

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Based on the observed reality, the society is divided into different classification that separates them into different groups. In each group, the people share several characteristics, which make them unique and differ from each other. For example, the group that consists of rich people shares the same luxury lifestyle. They have mansion, expensive car, fancy jewelry, glamour life, etc. On the other hand, there is group that consists of poor people share opposite lifestyle from the group that consists of rich people. The people in this group do not have mansion, jewelry, or car. They live usually with lacks of food, inappropriate clothes or living place. This kind of phenomenon which can be encountered easily in the society, also portrayed in the film called *In Time*. This film is interesting, in the sense that it provide the people with representation of the social class based on the real society today.

The object of this research is a film called *In Time*, It is a science fiction film released in 2011 by the director Andrew Niccol. The film also considered as box office movie with total income up to \$37.5 million and average rating 5,2/10 (Rotten Tomatoes). In the future based on this film, the life was calculated to the second, everyone's forearm has a glowing green numerical display embedded in the flesh. So everyone could see how many seconds, minutes, hours, and days are

left until he or she die. This was because the Scientist has found the way to stop the aging of human being in their 25 years old (IN TIME (2011)). However, people had to pay a very high price to live after their 25 years. The only hope for living longer than another year was to work for an extra time-payment; they converted it into more lifetime. In other word, the wages was valued in the form of time (minutes, seconds, or hours) that can expand the worker's lifetime and it can be spent to fulfill their daily needs such as food and clothes. For instance, the entire economy system in the film was based on time; while ordinary workers were working hard to get additional minutes, the rich people had their own lives in hundreds of years and can get whatever they want.

The main character, Will Salas, is played by Justin Timberlake who was a poor worker living in the Ghetto a place for poor people. He was struggling for every minute, until one night he saved a desperate rich man and was rewarded with a gift of an extra hundred years of time by him. Timberlake then used those extra hundred years to buy his way into the New Greenwich, the place for the rich people. Once inside the New Greenwich, Will met the time monopolizer's daughter, Sylvia, played by Amanda Seyfried. She then fallen in love with Will Salas, and so the two escaped and ran away from New Greenwich. Next, the daughter became a bank robber with Will Salas. Stealing her own father's time wealth, and then distributed the extra months and years to the poor people. In the end of the film, the social class became blurred because the time that used as the capital was widely spread easily due to the robbery done by Will. So that the

bourgeoisie lost the capital, therefore it made them lost the power over the proletariat.

This film is very interesting in the sense that it portrays how the capitalist people are literally killing people for their own advantage. The capital that is used by the bourgeoisie has important role so that they can have power over proletariat. This film criticizes how such capitalist system can be applied and endures until now. By analyzing this film, we can see the reflection of what really happen in the real society since this film is based on it. The writer also finds the conflict that occurs between classes that clearly portrayed in this film. This conflict creates many negative impacts on the proletariat class. One aspect that contributes to create the conflict is the gap between classes in the society. There is also interesting aspect involving the capital in the end of the film that can blurred the class structures of the society because the capital is no longer monopolize by the bourgeoisie.

Based on George and Douglas, class refers to how a group of people who is in the same situation in their relation of means of production control (George and Douglas 38). He divides the society into two different classes, the bourgeoisie and proletariat. Moreover, there are many theories that criticize the cultural practices in our society, those theories often questioning about cultural practices that considered as important thing by the society. One of those theories that were developed in Europe is Marxism. Marxism is a theory that tries to criticize the capitalist practices in the society especially in the aspect of its class division between the capitalist or bourgeoisie and the worker or proletariat, which created

some significant problems in the society. The concepts developed by Marxist theorist can give us more understanding about reality regarding class struggle. Since Marxist is a broad theory, the writer will focus on the concept concerning the social structures of the society that include the class division (proletariat and bourgeoisie) and the role of capital that become the capitalist's tool to rule the society by taking control of the base and superstructure.

There was a previous study conducted by Seliyana that shows the representation of lower class society in D'Bagindas video clips entitled C.I.N.T.A, Empat Mata, and Apa yang Terjadi. Her study called *Representation of Lower Class society in D'Bagindas Band Music Video Entitled C.I.N.T.A, Empat Mata, dan Apa yang Terjadi*. She finds that lower class society is portrayed as collective society and tends to have simple life. There was also research about social class conducted by Silvia Dwi Susanti. In her research called *Representation Social Class of Society in Film (Semiotik study on Representasion Social Class of Society in Pretty Woman Film)*, she emphasizes on the construction of social class that represented in the film. Beside those two previous studies, there was also previous study regarding the social class conducted by Fae Rahmi Wanita entitled *Representasion Social Class of Society in Film (Semiotik study on Representation Social Class of Society in Laskar Pelangi Film)*. In that study, she attempted to analyze the represented reality concerning social class that portrayed in the *Laskar Pelangi* film.

Differ from those previous researches, the writer intends to conduct a research that will focus on the structures of social class and the conflict that occur

among the classes represented in *In Time* film. There is also issue regarding how time is perceived as capital that will be discussed in this research. For instance, this research will attempt to figure out the social class structures along with its conflict and the perception of time as capital that represented in the film.

## **1.2 Statements of the Problem**

Regarding the issue that the writer wants to analyze, the study will primarily examine about the following problems:

1. How are social class structures represented in the *In Time* film.
2. How such structures create conflicts amongst them?
3. How is time perceived as capital in the film?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

In order to answer the statement of the problems above, the writer proposes the objectives of the study are:

1. To understand the social class structures of the society represented in the *In Time* film.
2. To understand how the conflicts can be created by such structures.
3. To figure out about how time is perceived as capital in the *In Time* film.

#### 1.4 Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to criticize the capitalist practice in the society that gives negative impact to the society. The writer also criticizes the problems caused by the capitalist in the real world that represented in the film *In Time*. It also helps people to be aware and understand about the capitalist practice in real life so that people can have critical point of view concerning that issue. Other significance of this research is to help the development of the knowledge especially in cultural studies field. The writer also hopes that this research can be a useful reference in the future study concerning the issues discussed in this study.

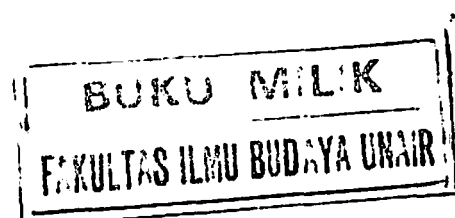
#### 1.5 Definition of Key Terms

In this study, there will be numbers of unfamiliar terms appear frequently. Here are the definitions of those particular terms:

*Bourgeoisie* : The class of modern capitalists, owners of the means of social production and employers of wage labour (Marx and Engels 33).

*Capital* : Money that is used to make more money, which is used again to make more money and on again in continuous circulation (Parker 213).

- Marxism* : A theory by Karl Marx that focuses on the economic realities of human culture (Tyson 53).
- Proletariat* : The majority of the global population who lived in substandard conditions and who have always performed the manual labor (Tyson 55).
- Social class* : Strata of people who have equal position in social status continuum (Horton 5).
- Time* : A time-value is associated with every event which is essentially capable of observation (Einstein 23).



# **CHAPTER 2**

# **LITERATURE REVIEW**