by the oppressor, such as threatening, exploiting life, and destroying. For example, he can threaten someone to do what he wants. The bourgeoisie also oppresses the proletariat. This is one of the effects of being bourgeois. The next data will explain this effect.

14PS09:33, 2ndSq

Katniss Everdeen	: Why don't you just kill me now?
President Snow	: I don't want to kill you. I want us to be friends. But if not friends, then allies.
Katniss Everdeen	: What do I need to do?

- President Snow : When you and Peeta are on tour, you need to smile. You need to be grateful. But, above all, you need to be madly, prepared-to-end-it-all in love. You think you can manage that?
- Katniss Everdeen : Yes.
- President Snow : Yes, what?
- Katniss Everdeen : I'll convince them.
- President Snow : No. Do convince me. For the sake of your loved ones.

President Snow comes to Katniss' house and he wants Katniss to be his ally. President Snow wants to exploit Katniss' life. Katniss and Peeta's victory give hope to the residents of each District, that hope is that the residents in the district can get out of suffering. President Snow does not want that to happen therefore he wants Katniss to be his ally. Katniss knows this, the Hunger Games changed everyone's views. She will follow President Snow's orders. President Snow also threatens Katniss. If Katniss violates, her family and those she loves will be affected.

The bourgeoisie will oppress the weak for its interests. He will threaten and exploit someone's life. This is the effect of being a bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie has everything, namely wealth, strength, power, and rights, therefore he can oppress as he is pleased.

b. The Effects of Being the Proletariat

There are two effects of being a proletariat. The first effect is to become an oppressed person. The second one is to become a person who follows the rules, especially the rules of the bourgeoisie, that is, to become obedient.

1. Being Oppressed

The effect of the proletariat is being oppressed. Oppressed people are oppressed by power and social class. Oppressed people feel the suffering of the people who oppress them, there is pressure that they experience in their lives. They experienced oppression because the bourgeoisie threatened them. For example, President Snow threatens Katniss by killing her family, if Katniss does not carry out his orders. This data explains the effects of being a proletariat. The proletariat feels the oppression of the bourgeoisie. The proletariat does not have power therefore they experience oppression.

15KE21:30, 2ndSq

- Haymitch Abernathy : You two have a very simple task.
- Katniss Everdeen : I never meant for anyone to get killed. He has to know that.
- Haymitch Abernathy : What are you talking about? Who has to know what?
- Katniss Everdeen : Snow. He came to see me. He's worried about rebellion in the districts. He thinks that they don't believe our love story.
- Haymitch Abernathy : So he wants you to make them believe it?
- Katniss Everdeen : To calm things down.
- Peeta Mellark : You know, Katniss, you shoulda told me that before I went out there, and tried to give these people the money.
- Katniss Everdeen : I'm sorry. I didn't know what to do. He threatened to kill my family.
- Peeta Mellark : Well, I have family, too. Okay? People that I need to protect.

Katniss, Peeta, and Haymitch see one of the residents of District 11 being murdered. Someone rebelled by showing the Mockingjay symbol and was immediately killed. Katniss and the others are shocked by the Capitol's actions. Katniss is scared, she is sure that President Snow's threat is true. Katniss fears her family will be killed by President Snow. Katniss and Peeta pretend to be in love therefore they want not to be seen as opponents. They fight because they do not coordinate with each other to deliver a speech in District 11. Katniss is so scared by President Snow's threat that she cannot think straight.

People who are oppressed feel great fear. Being oppressed is one of the effects of being a proletariat. The proletariat is weak and has no power, they cannot do anything. The lives of the proletariat are monitored and exploited by the bourgeoisie.

2. Being Obedient

The effect of being a proletariat is he has to follow the rules that have been made. When the bourgeoisie makes a rule, the proletariat must follow it. The proletariat cannot reject these regulations. For example, the bourgeoisie has set the rules for the Hunger Games, therefore the proletariat who participate must follow them. Even though, the rules are changed by the bourgeoisie. The next data shows that the proletariat must follow rules such as the rules in the Hunger Games which often change.

16GM01:47:47

Game Maker	: Attention, Tributes. Attention. The regulations requiring a single victor have been suspended. From now on, two victors may be crowned, if both originate from the same district. This will be the only announcement.
Katniss Everdeen	: Peeta. Oh, My God! Peeta. Peeta.

Game Maker changes the existing rules in Hunger Games. The initial rule was one victor of the Hunger Games would be those from the same District who would kill each other. However, the new rule is the victor can be two people from the same District. These rules are given in the middle of the game. All the tributes who are still alive are looking for their district friends, including Katniss. She is looking for Peeta. All tributes must follow the established regulations. They cannot choose or even refuse. Even though the rules torture them.

This scene shows the effects of being a proletariat. They could not do anything to resist. They have to follow the rules that are made. This scene is the same as the scene in the second sequel. Katniss and Peeta have to take part in the Hunger Games again even though they are victors and they should not take part again. However, the rules changed from the Capitol, and all the Victors returned to take part in the Hunger Games in the Quarter Quell. This is the effect of the proletariat having to follow the rules.

The discussion based on this research finds that the depiction of the bourgeoisie lives with luxury, advanced technology, delicious food and drinks such as expensive alcohol, and beautiful and unique clothing. The bourgeoisie like entertainment and shows, therefore they make Hunger Games and broadcast them on television. The depiction of the proletariat is that they live in poverty. They cannot taste delicious food. They live in simple and modest places. The proletariat also hunts in illegal forests. The proletariat only works to fulfill their lives, they live monotonously and have no entertainment. This is the image of the proletariat in the sequel to the movie Hunger Games. The effect of being the bourgeoisie is being powerful and oppressor, while the effect of being the proletariat is being oppressed and obedient.

4. CONCLUSION

This research discusses Marx's materialism in the movie entitled Hunger Games. This research takes the topic of Marxism, namely materialism which is related to the bourgeoisie and proletariat in the movie Hunger Games. Movies are also related to literary work; therefore the researchers took the topic of Marxism in the movie Hunger Games. This research uses Karl Marx's theory which is related to Marxism literary criticism. Materialism and Class Conflict are part of Marxism; therefore the researcher uses the theory of Marx (1998) to support this research. Researchers used descriptive qualitative methods in this research.

This research has found results from the statement of problems. The first problem in the statement of the problem is analyzing the depiction of the bourgeoisie and proletariat in the sequel to the movie The Hunger Games. The depiction of the bourgeoisie is that they live in a rich, luxurious, and advanced environment, namely, The Capitol. They eat and drink well. They like shows or entertainment, therefore a television program was created, namely The Hunger Games. They live in beautiful and unique clothes. They can do anything and change the rules according to their interests.

The depiction of the proletariat is that they live in a simple and poor place, namely, the district. They live in poverty and suffering, and they have difficulty getting good and decent food. When they get delicious food, they are very happy. They also hunt illegally in forests where entry is prohibited. They live a monotonous life, there is no entertainment, and only work.

The second statement of the problem is the effect of being bourgeois and proletariat towards the main character. The effect of being bourgeois is being an oppressor, having the power to do anything, and being able to change the rules at will. President Snow is one of the main characters in the movie. He changes the rules of the Hunger Games, oppresses, and does whatever he can with his power. Meanwhile, the effect of being a proletariat is that they are oppressed and obedient that have been changed. They cannot refuse or choose. Katniss Everdeen is the main character in the movie. She had to take part in the Hunger Games for her two sons because the rules of the Hunger Games were changed. She was also threatened and oppressed by President Snow.

This research has limitations in examining class conflict, namely the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. This research analyzes the depiction of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat and the effects of being the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Future researchers can develop similar topics more specifically. Researchers can use different data to develop conflict classes. Future researchers can analyze Marxist literary criticism such as capitalism with the same data.

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