

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, the writer explains the kinds of theories that will help analyzing the data. This chapter also elaborates the writer's idea of how the theories can be used to interpret the data from the movie. The writer also explains two previous studies which have the similar topic and what is the difference of them with the current study. Last, the writer presents the research method for analyzing the data for this study.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the writer chooses Sociological approach, conflict theory, and binary opposition as the theories that will be used to analyze the data. The sociological approach is used to analyze what are the sociological impact of the misconception of rich and poor depicted in *In Time*. Secondly, the writer picks conflict theory to analyze what causes the misconception of rich and poor to have significant impacts toward the life of people in Dayton and people in New Greenwich. The theory of binary opposition is also considered in this study because it can give the explanation of how the concept of rich and poor is first founded by a structuralist, Ferdinand de Saussure.

2.1.1 Sociological Approach

Sociological approach is the idea of seeing Sociology in terms of Literature. The term Sociology was founded from the Latin word socius which means companion and the Greek word logos which means study of, in short it can be defined as the study of companionship (Openstaxx College, 2003, pg. 10).

Sociology learns about how one person interacts with another to form a society in one area. Sociologists seek the correlation between the society itself and sociological imagination. As it is stated in Introduction to Sociology by Openstaxx College, Rice University (2003, pg. 12), a sociologist named Wright Mills defined sociological imagination as how individuals understand their own and others' pasts in relation to history and social structure. By looking at individuals and societies and how they interact through this lens, sociologists are able to examine what influences behavior, attitudes, and culture. The culture that the society created had an impact within them whether they realize it or not.

Literature is one part of culture that has a role in changing society by means of its products such as novels, music, and movies.

Sociological approach starts with the idea where art's relation to society are vitally important. In this approach the critics mostly examine literature in the cultural, economic, and political context in which it is written or received. Bruford (1941, pg. 86) stated that "social and political factors exercise at all times a pervasive influence on culture in general, an influence which is none the less important for being difficult to trace with any certainty."

This approach is directed to understand literature in its larger social context. It codifies the literary strategies that are employed to represent social constructs through a sociological methodology. It analyzes both how the social functions in literature and how literature works in society, as it is aligned with the theory by Alan Swingewood (1972, pg. 12) “As with sociology, literature too is pre-eminently concerned with man’s social world, his adaptation to it, and his desire to change it.” Two theories work hand-inhand in understanding society, using sociology to uncover the background of the society inside the works of literature.

In this study, sociological approach is used to analyze how the misconception of rich and poor affects the life of the society in Dayton and New Greenwich area. This theory helps the writer to see how the society in *In Time* behaves in everyday life, how they try to survive each day, how the people in Dayton interacts with the people from New Greenwich, and how the lack of equality builds the gap between both parties.

2.1.2 Binary Opposition

Binary opposition was first found in the era of structuralism. It is a pair of related terms or concepts that are opposite in meaning. It is the contrast between two mutually exclusive terms, for example, on and off, up and down, good and bad, etc. Structuralism sees binary opposition as fundamental organizer of human philosophy, culture, and language. Ferdinand de Saussure first created the term by trying to find the logic between signifier and signified. Each unit is defined in

reciprocal determination with another term, as in binary code. It is not a contradictory relation but, a structural, complementary one (Tyson, pg. 213). For instance, people will not understand 'good' if they do not understand 'evil'.

Storey (2006, p.111) says that "In other words, Saussure's is a relational theory of language. Meaning is produced, not through a one-to-one relation to things in the world, but by establishing difference."

However, as the society changes from time to time this binary opposition is seen not as a complementary toward each other anymore, but as the difference between the superior and the inferior. One must be more powerful or higher than the other. One must be better than the other. Two related terms (good and bad, rich and poor) became the opposition of each other, thus creating disagreement and argument. Those who are considered as rich feel like they are in the best position ever. They will have power and have more access to knowledge. On the other hand, those who are considered as poor feel like they are powerless because they do not have money to buy or to survive in their daily life. When everything becomes expensive, including education, they will have no chance to follow the changes because they have no money to support them. Thus they will have less knowledge than the rich ones. Because of their lack of having more access, poor people begin to think that doing illegal things are allowed as long as they can still survive tomorrow. This creates violence. They begin to steal, rob, even kill people just to have more access to what they cannot have.

2.1.3 Conflict

When there is a party in a high position, there has to be another party which has the position beneath them. This position can create what is called with conflict. Conflict refers to “the process which begins when one party perceived that the other has frustrated, or is about to frustrate, some concern of his (or hers).”

(Thomas cited in Ningtyas 2011, pg. 10). When conflict occurs among people, the action or process of it may contain violence and various levels of intensity. Karl Marx was the figure who developed conflict theory for the first time. He was centrally concerned with class occurred in capitalism. He argued that capitalism could produce social classes by creating the conditions where the class consciousness and failing economy existed (Dahrendorf, p.211). Marx argued that in capitalism there are only two classes that matter, the owner and the workers. These two positions have different political interests. It makes power as the unavoidable feature of all social relations.

Conflict theory seeks to scientifically explain the general contours of conflict in society. How conflict starts and varies, and the effect it brings. The central concerns of conflict theory are the unequal distribution of scarce resources and power. Conflict theorists generally see power as central feature of society, rather than thinking of society as held together by collective agreement concerning a cohesive set of cultural standards.

The conflict theory is used to break down the causes of how the conflict between two parties in In Time, poor people in Dayton and rich people in New

Greenwich starts. The writer will analyze the causes of the social conflict among them and what its impacts toward the society.

2.1.4 Dialogue

When an individual is engaged in a conversation with another human being, he/she will perform a dialogue. Bojer (2008, pg. 131) explains that dialogue is an essential part of a practice and discipline of creative conversations.

The word 'dialogue' is often used very loosely to denote any kind of conversation between two or more people. Dialogue happens between people because they interact with each other. People perform a dialogue using a language they share in the same region. In the essay entitled *The Use of Short Dialogues and Monologues*, UK Essays (para. 2) explains that language is a central medium through which the characters are able to intercede their relationships where action is not as prominently able to bring out the relationships. Dialogue enables the system to perform because it generates movement. Dialogue processes can enhance shared and collectively owned vision, purpose, and direction, as well as whole clarity, and the ability to take decisions, thus releasing energy to perform.

Palmgren lists the functions of literary dialogue (1986, cited in Rauma, pg. 15) into exchange of thoughts and information, characterization (both in fiction and drama) involving laying out the character's disposition, thoughts, motives, and attitudes towards life. Literary dialogue can be a means of advancing the plot or moving forward the narration towards the end. It can also carry the theme and reveal underlying symbolic contents. Dialogue contains numerous communicative

acts such as conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse, argument, chat, as well as discussion.

The writer uses the theory of dialogue in order to analyze the dialogue which occurs in the movie to find out the sociological impact caused by the misconception of binary opposition in *In Time*. The dialogue is analyzed to find the actions done by the characters to show their resistance toward the situation.

2.2 Previous Studies

The writer will take two previous studies which relate to this research. The first previous study is *The Struggle of Max to Reach Equality for Low Class People in Elysium Movie* by Erandhi Hutomo Saputra, 2014, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. The research is focused on the differences in social welfare received by the main character of the movie, Max, because he is under the class of proletarian. Erandhi uses Marxism to analyze the object. It is different from the writer's research because this thesis is conducted to analyze the social class created by misunderstanding the concept of binary opposition in the society. The writer also applies sociological approach to analyze the object.

Another previous study is *The Struggle of American Minorities During Dreat Depression in John Steinbeck's of Mice and Men*, Khabib Musafa'at, 2014, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. The research's purpose is to identify about how the struggle of America minorities during Great Depression.

The previous study is different from the writer's research because it takes place in real time when America was having the period of Great Depression, while the

setting of *In Time* movie takes place in dystopian world in the future where people are controlled by time as their currency for daily activities. Khabib also uses Marxism to analyze the data while the writer will apply sociological approach to analyze the impact of the misleading toward the society.

2.3 Research Method

To conduct this research, the writer takes four steps, they are:

1. Deciding the material object

The writer selects the movie entitled *In Time* as the object of the study.

This movie depicts the future where people are controlled by time as their currency to pay their daily life's expenses.

2. Collecting the data

To collect the data, the writer watches the movie several times to understand the content of the film by observing the plot of *In Time* movie, characters, and setting. Then the writer will read the script of the movie to understand the plot better and also find the message of the movie. After that, the writer will make the classification of the data. It will help the writer to enlist the scenes which depict the time where the main character is involved in the situations of his struggle to fight for the inequality in the society. The writer will use sociological approach and also conflict theory to analyze the data.

3. Analyzing and interpreting the data

Sociological approach and conflict theory are used to analyze the data. The sociological approach helps the writer to understand the classes created within the society. While the conflict theory is used to analyze what causes the binary opposition in the society becomes the reason of the inequality created in the social class.

4. Drawing Conclusion

After finishing the analysis and interpretation, the writer will draw the conclusion. Based on the data of the analysis and interpretation, the writer will find the danger of putting binary opposition in misconception within the society which causes the inequality between the poor and rich people depicted in *In Time* movie.