



The Emergence of Social Class in Gundala Film (Indonesia) and The Hunger Games (America)

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ABSTRACT

Movies also tell a variety of problems, one of which is the existence of social class. Social class is the division of classes in society based on certain criteria, be it religion, economy, education, status and others. Gundala is a 2019 Indonesian hero movie directed by Joko Anwar. In the movie, Sancaka (Abimana Aryasatya) is the main character. The Hunger Games is a 2012 American science fiction film directed by Gary Ross, based on the novel of the same name by Suzanne Collins. This research aims to discuss the existence of a picture of the prominence of social class in the film Gundala and also the film The Hunger Games. In this study, several explanations about social class are taken. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method, using unit of analysis in the form of texts. This research also uses the theory of social class according to Karl Max, and the results of this study show that the division of social classes is real, creates class struggle, and becomes one of the points of conflict in society.

Keyword: Film, Shape, Social Class

ABSTRAK

Film menceritakan berbagai macam permasalahan salah satunya yaitu adanya kelas sosial. Kelas sosial adalah pembagian kelas dalam masyarakat berdasarkan kriteria tertentu, baik itu agama, ekonomi, pendidikan, status dan lainnya. Film Gundala adalah sebuah film pahlawan Indonesia tahun 2019 yang disutradarai oleh Joko Anwar. Dalam film tersebut, Sancaka (Abimana Aryasatya) sebagai tokoh utama. The Hunger Games adalah sebuah film fiksi ilmiah Amerika Serikat tahun 2012 yang disutradarai oleh Gary Ross, diangkat dari novel dengan judul yang sama karangan Suzanne Collins. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk membahas adanya gambaran dari menonjolnya kelas sosial yang ada di dalam film Gundala dan juga film The Hunger Games. Dalam penelitian ini mengambil beberapa penjelasan mengenai kelas sosial. Metode yang digunakan penelitian ini adalah metode kualitatif deskriptif, dengan menggunakan unit analisis berupa teks-teks. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan teori kelas sosial menurut Karl Max, dan hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa pembagian kelas sosial adalah nyata, menciptakan perjuangan kelas, serta menjadi salah satu titik konflik dalam masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: Film, Bentuk, Kelas Sosial.



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1. Introduction

In Indonesia, movies are one of the media that attracts attention from various levels of society and is loved by the public. In 2019, Indonesia was also amazed by Adzmi's 'Superhero' adaptation of the manga Gundala. Gundala was released in Indonesia on August 29, 2019 and primarily concerned with superheroes and patriotism, Gundala has many messages about social class and class inequality. The debate on social class is endless as it is unique to every individual who is part of society. In fact, since time immemorial, debates about social class have always been possible. According to the famous Greek philosopher Aristotle, there are three elements in a nation, better known as the upper class, middle class and lower class. This class representation can also be found in the movie Gundala, and some of these facts show that social class is a living discourse that does not disappear over time. (Bimantara, 2021).

The journey of the concept of superhuman ideas that originated from legends and myths has been transformed into a popular culture that develops in society. The concept of humans who have superhuman abilities above the average human being is not something that is formed from a simple and instant idea. The process of creating a work is certainly based on the background of social criticism about the political issues that were happening at the time the work was created. Howe in Damono (1978) states that an author must involve himself in political upheaval, without this, the work created will feel bland. Adereth in Damono (1978) also strengthened Howe's statement by presenting the idea of literature engage (literature involved), this matter means that there is involvement of literature and writers in politics and ideology. The influence of political ideology is the implementation of modern ideology on literature.

The established social hierarchy not only appears in people's lives, but also shapes various forms of media, including movies. And movies always capture the reality of society's growth and development and bring it to the screen. The reality presented and referenced in movies is reinforced by the presence of individual perspectives on the issues raised, including social class. It is a common situation today to be able to infer which social group a person belongs to by looking at the clothes or objects attached to the body. This is often inseparable from the role of media, including movies, in depicting and reinforcing pre-existing stereotypes. One of them is similar to Joko Anwar's Gundala (2019), which shows the conflict of social inequality between the lower and upper classes. The lower class is represented by street children, traditional markets, small houses and miserable lives, while the upper class is represented by rich people who drive cars and live in apartments. From this little explanation, we can see that the movie Gundala contains the story of a superhero from the lower class. The protagonist of this movie is Sankaka, a boy who tries to survive and find a safe place. The movie is not only about Sankaka but also gives a good picture of the social condition of the people across the country, showing the voluptuous upper class born as Sankaka (Gundala) as a symbol of resistance against rampant injustice. (Bimantara, 2021)

So we can see how social class is depicted in the movie. Gundala itself is a co-production of intellectual property owners Script Films, Legacy Pictures, Ideosource Entertainment and Bumilangit Studios. The movie tells the story of a local superhero who was originally a boy named Sankaka and lived a hard and harsh life on the streets after his parents abandoned him. Sankaka is portrayed as living a hard life in a city where injustice is rampant throughout the country, where the upper class is in control and the lower class is portrayed as extremely oppressed and restricted. Social class differences do not naturally exist, but within classes there are higher social strata that cause divisions. Conflicts arising from class differences are prominent throughout the movie, and researchers interested in Gundala learned more about the existence of class in the movie. (Bimantara, 2021)

Not only that, The Hunger Games, which was first released in Indonesia on March 22, 2011, is a science fiction film that talks about social conflict and other common social problems in society. The movie shows the proletariat struggling to get out of cheap poverty, while the bourgeoisie enjoys a very prosperous life with a luxurious lifestyle that the lower classes have never experienced. The tradition created by the elites is a competition where the participants must kill each other to survive, and the elites do not feel the urgency felt by the proletariat of the people and only make it a reality show. (Rihanggrahita, 2022).

2. Literature Study

The Routledge International Handbook journal explains that: Social class inequality is one of the most fundamental issues in the sociology of education. Social class is not only based on gender, ethnicity, sexuality and disability, but also by different class fractions. Social class is recognized as an issue that must be addressed in education policy. There are two good quotes from working-class students, one from the US and another from the UK, infused with a sense of injustice and unequal treatment. It is explained that they disliked school because they were treated like animals, and teachers looked at them as weak and thought they were stupid, so they just wanted to be treated like human beings (UK quote from Reay, 2006:297). In both

quotes we can strongly see how the value system that produces the middle class as valuable, academic stars simultaneously produces the represented working class as incapable of possessing themselves with value. While the right and access to resources to make a self with value is how the middle class is formed in education, the consequence is often a disenfranchised and worthless working class. (Apple et al., 2010).

Gundala Movie:

Gundala movie is an action fantasy superhero movie directed by Joko Anwar. This Gundala movie illustrates how the inequality that occurs in society is caused by the social class of the society. Restoration of oppression. An example of social class issues can be seen in the prologue scene of the movie. The father of factory worker Sankaka revealed that he instructed the factory owner to raise the wages of factory workers because the workers did not know the welfare of the workers. Class differences here reflect differences in education, income, employment, property and lifestyle. The movie Gundala features a boy from the lower class who lives with the life around him (Bimantara, 2021).

This film is also very interesting, especially when it is associated with oligarchy is closely related to money politics, especially during legislative elections as represented by the characters Ganda Hamdan dan Pengkor. Legislative and executive elections, as the embodiment of democracy, are still intervened by oligarchs through money politics (Indrayana, 2017). These oligarchs are often concerned with the control of natural resources for the sustainability of their businesses, such as the oil and gas business (Hidayaturrahman, Ngarawula, & Sadhana, 2022).

The Hunger Games movie:

In the movie "The Hunger Games", talk about a fictional North American country called Panem and sit. Back from post-apocalyptic devastation. The Capitol is the defunct capital of Panem. The county administrative center everything on Capitol Hill is a product of natural resources. It's managed by residents from all over the Panama District world, but even that area is in a bad mood due to low wages. What they offer is of no value to the workers who are forced, all of this is in the general interest of the Capitol Government. he said, one time a neighbor did something of an uprising that called for an orderly revolution. All parties in Panem benefited, but the Capitol was too powerful, the technologically advanced rebellion was over, the event was shut down, and the result was the defeat of the rebels in the region, which claimed many lives.

The social conflict in this movie has two class differences: the lower class and the upper class. The lower class says power or no power and the upper class has power and the lower class they are called locals. The upper class is the Capitol. What conflict is it, how capital gives bad habits a burden to the residents. This conflict causes resistance struggles of all classes that have common interests. Even the mass movement of direct class antagonists will not stop until someone loses (Rihanggrahita, 2022).

Social Class Theory

According to Karl Marx, social class is a characteristic of post-feudal society. The Marxist tradition defines class in two ways: first, as a category of collocated individuals, and second, as a sociocultural and political subject. In sociology, the definition of social class is the position of individuals in society based on economic criteria according to Berger, and according to Jeffries social class includes a combination of economic, occupational and educational relationships. (Hendriwani Subur, n.d.)

For Karl Marx, what distinguishes one type of society from another is the mode of production, the nature of technology, and the division of labor. Each form of production creates its own class system, with one class dominating and controlling the production process, while others are direct producers and service providers to the ruling class. Class relations are antagonistic because they conflict with the ownership of products for a period of time. Advances in technology and the use of labor changed production methods, intensifying conflicts and challenging the authority of social leaders by new classes. According to Karl Marx, the ruling class controls not only material production but also the production of ideas. At the same time, control over society is concentrated in a certain type of political system, which confirms certain dominant cultural patterns and political doctrines. The developing classes gain power and influence as a result of political doctrines and changes in the mode of production that cause movements against the ruling class. Class theory is the core of Karl Marx's social theory. This is because social classes formed in a particular mode of production tend to form a particular type of state, leading to political conflicts and significant changes in social structure.

When examined using the social class theory of sociology, Karl Marx considers that social problems arise because of differences in social class. Therefore, in Karl Marx's theory there are the terms bourgeoisie (capital owners or rich people) and proletariat (workers). Marx believes that the social class at the top (bourgeoisie) exploits existing resources, so that the class at the bottom (proletariat) only gets a small or even

insufficient ration of resources. From there, according to Marx, conflicts arise that lead to social problems.

As in the incident in the journal *The Routledge International Handbook* where a student is considered inferior and treated like an animal, this happens because of differences in age levels, and it can be said that it happens because of differences in position and role. In the film *Gundala*, it is also told that the upper class is arbitrary and underestimates the lower class where factory workers make justice actions to be paid properly and like a factory worker. This can certainly cause conflict in society due to differences in social classes, and this can certainly lead to social stratification, which is the differentiation of community members based on their status.

Karl Marx, Marx's class theory believes in the formation of social classes due to economic factors such as the relationship between the property of the instruments of production and the ownership of production. In the *Communist Manifesto*, Marx pointed out the difference between the two classes. Capitalist society, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Social conflict in the movie there are two class differences namely, the lower class and the upper class. The lower class says power or no power and the upper class has power and the lower class they are called locals the upper class is the Capitol. What conflicts are, how capital gives bad habits burdens the population. These conflicts lead to resistance struggles of all classes for which there are common interests. Mass movements direct class antagonists and will not stop until someone loses.

Marx said in his work: to have the right of the communist manifesto indicated the emerging social class. capitalist economic system. Marx said as a has 2 subclasses of society, the bourgeoisie and the proletarian class. In the movie "*The Hunger Games*". And also has the opinion of social distance. seen as the clothes used by the residents of the Capitol and the clothes worn by the neighboring people. The residents of Capitol look use to fashion, luxury and style it depends on the clothes used according to the neighbors, it is very plain and crumpled.

3. Method

The phrase qualitative methodology refers in the broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior. Qualitative researchers are concerned with the meaning of people attach to things in their lives (Taylor et al., 2016). That statement explains that the qualitative method is a research method that produces data that can describe a human behavior and attitude that has a certain meaning that can be learned. The main focus of a researcher on research using qualitative descriptive methods is the meaning of people attaching to things in their lives. Central to the phenomenological perspective and hence qualitative research is understanding people from their own frames of reference and experiencing reality as they experience it (Corbin & Strauss, 2008).

This study uses Karl Marx's social class method or theory where each mode of production has its own class system where one class organizes and controls the production process while the other class is a direct producer and service provider for the ruling class, doing what, and Karl Marx (1818-1883) sees that the subject that plays an important role in social life is actually social class. The alienation that people experience is actually the result of one class oppressing another. (Yuliana, n.d.)

To find out the emergence of social class in the two films, namely between Indonesian and American films, this research uses a qualitative approach. Qualitative research is research conducted to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by the research subject. This approach is considered appropriate because researchers will describe the description of social classes that occur in Indonesian and American films depicted in the two films. And qualitative descriptive research also aims to describe various facts, symptoms, and events in a row based on film objects that provide representation in terms of social class struggles.

4. Result and Discussion

Gundala Movie (Indonesia)

In sociology, Karl Marx has a famous opinion about social class, namely according to him, the history of every society until now is solely the history of class struggle (Duverger, 2007: 189). These things state that a new class can be formed if people are aware of it and fight for class differences. Karl Marx also considered that the alienation that is often experienced by humans is the oppression or conflict between one class and another. Of course, the main perpetrators of social change in society are not individuals but social classes that control and occupied classes or in other words, there are upper and lower classes. As explained above, Karl Marx also divided social classes into three classes, namely laborers, capital owners and landlords.

Marx actually use a lot of terms created by Hegel to explain his concept, including the concept of class struggle. In general, Marx borrowed Hegel's concept in terms of proletarian's class consciousness divides into two : class in itself / an sich (class in itself), and a class for itself / für sich (class for itself). Conceptually, a class in itself is referring to what is called Drapper as atomized working class, the class of

workers who are not organized. As a worker, he realized he was different from his employer no more.

It is told in the film *Gundala* that they take action for justice to be paid according to the provisions of the salary earned, this is included in the second class division according to Karl Marx, namely the existence of laborers, it can be explained that laborers and capital owners certainly need each other, laborers cannot work if capital owners do not open or do not provide jobs.

Research has shown that the movie *Gundala* is a movie about class struggle. It is clear that labor unions were formed for this purpose. The struggle for their rights and leave the factory owner separate the union with payment. Some members try to control the party, a ruthless factory owner. In the movie it has been told that, they come together to wage a class struggle against the oppression of these self-appointed market kidnappers who are the political elite on the movie set. What happens then is the class struggle. The elite appoint someone to burn down the square. This is reflected in the movie '*Gundala*'. Where the situation in the country is full of chaos. It is described in different expressions and it really exists. This can be seen briefly in the newspaper related to the dispute. A higher person. According to the comments the conflict will arise, Duverger said. To weaken a class by the bourgeoisie or the elite of the proletariat or the working class in general this shows that there is a class struggle. The shape of the state and economic system. You can see it in the current status machine. Free labor conflicts. in other situations it is also in a period of cruel and violent rule. This can lead to dark and relentless resistance.

The problem can be seen in this movie. The new problem, which is crime, these issues are also strongly illustrated although they do not occur naturally, there are strong reasons for this the most basic is the fundamental problem: class inequality, this is a serious and serious problem facing the country. In relation to one of the causes of inequality is the oligarchic Neutralization of public policy. At the end of the movie, it is depicted that Sancaka managed to carry out a class struggle and fight against Pengkor the capital owner and mafia, and foster patriotism and solidarity in society, but this is precisely the only thing that is not happening in real life today. The good things haven't happened yet, the bad things in the film are becoming more and more prevalent, corruption when the country is hit by a crisis due to the plague, violence and criminalization happening everywhere, regulations that harm society and damage nature are increasingly legalized.

A boldly presented *Gundala* movie raises social class issues of poverty, class inequality, oligarchy and problems. It can be said that other social classes do the same. Industry standards for the existing movie market in Indonesia. This problem is in accordance with the thoughts of the director of the movie. *Gundala*, directed by Joko Anwar, quoted by CNN. Indonesia (2019) has a superhero character *Gundala* already has a big name and according to him, it is known by everyone in Indonesia. Because it would be a shame if it wasn't used. Talk about problems in Indonesia, and this is one of the problems we see in Indonesia. Class difference is the problem (Rihangrahitia, 2022).

The Hunger Games movie

The Capitol exemplifies the class struggle and conflict between capital owners (bourgeoisie) and workers (proletariat) as an example of capitalism. We want each county to follow the rules set by the Capitol itself. With the intention of gaining full power. Seen clearly in *The Hunger Games*, these are the burghers or people in the Capitol, living prosperously without the threat of oppression and starvation, common Fashion, parties, entertainment, and fun events. Mass entertainment such as *The Hunger Games* largely portrays Capitol Hill residents as acting negligently or with gross negligence, fighting poverty and despair. Capitol Hill is very wealthy and technological. It is developed and the standard of living of its residents is very high. Residents visit the Always threatened Capitol District in awe of the flamboyant and flamboyant lifestyle of the starving residents. The capitalism shown in this movie forces the proletariat to do so. The struggle for the right to belong, the existence of a class for economic reasons. As Karl Marx pointed out social relations in capitalist society are based on the degree of ownership, common property, an essential basic requirement of property exists in the understanding of the capitalist mode of production. (Dahrendorf, 1959: 11)

In the capitalist economic system, an individual's status is determined by the amount of real estate owned. According to Marx in the "*Manifesto*", communism, the history of mankind, is the history of class struggle, the history of the "upper" class. It has always oppressed the "lower" layers in various ways and it has always been like this. Therefore, all forms of oppression must be released through class struggle The movie "*Hunger Games*" tells the story of the conflicts and forces that arise in the country of Panem. Panem itself is a North American country that has experienced a major disaster that hit the earth. It became the only safe zone. The Capitol is the capital of Panem. Every year, Panem has a tradition of managing the country's regions. Namely, a competition called "*The Hunger Games*". This game is mandatory Who will kill or be killed in all the territories that will be held The interests of equity owners are called sponsors. The buy-in from these sponsors depends on the net worth of each participant. Try to survive and save yourself from several cases of death. The purpose of this competition is to strengthen mutual relations as a result, we commemorate those

who lost their lives the rebellion that once broke out in the land of Panem is completely forgotten. How strong was the government of Panem led by a citizen president. (Rihanggrahita, 2022)

The Emergence of Social Class Forms from Both Movies

1. Poverty, Hunger, and Child Labor

Hunger is one of the things that can be used as a category to see how a person's social class is and how the reality that occurs is true. Hunger that is not handled properly can worsen a person's condition and make it difficult for a person to get a decent life, forced to work, and enter the abyss of poverty, resulting in greater distance within the social class.

The next essence is poverty, which is also experienced by Sancaka throughout the movie when he is in his residence. The smoke depicted in the movie is also a representation of where the poor lives of residents in low economic groups. Whereas according to Zhang et al. (2013 in BPS, 2020: 221) also mentioned that Indonesia ranks second among Asia Pacific countries in terms of deaths due to air pollution from solid fuel combustion.

Indonesia also has a target of zero child labor by 2022, but in 2019 there are still around 1.6 million children aged 10-17 years who are forced to work, even though this figure is still very far from the zero target and has actually increased from previous years. This reality is what the movie Gundala wants to capture, where there are still so many children who are forced to work and drop out of school due to poverty and worsening economic conditions which are indeed one of the main factors for children to be forced to work. When children are forced to work and stop their education, they will be dragged into structural poverty.

2. Crime, Class Inequality and Oligarchy

Social class in this society has various aspects such as influence and Karl Marx said that the most important factor in class distinction is an economic and production factor, but more researchers identified these other factors are also important and play an important role in shaping the lessons of society. Some of these elements are also captured in the movie, the presence of crime, class inequality, and oligarchy.

3. Class Struggle

Class struggle becomes the climax of the conflict in the social class system. Class inequality that goes too far and causes damage to the lower class, leads to resistance, and this movie Gundala depicts it as it is. The injustice of the socio-economic system, the movie's explanation and the reality in Indonesia confirm what Karl Marx said. So far, the history of society is the history of class struggle. Class resistance is taken into account even if it exists.

4. The Existence of Social Class Differences

Marx said in his work: to have the right of communist manifesto show the emerging social class, capitalist economic system. Marx said that there are 2 subclasses of society, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat class. In the movie "The Hunger Games", there are scenes that present social inequality. It can be seen in the clothes used by the Capitol residents and the clothes used by the district residents. Capitol residents are seen wearing fashionable, luxurious, and diverse styles while the clothes used by district residents are very ordinary and wrinkled.

5. Rebel Resistance Faces Class Differences

There are class differences that Rebel Resistance Faces Class differences. The existence of class differences that create gaps between classes gives one class the impact of wanting equality. This makes the workers support Katniss in defending social justice. In Karl Marx's class theory of alienation. Alienation is where humans feel alienated because of the capitalist system. With this feeling, it encourages and supports one of the characters who tries to fight for justice and revolution, so there is a small resistance to a big resistance.

5. Conclusion

The analysis of the movie Gundala shows that this movie illustrates that the existence of social classes in society is real and created by many factors. It is realized by individuals, and gives birth to forms of class struggle. The representation of existing social classes is reinforced by elements of hunger, poverty, child labor, crime, and oligarchy that have succeeded in causing the birth of class inequality, then because of the greater the gap in class inequality that exists, it causes class resistance to be born stronger. Similarly, when Sancaka carried out the class resistance, the more he saw the inequality that had accumulated since childhood, the greater his motive to enter into a dark and brutal struggle.

In The Hunger Games, class differences create inequality between classes, which has the effect that one class wants to be equalized. This causes the workers to support Katniss in defending social justice. Karl Marx's alienated class theory. Alienation is where people feel alienated because of the capitalist system. With

this feeling of encouragement and support for a character who is trying to fight for justice and revolution, there is little resistance to the great struggle.

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