

THE REFLECTION OF CLASSLESS SOCIETY IN GEORGE ORWELL'S *ANIMAL FARM*

Nurul Akbar Nur¹, Burhanuddin Arafah²

nurulakbar1980@gmail.com¹

burhan-arafah@unhas.ac.id²

Hasanuddin University^{1,2}

Abstract

This research intends to analyze the classless society in *Animal Farm*. Therefore, the researcher explained how the reflection of the classless society in the novel. In analyzing this research, the researchers used a sociological approach to describes the classless society reflected in the novel of *Animal Farm*. The researcher analyzes literary work based on the text and explains the meaning of sociological using Marxist literary theory. The researcher analyzes the communism concept practised and reflected the society (farm) to create public welfare. Moreover, the researcher used a qualitative method and descriptive analysis method in analyzing the data. There are two sources of data which are primary and supporting data. The primary data was taken off the novel Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Meanwhile, the supporting data is from the book, journal, theses, and article. The result of this research is the researchers find the author's way to reflect the classless society in the novel.

Keywords: classless society, Marxist literary theory, and Animal Farm

INTRODUCTION

The discussion of the essence of art was a long time ago. The focus of that often appears between the philosopher and art critic includes literary theory and critic. Talking about the essence of art, in the end, will we be back to the artist who stands behind each scene works of art. It is impossible to talk about art as an independent reality that was born by itself without struggle concept, ideology, or philosophy in the mind of the artist. It is related to Abrams opinion. He said that Marxists view literature "not as works created following timeless artistic criteria, but as products of the economic and ideological determinants specific to that era" (Abrams, 1999: 149).

In other interpretation, which has a relation with Abrams opinion, we can say

that between literature and the power like this has continued as long as the history of human being civilization. Another example is power in the time of revolution of industry, which was signed by the powerful of capital on people's attempt. Arts have to rearrange their role. Capitalism which was supported by fund and force, repeatedly compelled art to supported them. Arts have been placed as a commodity, and aesthetic began to measure with money.

Hashem (2012: 25) said that in the destruction of the Soviet Union is one of the biggest surprises in the human being history. There is no one of rival try to predict this happen early. Included C.I.A. How this possible? A stable and rigid system in a Centralistic Party system with the existence of solid Intelligent like Komitet Gosudarstvennoy Bezopasnosti (K.G.B.) get ruins early.

The condition becomes attention. One of K.G.B. is George Orwell's *Animal Farm*. With allegory style, as a Socialist-Democratic, Orwell not only criticizes Communism but include to criticizes the practical of Capitalism. According to Napierkowski (1998: 1) that *Animal Farm* is one of George Orwell's famous novels. In this novel, Orwell criticizes the Russian revolution, and he delivers his message by using the animal characters, which is considered unique. He uses the animal to reflect the situation that happens in Russia at that time. By using the animal characters, Orwell shows the way manipulation happens among the characters, the domination and the way significant characters in this novel play his rule, which reflects the way communist, and capitalist system play. This novel describes the characteristics of some ideology to other characters, which has less power.

Furthermore, Napierkowski said the main problem in this novel is the upper-class conversation class. The cause is the social class and power, which is controlled by the upper level, and the lower class has no power and poverty — more than they only work as servants and can not change their destiny.

Based on the statement above, in this study, the author wants to explore reflection of classless communities in George Orwell *Animal Farm*. This research will focus on how George Orwell reflects Classless Communities in *Animal Farm*.

METHOD

This study uses a literary text perspective. The researcher analyzes literary work based on the text and explains the meaning of sociological using Marxist literary theory. According to Eagleton (1976:3), Marxist literary theory is not

merely as the sociology of literature, concerned with how novels get published and whether they mention the working class. The greatest art is that which timelessly transcends its historical conditions.

According to Abrams, Marxists view literature "not as works created following timeless artistic criteria, but as products of the economic and ideological determinants specific to that era" (Abrams 1999: 149).

Through the conceptual framework of the research above, first of all, the researcher reads Orwell's *Animal Farm* intentionally. Next, the researcher enters into the reflection of a classless society and identifies the aspects of classless society concept as implied by Orwell's *Animal Farm*. Then, the researcher analyzes the communism concept practised and reflected the community (farm) to create public welfare. It aims to perpetuate their concept. The last, the researcher uses the sociology of literature approach to describes the classless society reflected in the novel *Animal Farm*.

THE RESULT OF RESEARCH

The Classless Society in Animal Farm

By using allegorical style on *Animal Farm*, George Orwell wants to criticize a Classless Society or in the concept of Marxism called Communism. What Orwell had predicted in his writing on *Animal Farm* was proven. The Soviet Union broke up in the 80s to 90s and turned into Russia. During this time, Russia tried to get rid of Communism and become a capitalist country.

Orwell begins to enter a character named Major, a respected old white pig on the farm. A pig is one of the core figures in its satire. There it is said that in the end, the animals on the farm agreed to gather to listen to Major recounted the strange dream he had The Old Major's speech to other

animals is a significant value to note. His statement about revolte in humans has raised sensitivity for all animals. His address is of primary concern to animals that they must rebel against Humans (Mr Jones) who have exploited the fruits of their labour for themselves. The speech stated that all animals are the same, and all humans are enemies.

Revolte led by Snowball and Napoleon happened. With a fierce struggle, the animals finally succeeded in driving Jones and his cronies off the farm. And the animals were free and then agreed on the principles of bestiality realized in the form of the Seven Commandments:

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed
5. No animal shall drink alcohol
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animal are equal (Orwell, 1945:19)

With the rules of The Seven Commandments, they manage farming seriously and make them live happily. The animals are happy because they never imagined that could happen. Every mouthful/bite of food is an extraordinary positive pleasure, and now all food is genuinely their own, produced by themselves and for themselves, no longer rationed to them by the master who mastered it. (Orwell, 1945: 22).

The achievements of the revolution on the farm did not stop there. Snowball, who has the organizing skill, began to teach ways to organize to improve welfare even better.

Based on this quote, the path to achieving animal welfare goals is being realized. They help each other in completing all major

work. The animals continue to strengthen and defend everything they have made.

"The pig had set aside the harness-room as a headquarters for themselves. Here, in the evenings, they studied blacksmithing, carpentering, and other necessary arts from books which they brought out of the farmhouse. Snowball also busied himself with organizing the other animal into what he called Animal Committees. He was indefatigable at this. He formed the Egg Production Committees for the Hens, Clean Tails League for the Cows, the Wild Comrades' Re-education Committee (the object of this was to tame the rats and rabbits), the Whiter Wool Movement for the Sheep, and the various others, besides instituting classes in the reading and writing" (Orwell,1945:25).

Based on the quotation, the path to reach a goal of the animal welfare being realized. They help one another in completing all the works that need to be done. The animals continue to strengthen and maintain all that they have achieved.

The life order at Animal Farm, which was built based on volunteerism to work in realizing justice and prosperity did not last long. Power is indeed intoxicating. The welfare of the inhabitants of Animal Farm realized began to emerge the desire to take full force from Napoleon. The dualism of leadership between Snowball and Napoleon started to be out of harmony. A conspiracy ensued. In a meeting attended by all the inhabitants of Animal Farm, Napoleon staged a coup and took overall power and eliminated Snowball with violence from Animal Farms as described dramatically by Orwell.

"But just at this moment Napoleon stood up, and casting a peculiar sidelong look at Snowball, uttered a high-pitched whimper of a kind no one had ever heard him utter before. At this, there was a terrible baying sound outside, and nine enormous dogs wearing brass-studded collars came bounding into the barn. They dashed straight for Snowball, who only sprang from his place just in time to escape their

snapping jaws. In a moment he was out of the door and they after him" (Orwell, 1945:39).

Since the expulsion of Snowball, Napoleon has been the absolute ruler of all animals at Animal Farm. Furthermore, the freedom, which was the spirit of revolte, slowly began to disappear and was taken over by Napoleon and the Pigs. The well-being that has been felt by animals has again turned into a cruel life. Animals are forced to work hard for ruling projects, food for animals is restricted, even slaughtered for anyone who does not obey. Democracy echoed again turned into tyranny. Napoleon and Pigs are always right.

Snowball, who had a strong influence on Animal Farm, tried to remove its impact by Napoleon and his supporters by creating stories that betrayed and conspired with enemies committed by Snowball. Napoleon used Squealer who had rhetorical expertise to turn stories around that made all animals believe to it. And as a spokesman trusted by Napoleon, Squealer always managed to carry out his duties well.

Napoleon and his supporters began to violate the rules contained in the Seven Commandments. Napoleon started to a relationship with humans, a lawyer named Whymper as an intermediary between Animal Farm and the outside world. Whymper visits every Monday morning to take orders from Napoleon. As can be seen by the following quotation below:

"Finally Napoleon raised his trotter for silence and announced that he had already made all the arrangements. There would be need for any of the animals to come in contact with human beings, which would clearly be most undesirable. He intended to take the whole burden upon in his shoulder. A Mr. Whymper, a solicitor living in Willingdon, he agree to act as intermediary between Animal Farm and the outside world, and would visit the farm every Monday morning to receive his instructions". (Orwell, 1945:47).

"The Seven Commandments" has the principles of animalism. He was violated and altered following the interests of Napoleon and the pigs to preserve his rule. Finally, the condition of the farm became worse than before managed by Mr Jones. And the most terrible offence is that Napoleon slaughtered all the animals that dared to refute his decree. Napoleon had created a terror on the pretext of his first rebellion and power struggle.

"And so the tale of confessions and executions went on until there was a pile of corpses lying before Napoleon's feet and the air was heavy with the smell of blood, which had been unknown there since the expulsion of Jones. When it was all over, the remaining animals, except for the pigs and dogs, crept away in a body. They were shaken and miserable. They did not know "which was more shocking — the treachery of the animals who had leagued themselves with Snowball, or the cruel retribution they had just witnessed. In the old days there had often been scenes of bloodshed equally terrible, but it seemed to all of them that it was far worse now that it was happening among themselves. Since Jones had left the farm, until today, no animal had killed another animal. Not even a rat had been killed".(Orwell,1945: 61)

The animal's memories began to recall everything that Major said in his speech about the noble ideal for them. About a just life without oppression and slavery between them. They never imagined their fellow animals would eventually kill each other and concluded that this was not their goal to prepare themselves for years to overthrow human rule. And this is not the aim of Major to encourage them to revolt.

On the other story, Orwell then sharpens his criticism. With an illustration that a society without a prosperous class has arrived at the initial point of realization. The animals have felt the results of their efforts together. But that was in the beginning since they first carried out a rebellion on Mr

Jones. But slowly after welfare has increased. The pigs who raised themselves as rulers began to change and tend to follow the individual style of managing livestock. Even all the rules in The Seven Commandments forbid animals observed as human habits without exception, have been manipulated by pigs for their benefit.

"But a few days later Muriel, reading over the Seven Commandments to herself, noticed that there was yet another of them which the animals had 41 remembered wrong. They had thought the Fifth Commandment was 'No animal shall drink alcohol,' but there were two words that they had forgotten. Actually the Commandment read: 'No animal shall drink alcohol to excess' (Orwell, 1945: 78).

Orwell closed this novel by describing a very chaotic situation that occurred Animal farm after Napoleon conspired with a group of people who's have regarded as enemies. They often have dark meetings in designing their business without involving other animals. Animal farm has wholly abandoned its ideals. Although it was far from the collaboration, Animal Farm looks even more and more prosperous, despite the prosperity and welfare only belong to Napoleon and his human friends. Other animals don't feel that. They continue to work hard to increase production on the farm.

"As for the others, their life, so far as they knew, was as it had always been. They were generally hungry, they slept on straw, they drank from the pool, they laboured in the fields; in winter they were troubled by the cold, and in summer by the flies. Sometimes the older ones among them racked their dim memories and tried to determine whether in the early days of the Rebellion, when Jones's expulsion was still recent, things had been better or worse than now. They could not remember" (Orwell, 1945: 93).

The Seven Commandments which was originally reversed by Napoleon. At the end of the story, it leaves no more. They are

known when Benjamin and old Clover walked around and saw the large barn wall where The Seven Commandments were written. Clover, who did not know how to read, asked Benjamin to read it. They also realize that there is no more The Seven Commandments except for a sentence that harasses other animals. What reads, "All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others" (Orwell, 2005:96)

All the situations in the story of *Animal Farm* are every day in human life. Inside are stories of Rebellion, conspiracy, manipulation, discrimination, slaughter, and so on. These are all portraits of human life when assuming power described by Orwell with the allegory of a group of animals.

CONCLUSION

One of the messages of the novel is about how power can often lead to corruption and oppression. Even when a revolution is made with the best intentions, all directed toward the greater social good, and all animals are equal it can devolve into a government which is just as bad (or worse) than the oppressive regime which it replaced.

Over time the pigs (leaders) put themselves in a higher position (under Napoleon), and this reestablishes a hierarchy (which was what the revolution was supposed to have eliminated). This hierarchy divides the animals; thus, they are no longer all equal.

The novel also shows the ways a group/government can manipulate and brainwash its citizens through the use of propaganda. Napoleon and Squealer regularly change the seven commandments to suit their increasing power. By the ending novel, the commandments read less like a document stating the equality and happiness of all animals, and it reads more like the

establishment of the privileges of pigs over all animals. Napoleon and Squealer not only change the commandments (usually acting as if they had never been changed); they also change history to suit their narrative. Snowball had been the hero of the Battle of the Cowshed. Still, to praise Napoleon and criticize Snowball, Squealer gradually changes the story, eventually making Napoleon the hero of the battle.

The novel shows how even a revolution with intentions of total equality and welfare for society can devolve into an oppressive state by using propaganda and fear. The further message is about the tendency for power to corrupt. As Napoleon's regime gained power and privilege, the corruption increased as well.

References

- Abrams, M.H. 1999. *Marxist Criticism; A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 7th ed. Fort Worth: Harcourt Brace College Publishers.
- Eagleton, Terry. 1976. *Marxism and Literary Criticism*, University of California Press.
- Faizah, Nahla & Liyanti, Lisda. 2019. Ruang Asing Dan Identitas Anne Frank Dalam Novel Otobiografi Das Tagebuch Der Anne Frank. *Jurnal Ilmu Budaya*. Vol. 7 (2), 193-206.
- Hashem, O. 2012. *Marxisme dan Agama*. Yogyakarta. RausyanFikr Institute
- Napierkowski, Marie Rose.ed. 1998. *Animal Farm: Introduction. Novels for Students*. Vol. 3. Detroit: Gale, 1998. eNotes.com. January 2006. <http://www.enotes.com/animalfarm/Introduction>.
- Orwell, George. 1945. *Animal Farm*. Harcourt, Brace. New York.