

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

There are more than seven billion people in this universe. People come from different region, race, tribe and gather with each other. They are different from each other but as people they join to gather for the same purposes which are to produce food, shelter, and clothing. All human basic needs are their desire for food and shelter. All people activities are to fulfill their desire for food and shelter. They join to work in different place with different people. All people goals are to get secure economic. Some people success in their struggle and the rest do not. Some people are rich and others are controlled by the rich. People with much more money bring them to have a more power which also means to be able do and achieve all they want without suffering.

According to Dahl in article *The Concept of Power*, the idea of power is like “A has power over B to the extent that he can get B to do something that B wouldn’t otherwise do (203).” Someone with power could affect beliefs, minds, attitudes, and actions of others. Powerful people have capacity to accomplish things they want. Powerful people gain their goals by using others. As instance, companies which want to get more profits by using worker’s labour-power to work more than standard working hours while the bosses of the companies do not work longer. If rich people use their power to get others accomplish what they

want, it will be difficult to get equal rights among people. Rich people will always be leaders who control the workers. In this case, some of them cause suffering to the poor. One who is threaded or forced to accomplish what others need, then one will live in insecurity. The rich ones would use many tricks to control others. They use their exclusive position, wealth, knowledge to exploit the poor. This possibly happen if a boss used his exclusive position to get his workers to work harder and harder without giving them what they deserve. A boss has power over workers to get them do what they would not otherwise do. The potential abuse of power cause the worse condition of the poor. Someone with power achieves things she or he wants by forcing, threatening, and exploit less power ones. By those reasons, the poor become the object of the rich. This phenomenon is also depicted in literary work.

Ship Breaker is a Young Adult fiction novel written by Paolo Bacigalupi. This novel was published in 2010. According to locusmag.com, Paolo Bacigalupi, the author, was born on August 6, 1972 in Colorado Springs. He started his carrier as a consultant in China but then he returned to United States. He published his first stories “Pocketful of Dharma” (1999), “The Fluted Girl” (2003), “The People of Sand and Slag” (2004), “The Pasho” (2004). He won Hugo nominee and Sturgeon Award for "The Calorie Man" (2005), "The Tamarisk Hunter (2006), “Pop Squad” (2006), and was finalist in Hugo and Sturgeon Award and was Asimov's Award for “Yellow Card Man” (2006), “Small Offerings” (2007), and “Softer” (2007).

Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* is one of the examples of the rich people who use their money and power to exploit the poor people, written in a form of literary work, novel. Ship breaker is a group of scavenger who scavenge long-dead ships. Ship breakers work in a dangerous area under exploitation from the company they work for. However, for them, it is better to work in an old oil tanker with rats, cats, petroleum fumes, and lack of fresh air rather than selling their body's parts to company, "She could sell off a kidney. Maybe tap out a couple pints of blood for the Harvesters. They're always buying (49)." They will sell their quota to the company they have dealt with to get penny of money as return. Ship breakers have to make quota of scavenge otherwise they will disown from the crew. For them, the beach is a hard place to work without crew. The exploitations to labors are clearly shown through ship breakers in this story. As instance, the ship breakers work in small dark ducts. "Dust cascaded into his hair. Despite the filter mask, he started coughing, as powder leaked in around the poorly sealed edges. He sneezed, then sneezed again, eyes watering (2)." However, the companies do not provide them with security stuffs in order to decrease the cost of production. "The mask was a hand-me-down, given to him by his father. On its side, faded words said: DISCARDED AFTER 40 HOURS USE. But Nailer didn't have another, and no one else either. He was lucky to have a mask at all,..(2)."

The basic literary approach used for deep analysis of this object is Marxist theory as conceptualized by Charles Bressler, Terry Eagleton, and Robert Parker besides to other related literary theorists and critics who developed Karl Marx's

concepts about Marxist and criticism. Terry Eagleton in his book *Marxism and Literary Criticism*, defines Marxist criticism as this following.

Marxist criticism is not merely a „sociology of literature“, concerned with how novels get published and whether they mention the working class. Its aim is to *explain* the literary work more fully, and this means a sensitive attention to its forms, style and meanings (2).

Likewise, another theorist, Peter Barry in his book *Beginning Theory an Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory*, explains Marxism as this following.

The aim of Marxism is to bring about a classless society, based on the common ownership of the means of production, distribution, and exchange. Marxism is a *materialist* philosophy: that is, it tries to explain things without assuming the existence of a world or of forces beyond the natural world around us, and the society we live in (156).

The two quotes above deliver the reasons why Marxist approach is suitable for this study. Marxist approach is suitable for this study because it can cover the relation between upper and lower class including their problems. In Marxism, rich people are categorized as the *bourgeoisie* or upper classes while the poor people as *proletariat* or lower classes. The writer would concern with the exploitations in capitalist system along with its impacts and complications. The thesis writer discusses the exploitation issue because the author of the novel

delivers a story about labor's life. The thesis writer is interested to reveal the unconstructed truth of labor's exploitation inside the story.

According to Gary Lapon in an article, exploitation is described as this following:

THE TERM "exploitation" often conjures up images of workers laboring in sweatshops for 12 hours or more per day, for pennies an hour, driven by a merciless overseer. This is contrasted to the ideal of a "fair wage day's wage for a fair day's work"--the supposedly "normal" situation under capitalism in which workers receive a decent wage, enough for a "middle class" standard of living, health insurance and security in their retirement.

In *Ship Breaker*, the bourgeoisie class is placed by the owners of companies while proletariat class is placed by the ship breakers. Ship breakers work under the companies' commands. Ship breakers work almost all day long but they do not eat properly. A scavenger goes working with a hungry belly. "It made Nailer hungry just looking at all that food Bapi's chest, but there was no point looking at Bapi would never share (13)." Not only go working with a hungry belly, scavengers work in a dangerous working condition but the companies do not provide security stuffs. "His lungs screamed for air. Sucked air. Petroleum vapors burned his lungs, but he could breath. Blackness all around. Pitch blackness. The fumes were dizzying. He forced himself to breath shallowly as he clung to the wire (23)." This work is extremely dangerous for ship breakers,

it can damage their health but the companies do not give them health insurance. The companies exploit ship breakers by not providing labors a standard of living, health insurance and security.

It can be seen from above that under capitalism system, workers would hardly get the ideal fair wage for their work. Working for almost all day along, workers would only get a few dollars as return. Companies or the bourgeoisies class who own means production try to make the lowest cost production but get the highest profits. The capitalist system makes workers are further away from their dreams in getting standard of living, health insurance and security in their retirement. Under capitalist system, the poverty continues from generation to generation. Workers do not get a fair wage for adding use value to everything they have done. Therefore, they can not get a good standard of living. Most of the labors live in poverty. Exploitation toward the labors is a way to make bourgeoisies keep their properties and even help them getting richer. Those are reasons why exploitations are interesting issue and so is this novel.

Then, Bacigalupi started his first novel debut *The Windup Girl*, which was nominated for both the Hugo and Nebula Award, and won LOCUS Award for Best First Novel in 2010. His next novel is “Ship Breaker”, which was nominated for the 2010 [National Book Award](#) for Young People's Literature, won the 2011 [Michael L. Printz Award](#) and Locus Award for the [Best Young Adult Book](#), chosen for the American Library Association's Top Ten Best Fiction for Young Adults list 2011, and Nominated for the Andre Norton Award for Young Adult

Science Fiction and Fantasy (www.locusmag.com). There are more awards which Paolo Bacigalupi has achieved that can not be mentioned for his literary works.

The thesis writer finds out that this novel's plots are full exploitations toward labors and it is like a description of the relation between the lower classes and the upper classes. Furthermore, this Young Adult fiction novel is not like mostly Young Adult novels. Most of the Young Adult novels talk about love, family, and drama but this novel is less drama. As mentioned above, this novel is adventurous and thrilling that makes the thesis writer feels to be inside of the story and she could feel the power and influence of labors. The thesis writer feels that this novel is highly recommended for anyone to be read so that they could see that there is another difficult life out there. Those are the reasons why this novel is interesting for the thesis writer.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. How are labors' exploitations portrayed through Marxist concepts in the *Ship Breaker*?
2. To what extent do the implications of exploitations toward the labors in the *Ship Breaker*?

1.3 Objective of the Study

These following are the objectives of the study:

1. To analyze how ship breakers' exploitations toward the labors are portrayed through Marxist concepts in this text.

2. To analyze the implications of exploitations towards the labors.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By presenting this thesis, the writer hopes it can encourages readers to be more enthusiastic in reading novels as a learning form, not merely as an entertaining tool for their leisure time. The writer presents this study for university students so that they could be able in analyzing the literary text. The writer hopes students would be more sensitive in reading literary text, and they could look beyond the text itself, either the ideology or the message of texts. This study is presented for students who will do further analysis about Marxist theory. Especially, this study is expected as additional information for readers who analyze the similar issues about exploitations. The writer also presents this study for adult readers. The writer wishes after reading this study, they could be more aware with their society, with what others do to them. Furthermore, readers are expected to be wiser to behave with their other classes. This study is expected to be a worthy contribution for English Literature students in English Department.

1.5 Scope and Limitations

This study will be focused on the exploitations along with its implications that are shown vividly in the stories of Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* which obviously shows the economic gap between two classes, namely the upper-and lower classes. Absolutely, *Ship Breaker* can be analyzed by using some literature theories but as mentioned above, the thesis writer is interested with the issue of

exploitations among labors along with its implications hence the literature theory approach that concerns to this issue is Marxist theory approach.

1.6 Theoretical Background

In analyzing exploitation in Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker*, Marxist theory is used since this theory is considered as the most suitable theory that concerns on capitalism as one of its parts. Marxist is one of literary theories which appear in the middle decades of the 19th century which is developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engles. Marx and Engels suggest the idea a small group of leaders controls the money and the struggle of working class to be equal as ruling class (Parker 156).

According to that, this study will analyze the story by using the theories of Karl Marx that will concern with exploitations along with its implication and complication of capitalist system. According to Dino Felluga's *Terms Used by Marxism*, Capitalism is "a socio-economic system based especially on private ownership of the [means of production](#) and the exploitation of the labor force." This is related to the aims of applying Marxism theory in analyzing Paolo Bacigalupi's *Ship Breaker* to discover the exploitations toward labors under capitalism system along with its impacts.

There are some previous studies about labors. First is a thesis comes from Anastasya Evalyn's *Criticism toward Classism of Victorian Period in Oscar Wilde's Fairy Tales: A Marxist Criticism* Anastasya also concerns with human interaction between working class and ruling class, economic gap, class struggle.

The issue of that thesis with the issue on this thesis also relates with relation between upper and lower class. However, Anastasya more concerns with interaction between upper and lower classes, class struggle in the Victorian period through fairy tales. She also focuses on how fairy tales are used to criticize the condition during Victorian period. On the other hand, the writer would reveal how the relation between upper and lower class can bring suffering to the lower class through exploitation. The second study comes from Ary Cahya Utomo's *Pramoedya Ananta Toer's criticisms in "stranded fish" and "creatures behind horse" as seen from the point of view of social realism*. This study analyzes on how Social Realist criticism which based on Marxist theory existed in two short stories. The writer will analyze on how criticism against Capitalism, then the criticisms against Feudalism and third is the criticism against Imperialism and Neo Colonialism. The other study is from Fatma Balci's *The Marxist Concept of Alienation and Exploitation in of Mice and Men*. This work analyzes the alienation in *Of Mice and Men* novel through aesthetic elements and also brings the ideology of the American Dream during the Great Depression and connects it with alienation and exploitation in the story.

1.7 Method of the study

. Data collective and data analysis are used as methods of this study. Data collective consists of close reading, data classification based on problem statements and data selection to be analyzed. Close reading means reading for more than one time. Close reading is needed to understand the story of the novel. The writer has read the novel more than one in order to get important parts so that

she could find the issue inside the novel. After deciding the issue, the writer has made two problem statements to be developed as analysis. To answer the problem statements well, the writer classified and selected the data in the story based on the problem statements. Obviously, the primary data as the main source is the novel itself but still the writer need secondary sources to strengthen the analysis from the primary source. The writer collects data from various books, journal, articles and gain information from internet source. The article that is used as source is article that relates to capitalism and exploitations issues as the same issue in this study.

The aims of this data collective is to support the analysis of this study so that the readers could have a better understanding of this issues and the get clear answers of the thesis questions that are delivered by the writer.

The next step is data analysis. In data analysis step, the writer chooses the literary theory which discusses about the issue which has been chosen. Marxist theory by Karl Marx is chosen as the theoretical framework of this study because it relates with the exploitation issue of this study. The writer analyzes the novel not only by using Karl Marx's concepts but also by using Marxist concepts as conceptualized by Bressler, Eagleton and Parker. In analyzes part. The writer elaborates the important parts inside the story along with data or information that are related to the issue with Marxist concepts about exploitation toward labors.

The last step in this method is providing the conclusion as the last parts of this study that is aimed to give clearer understanding of this study as whole. By

applying this method, the writer hopes the sources could complete the analysis and could fulfill the curiosity of readers about capitalism and exploitations issues.

1.8 Organization of the Study

In order to make this thesis well organized, the writer arranges this thesis into 4 chapters. The first chapter is introduction that consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, theoretical background, method of the study, organization of the paper, and definition of key terms. The next chapter is literature review. This chapter consists of theoretical framework and related studies. This chapter would explain more about the literature theory that is applied for the analysis and also review of the related study with the same issue. The following chapter is analysis, the chapter that will discuss more about all the data and the theory that are applied. The last chapter is conclusion and suggestion.

1.9 Definition of Key Terms

Capitalism : An economic system based on private ownership of the means of production (Felluga)

Capitalist's ideology : The dominant ideas of a society are the ideas of its ruling class. The ideology is used to legitimate the power of the ruling class in society (Eagleton 2).

Exploitation : The term used to describe image of workers laboring in sweatshop for small amount of money (Lapon)

Marxist : The ideas which were developed by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the mid-nineteenth century (Parker 211)

Ship Breaker : A person who works in a final disposal ships containing hazardous materials in order to scavenge copper wire, oil, and etc.

