

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

From the analysis in the previous chapter, *The Holdovers* (2023) explores social stratification through its main characters. The film depicts three distinct social classes: the upper class, represented by Angus Tully; the white-collar worker, represented by Mr. Hunham; and the manual working class, represented by Mary Lamb.

First character, Paul Hunham, a tough and principled individual, is deeply committed to educating young men and instilling moral values in them. His unwavering belief in character development stems from a traumatic past experience. Mr. Hunham sees his role as a teacher at a private school as a chance to redeem himself and prevent others from suffering similarly.

Mary Lamb, despite her kind and compassionate nature, faces discrimination due to her lower social status. She is often misjudged and treated unfairly, highlighting the unequal treatment experienced by marginalized individuals. In contrast, Angus, regardless of his misbehavior, continues to enjoy the privileges afforded to members of the upper class, benefiting from the best facilities and treatment within Barton's social system.

Moreover, this movie illustrates Weber's (1978) theory of social stratification by depicting distinct social classes, status differences, and a distorted power

distribution of authority. The main concern of this movie refers to inequality derived from financial and wealth disparity. For instance, it shows the contrast between the students, Mr. Hunham and Mary Lamb, highlighting differences in lifestyle and social treatment that they get. Therefore, the main characters classified as lower classes, such as Mr. Hunham and Mary Lamb, face difficult societal situations that influence how they are treated daily. In this society, they cannot pass the gap line between the upper and lower classes to gain more resources that help them create a bridge to their wishes. The rigid social hierarchy prevents them from accessing more resources and gaining more life chances.

After analyzing the intrinsic and extrinsic elements, it becomes clear that social stratification can harm other parties within society as it blooms within the root of social culture. As a result, I conclude that social stratification has many long-term impacts and develops a broader gap between individuals regarding their social background. By portraying the social limitation, *The Holdovers* (2023) delivers a powerful critique of social stratification and its enduring effects on individuals' lives. Moreover, the movie prompts audiences to question the structure that maintains inequality, hoping that social awareness can lead to positive change and further prevent damage to social stratification.