CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Movies are a form of living images that have various elements of art to complement entertainment needs. According to Hornby (2006:950) movie means a moving picture recorded with a sound that tells a story. A movie has a distinctive pattern: setting, character, story, and theme to build a movie's story which is commonly named as a genre. Genre refers to similarities in groups of movies that are based on aesthetics which have similarities in social, cultural, psychological and institutional elements. Altman (1995:47) stated that genre is the patterns or forms and structures that indicate individual artistic products which explain the construction of movie production by the artist and viewers' easement feelings and functioning as interpret and evaluate the movies' storyline.

Bordwell and Thompson (2008:318) classify several genres generally used in fiction movies, such as scientific-fiction, action, comedy, romance, musicals, western, thriller, and fantasy. A fantasy genre uses spectacular visual effects and creative production design to create immersive worlds. The narrative in fantasy films often involves heroic journeys, battles between good and evil, and epic quests. One of the fantasy movies that build in a tense situation is produced by Warner Bros and directed by Todd Phillips titled "Joker" which shows a social stratification in the movie.

The "Joker" movie can be analyzed as employing elements of fantasy to effectively illustrate social stratification. Muin (2004:48) declares social stratification is a system of distinguishing individuals or groups in society which places them in different social classes hierarchically and provides different rights and obligations between individuals in each layer of society. Additionally, a Russian - American sociologist, Pitirim A. Sorokin (1998:36) stated that the social stratification system is a difference between populations or communities in graded classes. The basis and essence of the social stratification system is the existence of an imbalance in the distribution of rights and obligations, as well as the responsibilities of each individual or group in a social system.

Furthermore, Max Weber argues social stratification involves three interconnected dimensions: class, status, and parties (1946:181). He argues that class is a number of people who have in common specifical component of their life chances. In further, class represented exclusively by economic interests in the possession of goods and opportunities for incomes (Weber, 1946:181). Next, status refers to expression by the fact all else a specific style of life can be expected from all those who wish to belong to the circle (Weber, 1946:187), a status is a person's prestige, social honor in the society. Social stratification last Weber's highlight is parties. Parties is a live house of "power". Parties' action oriented toward the acquisition of social power, including the communities who have the same rational order (Weber, 1946:194).

Moreover, in this research, the writer will explain social stratification using Max Weber's theory in social stratification in the "Joker" movie.

1.2. Research Problems

Based on the elucidation on the research background, there are two research questions needed to be answered by this study, specifically:

1. What are the intrinsic aspects that exists in the "Joker" movie?

2. What are the types of social stratification represented in "Joker" movie?

3. How does social stratification influence the main character's behavior in the "Joker" movie?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

Based on the statements of the research question, there are three objectives of this study, namely:

1. To examine the intrinsic aspects represented in "Joker" movie

2. To investigate the influence of social stratification in the main character's behavior in the "Joker" movie

3. To analyze the social stratification in the "Joker" movie using Max Weber's Social Stratification Theory

1.4. Previous Studies

The first previous study that the writer uses came from journal research titled "Exploitation and Social Discrimination Portrayed in the "Joker" Movie (2019): A Study Class of Analysis" written by Andi Farid Baharuddin and Amelia Novita Gossal from Universitas Sawerigading Makassar. The research discusses social discrimination that Joker (Arthur Fleck) experienced in Gotham city. The study also delivers social class division in the "Joker" movie ramified into two: elite and non-elite class. Arthur Fleck stands for a class of non-elite people who have long been suppressed by the system of exploitation. He lacks the social (relations), cultural, and financial capital due to his lower-class status, making it difficult to acquire health, education, and a job.

The second previous study is from a research titled "Conflicts of Social Class in Movies" published in 2021 and was written by Sopa Marwati, Nurholis, and Hasbi Assidqi from UIN Sunan Gunung Djati. The research discusses the social class conflict in the "Joker" movie. It shares social class tensions that existed between the characters of the upper and lower classes in the movie's plot story. Furthermore, the writers analyze the conflicts: economic and mental disorders that occur in the "Joker" thriller movie.

The third previous study comes from a research from Indah Wardaty Saud (IAIN Manado) and Indah Diah Utari Mahajani (Universitas Muhammadiyah Gorontalo) titled "Hierarchy of Arthur's Needs: A Reflection of Psychological and Social Problems in Joker Movie". This research explains Arthur Fleck had difficulty in

fulfilling his basic human needs such as physiological, safety, love and belongingness, and esteem needs because of the broken system of the government and how the society treats a person who suffers mental health disorder like Arthur Fleck.

The fourth previous study entitled "Social Stratification in *The Notebook* Movie" by Rizky Safe from Universitas Diponegoro. This research focuses on social stratification that exists in *The Notebook* movie. This research reveals the presence of two out of three ideal types of Weberian theory: economic class and prestige/status. The economic class is the most prominent component, visible throughout the film. Prestige is depicted implicitly through characters' reputations and perceptions of others, influenced by their wealth.

Based on the previous studies that the writer had already inspected, this research presents a new perspective on social stratification. Therefore, the writer of this thesis will describe the social stratification in the "Joker" movie using the three class, status, and parties' perspectives using Max Weber's Social Stratification Theory.

1.5. Scope of the Study

This research discusses social stratification in the "Joker" movie. Following with investigating the social stratification highlight of the movie. Therefore, the writer will consist of class, status, and parties' perspectives using Social Stratification Theory by Max Weber in the "Joker" along with the proven data of the movie. Furthermore,

this research shows social criticism of the government when Ronald Reagan was running for President of the America in 1980.

1.6. Method of Study

The writer uses two methods of study for the thesis' research to collect and analyze the data. The first is the method of collecting data for the research, and the second is the method of approach.

1.6.1. Method of Research

This research uses library research for the research method. The writer uses journal, article, books, and movies for the research's sources. According to Zed (2003:3), library research methods apply using search and collection techniques for library data, reading, and information, until taking notes with processing research materials to be used. The data collecting uses various data sources and applying the library method research along with social stratification using Theory of Social Stratification by Max Weber. This research functions to analyze the social stratification represented in "Joker" movies.

1.6.2. Method of Approach

This research uses a sociological approach in analyzing the data. Farley (2003:2) stated that sociological approach proposes thinking, studying, and understanding society, human social behavior, and social groups. In addition, according to Robert Escarpit, sociology approach reflects its social dimension

(1971:3). It may reflect values, norms and social conflicts in society. This is in line with this research to analyze the social stratification in the "Joker" movie. Additionally, this research employs qualitative research methods. According to Tenny (2022:2), qualitative research helps to explain and interpreting the processes and patterns of human behavior.

Furthermore, this research uses an objective approach in analyzing the data. Objective approach describes the literary product as a self-sufficient and autonomous object, which is to be contemplated as its own end, and to be analyzed and judged solely by "intrinsic" criteria such as its complexity, et cetera (Abrams, 1999:52). In addition, this research uses Bordwell and Thompson and Abrams theory in approaching the intrinsic aspect and applies Max Weber Social Stratification Theory for the extrinsic aspect.

1.7. Writing Organization

There are four chapters in this research that will be concern about:

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter gives the reader a brief overview of this study. In this section, the writer explained the background, purpose, scope and several studies that connected this study.

CHAPTER 2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Following the second chapter, the writer will discuss some concepts

and theories that are fundamental and used for analyzing the data.

CHAPTER 3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Concern to deliver the writer's data and analysis for completing the

research question for findings and discussion chapter.

CHAPTER 4 CONCLUSION

The last chapter contains the final conclusion of the writer analysis

by highlighting and summing up the important point of the study.