

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Social Oppression is unfairly treating a person or group of people who are different from other people or groups of people. <https://sosresponds.org/blog/social-oppression/>. Based on that sentence social oppression are have some examples include racism (treating people different based on their ethnicity), sexism (treating people different based on their gender), religious persecution (treating people different because of their religion.) but, in the United State you may hear terms like working class, lower class, middle class, upper class, blue collar. All of these terms try to categorize people based on how much money they have. The concept called “caste system.” The differences of skin color are one form of the caste system in the United States. In the United States the color difference between white skin and black skin is very different. which is often white people more powerful and for the black contacted by people who are not free or called slaves.

Slavery in America started in 1619, when the privateer The White Lion brought 20 African slaves ashore in the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia. The crew had seized the Africans from the Portugese slave ship Sao Jao Bautista. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/slavery>. A lot of true stories about slavery in the United States are now

works of film literature. one of them is the film *12 Years a Slave* which occurred in 1853 which aired in 2013.

In Literature mentioned the author could write the condition that happen around the society he lives in. Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life, and also contains the cultural and social background which indicates that literature and society is closely related because literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society. The social problem often occurs in literary works as can be found in the movie. The story in a movie describes the situation and the social problem happening in the society at a particular time. The social problem in the movie usually illustrates about poverty, gender, discrimination, oppression and social class, for example Solomon Northup in his *12 Years a Slave Film* telling about the social oppression. In the *12 Years a Slave Film*, Solomon Northup an independent Negro born in New York, wrote about the abduction and slavery he experienced in Washington D.C precisely in the state of Louisiana for 12 years. The film release on August 30, 2013 by Telluride Film Festival in United States United Kingdom.

In the years before the Civil War, Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is kidnapped and sold into slavery in the South. Subjected to the cruelty of one malevolent owner (Michael Fassbender), he also finds unexpected kindness from another, as he was struggles continually to survive and maintain some of his dignity. Then in the 12th year of the disheartening ordeal, a chance meeting with an abolitionist from Canada changes Solomon's life forever. The kidnapping and slavery are forms of oppression and

this has aroused the writer's curiosity to analyze it to find out the causes of oppression that Solomon Northup experienced at Washington D.C in *12 years a Slave*. In this study Marxist theory is considered appropriate in analyzing the problem of oppression.

The research entitles “**Oppression Upon Solomon Nurthup Reflected in Steve McQueen’s *12 Years a Slave* Movie Script as a Marxist Theory**” tell about *12 Years Slave* movie occurred in both women, men and even small children as slaves in stories that are based on the true story of Solomon Northup. Through his autobiography it tells of slavery that occurred in the United States where white citizens were in power. Solomon Northup was kidnapped and sold by his friends as slaves. Various ways began from running away to writing letters to his friends who worked in the government he had done to be free from slavery. Caned, beaten, dragged even raped by thick white employers in this movie.

There are some researchers who use Marxist theory in analyzing their studies. This study tries to analyze the slavery that focuses on kidnapping and oppression and its causes in *12 years a slave* using Marxist theory.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

According to the background of the study, I will specify the research based on these following statement :

1. Why was Solomon tortured in the film *12 Years a Slave*?

2. How was Solomon oppressed in the film *12 Years a Slave*?

1.3 Objective to the Study

This research purposed to discover three things of the statement to the problem based on film *12 Years a Slave* :

1. To find out the problems why Solomon tortured in the film *12 Years a Slave*.
2. To find out how Solomon was oppressed in the film *12 Years a Slave*.

1.4 Scope to the Study

In arranging this research, detail problems are needed. The topic of this research is about oppression. This research will discuss what kind of problems which the tortured of Solomon in *12 Years a Slave movie*, what kind the Solomon oppressed in the film *12 Years a Slave* and what the effect of oppression on Solomon *12 Years a Slave*.

1.5 Significance to the Study

This research is expected to give advantages and also to give the positive things for the readers as follows :

1. To the writer, as worth experience in literary field the writer tried to do research using literary work as an object.

2. To the students, as a knowledge and reference in studying English literary work.

1.6 Approach to the Study

To analyze the oppression of the main male character in *12 Years a Slave*, I will use the study of Marxism. Marxism is a social, political, and economic philosophy called Karl Marx, which examines the effects of capitalism on labor, productivity, and economic development and argues that the workers' revolution is to over capitalism from comunism.

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/marxism.asp/> based on the sentence marxism argues that the struggle between social classes, especially between the bourgeoisie, or capitalists, and the proletariat, or workers, defines economic relations in capitalist economy and will inevitably lead to revolutionary communism. Some theories deal with sizes in groups. Others deal with production of morals and values. And some deal with the economy and the creation of social classes. That's where we found Karl Marx. Karl Marx began to explore the relationship between economics and workers in the system. Throughout his life, Marx developed the theory that human society advanced through the struggle between two different social classes. The workers, are the lower class. They do work, but upper-class managers, bosses, and rulers, who benefit. In this system, which came to be known as Marxism. So Karl Marx wrote a book called *Das Capital*.

Das Capital is a book by Karl Marx. Das Capital reveals the hidden difficulties triggered by capitalism, as well as the source of real prosperity real work, cooperation, knowledge and skills that have grown over generations in society. <https://www.goethe.de/ins/id/m/kul/mag/21144973.html>. Das Capital from Karl Marx about the crisis inflicted on society, its sources of prosperity were forced into the channel of capital utilization which were all restricted. After completing rereading, we will realize the coercion we face was created by humans - and therefore can also be changed by humans. And coercion must be changed. The author will use several methods such as reading, identifying, categorizing and analyzing this work.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

To make this research systematic and easy to read, the organization of the research may firstly be explained in general. This research is organized in the following :

Chapter I : Introduction. The introduction the groundwork for this research. It gives an overview of the research which consists of the background to the study, statement to the problem, objective to the study, scope to the study, significance to the study, approach to the study and organization of the paper.

Chapter II : Biography of the author and synopsis of the work. In this chapter, I write about the biography of the author and synopsis of the movie that will be analyzed, *-12 Years a Slave*.

Chapter III : Review of related literature. This chapter provides a literature review examining the work of various researchers, academics, theorists, and educators. It also captures the theme and the social context of oppression in social conflict.

Chapter IV : Analysis and discussion. This chapter the researcher will analyze about *12 Years a Slave* movie, which related to Marxist theories.

Chapter V : Conclusion and suggestion. This is the last chapter which consists of conclusion and suggestion of the work, it also provide some of the researcher's personal thoughts.