

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of Study

A light switch is either on or off. In a sport match, a team is either wins or loses. Water is either hot or cold. In economy, people are either rich or poor.

Those are the example of binary opposition. Tyson (2006, pg. 213) explained that binary opposition is “two ideas, directly opposed, each of which is understood by means of its opposition to the other.” According to Tyson (2006) the term of Binary opposition was first created by a linguist named Ferdinand de Saussure between 1913 and 1915. Saussure believed that the components of a structure are not merely a collection of independent items. They have meaning because of their relation toward one another. They have a hand-in-hand interaction and humans are able to perceive those components only because they perceive their difference from one another. For example, in terms of economy, people understand the concept of ‘rich’ because they know that there is an opposition towards it called ‘poor’. These oppositions are the creation of human mind that can perceive between it and all other entities. Rich and poor people are often analyzed based on how much money they have. If someone has more money to pay over something, they are called rich. If someone has less money thus making them cannot pay or buy something, they are called poor. This advantage of being rich can give them more priviledges to other things. Rich people usually have more access to education, health, politics, and also safety issue. When they feel insecure of

something, they can hire police officers or bodyguards to guide them along their way. Rich people can buy anything. This advantage of having more money sometimes lead them to something dangerous such as being too obsessed with having money. People begin to be obsessed with money because of the power money can give to them. Those who have less money, or people usually call them as poor people, will have to work harder than those who have more.

Unconsciously, they are jealous of the advantages rich people can get because of the money they have. Moreover, these days getting a job is the top priority so that people can get paid in order to supply their daily needs. Job fields begin to be overloaded by workers that sometimes it is no longer available. And when it happens, those people who are frustrated and depressed to get a job will do anything just to get money. Frustration and depression can lead them to evil mind like robbing rich people's houses, stealing from supermarkets, and even killing someone. This leads to conflict between rich and poor people.

According to Wehr (2002, pg. 27-28) conflict is "a situation in which actors use conflict action against each other to attain incompatible goals and/or to express their hostility". Conflict is a form of disagreement arising within a group when the beliefs or actions of one or more members of the group are either resisted by or unacceptable to one or more members of another group. When poor people begin to do some illegal actions like stealing and robbing, they will create a conflict and to protect themselves from being robbed, rich people will use their money to create bigger gap with the poor ones by bribing higher institution which deals with the problem. They will make the poor ones to get severe punishments

for their actions and they will receive even worse punishments although they do not deserve it.

The concept of binary opposition is often seen in the wrong way by people. The concept is supposed to be a help to understand each other better, not to dislike and begin to be more superior than the opposite. This misconception is often seen both in daily life and also in media such as newspapers, televisions, etc.

Movie is one of the medias that depicts the life of human being. It often tells the true story about someone's life. The great thing about movie is that it can change the perspective of the audience after watching it. The plot that movie is presenting sometimes affects how the audience think about their surrounding. For this study, the writer chooses a movie entitled *In Time* to be analyzed. The reason why the writer chooses *In Time* is because the movie depicts what if time become the actual currency for daily life, how people are going to spend it and how it becomes more unfair to those who works hard everyday to get more time in their hands to survive tomorrow. People who live in New Greenwich, the richest time zone, keeps increasing the cost of living in order to make people who live in poor area, called Dayton keeps dying. The writer will use Sociological approach and conflict theory as the secondary approach to analyze the movie.

Sociological approach is the approach which deals with the behaviour of the society. Sociological approach is concerned about the history of how society happened for the first time (Best, 2003, pg. 6). Best (2003, pg. 7) also stated that "as individuals, we experience the world as a place that contains a great many rules and other forms of constraint." The writer uses this approach to analyze the

sociological impact in the society because of the misconception of binary opposition. While the conflict theory is used to help analyzing the conflict between people in Dayton and in New Greenwich because of the inequality of time.

### 1.1.1 Movie In Time

*In Time* is a 2011 American dystopian science fiction thriller movie written, directed, and produced by Andrew Niccol. The plot starts in 2169, where people are born genetically engineered with a digital clock on their forearm. When they turn 25 years old, they stop aging and their clock begins counting down from one year. When it reaches zero, that person 'times out' and dies. In this movie, time has become the universal currency. It is used to pay for daily expenses and can be transferred between people or capsules. The country has been divided into 'time zones' based on the wealth of the population. The movie focuses on two specific zones, Dayton, a poor manufacturing area where people generally have 24 hours or less on their clock at any given time, and New Greenwich, the wealthiest time zone where people have enough time on their clock to live for centuries.

Will Salas is a 28-year-old Dayton factory worker who lives with his 50-year-old mother, Rachel. One night at a local bar, he saves a drunken and suicidal 105-year-old man named Henry Hamilton from a minutemen, Fortis. Henry thanks Will for his action by giving him his all time and leaves himself five seconds. Before he dies, he reveals the truth about the unfairness people in New Greenwich are creating. There is a plenty of time for everyone to live a long life.

People in New Greenwich hoard most of the time for themselves in order to live forever while constantly increasing the cost of living in poorer districts to keep people dying. Henry leaves before Will can stop him from timing out. It draws the attention of timekeepers. Raymond, the leader of timekeepers, assumes erroneously that Will killed Henry in order to get his time. Meanwhile, Rachel uses all but 90 minutes of her time to pay off a two-day loan and finds herself short for bus fare to get home since the fare has been increased. The driver forces her to run back to Dayton but she arrives too late for Will to save her and times out in his arms. Then Will goes to New Greenwich in the morning and meet Philippe Weis and his daughter Sylvia at a local casino. They are playing poker and Will bets all his time and wins 1.100 years in the hand. Afterward, he is invited to come to Weis' mansion. Raymond quickly apprehends his movement and arrests him and confiscates all but two hours of Will's time, but Will manages to escape with Sylvia as hostage. However, during their route back to Dayton they get into an accident, leaving them unconscious and let the minutemen take all of their time and leave them thirty minutes only. They go to pawn shop to earn some time, then Will calls Weis to demand a 1.000 year ransom for her which Philippe refuses to pay.

Then Will and Sylvia decide to team up and begin robbing her father's time banks and donate some of their time to the poor to keep them alive. After knowing his daughter teaming up with Will, Philippe releases an announcement for those who capture both Will and Sylvia will get ten years as a reward. This leads Fortis and his gang to hunt them down in a local hotel room. Will fights

Fortis by gambling his time and shoots all his bodyguards to death. Will succeeds in timing Fortis out and runs away with Sylvia. On their way, they both realize that they cannot steal enough time to effectively change things, as New Greenwich simply raises prices to compensate. Finally they decide to rob Sylvia's father's vault and distribute one million years to people in Dayton. Raymond is still chasing them to the outskirts of the city where he forgets to charge his daily time allotment. People in Dayton finally have enough time to cross time zones and abandon their jobs to go to New Greenwich. Will and Sylvia continue robbing banks as their efforts to crash the system, while the rich attempt to cope with the sudden surge of people infiltrating their zone.

### **1.2 Problem of The Study**

*In Time* depicts the life in year 2169 where time is the currency and it creates a huge gap between people live in New Greenwich and people live in Dayton. The gap itself has indirectly created the sociological impact in the daily life of both people in Dayton and in New Greenwich. Therefore, the writer wants to analyze its impact toward the society.

### **1.3 Objective of The Study**

The objective of this study is to uncover the sociological impact toward the society in Dayton because of the misconception of rich and poor in the time zones that people in New Greenwich are creating.