

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Ellis (1989:30) defines literature as the verbal expression of human imagination and one of the primary means by which a culture transmits itself. Based on these definitions, literature contains universal ideas, human imagination, and human interest that are written in any writings and use language as a medium to express human ideas and feelings. Generally, literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction. Fiction encompasses written works that are defined by narratives or stories that are created, invented, and made up by the writer. Examples of fictional literary works are prose, poetry, and drama. Prose is a type of literary work in the form of an essay that is usually used to describe a fact or idea, and the language used is more appropriate. Poetry is a literary work that has elements of rhymes, stanzas, lines, and typography. Meanwhile, drama is a literary work that describes human life with motion. There have been many literary works created in this world and one of the most popular is film.

Film is the one of literary work based on the means of staging which requires wide-screen media and is usually shown in cinemas. Films have various themes or genres that can be adjusted based on the age of the audience. There are lots of genres or themes that describe love, life, politics, class, and more. According to Marx, a

class is a group with intrinsic tendencies and interests that differ from those of other groups within society. Marx distinguishes one class from another based on two criteria: ownership of the means of production and control of the labor power of others. From this, Marx states "Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other": Capitalists, or the bourgeoisie, own the means of production and purchase the labor power of others and Workers, or proletariat, do not own any means of production or the ability to purchase the labor power of others. Rather, they sell their labor power.

Snowpiercer is one of the films with the theme of social class. This film is based on the French climate fiction graphic novel *Le Transperceneige* by Jacques Lob, Benjamin Legrand, and Jean-Marc Rochette. The film was directed by Bong Joon-ho and written by Bong and Kelly Masterson. It begins by telling the story of an attempt to counteract global warming by engineering climate patterns with a chemical called CW7. The plan backfires and causes an Ice Age, which kills all life on Earth except for the people who live on the *Snowpiercer*, a perpetual motion train that travels a span of track that loops one time around the globe in a year. It was created by a business magnate named Wilford, who runs the train. Curtis, one of the citizens at the rear of the train, conspires to lead the passengers from the tail to revolt against the system and get to the front of the train. From the summary of the story above, the writer wants to analyze using the sociology of literature method.

Sociology of literature is a specialized area of study that focuses its attention on the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created.

It reveals that the existence of literary creation has determined social situations. Welleck and Warren (1956: 94) state that the Sociology of literature is a study to examines the human activities in communities, institutions, and social processes that shape a social structure. Sociology is the study of the sociology of literary works of literature that examines the literary works in conjunction with the social problems that exist in the community. Furthermore, the Sociology of literature examines the contents of a literary work, objectives, as well as other things, that are implied in the literary work itself and related social problems. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomenon and social structure, the sociological study of literature proves very useful to understanding the socio-economic situation, political issues, the worldview and creativity of the writers, the system of the social and political organizations the relations between certain thoughts and culture configurations in which they occur and determinants of a literary work. Like all other social sciences, it's concerned with the life and activities of man. It also examines the origin, structure, development, and functions of human society, scientifically. It also tries to determine the relationship between different elements of social life and discovers the fundamental conditions of social stability and social change. It analyses the influences of economic, political, cultural, artistic, aesthetic, geographical, scientific, and other forces and factors on man and his life and throws more light on the various social problems like poverty, education, religions, and others.

1.2 Limitation of the problem

The problem focuses on the social class, how the relationship between classes and social problems in the film.

1.3 Research Question

1. How many social classes found in the movie?
2. How the social problems appeared in the movie?

1.4 Objective of the Research

The objectives of the research can be stated as follows:

1. To find out how many social classes are found in the movie.
2. To describe how the social problems appeared in the film.

