

## AMERICAN SOCIAL CLASS DISSIMILARITY AS REFLECTED IN MICHAEL GRACEY’S MOVIE “THE GREATEST SHOWMAN”

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### ABSTRACT

This study aimed investigate about American social class dissimilarity as reflected in Michel Gracey’ movie entitled The Greatest Showman, to reveal the causes in social class dissimilarity in America , to describe the impacts of American Social Class to the main character and the society and to find solution to solve tis social problem as reflected in the film. The objectives of this research were looking the problems that found in Michael Gracey’ film entitled The Greatest Showman. The data were taken from the narration of this movie which are relevant to discussion of the study. The data were collected by watching the movie and reading the movie script in several times, selecting data, discussion from identifying date to report in paper to discribe the condition. The qualitative method used in this research by developing ideas and analyzing the data based on librarian research. The results of this analyzing are people underestimate others and the impact American social class in society of relationship.

**Keywords:** Dissimilarity, American social class, The Greatest Showman

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In literature, People used language to communicate with each other and express their ideas include spoken and written forms. Studying English literature also made us balance of the problem in social life and relax with our life. In general we study there are two types of literary books based on how they are delivering. They are spoken form, such as film and written forms. For example: a novel, a film and

poem. All of them are made of to express and communicate to human thoughts, feeling and imagination toward life. However, they have some differences characteristics as said by Koesnosubroto (1998). That are three characteristic of literature, they are (1) Literature has power. Using a language is one part of literature work creates an emotion impact to the reader’s mind. (2) Literature is Obvious. One of step

performance is to make you see, hear, and express your feeling. (3) The language of literature is clear. This language is clear, it means that the writer make definition to classify of a person by showing what she did, or what she would never do.

The Most popular literary is movie because this shows a picture and sound. Usually, most of people in the world choose watching film than reading literature. They think that reading literature is more bored that watching film like poems, short stories or novel book. Because the difficult to know about the lesson from the written a literary book. In reading a novel book, people need many time to finish their a novel book or poems for understanding a well, they need some of knowledge to take a lesson of the stories. If the choose film they only need one until two hours for watching the film and they can take a lesson from the story.

Movie is entertainment that makes people interested for many people because they can watch a picture and listen their dialogue clearly is not difficult to imagine. For the characteristics of story, setting of place and property in the story also related to the story film. So, this is made people easily to understand about story telling of film. Sometimes, there is back sound of music that supported to the film for making a feel of audience's heart.

Michael Graceys' film entitled Greetesh Showman described about social class dissimilarity in America. In society, we often see the phenomenon that doctors, policeman, politicians, etc are respected with farmers, servants, etc are underestimated. They ways of people make the difference to communicate with doctors; policeman

is more respected than they ways of people communicate to servants.

This phenomena happen because people who live in society have some differences way to respect with each other in some aspects. Although, the differences can make someone discriminate with each other person this is one part of social life. People in society make the difference aspect of life included social aspect based on their income, position, and education.

In this writing, the writer would to discuss the social class dissimilarity in America. The writer tries to prove the existence of the social lass dissimilarity in film the Greetest Showman.

The topic of this study that the writer have chosen is social class dissimilarity in America. There are some reasons why the writer chhosing this topic. First, tthe writer decides on analysis Michaele Gracey's film The Great Showman because in this movie show about dissimilarity in American culture whatever is still measuring by wealth and position. Second, this topic give me some knowladge about social class dissimilarity is a common problem that happens everywhere and everytime in the part of world. Third, The writer choose the topic because social class dissimilarity is happening today.

### 1.1. Previous study

Based on the theory above the writer find two journals which discussed American social class related to the utterance from speaker in dialogue from movie and experimental social psychology. Firs jurnal come from (Kraus and Tan, 2015 ) this jurnal which discussed American social class from experimental social psychology. The

first jurnal using (Kraus and Keltner, 2013) theory in order to describe the social class in America that telling about social class is determined for internal genetic factors and have two reasons : The possibility of people to process advantage in genetical gens explanation that reducing capacity of economic hierachy, Genetic explanation to provide the concern about facts of reason related with social class in Americans. Second theory, genetic describe to be presuasive include of literature indication for Americans tend to show internal explanation in behaviors and social event (Jellison and Green, 1981).

Second jurnal that also discussed about social class come from (Daniya, 2020) which discussed about social class in the movie " Parasite". The second jurnal using theory from ( Ramton, 2006) in order to review class breakdowns during the twentieth century, for analitical utility in social class relate to indicate changing of macro social self – identification. Second theory, knowladge the relationship of some variable, we represented images or object to understand the subject result to know object of individuals but the result complex interlathionsip between culture and society ( Curtin, 2009).

Both of two journals above dissused same thing that is social class in society. The difference between two journals above is both of two journals using different theories and concern in society from environment and second concern in movie. The research that have done analize in The greatest showman movie concern to the dialogue of characters which exist in that movie and focus on diractive acts from character in that movie. Social

class that find in the gretest of showman movie found from listening the dialouge of charachter and interaction with another charather that was watching from the movie, and make conclusion from the movie to get social class phenomenon.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociology is word from Latin , Socius and logos means " Knowledge" . Sociology is sistematic study about society , includes part of relationship, social interaction, and culture. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/sociology>) . According to Spencer (1986 ) that Sociology can be defined as the human group of life. And the group on their own dinamic, their benefit and their result in their individual members of group.

Sociology is saincetific study of society and social relation among people. Sociology is interaction of saince the effect interaction among of people, in human behavior. ( Smelser, 1981). As we knew that sociology happens in the literature and social life. Since there are many subject under sociological field, the writer only reviews the subject that suitable with this topic of study related with data analysis.

### 2.1. Sociological Approach to Literature

Literature is one part of condition society in social life. According to Welleck and weren (1956) that reflected to measure life in the society, fact in the subjective world in the individual that imitated from object of literary. In learning literature there are many lessons to learn about literature and sociology in world life.

According to Welleck and Warren (1956) said that Commonly most part of literature in literary work is sociological approach to literature. This social approach is kind of approach that review about relation of society to literature in studying literary work.

Sociological approach is one part of literature to analyze the literary work. Sociological approach review about aspect of social and culture in society literary work. There are some aspects in the sociological approach for understanding the study about literature in a social mirror ( Damono, 1979). The sociological approach is social power of maint point to analyze the sociological study to find literary work the interaccion in a society life.

## 2.2. Social Class

Social class is a problem that find in the society. Furthure more, the problem in the society because of the difference background of life ano each other. The aspect of social background the differences of power, culture, power, money, position, education, religion, etc. Because of the different things made some people that giving preception group of person which have same condition and dissimilarity with other people for distributing population mamber of group.

Social class is first level made by people in a class system that their social condition more or less about money, education, position, occupation, income (Stewart, 1981).

According to Smalser (1981) that class are categorized based on :

1. Life expectancy and healt. The upper class has bigger housing relation, and medical care than lower class.

2. Family life, in family life, the lower class working and living closer in traditional roles, the upper class affects the role both of husbands and wives living open minded.
3. A working class constributed on level on working that are yellow color, blue color and white color.

## 2.3. Social class in America

The social class in America commonly in America there are some social class include American society works they are :

1. Upper class that are including of households with high income more than \$ 200,000, they have much power, money, ability.
2. Upper- middle class consists of white color is provेशनal with advanced post- secondary educational degree and get high salery. Example : lawyer, engineers, manager.
3. The middle class includes people with levels of job, education, and income. The working class includes some of them do not have high school degrees.
4. Working class includes blue and white collar workers that low personal incomes and they did not entered in colage.
5. The lower class includes of poor people who unskilled jobs , they do not have house and their life is simple diets.

## 3. RESEARCH METHOD

The type of data in this story is descriptive qualitative. It means that the forms of data can be words, phrases, clauses, idioms, dialogues,

and lesson that hidden meaning that found in the movie.

### 3.1. Procedure of Collecting data

There are three kinds of data that we found in this story. The first the primary data, the data that we can find in the movie from the subtitle and script of the film when we watched the movie. Second the secondary data that we know from social culture, theory related with topic. And then, the conclusion of data that we can conclude as we know from the story about social class in the society from the movie.

For getting the data we have to do step by step or the first step we have to watch the movie and know what is the topic, character and lesson from the story. And then, we can identify from data from the script that we got from the story telling of movie related with social issue. After that we have selected the data that related with our topic, this is the data must be clear related our social condition life that we looked for, exactly about American dissimilarity from this movie. And the last, reported data that have found and make some notes for giving information to the readers. This step must be easy to make sense to the readers is not complicated with reality show in social life that reflected the topic.

### 3.2. Analyzing the data

## 4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1. Social class dissimilarity in Film The Greatest Snowman

The Greatest showman is film that centres on the character named Taylor Barnum and Charity who love each other however they have different background. From this story we can

know that The Greatest Snowman talked about social dissimilarity that found in real life. Social dissimilarity is general issue sometimes we found in the modern era, it is not only took in the lower class but also in the upper class.

Social is rank position individual or group in society. It means people can see background of person from position in rank of group by wealthy, occupation, ability in the level of society (Oxford advanced learner, 1995). And then the definition of dissimilarity is the difference background in level rank of money, wealthy, education.

From two definition above, it can be concluding the option of social dissimilarity that is a problem in the society which everyone respected to other by looking their wealthy, ability, position in their life. This definition will show the social class in America that happened in American society respected other as reflected in this film.

On the other hand, there was a social dissimilarity in this film appeared from the other conversation which showed about Taylor Barnum, which actually come from a poor family his mother was a tailor in the house of the rich person that are clarity's parent the name is Halley.

First they were meeting in living room Hasly's family, young Barnum meet Clarity that was learning with private tutor and Barnum invited Clarity by jokes and made her was laugh. And then they become friend but Clarity said to Barnum that she would go private school but she did not like this. After that Barnum said that she had to do her school for being a happy. They kept their communication with letters, they had been through letters

until they meet again when they grown up to be adulthood.

Clarity loved Barnum they love each other, but Hasley's family or Clarity's father was not accepted because Barnum was only worker and poor man .

*Barum : I am sorry to make her laugh.*

*Charity's father : Go away from my daughter because until whenever you will not be able to get her, you are poor young man, you can not make her to be happy.*

From the conversation above showed that Charity's father is dissimilarity with Barnum because of his job and wealt. Clarity from upper calss in America but Barnum only worker class from the first only the lower class when he was young.

#### 4.2. People underestimate others

Underestimate other is one part of social dissimilarity that found in America country , usually people did not respect with other which poor people. Rich people (upper class) will be get more respected from society then poor people ( lower class), this is phenomenon that we can find in this film related in world life.

*Taylor Barnum : sir, i want to take care you daughter.*

*Her Charity's father : Ha ha ha, she will back sooner or later of time because she will be bored with your life. I think nothing, she will back in my home.*

From the conversation above Charity's father was dissimilarity to Barnum because he did not have much money, and the situation in this movie her mother of Charity also supported

her father to delay Barnum. The parent of Charithy's only focused because of his job that was not high position and salery.

He thought that lower class like Barnum did not suitable to respected. In society, reflected this movie the condition American society , people from lower class is not respected by upper class because their level class of society, the upper class underestimates to the lower class because they thouht that they are is not important and considered just annoying in their life.

#### 4.3. The Impact American Social class in society of Relationship

In America people who belong to upper class forbidden to got married with lower class because they think that married with poor people will shift position and embarras them to be introduced to their family and also their bussiner partners.

But from this sory we can know that Barnum Solved his problem from the first when he was growing up he got job to be a writer in the expedition and he could marry with Charithy , in this scene charithy was a good beautiful women because she accepted Barnum about everything that he have limited in their life, they were living a simple life however she was life a rich person in long time ago. After that they were living a happy with two young daughters that they had. Secondly , Barnum got a problem again he was fired from his work place because the workplace was stuck, but he was never give up, he had a good idea to wake up by lent money from the bank and he had idea of making a wax show , then he tried to sell the ticket to society around them , but many people said

that the ticket was expensive and then his daughter gave idea to make a great show at the stage by gathering the unique people who got discrimination in their environment and they could show their high ability. For example the biggest women who had a beard the name is Lettie Lutz, then Charles Stratton the smallest person who embarrass to live and Fedor Jatichev person who have hair and bread in all his body, this condition made he worry to meet people around his live. And the last he could make the creating a spectacular circus performance, there was a music in the stage with a great drama also contain in this performed and the accompaniment of a lot of people that came because they interested and this performance made him to be success person and successful in circus had performed.

## 5. CONCLUSION

Based on this movie the type of dissimilarity that happened the lower class in America to make interaction with other, the researcher concluded there is direct dissimilarity which done the lower class and the unique people. They were difficult to made interaction with other people around them, because the feel underestimated with some people. For the first when Barnum still young they could not play with Charity because her parents discriminate to lower class made relationship with the upper class. Then, second in the story also talked about indirect discrimination in this film to Charlos Stratton because of his body so small then he was shame to made interacation with other people. Third, Lettie Lutz the women who had a beard she was also worried in her live and she

was often ridiculed many people around her.

After describing and discussion about the problem the resercher found that Barnum is always spirit in his life to be successful person and he never blame about gratitude however he got many obstacles in his live, also his wife charity who always accompanied him with all situations he faces, from the worst to the successful ones and encourages people who experienced discrimination in their environment, people around them. Even with limited funds, he can solve his problem and would achieve his dream that he was dreaming from a young boy with Charity, From he was little he likes the art and dream of being succesful with the performance to be that his perfomance on stage and made many people happy to watched his performance.

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