

CLASS DISTINCTION AS REPRESENTED BY TWIN PLANETS IN *UPSIDE DOWN* MOVIE

Eva Kartini, M. Natsir, & Setya Ariani

English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences

Mulawarman University

Email: evakartini8@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purposes of this research were to find the class distinction in character of Adam and Lagavulin and the alienation in character of Adam from the *Upside Down* movie. This research utilized the method of qualitative research with the technique of observing and used content analysis. The data sources of this research were the script and movie of *Upside Down*. The data were taken from the dialog of each character and some narrations of Adam indicating the characteristics of class distinction and types of alienation based on the theory of Karl Marx. From the findings of this research, the characters in the movie revealed there were 7 characteristics of class distinction by looking at two types of class, bourgeoisie and proletariat, those are brutal exploiter, the ruler, own the means of production, productive force, the oppressed class, have no means of production, the revolutionary. Also, from the character of Adam, he revealed there were 4 types of alienation with the types as follow, the alienation of the worker in his product, the alienation from the act of production, the alienation from the true essence of our species-being, the alienation of a worker from other workers.

Keywords: class, class distinction, alienation, bourgeoisie, proletariat

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menemukan perbedaan kelas dalam karakter Adam dan Lagavulin dan alienasi dalam karakter Adam dari film Upside Down. Penelitian ini memanfaatkan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan teknik mengamati film dan menganalisa konten, skrip. Sumber data diambil dari dialog masing-masing karakter dan beberapa narasi oleh Adam yang mengindikasikan ciri dari perbedaan kelas dan tipe dari alienasi berdasarkan pada teori Karl Marx. Dari temuan penelitian ini, karakter-karakter didalam film mengungkapkan ada 7 ciri dari perbedaan kelas dengan melihat dua tipe kelas yakni burjois dan proletar, yang mana adalah pengeksploitasi yang brutal, sang penguasa, pemilik dari alat produksi, produktif memaksa, kelas yang tertekan, tidak memiliki alat produksi, sang revolutioner. Juga, dari karakter Adam, dia mengungkapkan bahwa ada 4 tipe dari alienasi sebagai berikut, alienasi dari pekerja dengan produknya, alienasi dari tindakan produksinya, alienasi dari sifat dasar manusianya, alienasi dari pekerja dengan pekerja lainnya.

Kata kunci: class, class distinction, alienation, bourgeoisie, proletariat

A. INTRODUCTION

The term of society has become very common. Some may consider people are society or society is people. Originally society is derived from the Latin word 'socius' which means "companionship or fellowship"(Williams 291). According to Stockard, society is a group of people who live in the name of bounded territory which are then share a common way of life (534).

The classification of class has occurred from the latest decade, till now and even will last in the future. It happens because the equality is never found in any social aspect. Thus, a founder of Marxism, Karl Marx, develops a concept of class and now is known as one of his famous theories. Through his theory, his classification of class shows the distinction between bourgeoisie and proletariat.

After all, since the phenomenon is quite interesting to discuss, the phenomenon does not only exist in real life but also, the story of class distinction, has been made into novel, movie, and many more. As example, through movie, the classification of class appears to represent the condition of the society, and one of the examples can be seen from *Upside Down* (2013) movie.

The purposes of this research were to reveal kinds of class distinction's characteristics in the movie and to find out the types of alienation impacted by the characteristics of class distinction. The research expected can provide more understanding about the theory of class and hopefully able to be the guidance to the reader in telling the concept of class and alienation. And the last, the research was made to hope there would be a tolerance between both classes like proletariat and bourgeoisie so the social distinct does not exist to suffer the living.

B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Literature

The way literature spreads its influence to the world has been so varied, because "literature includes the society: philosophy, history, essays and letters as well as poems." (15). Meyer adds his statement by interpreting that "anything is literature if you want to read it that way" (1), because this whole time "literature expresses a general attitude toward life" (Wellek and Warren 113). Furthermore, Bennett and Royle perceive that "literature, is perhaps more fundamentally a matter of language" (96).

2. Character and Characterization

Bennett and Royle point out that characters are the life of literature: they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. Indeed, so intense is our relationship with literary characters that they often cease to be simply 'objects' (Bennett and Royle 60). Meanwhile according to Griffith character is what represents in narrative whether it is people, animals, robots, or creatures, and characterization is the presentation of the character and its development as well (Griffith 49-50).

3. Literature and Society

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation (Wellek and Warren 89). Its relation between literature and the society wreak a phrase "literature is an expression of society" (Bonald in Wellek and Warren 90). To conclude literature is simply the representative of how people think, and how people express their own mind. Since literature lives in human's mind that even now, will last in the future.

4. Theory of Class

Theory class as its emergence is the cause of the existence in society. Marx in the *Communist Manifesto* makes the opening to introduce his concept of class by saying the history of class distinction is divided into "Freeman and slave, patrician and plebeian, lord and serf, guild-master and journeyman, in a word, oppressor and oppressed" (Marx 14). After all, to conclude his concept of class, he last mentions the bourgeoisie and proletariat as the types of class exists in society.

5. The Bourgeoisie

In the history, the bourgeoisie has been playing the model of revolutionary part. "by bourgeoisie is meant the class of modern capitalists, owners of the means of social production and employers of wage labor." (Marx and Engels 14). The characteristics of bourgeoisie consist of brutal exploiter, the ruler, own the means of production, and the productive force.

6. The Proletariat or The Working Class

Proletariat used to be called as working class. To conclude, the proletariat class is a class who is the economy status lower than the bourgeoisie class, who is the condition of living, is not better than the bourgeoisie class, and also who is the treatment worse than the bourgeoisie class. The characteristics of proletariat consist of the oppressed class, have no means of production, and the revolutionary.

7. Alienation

Alienation is the feeling of a certain people who are expelled from the society and even the object around them. Somehow, it ends up to the disunion. Alienation in its existence is always bringing contact with how the society lives. Thus, in Marx definition about Alienation belongs to the loss of control over labor in society relates to the labor estrangement. The types of alienation consist of the alienation of the worker in his product, the alienation from the act of production, the Alienation from the true essence of our species-being, the alienation of a worker from other workers.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

The researcher used qualitative research since it is the study that relates to the human problem that is recorded into the film. The reason is also not only about its human problem but, since the qualitative research is a study that interprets something into writing and anything else. Based on Cresswell a qualitative study is "defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting".

In qualitative research, there are three main techniques in collecting the data but the researcher only using two techniques, observing and analyzing document. Observing is the act of observing or looking at people's activities and then record what they do. Analyzing document is used to be called as evaluating the value based on learning the writing material or document material, which is can also be called as content analysis.

2. Data and Data Source

The data in this research utilized the narration, the dialog, and also the conversation. The data source in this research was *Upside Down* (2013) movie directed and written by Juan Diego Solanas, and its movie script.

3. Research Instrument

As the characteristic of qualitative research is "Emphasis on 'human-as-instrument'" (Ibid in Tesch 44), that is why in this research, the researcher is the one that is being an instrument to complete the analysis.

4. Data Collection

In collecting the data, the researcher had made some steps. First, the researcher watched the movie and read the script many times. After that, the researcher sorted and compiled the data that focused on characters that showed the related issues that were discussed in the research.

5. Data Analysis

The way the researcher organized the data and the code will be after the dialog was put, and below the dialog, there existed the code. The code that was given in this research to answer the first question by following the rules: First, the first code will be the minutes of the scene in the movie. The minutes will be two digits of hour, two digits of minutes, and two digits of seconds. The next code was the type of class, either B or P, which B meant bourgeoisie and P meant proletariat. The last, was code of the indicator of the type of class. The example: 00:02:45-00:02:52 BTR meant on the minutes of two and the second of forty-five until the minute of two and the second of fifty-two there was found the data of bourgeoisie as the class type and the ruler as the indicator.

Table 1
The Coding of Characteristic of Bourgeois and Proletariat

NO	TYPE OF CLASS	CHARACTERISTIC	CODE
1	Bourgeoisie	Brutal Exploiter	BBE
		The Ruler	BTR
		Own The Means of Production	BOM
		Productive Force	BPF
2	Proletariat	The Oppressed Class	POC
		Have no means of Production	PNP
		The Revolutioner	PTR

Table 2
The Coding of Types of Alienation

NO	CATEGORY	TYPES	CODE
1	Alienation	The Alienation of the Worker in His Product	AAWP
		The Alienation from the Act of Production	AAAP
		The Alienation from the True Essence of Our Species-being	AASB
		The Alienation of A Worker from Other worker	AAWW

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Class of Bourgeoisie

a. Brutal Exploiter

The characteristic of brutal exploiter can be seen through its exploitation of the world market. What makes it called as brutal is because the one who is exploited cannot legitimately own their belonging and get its benefit the most since the one who exploits has taken control over the way the world market goes.

Adam's Narration : **"TransWorld, a giant corporation up top, created to take cheap oil from down below and to sell back to us overpriced electricity that we couldn't afford."**

(00:03:06 - 00:03:48, BBE)

From Adam's narration he said **"cheap oil from down below"** which means the first source of the oil is from Down Below, but then Adam continues said **"take"** is when he explains that the Up Top take the oil from them, the Down Below. But what makes it worse after the Up Top takes the cheap oil from down below, the Up Top sells back to the Down Below in a higher price that impossible for the down below to handle **"sell back to us overpriced electricity that we couldn't afford"**.

b. The Ruler

The characteristic of the ruler can be seen through how a certain group manages to be more imperious or more authoritarian than the other group.

Adam's Narration : **"They only authorized contact between worlds is through TransWorld"**

(00:03:32-00:03:37, BTR)

The characteristic of the ruler is the one who has authority or one who can take control to the point can rule the town. From Adam's Narration when he said **"They"** which he refers to the Up Top people and when he said **"authorized"** is more like the one who make control. It is proof that

Up Top is categorized as the ruler since they are the one who make the authorization about the contact between the both worlds.

c. Own The Means of Production

The belonging of a certain group that makes them have a better standard in a society and as a living being, that their belonging is enough to make them act like a ruler is the characteristic of own the means of production.

Adam's Narration : **"TransWorld, a giant corporation up top"**
(00:03:36 - 00:03:39, BOM)

Up Top represents bourgeoisie class that is why here the indicator of bourgeoisie that the bourgeoisie is the one who owns the means of production or to be called the one who has a corporation and the likes matches Transworld that belongs to Up Top in the scene where Adam's narration said **"TransWorld, a giant corporation up top"**.

d. Productive Force

Productive force is the act of the people who is economically higher than the other and make them act whatever to achieve their aim, including doing a trial in human as subject.

Dog making drooling noise. Dog grumbling. Dog panting.
Lagavulin : "How long does **the effect** last?"
Adam : "Well, right now really only **like a few minutes.....**but I...we've been working on..."
Scientist : "It's been working long enough. Soon **we'll begin clinical trials on human subjects.** Obviously, **we start** with a sample of **women from down below.**"
Lagavulin : "I need quick results. I'm counting on you."
(00:38:30-00:39:07, BPF)

According to the situation and the dialog above, the conversation leads to the productive force such as the trial on the human. The data categorized as the productive force because it contains the proof of the trial on human as a subject. It is proven in the dialog when scientist said **"we'll begin clinical trials on human subjects"**. As an addition that the scientist is the people from Up Top, his character is more like the character that looks down to the Down Below people like the rest of the people from Up Top does. From this point, the scientist is the one who recommended trial and there he goes with the idea that people from Down Below who is the one will be the trial **"Obviously, we start with a sample of women from down below"**.

2. Class of Proletariat

a. The Oppressed Class

The oppressed class in this discussion means a certain class, proletariat, is treated indifferently, in a bad way. The different treatment occurs because the proletariat tends to have no authority, belonging, or even pride that able to

against the bourgeoisie. So, this phenomenon makes the proletariat experiences their own consciousness about their own state, their own condition.

Adam' Narration : **"So that's it. They won. And I lost. I just lost everything.** (SAD PIANO MUSIC) They took aunt Becky and they took Eden from me. Oh, it's hard to accept that I will never see Eden again. I was naive to think that I can change the world. **You know, up there, ...they always win. And down here... Well, we always lose.** So I guess I just go back to my life.....to my world."

(01:28:50-01:29:38, POC)

From his dialog when he said **"You know, up there, ...they always win. And down here... Well, we always lose"**. This condition makes Adam sinks over his living that he aware of his status which he is from Down Below will never able to win over the people from Up Top. His class consciousness leads this indicates as the characteristic of people from the oppressed class that eventually after their hard work they fall into despair only because they have no power in protecting what they already have.

b. Have no means of Production

Have no means of production means the situation where the proletariat has no belonging or property. Since proletariat does not have the two, this class tends hard to achieve what already start. This leads to one choice but to work with the bourgeoisie.

Ms. Neytonson : "Thank you. And, uh... can you keep me posted on that beauty cream?"

Albert : "We'll do. You take care, no? Do you hear that, Adam? We have got to finish this cream."

Adam : "Well, I would love to, Albert, you know, **but...with this equipment, you know, it'd take years.**"

(00:18:22-00:18:40, PNP)

The reason why Adam said **"with this equipment, you know, it'd take years"** that is because the equipment they have to achieve what their goal is so little that it is so hard to make things go well. And this equipment is similar to what the means of production that is explain before, which is a supporting factor in making the certain class have no difficulties in achieving their goal since they have whatever it is. It will be opposite when it comes to someone who has no mean of production that it will be difficult in any way, be it from its social rank and also the goal they want to achieve.

c. The Revolutionary

The revolutionary is the act of someone who discover a new transformation that never been thought by someone before. The proletariat is

categorized as the revolutionary because its pretension to leave the zone where they have to suffer.

- Bob : "I don't get it. **It's impossible to change gravity status.** Are you sure?"
- Adam : "Yeah, absolutely. Look, all we have to do.....is carefully.....**mix the two opposing solutions**and **wait a second to stabilize gravity.....and then...Voil!**"
- Bob : "No...God! That is better than a good idea, my friend. That is.....**revolutionary!**"

(01:15:27-01:16:15, PTR)

From the dialog when Bob said "**It's impossible to change gravity status**" but then Adam demonstrates the way he can change the gravity by "**mix the two opposing solutions**and **wait a second to stabilize gravity.....and then...Voil!**" when the end of the word voil is said, the situation turns Adam able to make the solution flies, not going up nor down, that makes it against the gravity. Apart from his social status, he has his experiment that wants to stabilize the gravity in both planets. And with the help of the pink pollen, he made it. Which is it leads to a new revolution.

3. Alienation

a. The alienation of the worker in his product

This alienation comes from the product that the workers work with. The fact that an object that is created by the worker, that he or she puts so much efforts on it but in the end will not be his or her own, otherwise, it will be handed to the bourgeoisie is how this object leads to such alien to the worker.

- Agent : "Get in the car! Here's **the deal... You give us the complete anti-aging cream formula...and** if you attempt to contact Ms. Moore ...charges against her will be reinstated. **Do I make myself clear, Mr. Kirk?" (ADAM COUGHING AND PANTING)**

(01:27:56-01:28:27, AAWP)

The similarity from the both characteristics are really seen when Adam and his product gets taken away from him and the way the worker from Marx characteristic cannot hold their own object of creation. That is why from this dialog, it is categorized as one of the characteristics of alienation from the worker of its product because it relates to the owner from the worker that has its product but in the end is not able to keep their creation since the bourgeoisie tends to make a deal with a condition that they can completely take it whenever they want.

b. The alienation from the act of production

This alienation comes from the activity of the workers. This alienation means that the workers who lose control over the object they produce. Not

only that, they also have no right to decide the process making and the life-activity in a process to produce its product.

Assistant : "Everything alright, Mr. Kirk?"
Adam : "Yes, yeah, yeah... everything's fine, just uh... you know, cleaning up a few things."
Assistant : **"Here's the list of candidates for your clinical trial."**

(00:50:52-00:51:31, AAAP)

From this conversation after Adam finishes his anti-aging formula, not a whole complete yet, and then the assistant asks him to make a further trial with the candidate that the higher ups have already decided **"Here's the list of candidates for your clinical trial"**. So in conclusion Adam here has no right to choose who will be the one but the people from the list itself.

c. The alienation from the true essence of our species-being (ASB)

This alienation comes from the potential of the worker as a species-being. This means the workers turn to be like machine that have to do nothing but work. Even how the workers smile will be the result of the quality of the workers as an employee.

Lagavulin : **"We scrupulously observe a full separation between worlds here. That means there is to be no unnecessary contact with those up top. Just stick to your job** and all will be well."

(00:27:45-00:27:58, AASB)

When Adam first enter Transworld, there are to do list for Adam who is from Down Below to obey. One of those are **"there is to be no unnecessary contact with those up top."**. This statement is already leads to the alienation since as to be a human being, to contact with other people is one of the aspects of communication. Also, since Lagavulin recommends nothing but **"Just stick to your job"** is meant that it similar to the definition of the type of the alienation that **"the workers turn to be like machine that have to do nothing but work"**.

d. The alienation of a worker from other workers

This alienation contains the factor of competition. This means a competition of making the capitalists reach the point of their satisfaction at how the workers can benefit them really well.

Employee 1 : "Is that beauty cream for Halloween?"
Employee 2 : "No, they got different standards of beauty down below. The... uglier the better" (BOTH CACKLING)
Bob : **"Hey, don't let those guys get to you. They're just jealous, that's all."**

(00:39:07-00:39:23, AAWW)

The scene tells that what makes Adam is alienated because they are jealous as from what Bob dialog **"Hey, don't let those guys get to you."**

They're just jealous, that's all “ that Adam who is only from down below is gave the opportunity by Lagavulan that he can develop his anti-aging cream by himself whether it is really rare happen to the worker from Down Below. Since Adam gets the special treatment in that way, that is why the other workers from Up Top mock him instead.

E. CONCLUSIONS

Romantic movie like *Upside Down* contains issue of class and alienation. The researcher found the data that can be seen in the movie contains of its class conflict consists of 15 data which is the researcher found there were 10 data for the types of class distinction and there were 5 data for the kinds of alienation that exist in the movie. Also form the aspect of its character of Adam, even though Adam had its struggling through his condition of living, even had to be treated differently in his work place, there was never him being able to really against the people from the Up Top. In conclusion, it was indeed hard to fight for equality if it connected with social rank.

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