

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer discusses about the findings which are found after watching and collecting the data from the movie. The writer gives the explanation of how the society in *In Time* misconcepted the term 'rich' and 'poor'. The writer also explains how both concepts create the social conflict thus resulting in the sociological impact toward themselves.

3.1 The Misconception of 'Rich' and 'Poor'

Each individual in the society should know what status they have within their group. They can determine the situation by seeing the life condition of a person. The status 'rich' and 'poor' is attained by looking at the attributes of each party. Rich is defined as people who have much time to spend, they live in the safest and richest area, they dress sophisticatedly, and they have the securities all around them. On the other hand, poor is defined as people who have less time to spend, they live in the most dangerous and poorest area, they dress casually, and they do not have the proper security to protect them from violence.

In this subchapter, the writer wants to show how the society creates the 'wall' to separate those who are considered as rich and poor.

Will: I don't have time. I don't have time to worry about how it happened. It is what it is. We're genetically engineered to stop aging at 25. The trouble is, we live only one more year unless we can get more time. Time is now the currency. We earn it and spend it. The rich can live forever and the rest of us? I just want to wake up with more time on my hand than hours in the day.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:01:04,962 to 00:01:06,623)

The 'wall' is first created when the faith of humans on Earth are altered by its own kind. Earth is described as a place where people do not have to depend on money anymore to fulfill their daily needs. Science changes the nature of human from aging to staying immortal as long as they have enough time on their hands.

The dialog 'and the rest of us? I just wanna wake up with more time on my hand than hours in the day' shows the contradiction between being rich and poor. This is where the misconception starts.

The term 'rich' and 'poor' is not just a concept of language. It is by understanding the meaning humans are able to make some sense. This is why learning them carries the potential to learn and to see the world in new ways. The actions done by the society of both New Greenwich and Dayton are what make 'rich' and 'poor' become the villains of the current situation. Both parties feel that they are being opressed by one another. The poor ones blame the rich ones for their arrogance and ignorance. They never stop asking for enough prosperity to the rich ones but they keep being ignored. Meanwhile, the rich ones blame the poor ones for their anarchy and insecurity. They do the oppression in order to make the poor ones stay where they are. They do not want the rich ones to be able to achieve the prosperity because they want to keep it for themselves. If the poor ones succeed in achieving the prosperity, the rich ones will no longer be able to defines themselves as rich, or worse, it will make them lose all what they currently have.

This newly developed idea destroys the peace of mankind and clearly against the

idea of binary opposition, where although each concept is against another, they still have to work together in order to deliver the meaning (Tyson, 2006, pg 213).

The society lives in different time zones. Each time zone shows the wealth of people who live there. The richer someone is, the more comfortable time zone he/she will have. Each time zone is separated by a security wall as it can be seen in figure 3.1. The construction of time a zone border in an area is different from each other. Time zone border is used to separate one time zone to another. If someone wants to get through or change their time zone, he/she will have to pay for an amount of time in order to open the border. The fee between each time zone border is different. The wealthier the time zone is, the more expensive fee they will have to pay. Time zone four, which is New Greenwich, has the toughest border of all. It costs a year to get a free pass to enter the area.

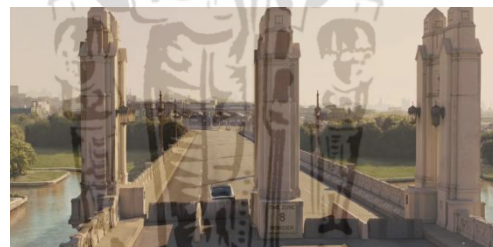


Figure 3.1 The border in time zone 8



Figure 3.2 The border in time zone 4

People clearly want to live in different area than the others by creating these time zones. A collection of people who have the same interaction regularly based on some share interest and who develop some sense of belonging that sets

them apart from other gatherings of people is called a group (Stolley, 2005, pg 83). This group forms a social relationship. They develop a sense of unity and share this factor of interdependence. They want to live with the same individuals who have the same equal welfare. They separate themselves from those who they think are different in order to create so-called peace. However, as the time goes by it creates a dangerous gap, even within their own group.

According to Stolley (2005, pg. 25), groups of people, in this case society, will compete against each other simultaneously in order to reach the equality of two major human resources, wealth and power. When wealth and power are at stake, there will always be conspiracies. Money and power will cause people to commit corrupt acts. One example of the corrupt act is taking the rights from other groups in order to make themselves richer. When one party is constantly oppress another party, the oppressed party will have the urge to rebel and fight for their rights. But when this struggle cannot met the expected result, they will push themselves out of their limit and thus, creating such disturbance and violence. This action is called a conflict.

When an expected result cannot be achieved by a certain party because they are tackled by another party, a conflict will appear. The urge to fight for their needs push a group of people to battle against those who are on their way. The inequality of rights is the major problem in this society. Rich people can walk leisurely, eat slowly, and live in eternity while poor people have to run, pay more, work harder, but they get less than what they expect. This condition has been happening since a long time ago until people are adjusted to the system by force.

A group or a system which no longer is challenged is no longer capable of a creative response. It may live and even combined to the previous system but it is no longer capable of renewal (Coser, 1957 pg 199).

3.2 The Sociological Impact of The Misconception toward The Society

the misconception of being rich and poor between the citizens in Dayton and New Greenwich has resulted into a social conflict. It infects their relationships as a human being and disturbs their interactions. The inequality of life condition, the lack of trust between each individual, violence, and the constant anxiety are the sociological impacts toward the society because of the misconception.

3.2.1 The Inequality of Life Condition in Dayton and New Greenwich

The first sociological impact that can be seen in *In Time* is the condition of life in Dayton and New Greenwich. The concept of 'rich' and 'poor' have built a significant differences in the society. The prosperity of people in Dayton is insulted by the way people in New Greenwich increase the cost of life. Those who live in New Greenwich are getting richer because they confiscate the time in Dayton periodically without anyone noticing. On the contrary, those who live in Dayton are dying to add more time on their hands. This condition is aligned with Conley's theory about poverty (2005, pg. 329) which says that "... the poor will always be with us – but to greater or lesser degrees depending on how unequally

income and wealth is distributed. This is one of the ways that wealth creates poverty – by ratcheting up the social definition of necessity.”

Henry: For a few to be immortal, many must die.

Will: What the hell's that supposed to mean?

Henry: You really don't know, do you? Everyone can't live forever. Where would we put them? Why do you think there are time zones? Why do you think taxes and prices go up the same day in the ghetto? The cost of living keeps rising to make sure people keep dying. How else could there be men with a million years while most live day to day? But the truth is there's more than enough. No one has to die before their time.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:12:57,474 to 00:13:52,288)

The conversation between Will and a hundred century man named Henry Hamilton explains the truth about the time zones. The founders created the borders in order to keep the better lands for themselves. They are blinded by immortality until they forget to take care of others. Controlling the spreading of time means that they can control people's life. The sentence “the cost of living keeps increasing to make sure people keep dying” has a correlation with the previous sentence, which “everyone can't live forever”. Those who have power know that they do not have enough lands for everyone if they want to be immortal. That's what makes them separating the rich and the poor. They increase the taxes and prices gradually while they keep cutting the salary. By doing this, the poor ones will, sooner or later, begin to run out of time for daily needs. Thus, it will make them suffer and die. On the other side, they rich ones become richer everyday as they keep confiscating the time. They will not have to worry about dying or losing family members they love because they can live forever. If the land is not enough to accommodate them, they can expand it by taking the lands from poor people because they are already outnumbered.

People in Dayton live in a dirty district. Beggars are everywhere carrying capsules and asking time from pedestrians. The buildings are dull and old-fashioned. On the other hand, New Greenwich are filled with tall buildings, expensive cars, and modern city landscape. The streets are not as crowded as Dayton, where people walk, mostly run instead of using cars as it can be seen in the figure below.

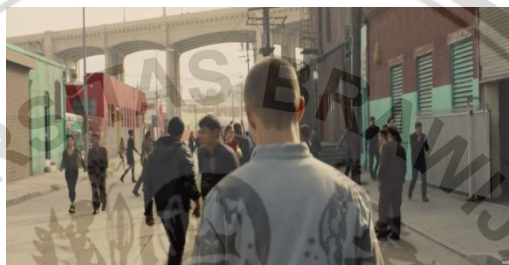


Figure 3.3 Will walking down the street in Dayton

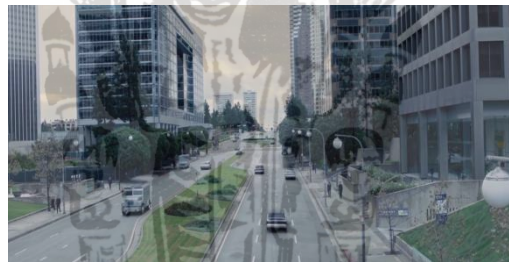


Figure 3.4 The modern city landscape of New Greenwich

Those who belong to the lower class in Dayton are critically suffer from both poverty and prosperity. They do not have exclusive properties just like people in New Greenwich. People in Dayton do not have enough time to buy cars and build modern buildings. This what makes the rich ones and the poor ones live in seperated areas. The poor ones do not have the same access with the rich ones, as Tyson (2006, pg. 55) explained:

Clearly, members of the underclass and the lower class are economically oppressed: they suffer the ills of economic privation,

are hardest hit by economic recessions, and have limited means of improving their lot. In sharp contrast, members of the upper class and “aristocracy” are economically privileged: they enjoy luxurious lifestyles, are least affected by economic recessions... The inequality of safety is also a part of their life conditions because they do not have appropriate institutions to protect them from robbery and thieves. They have to be really careful not to show people how much time they have. If someone sees a forearm with a generous amount of time, the person might be robbed and thus, he/she will be timed out. Figure 3.5 pictures how going out either in day or night is very dangerous for them.

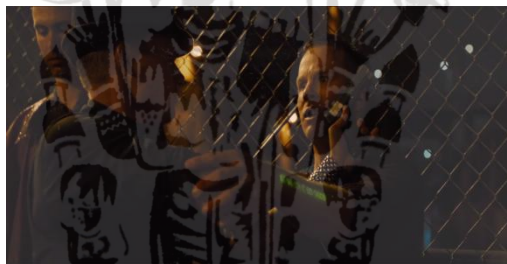


Figure 3.5 Dangerous night life in Dayton

On the other side, people in New Greenwich live in the safest area. Each individual has a bodyguard (and maybe two) to accompany them everywhere they go. They have a proper access to safety. The city is also well-protected by the time keepers. The citizens do not have to worry about robbers and thieves.

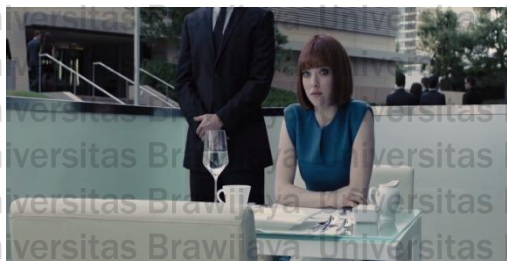


Figure 3.6 Sylvia being protected by a body guard

People in Dayton use messy and mostly, modest clothes for daily activities. There are no branded stores to sell expensive apparels in that area because no one will be able to afford it. Dusty jackets, dirty jeans, and t-shirts are common in Dayton. Even workers go out using their uniforms without even being bothering to change it. The same thing does not happen in New Greenwich.

Women in New Greenwich are dressed neatly in expensive gowns and gloves while men are dressed exclusively in suits and ties. Polished shoes, styled hair, and make ups are common in New Greenwich. Almost all people look very educated.

Will: What's that place across the street?

The waitress: The casino.

Will: Can anybody go?

The waitress: Not dressed like that. Good luck.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:28:53,062 to 00:29:12,638)

The conversation above takes place on the first day Will lives in New Greenwich. The waitress gives an advice to Will to change his clothes because if Will wants to mingle with people in the casino he will have to dress like a million year man in order to fit in. This conversation also shows that no one dresses dirty in New Greenwich, that everything must be luxurious even the way they walk should show dignity.

Different job positions is another inequality. Tyson (2003, pg 55) stated that "...the poor, whose limited educational and career opportunities keep them struggling to support their families and living in fear of becoming homeless...and the extremely wealthy, such as the owners of large, well-established corporations,

for whom money (mansions, limousines, personal airplanes, yachts) is no problem whatsoever”.



Figure 3.7 Will working in the factory

People in Dayton, who are included in ‘the poor’, are those who work in the factories. They make time capsules. The workers have a certain quota that needs to be fulfilled every week. If they want to be paid fully, they have to fulfil the quota. If not, the salary will be cut extremely.



Figure 3.8 Phillippe maintaining the distribution of time in each zone.

In contrast, people in New Greenwich, who are included in ‘the extremely wealthy’, are those who control the circulation of time which is spread to all time zones and also control the salary received by the workers in Dayton. They hold higher positions than people in Dayton. They make policies. They decide the price of a coffee, whether today it is five or six minutes. They have all the power.

3.2.2 The Lack of Trust Between Each Individual in Dayton and New Greenwich

The second sociological impact will be the lack of trust between people in Dayton and New Greenwich. People begin to think that no one can be trusted because time is a sensitive matter. Someone can hurt anyone if he/she is running out of time. People in Dayton has to deal with this issue more than people in New Greenwich. They have to live carefully day by day if they do not want their time to be stolen.

Raymond: Where did you get that?

Will: I won it. Gambling.

Raymond: All of it?

Will: No. A man named Henry Hamilton gave me over a century. He said he didn't need it anymore. He timed himself out.

Raymond: Henry Hamilton was worth thousands of years. He could practically live forever. You expect me to believe that he was immortal and he wanted to die?

Will: I don't expect you to believe it. But it's the truth.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:42:08,857 to 00:42:52:823)

The dialog above is taken from the scene where Will is arrested by time keepers because he is accused in stealing time. It shows how justice is not uphold by the timekeepers the way it should be. They do not investigate the case. They just directly accuse Will from stealing even when Will have already told them the truth. The mindset of everyone who comes from Dayton is a thief is very strong in New Greenwich. Changing time zone is rare, therefore if someone can do it they must be stealing time from someone. Although it is not always true but it creates a bad environment for the citizens. The lack of trust can make them become suspicious with each other for no reasons.

Will: Get some rest.

Henry: (watches his clock anxiously)

Will: Don't worry. I won't take it in the night.

Henry: And I won't take yours.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:14:33,670 to 00:14:43,578)

The dialog above also shows how the lack of trust exists in their basic instinct. Although Will has saved Henry from the minutemen, Henry still somewhat doubtful of Will because he is a stranger. Will also has the same anxiety in him. It does not matter whether the man they are facing is rich or not. If they want more time, although they have a century, they will clean it from someone's hand.

3.2.3 The Increasing Violence in Dayton

The third sociological impact is the violence which keeps increasing in the movie after the timekeepers confiscates Will's time. Violence is one of the results of a conflict. The conflict between New Greenwich and Dayton have insulted human rights in both areas, mostly in Dayton. Will counter attacks the situation by kidnapping Sylvia, the daughter of Weiss company.

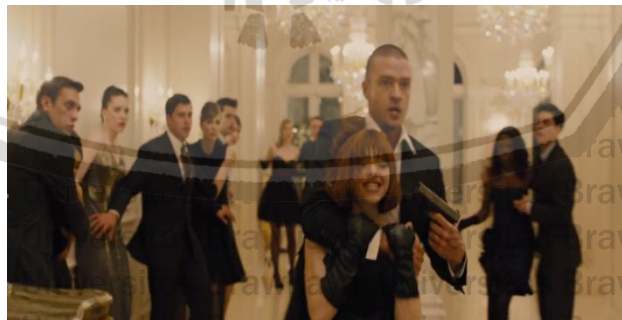


Figure 3.10 The kidnapping of Sylvia done by Will

This is where the violence becomes even more harmful. Will threatens the timekeepers by taking Sylvia as a hostage so that her family will give him a worthy compensation in return. People in New Greenwich make the situation

become worse in Dayton because they want to keep the land for themselves. The misconception encourages people to both defend and fight for their own needs.

The rich ones keep building bigger gap toward the poor ones while the poor ones begin to realize that they are being fooled by the other party. This action has led into a deviance. According to William Summer, a deviance is a violation of established contextual, cultural, or social norms, whether folkways, mores, or codified law (1906, cited in Opentaxx College 2003, pg 142). The violating action can be vary from one person or group to another. In this case, Will tries to break the law which separates people based on their wealth. He moves to New Greenwich after getting time from Henry and begins to live there. However, his movement to New Greenwich has attracted the attention of time keepers to hunt him down.

Will: It was a gift. I'm not a thief. But hey, if you guys are looking for the stolen time, maybe you should arrest everyone here.

Raymond: Oh, I see. You're talking about justice. Well, I am a time keeper. I don't concern myself with 'justice'. I only concern myself with what I can measure.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:42:57,539 to 00:43:23,692)

Time keepers think that it is impossible for Will to take a huge amount of time without stealing it from Henry. The lack of trust between them has evolved into the increasing violence. It triggers Will to fight for himself and other people in need. He is asking for justice yet nobody cares about giving equal rights. The ignorance of justice is resulted into Will's rebel against the New Greenwich side.

3.2.4 The Constant Anxiety Experienced by Philippe

The last sociological impact is the constant anxiety. The source of fear and anxiety around wealth is rarely about the facts or reality, but instead is the result of someone's projection into the future. Someone imagines all of the horrible things that will happen if their money is gone. To escape that scary future, he/she takes action that he/she hopes will prevent that imagined scenario.

Philippe: You don't have a guard Mr. Salas?

Will: I assume I was amongst friends.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:30:54,717 to 00:31:02,584)

The conversation between Will and Philippe shows how rare it is for a rich person not to have guards along with them. People are constantly afraid of their time being taken away so it makes them double the protection toward themselves.

The anxiety of being insecure makes them isolate themselves from those who have different status with them. They create borders and only people with the same economy condition can live together with them.

Philippe: You must be young. When you've been 25 for 85 years, like I have, knowing only a random act of violence can take your life, you learn to appreciate what you have.

Will: And you seem to have a lot to appreciate.

(Source: *In Time* minute 00:31:19,208 to 00:31:33,218)

Another conversation follows that the more someone gets older, the more insecure he will become. Philippe tells Will how in New Greenwich, only an act of violence can take someone's life. All they have to be afraid of is being robbed and they will die. The constant anxiety also brings them to the consciousness of separating people based on their wealth. They create the borders in order to protect themselves from the poor ones. They also become the superior in daily life

because they are the ones who maintain the time. The anxiety itself is also caused by the feeling of being afraid that if the poor people can freely move themselves from Dayton to New Greenwich, then people in New Greenwich will feel inferior because they are no longer considered as rich anymore. This is the main reason why the system is created by the founders and because of the system they feel more insecure.

