

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Many types of entertainment are created in this world thanks to 2,000,000 years of modern human civilization. Every day we enjoy them. You must have a collection of your favorite movies that you play repeatedly, or a stack of novel you always want to reread. Since many entertainments are available, many people also begin to compartmentalize the social class from the entertainment they are into.

A real example of social class classification can be seen from the TV shows that are watched by people. There is an assumption that people who like to watch soap operas or infotainment programs are less educated people compare to they who love watching news or talkshow programs. This assumption is strengthened by the survey of television broadcast quality index program conducted by KPI (Komisi Penyiaran Indonesia) in second period of 2019. In that survey KPI stated that soap opera and variety show programs were the worst type of programs with the score 2,48 and 2,34 out of 5. On the other side, news and talkshow got the first and second place for the best type of programs with the score 3,21 and 3,22 out of 5.

Crisp, R. J., & Hewstone, M (2007) in their book entitled *Advances in experimental social psychology: Vol. 39* said; “*Social categorization occurs spontaneously, without much thought on our part*”

“One of the effect of social categorization is the tendention to see people who belong to the same social group as more similar than they actually are, and tendention to look down people from lower social groups as more different than they actually are” (Linville, Salovey, & Fischer, 1986; Ostrom & Sedikides, 1992; Meissner & Brigham, 2001)

In the movie "The Gratest Showman" directed by Michael Gracey, we were brought into the atmosphere from 1850-1860 in the New York City where social status was so important. The upper class people tended to mingle with people who had an equal class, whereas people from the lower classes had no life expectancy other than mingling with each other.

As the title said, this movie told the story about the circus performer's life in early of 1800 in the New York City where the people were categorized and separated into upper class and lower class. In the story, the main character named P.T. Barnum's was told struggling from discrimination by upper class who saw circus as a lower class entertainment. The entire movie focused on the struggles of P.T. Barnum to raise the prestige of circus show.

Based on that reason, in this study, the researcher was interested to investigate and analyse some aspects from the movie which would be mentioned further in the Statement of Problems.

1.2. Statement of the Problems

Based on the background of the study above, this research is arranged into three problem statements as follows:

1. What were the discriminations faced by P.T. Barnum and his circus friends?
2. Why did upper class people hate P.T. Barnum's circus?
3. What were the effects of discrimination experienced by P.T. Barnum and his friends and how did they overcome it?

1.3. Objective of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, there are three objectives of the study in this research paper entitled "The Circus and Circus' Performers Existence in The Greatest Showman Movie: A Marxism Study", namely:

1. To highlight the discrimination faced by P.T. Barnum and his circus friends as lower class people in the "The Greatest Showman" movie.
2. To disclose the reason why the upper class people hate P.T. Barnum's circus.
3. To find out the effects of discrimination experienced by P.T. Barnum and his friends and how did they overcome it.

1.4. Scope of the Study

In this research paper entitled "The Circus and Circus' Performers Existence in The Greatest Showman Movie: A Marxism Study" the researcher focused highlighting the social discrimination of Barnum's circus's actresses and actors and disclosing the causes upper class people viewed P.T. Barnum's circus as the worst entertainment show.

1.5. Significance of the Study

This research is conducted in order to help other researcher especially those who are interested in literature specifically focusing on The Greatest Showman movie. The researcher expects this research will be able to give more understandings for the other researchers about the movie which tells about the lower class entertainment.

1.6. Approach of the Study

In this research, the researcher would analyze and answer three statements of problems using marxism approach. Marxism is a study that examines the economic, social, and political ideology of society, also the effect of capitalism.

This research involves various data from the script and by watching the movie in order to get proper information. Later on, the collected data would be analyzed and be interpreted. The data mostly are about the relation of marxism theory and the condition in New York City in the movie.

This study used qualitative method. Qualitative method focuses to observe the human's behavior and also the social phenomenas that occur. In his book entitled Qualitative methods. In International handbook of research in medical education, Harris says that every researchs that include the process of collecting the data from history, observation, and interactional in the social phenomena include to qualitative research. (Haris: 2002:2)

Qualitative analysis method is the perfect weapon to provide information about the physical, social, behavioral, economic, or psychological characteristics of

people in the “The Greatest Showman” movie which strengthen researcher’s desire to use it in this research.

1.7. Organization of the Paper

Chapter one consists of Background of the Study, Statement of the Problems, Objective of the Study, Scope of the Study, Significance of the Study, Approach of the Study and Organization of the Paper.

Chapter two consists of two subchapters which explain the synopsis of the movie and its screen writers’ biographies. Synopsis is a short summary of a work created to help us find out the contents of the story from beginning to end. Biography is a person's life story that contains information about the person that is written in the form of a narrative text.

The third chapter contains previous study and review of related literature which elaborates the definition of popular culture, movie definition, character, discrimination, circus, and marxism theory by Karl Marx.

Chapter four serves analysis and discussion. In chapter four, all the statement of problems from chapter one will be answered.

The last chapter is chapter five. This chapter serves the conclusion and suggestion from the researcher.