

AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL CLASS AND DISCRIMINATION IN JUAN SOLANAS' MOVIE "UPSIDE-DOWN"

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Abstract

Social Class and Discrimination are social problems that live and are rooted in a social group. Social class is a division of groups with attributes in the form of wealth, power, and education, while discrimination is an act that harms individuals and groups. Then what is meant by social class and discrimination in the film "Upside-Down" by Juan Solanas, and what are the effects of social class and discrimination? In the division of social class, there are several divisions of groups that have an impact in the form of discrimination that occurs. The purpose of this study is to provide an explanation of what is meant by social groups and the discrimination depicted in the film, as well as how these problems impact the main actors of the film. The findings of the study showed that social class is divided into two: the bourgeoisie is a group of people who have power, an economy, and a good education, while the proletariat is a working class that prioritizes physical work and is a group that experiences difficulties in the fields of economy, education, and problems of power. The impact of social class itself has an impact; pressure between groups, creating hostility, difficulty solving problems, and difficulty upholding justice.

Keywords— *Social Class, Discrimination, Karl Marx, Bourgeoisie, Proletariat.*

INTRODUCTION

The issue of social class is an endless discussion because every place has systems and rules governing the behavior of each individual, but in every social group there will be problems that almost all social groups feel about, such as issues of social class and discrimination. Social class and discrimination can occur in every place where a society lives because this is a problem resulting from a difference between an individual and another individual.

Social class is based on the theory of Karl Marx (1959: 500) which defines class as "the correlation between work between the ownership of the means of production and workers for the means of production". This then makes two groups based on the amount of economy they have and the power of influence they have. "Another class is used to generate wealth rather than property" (McLellan 1971:93). In the end the social class was then classified into two groups including the bourgeoisie (landowners, tool owners) and workers named the proletariat, McLellan (1971: 178).

This social class issue has an impact on the occurrence of disputes between social groups where groups of capital owners will arbitrarily use their power to order workers and workers cannot fight to get independence because they need a job. This can be interpreted that these two class groups will always be in conflict but need each other.

This research formulates two problems: How are Social Class and Discrimination described in the "Upside-Down" movie? and what impact did Social Class and Discrimination have on

Adam's character in the "Upside- Down" Movie?

LITERATURE REVIEW

Synopsis of Upside Down Movie

This film tells the story of 1 world that has 2 different gravity with similar buildings but down below then destroyed due to a very large explosion in the main pipe of the Transworld company which turned it into a ghost town. Adam is an orphan who lives in an orphanage and only has one surviving family. As a child he loved to look for bee honey on Sage Mountain. The story continues to find true love by going through very strict rules that prohibit contact with different gravity. This film refers to social issues that are manifested in films.

Definition of Social Class

Social class is the gradual division of a population or society into classes. Where the embodiment is a layer or class of high, medium, or low class. (Pitirim A. Sorokin: Socio-Cultural Mobility, 2019). Related to the previous explanation, it can be said that social class is caused by class differences that affect a position in the social class hierarchy.

Based on the theory, Karl Marx "divides three main classes in the structure of capitalist society, namely; the wage class, the capitalist class, and the landowner class, but these classes are still not strong despite the efforts of the middle class to erase the gap between these classes" (Marx 1959: 504). However, "the development of the industrial structure of capitalism now only describes two groups, the bourgeoisie (land owners, tool owners) and the proletariat (workers)" McLellan (1971: 178).

The Development of Social Classes

Social Class Perpetrator

According to Marx (In McLellan 1971: 93), the main actor in social change is the factor of social class. One class will control the expenditure on the necessities of life while the other class will use it to produce wealth from these assets. Based on the previous explanation Marx has divided three classes, namely; workers, capitalists and landlords.

1. Bourgeoisie: Is a class of social groups that have capital and means of production that can facilitate workmanship and can employ other people to be in a production process.
2. Proletariat: Is a group of workers who do not have the capital and tools that can help in doing a job. Causes of Social Class

Based on Sorokin's (New York: Harper, 1998) explanation, "the social stratification system is the difference in society into stratified classes, which include the high class, middle class, and low class". The result of the explanation above, that it can be interpreted the differences between social classes can be caused by several factors, including:

1. Wealth, Income, and Influence: This aspect can provide a significant boost to differences in class, having more wealth can provide opportunities to get what you want and by influencing others to follow suit.
2. Work: A person's work can also affect the grouping of social classes, the higher the position and the amount of profit that can be generated can determine how a person's position in the social group.
3. Education: One of the determinants in social class grouping also affects the level of education one has, the higher one's education can give a good position in a social group

because with that it is described as having higher education means having a more moral character and broader insight.

Theory of Class Struggle and Discrimination

Swim (in Baron & Byrne, 1997) states that “discrimination is a negative action against people who are the object of prejudice such as racial, ethnic, and religious”. It can be said that discrimination is *prejudice in action*. Giving the view that white people are stupid or saying that women are weak is discrimination.

In line with Swim's thinking, according to Theodorson (1979:115-116), “Discrimination is an unequal treatment of individuals or groups based on something usually categorical, distinctive attributes, such as based on race, ethnicity, religion, class membership, or social class. Usually, behavior can be in the form of any direct or indirect restrictions, harassment, or exclusion based on human differences based on religion, ethnicity, race, ethnicity, group, class, social status, economic status, gender, or other aspects of social life.”

Sociological Approach

“Sociology comes from two words *socio* which means social and *logos* mean sains”. According to Zeruhun Doda (Introduction to Sociology 2005) “sociology is the scientific study of society, which is interested in the study of social relations between people in a group context. It means that the study of Sociology has a social behavior among interpersonal in society. Literature is a medium for literary works to express the imagination with using a language as a medium.”

METHOD

This research is research using a descriptive qualitative method that aims to analyze the conflicts of social problems that Adam went through. With this method, it will be easy for researchers to provide arguments based on the results of analysis through dialogue, and visuals, which will then become a conclusion.

As explained by Denzin and Lincoln (United States of America: California, 1997:15) “Qualitative research is a multi-method focus, involving an interpretive, naturalistic approach to its subject matter”. Qualitative researchers study things in natural settings, trying to understand or explain phenomena in terms of the meanings people give. Qualitative research involves the thoughtful use and collection of various empirical materials: case reports, personal experiences, insights, life stories, interviews and observations. They do it.

RESULT

The findings from this research were taken based on the dialogue from the film to gather information about the formulation of the research problems. The researcher then uses the extract to find the meaning of social class, discrimination, and the impact of these issues on Adam.

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Social Class and Discrimination in the Movie of “Upside-Down”

Based on the theory previously described, the researcher divides the division of the social class into the bourgeoisie and the proletariat.

Bourgeoise

The bourgeoisie is an upper-class group that owns power, capital, and production tools.

Extract 1 (00:02:45-00.03:06)

Adam: "When any contact between two worlds was extremely dangerous and totally forbidden. Up top, they grow rich and prosper. While here down below, we stole inverse material from up top to heat our home to survive."

The dialogue explains how the system of division between the two social groups, in which the upper gravity lives with wealth which can be interpreted as the bourgeoisie and the lower class, explains that the proletariat is hardworking and depends on the material above to support their life.

Extract 2 (00.03:31-00.03:50)

Adam: "The only authorized contact between worlds is through Transworld a giant cooperation created to take cheap oil from down below and sell back to us overpriced electricity that we couldn't afford."

The dialog in extract 2 explains how the bourgeoisie works by taking advantage by using their capital to get cheap materials and then producing them with their tools and then selling them at quite expensive prices.

Extract 3: (00:51:42- 00:52:45)

Lagavulin: "Your attention, please. Before we begin handing out the bonuses. We have a list that will no longer be required. Albert Midwall, Susan Gonzalez, John Phelps."

Bob Boruchowitz: "Believe me, my friend. You things work out. You got nothing to worry about."

Lagavulin: "Beatrice Amuchastegue, Bob Boruchowitz."

Bob Boruchowitz: "Uhm, excuse me. I'm sorry, did you say 'Bob Boruchowitz'? Well, uh, I think that's a mistake, yeah?"

Lagavulin: "There is no mistake, Mr. Boruchowitz. You lied about your seniority, and you will be given a retirement package.. but your Transworld contact has been terminated."

In addition to the explanations described in extracts 1 and 2, from the dialogue above it can be concluded that people who have power, economy, and higher positions can regulate the rules that have been in force without anyone being able to modify them other than people who have status and equivalent rank.

Proletariat

The proletariat is classified as a group that has no capital, means of production, and relies on jobs that require physical labor and only does things according to directions from higher-ups.

Extract 4 (00:08:32-00:08:34)

Eden: "Our neighbors got robbed, they're saying it was a thief from down below. There's hunters with gun and border patrol trucks."

In the dialogue in this scene, you can see that people from lower gravity are doing something they shouldn't, namely stealing from above, the reason for that is related to the dialogue in extract 1 which states that the bottom steal material from above gravity to survive through the cold night.

Extract 5: (00:17:31-00:17:46)

Albert : *“What do you have for me?.”*

Mrs. Nathanson: *“Inverse matter to pay my debts.”*

Albert : *“Will this cover it?”*

Mrs. Nathanson: *“My husband says it's stainless steel. From the main pipeline.”*

Albert : *“Oh”*

The dialogue in extract 5 can be assumed that in lower gravity they still use the barter system for the exchange process which can be interpreted in a way of life that is quite backwards because they have not used the money system, instead they are only tied to reverse material.

Extract 6: (00:26:56-00:27:24)

Adam : *“Yeah, I was just wondering what all these people up my side do?.”*

Lagavulin : *“Mmh... They're merely adapters. They adapt our products to your world. You on the other hand have a real opportunity here. Company policy doesn't normally allow for someone from 'down below' to hold such an important position, but we're making an exception in your case. Sign here, please.”*

Extract 6 above provides a clear picture of how the work system at the Trasworld company is the only company that officially connects to the two gravity where people from lower gravity cannot get more work and will only continue to work on the same part. does not require more thought processes, just follow what is already there and there will be no opportunity to improvise what he is doing. Only people from bottom gravity can get important positions in the company.

Discrimination

Discrimination is treatment that has a negative effect on individuals and groups. ”Discrimination is where the majority group has a dominant relationship with the minority. So that behavior is immoral and democratic.” Theodorson, 1979. It can be seen in Extract 2 which describes how discrimination occurs in films. When the Transworld company mined crude oil at a cheap price, it was processed and sold back to the people below at a price that the down below could not buy, which resulted in them having to steal upside down material to heat their homes.

Extract 7: (00:18:39 - 00:19:37)

Show host : *“Transworld will fulfill everyone's dream and transform his life working for Transworld. We're live down below with our nine finalists feverishly awaiting the results. I'd like to welcome Ms. Eden Moore of Trans Publicity a division of Transworld. Now, she'll tell us more about what she does. But more importantly, let's hear about our winner's new job.”*

Eden : *“Well, our division handles all of Transworld's graphic designs. Right now, we're going to work on...”*

Show host : *“Uh... that sounds fascinating but our audiences are dying to know...just what job will our winner begin?”*

Eden : *“Well, today we're offering the winner a job in our department.”*

Show host : *“Okay, here we go. Let's choose our lucky winner. Number 2.”*

The dialogue in Extract 7 provides a clear picture of how discrimination occurs,

people who have power will arbitrarily arrange existing regulations in a place, as is the case in the dialogue above which is very ironic where those who come from down below will get discrimination in the form of injustice justice to get a better position in a company, they have to gamble with luck.

Extract 8: (00:22:35-00:22:59)

Guard : “Stay in line, prepare jackets and personal objects for weighing. Please, remove your jacket and empty your pockets of personal belongings for weighing. Place your jacket in the bin as well. - 165 pounds.”

Extract 8 it can be assumed that discrimination is not only in the form of a physical thing but also emphasizes a person's mentality by giving bad treatment to someone also included in the discrimination category. When someone treats another individual under pressure as someone who cannot be trusted, it can cause discomfort, high feelings of anxiety, and also a lack of motivation to keep working at a place.

Impact of Social Class and Discrimination on Adam's character in “Upside-Down” movie.

The findings are based on the formulation of the problem regarding how the impact of the social class system and the discrimination that occurs has an impact on Adam.

Social class and discrimination have impacts that occur due to differences in education, economy, and power present in society (Pincus, F.L 1996: Discrimination comes in many forms, 186-194). “There are three consequences of discrimination that occurs in society which causes (1) disputes between existing groups, (2) the difficulty of finding solutions to problems, (3) the complexity of upholding justice” (Pamungkas, T. H. 2015: 2).

Intergroup Pressure

The impact of social class creates pressure between social groups, the bourgeoisie will always pressure the proletariat to do what it is ordered to do and the proletariat will fight to gain independence in work.

In extract 1 we can see the difference between the two different gravity on the film, Up side and Down below. This division of gravity does not only have an impact on differences in the source of gravity but also affects the social class classification system. It is as in extract 1 that there is pressure between the two groups.

Extract 9: (01:15:28- 01:15:51)

Lagavulin : “So, are you telling me we don't have the formula?”

Assistance : “Well, we tried to recreate it several times. But the things is, we're missing an ingredient, uh Pink powder. We found traces in is office. Without it there is no cream.”

Lagavulin : “That's unacceptable! You cant figure out without him?”

Assistance : “No.”

In the dialogue above, Lagavulin talks with his assistant who wants to take the formula from Adam's creation in any way to benefit himself. An Impact of the social class difference presents the bullying of the lower classes.

Extract 10: (01:25:32- 01:25:52)

Adam : “Oh, Please, no!” *Agent* : “Get in the car!” *Adam* : “Don't do this to me”

Agent : “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. Krik?”

Extract 10 is connected with extract 9 which gives a clear picture of the actions that the higher class will take to gain their own benefit, they will justify any effort to get what they want and what's worse is that Adam cannot resist but will only succumb.

Causing hostility

The impact of existing discrimination in a group of people is the creation of unstoppable hostility.

Extract 11: (00:53:07- 00:53:23)

Bob Buruchowitz : “Don’t ever trust anyone here, Adam. All a bunch of snakes.”

Adam : “That’s it? I mean, you just pack up your things and leave?”

Bob Buruchowitz : “31 years.. They toss you out like a bag of garbage. Yep, that’s the Transworld way.”

Extract 11 above can be assumed as how a person who has power/a higher position can provide a waiver policy that cannot be refused as in the dialogue above which tells of a worker at Transworld after working for 31 years then being dishonorably fired and all his services as if it's worth nothing. This creates a dispute that creates animosity between those who have different hierarchical positions in the social class.

Extract 12: (01:26:17- 01:27:05)

Adam : “So that’s it. They won and I lost. I just lost everything. They took aunt Becky and they took Eden for me. Oh, it’s hard to accept that I will never see Eden again. I was naïve 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.”

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that the impact of discrimination also has an impact on mental health which is caused by unacceptable treatment by the aggrieved party which creates hostility that will not be resolved.

Extract 13: (00:39:06- 00:39:1)

Employee 1 : “Is that beauty cream for Halloween?”

Employee 2 : “No, they got different standards of beauty down below. The.. uglier the better.”

Another impact can also be seen from the dialogue above where when someone makes comparisons which is better and worse, giving language that offends other people related to race, body shape, beliefs, and culture of a group will lead to disputes.

Difficult problem solving

The complexity of solving a problem that occurs when the film has an impact on Adam's life and also those who have the same status as Adam. They cannot get what they want, and will not be able to experience what is called a free life.

Extract 14: (00:11:24-00:11:28)

Eden : “Imagine if we could go anywhere we wanted to. I mean, really. I can imagine that”

Adam : “Hey, you know what?”

Eden : “What?.”

Adam : “Well, we can.”

The dialogue above is taken in the scene when Adam and Eden are meeting illegally on Mount Sage to tell each other stories and share love, but because of the separation between their social class groups, it is very difficult to get the freedom to form relationships which can be interpreted as a loss of freedom of life to meet, tell other people. Because of this group division, the two of them cannot express their feelings in public because of the difficulty in solving the problem of the two gravity.

Extract 15: (00:12:53- 00:13:39)

Adam : “Did you hear that?”

Eden : “Yeah.”

Adam : “We should go” *Man 1* : “He’s there!” *Man 2* : “Let’s get him!” *Sounds* : “Gunshot”

Continuing with the previous dialogue where their relationship was carried out secretly because of the rules in force. As a result of their meeting illegally, the guards gave them a separation sentence and did not hesitate to kill them using weapons. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done other than surrender to a situation that is very unfair.

Extract 16: (00:14:22- 00:14:53)

Adam : “Becky!”

Becky : “No!”

Adam : “Becky, I’m sorry.”

(screaming)

Becky : “You did nothing wrong! Nothing!.”

Adam : “Please, no! no. Release her!”

After the incident in dialogue 15 can be seen from extract 16 where Adam was punished by being separated by his only family by force, they can't do anything but let go of what happened, by fighting it will only complicate things.

Obstructing the enforcement of justice

The impact of discrimination also has an impact on the difficulty of getting justice, especially for people who have elements of a lower social class.

Extract 17: (00:28:35- 00:28:57)

TV Show : “Another massive oil leak has developed, following a metal robbery from the main pipeline forcing TransWorld to double their security. The three thieves from down below arrested last week were hanged this morning at dawn raising interworld tensions. Here's the senior TransWorld executive with a statement.”

Lagavulin : “They got what they deserved. We don't go down to their world, we

certainly don't want them coming up to ours."

Extract 17 provides a clear picture of how difficult it is to uphold justice. If those from below are caught committing illegal acts, they will be given very inhumane sanctions and they cannot defend themselves to provide clarification about their actions.

Extract 18: (00:03:53-00:04:16)

Adam : "Because of Transworld I grew up in an orphanage. You see, my parents died in the Big Blast, a Transworld oil refinery explosion that destroyed much of the city. Fortunately, there were the weekends. They let me visit my great aunt Becky, my only surviving relative."

Extract 18 explains how Adam became an orphan, this was caused by the Transworld company when there was a very severe explosion that claimed the lives of Adam's family. Even so, Adam was unable to put up a fight and Transworld did not provide compensation to the families who experienced the disaster.

DISCUSSION

In this sub-chapter, this study will present a discussion of the findings of the data that have been described in the discussion above.

Social issues are often depicted in a literary work as in this film depicting social class which is divided into the Bourgeoisie class, the proletariat, and also the problem of discrimination. Based on the results of the data above, researchers found 5 extracts related to the bourgeoisie class, 6 extracts to the proletariat class, and 5 extracts related to discrimination.

Based on the division of the social class into a group, it can be taken regarding the level of employment, education, economy, and power of influence, while discrimination occurs because of differences in the elements possessed by each group, if a group has needs that are more fulfilled then there will be a comparison between each other. In the discussion of social class, 11 data describe their class description. While discrimination 5 data refer to treatment in the form of discrimination.

The impact of social class on the main character in the film leads to pressure on each group.

Based on the results of research on the film, 4 extracts were found that described the pressure between groups that occurred. Meanwhile, the impact of discrimination is assisted by the explanation of Pamungkas, T.H (2015: 01) which refers to the impact of discrimination which causes "(1) creates hostility and feuds between groups, (2) makes it difficult to resolve problems, and (3) Obstructing the enforcement of justice.". The researcher then obtained 11 data that referred to the impact of discrimination that occurred in the film.

Adam in the film is shown as a man who lives alone with social class status as a proletariat and lives under gravity. Adam had to live alone because of the injustice of social class, their parents died due to an accident while working with the bourgeoisie and then they were not given compensation for that. Adam as the proletariat has to work relying on his strength with makeshift tools which illustrates that the proletariat is in great trouble to get complete work tools for reasons of money, they have to work hard to get what they have to achieve.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that the image of social class and discrimination exists in the movie "Upside down" along with the impact of social class and discrimination on the character Adam in the movie.

The social class depicted in the film refers to the division of groups that have levels of wealth, occupation, and power to control. This film is divided into two groups, namely the upper class (bourgeoisie) who have wealth, complete working tools, and jobs that prioritize thinking and energy while the lower group (proletariat) do not have adequate work support tools, improvised materials, limited economy, relying on physical labor and also depending on the owners of capital. Discrimination is depicted in films when the upper class uses its power to oppress or give unfair treatment to the lower group and or minority groups.

The impact of social class and discrimination against the main character in the film is Adam and the other proletariat, firstly they are under pressure in the form of acts of justice that are difficult to achieve, they will always be treated inhumanely by providing unequal justice the bourgeoisie, secondly the increasing hostility between, on the one hand, there will always be a feeling of dissatisfaction between the two class groups, the lower class will feel that they are always being oppressed, the lower group will always oppress, third, it is difficult to create a solution to the polemic of the proletariat which has received violence, fourth, it is difficult to uphold justice; there will be no justice for those who live with low status, they will always get bullying and oppression in all factors in life.

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