

The Lower Class Sufferance in “Beggar To Beggar Cried” And “He Wishes For the Cloth of Heaven”

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Abstract: This study discusses the sufferance of lower class people in “Beggar to Beggar Cried” and “He Wishes for The Cloth of Heaven.” It shows the condition of industrial revolution, and also the effect to the society especially to lower class people who are oppressed by the upper class people in Britain at the beginning of nineteenth century. This study uses Marxist theory to analyze the data. This study aims to describe the sufferance of lower class people, and the effort of lower class people to defend the life in both of those poems. There are two kinds of sufferance discussed in this study, the first is sufferance of oppression and getting wealth in lower class people, the second is sufferance of getting love in lower class people, and the last discussion is about the effort of lower class people to defend the life from the sufferance.

Keywords: class conflict, sufferance, oppression, lower class, upper class.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Every person has different background of life, and also has different class in the society. BBC News (2013) wrote that differences of three dimensions (economic, social, cultural) are the problem that create the space between lower class or poor people with the upper class or rich people. The differentiation of social class established the lower class get worse treatment from the upper class. Every person was treated based on each class. Britain at the beginning of nineteenth century was being industrial revolution. This condition made rich people who were from upper class got better occupation than the lower class. One of poets in that era was William Butler Yeats. Yeats wrote several poems to criticize the condition in Britain at the time. Two poems by W. B. Yeats are “Beggar to Beggar Cried” and “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven.” The poems tell about the condition of Britain at the time that the lower class people get sufferance from the upper class people.

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels are the fathers of critical criminology and Germany philosopher, the theory called as “Marxism”. Marxism is one of theory that against the industrial revolution and Marx analyzed the condition at the time when industrial revolution era was beginning. Marx said that the oppressed person should fight the oppression from the oppressor in order to get freedom in future. Both of the poems tell about sufferance of lower class in industrial revolution era that happened in Britain at the beginning of nineteen century. It means that between literary work and the theory is coherent to be used in the writer’s study.

This study discusses the sufferance of lower class people of getting oppression, getting wealth, and getting love in “Beggar to Beggar Cried” and “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven”. The next discussion is about the effort of lower class people in “Beggar to Beggar Cried” and “He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven”.

This study, theoretically, helps the readers to understand Marxist theory, and the application of this theory in another literary work. Practically, the writer hopes that the readers know about the reflection of Marxist theory in society. While the reader who want to analyze about class conflict in the society, they should study about Marxist theory. The scope of this study is about Marxist criticism from Karl Marx, and Friedrich Engels. The limitation of this study is words in the lines that are relevant with the data

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

According to William (2011) Marxism and Literature are parts of this change. Even twenty years ago, and especially in the English-speaking countries, it would have been possible to assume. Most of literary work that was made by the author based on the real event that appear in our society, and also tell about social and economic problems in society, so that these works can be analyzed using Marxism theory. For the beginning of finding this theory, Marx and Engels called their theory as economic theories, but longer and longer they named their theory as Marxism.

Marxist theory also discusses class system in the society, as Barry said in his book (1995), the aim of Marxist is to bring about a classless in the society, based on the common ownership. It means that the

differentiation of class in the society is based on the differentiation of background of life from each people, and this condition makes the conflict between each group in the society.

Social class was also discussed by Karl Marx in Marxism as his theory. Lenin (1965) wrote in his book that classes are determined based on person's relationship to the mean of products. In social classes there is a class division to divide social classes specifically. Actually, the main classes in capitalism are landlord, bourgeoisie, and proletarian. Landlord, who is also called as upper class, has good social production, economic aspect, and also well educated. Bourgeoisie is the middle class, its members are usually the educated people but have lower position than a landlord or royal family. Proletarian is the lower class, uneducated people, and also the drunkard and dangerous people.

Marxist theory also discusses about class conflict that caused by differentiation class system in the society. Bramble (2011) in his book wrote that class is about the relationships among different groups of people involved in the process of creating social wealth. Every people in each group do not have the similarity of economic condition, such as upper class people have more wealth than the lower class people, and this condition that will create the class conflict.

Class conflict makes economic exploitation is the most difficult problem to solve. Economic exploitation begins to the upper class people that ask the lower class people to be a worker and the upper class people pay them with a little salary. This exploitation is difficult to isolate because it has been a culture in Britain that happened between upper class people and lower class people.

Britain is one of many countries that has ever gotten experience of industrial revolution. This condition is stated by Monopoulou (2008) that during the late 18th and early 19th centuries, Britain experienced change in all aspect of life, as a result of industrial revolution. When the industrial revolution raised in this country, the conditions of life also has changed because of technological innovation. Industrial revolution also pried the identity of the society, it means that the society in Britain depend on the production, and the economic condition.

During industrial revolution era in Britain, working class people did not allow to stay in comfortable condition. Working class people should work hard without thinking about their own income. This condition makes the lower class people feel oppressed, and lose out the time because of working hard.

The title of previous study that analyzes another literary work that uses same theory with the writer is “*The Class Conflict in Gorge Bernard Shaw’s Pygmalion*” by Bagus Indarto (2011), University of Trunojoyo Madura. That study discussed about class conflict in the novel, and used the utterances of the main characters and also from the narrator in the novel. While in this study, the writer analyzed poems by William Butler Yeats “*Beggar to Beggar Cried*” and “*He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven*” by using Marxist theory that focus on class conflict. The writer also used words in the lines as the data, and analyzed the words that depict the sufferance of lower class people, and the effort of lower class people in both poems.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study uses qualitative research, because qualitative research analyzes the data that is collected from the words not the number. Therefore, a text become a document that can be analyzed by qualitative research.

The source of data in this study is poems written by William Butler Yeats. Those poems are, “*Beggar to Beggar Cried*” and “*He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven*”. The data of this study are words that depict the sufferance of lower class people in William Butler Yeats’ “*Beggar to Beggar Cried*” and “*He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven*”.

In this study the researcher is the main instrument. The writer should analyze it based on the theoretical frame work and statement of problems. The method of collecting data which is applied in this study is to comprehend the words as the data that depict the sufferance of lower class people. This study was ended when the writer displaying the data that depict the sufferance of lower class people, and the effort of lower class people as the technique of analyzing data.

III. DISCUSSION

There are three discussions in this study. Those are the sufferance of oppression and getting wealth, the sufferance of getting love, and the effort of lower class people to defend the life from the sufferance

1. Sufferance of oppression and getting wealth in lower class people

The first data that represents the sufferance of lower class people is taken from the title of the first poem “*Beggar to beggar cried*”. This title represents the sufferance that is experienced by the lower class people. Beggar represents to the poet who express the experience of real life in the society. Lower class people are proletarian or working class people. According to Marxism, proletarian cannot trade on money as much as the bourgeoisie people, because there is an economic exploitation that forced the lower class people to work hard but only payed with few salary. Beggar as the lower class person does not have much wealth, and they require

their hand, body, and mind to get an income in the beggar's life. It means that the beggar always depends on the upper class person to get money.

Next analysis is from line 3 and 4 of "Beggar to Beggar Cried", "Beggar to beggar cried, being frenzy-struck/ And make my soul before my pate is bare?". Those lines show the sufferance of beggar who become the participants of lower class people. Beggar's soul also get oppression from the upper class person, and this condition appears to the beggar because he lives in complicated situation that makes the beggar almost crazy with the condition in the society. The beggar only thinks about oppression that is committed by the upper class people, he cannot refuse the oppression because upper class people are more powerful, so that the beggar will do what the upper class people asked.

Next analysis is taken from line 6 in that poem "To rid me of the devil in my shoes?". This line tells about a sadness of beggars that belong to lower class people. The words that are written in line 6 represent the sufferance that is experienced by the lower class people. According to beggar, his sufferance is the devil for him, because it will destroy his life. Actually, lower class person wants to be free from the depressed condition like become a beggar. According to Touraine (1969), when poor person does not have three important forms: economic, education, and cultural or family, poor person is rid from the society or poor person become an alienation. In every step of the lower class person is like the sufferance, so that poor person is followed by the sufferance, and the beggar want to rid the devil as the sufferance from his step in order he does not get the sufferance.

This is analysis from line 15 and 16 "Beggar to beggar cried being frenzy-struck/ And cannot have humorous happy speech?". The domination makes the oppression to the beggar as lower class person. The beggar has been oppressed by the upper class people, so that the beggar being stress to bewail the fate of life. The beggar is still getting stressed because of main the problem such as economic problem, beggar is poor people who does not have much money. He lives in worst economic condition. Economic exploitation is one of the processes that underly the class conflict that is concerned by the beggar. Because the beggar gets oppression from the upper class people, the beggar does not have much wealth, and the beggar is also in the stressed condition so that the beggar is depressed. The beggar is not happy because of the condition.

The next analysis are from lines 19 and 20 in that poem "Beggar to beggar cried, being frenzy-struck/ The wind-blown clamour of the barnacle-geese?". The beggar is muse over of life, the beggar is also repent of life because the beggar comes from the lower class who always gets oppression, and feels inferior. According to Bottomore (1991), Marxist analysis can account for phenomena at the level of social relationship. It means that the phenomenon that happens in each class is different. The sufferance, that is experienced by the beggars, forces the beggars lose the expectation of life. It is the real sufferance that is gotten by the lower class people as poor people and working people. Beggar lived from the effort that is only dependent on their own ability.

2. Sufferance of getting wealth in lower class people

The first analysis is taken from line 7 and 8 in the poem "Beggar to beggar cried, being frenzy-struck/ And worse devil that is between my thighs?". In this line beggar gets the worst devil, it means that he gets the worst sufferance in his life. This worst devil is not only about the sufferance that rid from the society, but also is about his dream to get married with a woman. The worst devil between in his tight represent of his desire to marry with a beautiful woman, and it has relation with the next line "And though I'd marry with comely lass?". Actually, lower class people like a beggar is not the reason for poor people to get beautiful woman as his wife, because beautiful woman is not always come from the upper class people that will be oppressed by her husband that come from the lower class people. So that beggar has to do some efforts to conquer the desire as the worst devil, and get woman that he loved.

Next analysis is from line 11 and 12 "Beggar to beggar cried being frenzy-struck/ But there's a devil in a looking-glass?". Devil in a looking-glass means that beggar sees the woman only from the view, it means that he does not see her directly, he only pierces the woman so that the beggar does not know whole of the condition of the woman. In the previous line, it has been mentioned that beggar has the worst devil, it is the desire to get married with the beautiful woman. The sufferance not only he gets the oppression from the upper class people, but also he gets sufferance of getting love from the beautiful woman. Beggar expects that the woman comes from the lower class also, in order beggar and the woman can live together in the future and also there is no gap between beggar and the woman.

The following analysis comes from line 13 and 14 "Nor should she be too rich/ Are driven by wealth as beggars by the itch?". Both of two lines tell about beggar who does not expect the woman is rich person, and comes from the upper class person because he thinks that when beggar get married with the woman who come from the upper class person, it will create a gap between himself and the woman. A gap between the upper class people and the lower class people is created by social class that happens in the society. For Marx, the analysis of social class is the structure and the basis of a social class that may be defined in object terms of Bottomore (1991). The beggar only wants to get married with the woman who loves him in the real situation, and also the

woman can understand how the condition of the beggar as lower class person. The beggar will do effort for the woman in order between the beggar and the woman live in the better condition in the future.

The next analysis is from the second data, the source of the data is poem by William Butler Yeats too "He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven". The first analysis of the second data is taken from the line 3 and 4 in this poem "The blue and the dim and the dark cloth/ Of night and light and the half light/". The poet uses the parable to represent the sadness of the poor people by writing blue, dim, and dark in this poem. Those of the parables show the sadness and the sufferance of the poor people in the society, and poor people life in worst condition of economy. The poor people try to find out the way to get beautiful cloth for the woman. In Britain, the society is divided into two classes, those are upper class and lower class. According to Marxism that is written by Mandel (1969), lower class people is exploited by the upper class people, it means that upper class people ask lower class people to be a worker, but upper class people give little salary. The poor people depend on the upper class people in the society. This condition makes the lower class people difficult to fulfill everything that is needed, and it also include the way to fulfill the necessary for getting love.

The next analysis is from line 6 and 7 "But I, being poor, have only my dreams/ I have spread my dreams under your feet/". Those line tell about poor people who cannot afford to give something for woman he loves. Poor people only have dreams, but these dreams cannot come true because of economic problem. Poor people do not have any wealth to become the dreams true, it is very difficult to the poor people to make the woman they love. The dreams only spread in under the woman's feet, it means that poor man just suspend the willingness of live with the woman. Being poor and also the poverty that make the lower class people difficult to bring out the dreams. So that the sufferance of lower class people not only according to the oppression from the upper class people, but also according the economic condition that underlies the difficulties to get love.

3. The effort of lower class people

The first analysis is from the "Beggar to Beggar Cried" in line 1 and 2 "Time to put off the world and go somewhere/ And find my health again in the sea air/". Those line tell about the effort that is done by the beggar as a poor people to defend the life. The beggar does not have much wealth, and the beggar is the ejected group in the society. Beggar as the proletarian wants to have a comfortable life too. When the beggar finds out the new place, the beggar feels the freedom of live. Freedom means that the beggar finds everything he wants. Poor people who get oppression from the upper class people also feel depressed in live. This condition is ended when the beggar as poor people move to the other place and find out the wealth and freedom of life. The oppression from the upper class people is one of the reason from the beggar to go somewhere and find a new live in new society.

This analysis is taken from line 5 "And get a comfortable wife and house/". In this line the writer wants to analyze how the beggar shows the effort to get a wife although he is a poor person. When the beggar finds a woman whom he loves he will marry that woman and he needs the new house for him and his wife live together in this house. It has relation with social movements that is explained by Touraine (1969) that the nature of the social conflict and power struggle through which these orientations are worked out, and what it is that the ruling social elements repress that provokes social movements. It means that the beggar wants to change the worst life into the better life. Lower class people want to have the same right with the upper class people who live in the same society. Because of the reason, the beggar does some efforts in order the beggar have a new life with a wife and live together in new house that is built by the beggar by own income.

This analysis is taken from the line 9 and 10 "And though I'd marry with comely lass/ She need not be too comely-let it pass/". The beggar gets a comely woman to become a wife, actually the beggar does not expect the beautiful one, but the beggar just expect the woman who can accept the condition of the beggar as a poor people. That woman also ignores the beauty, the woman wants to except the beggar, and commends the effort of the beggar. Because of the effort such as social movements that has been done by the beggar, the woman wants to live with the beggar. Class conflict begins because of class system and the struggle of the participants between upper class and lower class people who wants to get the same right in the society. According to the statement above the beggar struggle of live in order the beggar can defend the life from the oppression from the upper class and also get something that the beggar wants, such as wife and house to kick a bad situation. Beggar expects that the struggle makes the woman proud with the effort of the beggar.

Next analysis line 17 and 18 "And there I'll grow respected at my ease/ /And hear amid the garden's nightly peace/". Those lines have relation with the previous line. These line tell about the effect of the effort that has been done by the beggar. Social movements make the beggar live in commonly situation, it means that after the beggar get married with the wife and has a new house the beggar feel in comfort to pass the live.

After the beggar does effort to defend the life from the sufferance, the beggar lives quietly. The oppression that makes the social conflict between upper class and lower class people that appear in the society end because of the social movements from the lower class people.

The next analysis is from the second poem "He Wishes For The Cloth Of Heaven", the first analysis of the poem is beginning from the line 1 and 2 "Had I the heavens embroidered cloths/ Enwrought with golden and

silver light?”. Those lines tell about the effort of the poor people in order the willingness become true. Line 1 and 2 tell that the poor people try to make something precious to give to the woman in order the woman feels like in the heaven when the woman wears the cloth, but the poor people aware that does not have any wealth to buy the woman cloths. So that the poor people decorate the cloth with the golden and silver light, because according to the society golden and silver is icon of the preciousness. The cloth with the gold and silver light in order the woman is more comfortable with the cloth that is worn. Because of the effort, the poor people expect that the woman can accept the poor people become her husband.

Next analysis is from the line 5 “I would spread the cloths under your feet?”. This line tells that poor people always put the dreams in every step of the woman’s way. This line also tells about poor people who put the dreams in woman’s life is similar with the laying the fate in upper class people’s life. It means that this condition is very complicated because poor people do not have any wealth to engage the woman, poor people just trade on the ability and the poor people wish the best judgment of the woman. The differentiation between upper class people and lower class people depends on capitalist element, so that the upper class people is more powerful than the lower class. Poor people have done the effort in many times for the woman, now it is the time for poor people to expect the result of the effort.

The last analysis is from line 8 ”Tread softly because you trade on my dreams?”. This line tells about the request from the poor people to the woman who accept the poor people to be the partner in the new life. The poor people is successful to do some efforts to get the woman, that effort is one of the struggle from the poor people and show that the woman accepts the sacrifice of the poor people. In the first time, poor people belongs to the lower class who does not have occupational category in the society, but the struggle shows to the society and the upper class people that lower class people can get the dreams and make it true. The effort that has done by the poor people is slowly but sure. It means that the poor people is not rash to make the effort but the poor people does it gradually, and finally poor people get something that poor people wants in the live.

IV. CONCLUSION

This study can be concluded that two poems by William Butler Yeats “*Beggar to Beggar Cried*” and “*He Wishes for the Cloth of Heaven*” that discuss about the sufferance of lower class, and the effort of lower class to defend the life, are actually appropriate to be analyzed using Marxist theory that focus on class conflict. It is because the sufferance that is gotten by the lower class people based on the differentiation of class in the society. Lower class people have conflict with the upper class people because the upper class people is dominating and powerful in the society. Lower class people are oppressed by the upper class people, and this oppressor makes the lower class people get sufferance. Lower class people does not want the upper class people dominate the life, so that the lower class people do some effort to defend the life in order the lower class people can be free from the sufferance, and also the lower class people does not depend on the upper class people. The lower class people can get the comfortable life from their own ability to get some wealth.

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