ABSTRACT

This article attempts to analyze Marxism in George Orwell’s Animal Farm. The article uses basic ideas of Marxism and Historical background to analyze the characters. The study aims at describing some basic ideas of Marxism which are depicted in the novel. Those are: 1. Social life consists of two layers; it can be seen in the community of the animals that consist of upper class and lower class. The upper class belongs to the one who controls the group. This refers to Old Major who inspires the animals to have revolution. And then after Old Major dies, Napoleon leads the rebellion. Napoleon (young boar) has ambition and direct approach to get power cause him to win the struggle for leadership of animal farm 2. A minority of people holding the power that lies on the person who proposes rebellion. The revolutionary ideas come out in Old Major’s dreams. Old major is a well-respected pig and he represents a minority of people who has a dream about revolution. 3. Philosophy, literature, arts, and other intellectual activities lie on the upper layer that the pigs is the group who control the farm. The pigs refer to upper layer. As a member of upper layer, indeed, they perform privileged attitude which possess to this class. 4. Social conflict lie on the second layer: the upper class constantly try to suppress the lower class/labor/proletarians, and the proletarians are too weak in facing the pressures of bourgeoisies, and therefore they tend to be constantly stronger and richer, while the proletarians tend to be constantly weaker and poorer. The proletarian can be seen in Boxer (cart horse) that is great loyal labor, strong body, small intelligence, honest and hard working.

Keywords: Marxism, upper class, lower class, Historical Background.

ABSTRAK

Artikel ini mencoba untuk menganalisa Marxism di dalam novel Animal Farm karangan George Orwell. Artikel ini menggunakan ide – ide dasar Marsism dan latar belakang sejarah untuk menganalisa tokoh yang ada di dalam novel Animal Farm karya George Orwell. Tujuan dari artikel ini penulis ingin menggambarkan beberapa ide ide dasar dari Marxism yang digambarkan di dalam novel. Ide ide dasar dari Marxism yaitu 1. Kehidupansosial yang terbagi menjadi dua yaitu kelas atas diwakili oleh tokoh babi yaitu Napoleon yang semena mena terhadap kelas bawah. Kuda digambarkan sebagai tokoh pekerja kelas bawah. Tokoh boxer yang di gambarkan sebagai kuda pekerja yang di tindas oleh kelas atas yaitu Napoleon. 2. Orang orang yang memegang kekuasaan yang digambarkan...
Marxism in George Orwell’s Animal Farm

Ima Masofa

A. INTRODUCTION

Animal Farm tells a group of oppressed animals on Manor Farm. The novel takes the reader through the revolution of the animals. One of Orwell’s goals in writing Animal Farm is to portray the Russian (or Bolshevik) Revolution of 1917 as one that resulted in a government more oppressive, totalitarian, and deadly than the one it overthrew (Howard, 2009: 1).

Animal Farm primarily presents Marxism. In this novel, the author, George Orwell tries to portray the idea of Marxism through animalism. Animalism here brings the revolution of the animals on Manor farm. It tells of how animals form a system of government. The system of government in this case refers to the Animalism on the farm. The story tells about animal rebellion on Manor farm. The animals took over from Mr. Jones who was owner the farm. It happened because of their suffering from tyranny of human being. The rebellion began Old Major’s idea to struggle animalism that all animals are equal. He taught the animalism to all animals in the farm. The idea was continued by Napoleon and Snowball after the death of Old major. They were success to influence all animals about the animalism. The rebellion started when Mr. Jones drunk and forgot to feed his animals. The situation used by the animal to rebel. In a short time, the animal took over the farm. They changed manor farm to animal farm and wrote seven principle of animalism. For the future of the farm, Snowball and Napoleon competed for leadership of the farm. They had different opinion in build up the windmill. During the time, Napoleon had envy to Snowball such as opposed the idea, had his rival chased from the...
farm by his bodyguard of dogs and he took over the project of the windmill as his own idea. Snowball defeated by Napoleon from the farm. The animal worked hard to construct the windmill but the result did not work properly. Napoleon entered an agreement for the sale of the timber with either Pilkington or Fedrick but never both at once.

In November, the windmill was half built, but one night a violent storm blew up and in the morning they found windmill in pieces. The animals had a little food in the winter. Napoleon sniffled around and announced that it was Snowball who was responsible for the sabotage. Napoleon and Squealler blamed Snowball for everything went wrong in the farm. Frederick blew up the windmill with dynamite. It caused many wounded and dead animal. The animals rebuilt the windmill. At the same time boxer was collapse and he was ready for retired. Then the pigs sent him to the hospital but it was not the real hospital but the slaughter house. The other animals were informed by the pigs that boxer has dead in the hospital. But Benjamin knew the truth and told the others. In a few time later, Napoleon was elected as the President of the animal farm. Certainly he kept the young pigs apart from the other animals, in both education and normal social context and divided into two groups; the ruling class, with privilege and honors: the workers, with the privilege of performing their jobs without complaint and without reward. Napoleon is more and more like Jones all the time. Many years passed and many of animal farms’ old in habitant died, although Napoleon, Squealer, Clover, Banjamin and Moses. The farm was more prosperous and the final transformation of the pigs begun. The animals were happy about the fact that they no longer for tyrannical masters.

This article attempts to analyze Marxism in George Orwell’s Animal Farm. The article uses basic ideas of Marxism and Historical background to analyze the characters. The study aims at describing some basic ideas of Marxism which are depicted in the novel. Those are: 1. Social life consists of two layers; it can be seen in the community of the animals that consist
of upper class and lower class. The upper class belongs to the one who controls the group. This refers to Old Major who inspires the animals to have revolution. And then after Old Major dies, Napoleon leads the rebellion. Napoleon (young boar) has ambition and direct approach to get power cause him to win the struggle for leadership of animal farm. A minority of people holding the power that lies on the person who proposes rebellion. The revolutionary ideas come out in Old Major’s dreams. Old major is a well-respected pig and he represents a minority of people who has a dream about revolution. 3. Philosophy, literature, arts, and other intellectual activities lie on the upper layer that the pigs is the group who control the farm. The pigs refer to upper layer. As a member of upper layer, indeed, they perform privileged attitude which possess to this class. 4. Social conflict lie on the second layer: the upper class constantly try to suppress the lower class/labor/proletarians, and the proletarians are too weak in facing the pressures of bourgeoisies, and therefore they tend to be constantly stronger and richer, while the proletarians tend to be constantly weaker and poorer. The proletarian can be seen in Boxer (cart horse) that is great loyal labor, strong body, small intelligence, honest and hard working.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The study aims at describing some basic ideas of Marxism which are depicted in the novel. Those are: 1. Social life consists of two layers; it can be seen in the community of the animals that consist of upper class and lower class. The upper class belongs to the one who controls the group. This refers to Old Major who inspires the animals to have revolution. And then after Old Major dies, Napoleon leads the rebellion. Napoleon (young boar) has ambition and direct approach to get power cause him to win the struggle for leadership of animal farm. 2. A minority of people holding the
power that lies on the person who proposes rebellion. The revolutionary ideas come out in Old Major’s dreams. Old major is a well-respected pig and he represents a minority of people who has a dream about revolution. 3. Philosophy, literature, arts, and other intellectual activities lie on the upper layer that the pigs is the group who control the farm. Historical background is used in this study because of its importance of understanding the place and the time where the discussed characters live. As it is stated by Sarah Johnson of Eastern Illinois University that a historical novel is a novel that the plot reflects its historical period so well that the story could not have occurred at any other time in history. Therefore the application of historical background in this study is so obvious because the thesis writer thinks that the novel studied is historical novel.

The writer regards Animal Farm as historical novels because the novel is studied by thesis writer through an understanding of historical background of the story. Because of the importance of understanding the historical background of the two novels, the application of historical criticism is really useful. Historical criticism defines that history is a series of events that have a linear, causal relationship: event A caused event B, event B caused event C and so on (Tyson, 2006:282). From the quotation, it can be learnt that historical criticism sees that the characters presented in the two stories are related to the historical events around them.

Research Object
The object of this study is how Marxism is described in George Orwell’s Animal Farm. The novel is chosen for some reasons. First, George Orwell was an English novelist, essayist, journalist and critic. Second, his work is marked by lucid prose, awareness of social injustice, opposition to totalitarianism, and commitment to democratic socialism. Third, according to Methuen, Animal Farm is a satire on the history of Russia under communist rule, from revolution 1917 to the Teheran Conference in 1943 (1974:26). The Russian revolution was partly the inspiration of Karl Marx, a German economist and the founder of revolutionary communism. The main tenet of Marxist theory is that economic relations are the most important relations between people. It teaches that in making any finished product, there are several elements: raw materials, factory, and machinery, the factory manager and owner (called the capitalist), and the workman.

Source of Data

The main data is taken from novel Animal Farm published in 1970. The supporting data is taken from articles, journal of literature, e-book, and other related sources which have relationships with the main data.

Technique of Collecting Data

The technique of collecting data will be conducted some steps. First, close reading, reading the novel from the beginning to the end of the story. Second, note taking, this activity will be done to write the data related with. This step is data will be sorted and filtered by taking notes at once to obtain the main and important data. Third, select notes to classify the data based on the formulation of statement.
problems stated in the first chapter. This step is done to make the data sorted, filtered and classified properly based on the problems of the study.

Finally interpret and discuss the data. The data interpretation is done to make the data meaningful, while the discussion is done to validate and clarify the data analysis.

**Technique of Analyzing Data**

This study combines the data in the form of literary text, Marxism and historical background in the novel to get the findings. The findings will be described and analyzed deeply. The next chapter contains discussion will discuss the findings have been founded.

**Verification of the Data**

Verification of the data or triangulation is used to verify the trustworthiness of the findings. There are three types of triangulation. The first types are “Data Sources Triangulation”. It involves the convergence of multiple data sources. The second types are “Methodological Triangulation” that includes the convergence of data from multiple data collection procedures. “Expert triangulation” is used when a researcher uses expert or master to check or validate the validity of data obtain. (Denzin, 1989:71).

However, in this research, the writer only combines two types of triangulation. First, triangulation with multiple data sources triangulation by checking the data findings related to the source or the data in how the Marxism is described in George Orwell’s *Animal Farm* by using historical background. Second using “Expert triangulation”, the writer asked and consulted to the advisor who master in literary works. The writer
uses both types of triangulation to strengthen the data and achieve a valid result.

C. MARXISM IN ANIMAL FARM

Coles notes define that socialism refers generally to any economic system based on the ownership of good and property collectively rather than by individuals. The idea was described at least as early as Plato’s Republic and was practiced by the early Christians. In its modern forms, those developed from the 1930s on, socialism preaches government ownership of goods and control of their production and distribution. It explains that communism is a specific form of socialism, developed from principles laid down by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels in the communist manifesto (1847) and Das Capital (1867-94) (1985:4). It always seeks the abolition of private property. It is difficult for us to realize today that until the 1950s the world did know the truth about the outgrades committed by Stalin. When the Soviet Union entered World War II on the allied side, many people thought that it might be better not to know, or that communism’s opposition to fascism was so important as to be worth ignoring other facets of the theory and its practice. Orwell disagreed, as he showed in writing animal farm. But he had been disagreeing with other socialists for much of his adult life.

According to Methuen, animal farm is a satire on the history of Russia under communist rule, from revolution 1917 to the Teheran Conference in 1943 (1974:26). The Russian revolution was partly the inspiration of Karl Marx, a German economist and the founder of revolutionary communism. The main tenet of Marxist theory is that economic relations are the most important relations between people. It teaches that in making any finished product, there are several elements: raw materials, factory, and machinery, the factory manager and owner (called the capitalist), and the workman. Of all of these elements, Marx says, the workman is the most important, for it is he who transforms the raw material into finished product and thus makes it more valuable. Yet it is the capitalist who takes the extra values. Socialism, on the other hand, makes distinction
between the means of production and consumer goods. According to socialist theory, the means of production, once legally obtained, should be collectively owned, but consumer goods, including what we would consider as private property, should be owned by individuals.

York notes explain that in animal farm, Orwell did something towards restoring the allegory to its rightful place as a force in literature. Many events in the story are allusions to recent history of Russia. In Russia before the revolution of 1917 there was undoubtedly a good deal of genuine mass discontent against the Tsarist regime, both in the towns and countryside, and the spontaneous overthrow and expulsion of Jones is a kin to the uprising by the Bolsheviks (1980:29).

The philosophy of the revolution had been worked out and spread by Karl Marx whose Communist Manifesto is represented in the story by the “Seven Commandents, and by Marx’s disciple, Lenin who became first president of the new regime in Russia. Old Major (whose appearance is confined to the opening chapter) represents a fusion of Marx and Lenin: he profound the ideals of animalism and after his death his skull is exhumed for public honor just as the embalmed body of Lenin was put on display in Moscow.

Cliff’s notes describe that the rest of the world was concerned lest communist upheavals spread beyond Russia’s borders and both the USA and Britain sent troops to assist in the overthrow of Lenin’s party, but by 1921 this counter-revolution had failed completely; and soon the western powers had recognized the new regime and started to establish diplomatic relation with it (1967:11). These trends find their parallel in the story with the return of Jones aided by his neighbors, their rout in the battle of the Cowshed, and giving up the pretence that animal farm (Soviet Union) was still called the Manor Farm (Russia).

Lenin’s death was followed by a bitter struggle for power between Stalin (Napoleon) and Trotsky (Snowball), leading to Trotsky’s expulsion from the Soviet Union, which roughly coincided with the inauguration of the first five year plan in which capital-producing industries
were to receive preference over the production of consumer goods; in Animal Farm this is alluded to in the decision to build the windmill. Although Stalin entered into a non-aggression pact with Hitler's Germany, the nazis suddenly invaded Russia in 1941 and destroyed much of what had been built up before they were driven back. In the same way, although Napoleon started to trade Federick, the latter attacked Animal Farm and blew up the windmill before being forced to retreat.

Orwell believed that socialism was the only political system based on hope and that all others were movements of despair and disillusion. Socialist, unlike utopian idealists, he argued, only claims that they can make the world better, not perfect, and that even if a redistribution of wealth is attained so that there are no very rich and no very poor people in society. By 1948, three years after the end of the war, Orwell agreed that socialism in the sense of economic collectivism was spreading across the world at great speed. In his view, British Labor Party was not genuinely socialist but primarily a party of the trade unions, devoted simply to raising local wage levels and improving local working conditions, but not genuinely concerned with the welfare of the people of the world at large. One step towards a genuine socialist society, in Orwell’s opinion, was setting up of a United States of Europe, which would include about half the skilled industrial workers of his world.

But Orwell was as vehemently anti-communist as he was prosocialist. During the thirties though he was guarded in his comments were so difficult to discover the truth about Soviet Russia. He argued, for instance, that there appeared to be evidence to prove that the people of Russia were hungriest, the best fed, the most advanced, the most backward, the happiest, the most miserable people in the world. Under communism, Orwell argued, the state takes complete control of industry and rations consumption goods so strictly that it is impossible to spend a large income even if you have one. And the Nazis found themselves doing the same thing, whatever ideas they had when they started out: expropriating, nationalizing, and destroying the very
people they had ostensibly set out to save.

This article analyzes basic ideas of Marxism which are depicted in the novel. Those are:

1. **Social life is like an edifice consisting of two layers**
   
   Animal Farm portrays animal community which consists of layers. These layers form society classes. Throughout the novel, it is reflected the community of the animals consist of “upper class” and “lower class”. The upper class belongs to the one who controls the group. This refers to Old Major who inspires the animals to have revolution. And then after Old Major dies, Napoleon leads the rebellion. In short, the pigs are leaders.

   Moreover, after the revolution, the pigs (upper class) oppressed the other animals (lower class, such chicken, sheep, duck, donkey etc.) in the farm, they betrayed The Seven Commandments which says that all animals are equal (Orwell, 1970: 23). But, after sometimes the pigs have a new rule which states that only pigs who can drink milk and eat apples. They say that the pigs need milk and apples to preserve their health. The pigs claim that they are ‘brain-works’, and ‘the whole management and organization of the farm depend on the pigs. It means that if the pigs get sick or fails to do the job mr Jones will come (ibid, p. 32-33). From this explanation it is known that the food distribution is not equally shared. There is an exclusive privilege condition that ‘the windfall apples (and also the main crop of apples when they ripened) should be reserved for the pigs alone (ibid, p 32). This is obvious that pigs are not equal with others. They are higher level. In short, the Animal Farm portrays society classes in its community.

2. **A minority of people holding the power**
   
   This idea lies on the person who proposes rebellion. The revolutionary ideas come out in Old Major's dreams. Old major is a well-respected pig and he represents a minority of people who has a dream about revolution. Then, Old Major shares to all animals in the farm (Orwell, 1970: 7). In his speech, Old Major successfully influences all animals in the farm to have the same belief and dream about revolution.
Old Major says in his speech, the animals have been living their lives just to help Mr Jones (ibid, p 9-12). Old Major belief is similar to the beliefs of Karl Marx,” who believes that a minority of people holding the power was a main flaw of capitalism” (William, 1991: 6).

Old Major tells the animals that someday they can reach a time when all of the animals could get the rewards of their labour (Orwell, 1970: 12). Marx also believed that a socialist society, where everyone receives equal amounts of goods, was the best economic philosophy (William, 1991: 6). Also in Animal Farm the animals revolted after Old Major’s death just as the Bolsheviks revolted after Marx’s death. Old Major’s speech influenced the pigs, especially Napoleon, to begin to prepare for a revolution. Marx’s philosophy influenced Lenin and Stalin to begin the Bolshevik Party. The ways which Napoleon uses Old Major’s ideas are similar to the ways Stalin uses Marx’s ideas (ibid, p. 7).

3. Philosophy, literature, arts, and other intellectual activities lie on the upper layer

The pigs are the groups who control the farm. The pigs refer to upper layer. As a member of upper layer, indeed, they perform privileged attitude which poses to this class. In the novel, it is presented that the pigs has a special room for themselves. In this room, they usually study blacksmithing, carpeting and other essay arts from books which they had brought out of the farmhouse (Orwell, 1970: 29). It indicates that only the pigs that belong to upper layer do hard activities. The other animals which do not belong to upper layer seem not to enjoy reading and learning those kinds of things. The dogs, for example, learned to read fairly well, but were not interested in reading anything except the Seven Commandments. And then, Clovert learns the whole alphabets, but could not put words together. Boxer could not get beyond the letter D (ibid, p. 30). It is clearly shows that arts and intellectuals activities done by pigs whose belong to upper class.

4. Social conflict

Social Conflict lies on the second layer: the upper class constantly try to suppress the lower
class/labor/proletarians, and the proletarians are too weak in facing the pressures of bourgeoisies, and therefore the bourgeoisies tend to be constantly stronger and richer, while the proletarians tend to be constantly weaker and poorer.

Animalism is brought about in the revolution of the animals on Manor Farm. As the pigs, the smartest animals on the farm, begins to establish basic rules and needs, they in essence formed their own government on the farm. The pigs named this government Animalism. It basically meant that the animals would be in charge of working the fields, making necessary things, and feeding themselves. The pigs take control of the situation. They put themselves in charge and made the 7 commandments. These laws are the keys to keeping the animals under the pigs' control. In this case the pigs become stronger and stronger and then they corrupt, though, and instead of forming the ideal animalism government, the pigs dismissed all former rules, becoming tyrants.

Many of the characters and evidences of Animal Farm parallel those of the Russian Revolution: In short, Manor Farm is a model of Russia, and Old Major, Snowball, and Napoleon represent the dominant figures of the Russian Revolution. The following discussion will show the presentation of those characters which parallel with Russian Revolution.

1. Old Major

In this novel, Old Major represents Karl Marx. Orwell uses allegory of the pig Old Major. The revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx are the same as the opinions that Old Major has about a revolution in Animal Farm. The speech that Old Major gives in the barn to the other animals parallels Marx’s philosophy on a perfect socialistic society. As Old Major says, the animals have been living their lives just to help Mr Jones. This belief is similar to the beliefs of Karl Marx, who believed that a minority of people holding the power was a main flaw of capitalism.

2. Napoleon
Napoleon is ‘Orwell's chief villain’ in Animal Farm. The name Napoleon is very appropriate since Napoleon, the dictator of France, was thought by many to be the Anti-Christ. Napoleon, the pig, is really the central character on the farm. Napoleon seems at first to be a good leader; he is eventually overcome by greed and soon becomes power-hungry.

3. Snowball

Orwell describes Snowball as a pig very similar to Napoleon at least in the early stages. Both pigs wanted a leadership position in the "new" economic and political system (which is actually contradictory to the whole supposed system of equality). But as time passes, both eventually realise that one of them will have to step down. Napoleon decides that Snowball must be eliminated. It might seem that this was a spontaneous reaction, but a careful look tells otherwise. Napoleon was setting the stage for his own domination long before he really began "dishing it out" to Snowball. For example, he took the puppies away from their mothers in an effort to establish a private police force. These dogs would later be used to eliminate Snowball, his arch-rival. Snowball represents Leo Dawidowitsch Trotsky, the arch-rival of Stalin in Russia. The parallels between Trotsky and Snowball are uncanny. Trotsky too, was exiled, not from the farm, but to Mexico, where he spoke out against Stalin. Stalin was very weary of Trotsky and feared that Trotsky supporters might try to assassinate him. The dictator of Russia tried hard to kill Trotsky, for the fear of losing leadership was very great in the crazy man's mind. Trotsky also believed in communism, but he thought he could run Russia better than Stalin. Trotsky was murdered in Mexico by the Russian internal police, the NKVD - the precursor of the KGB. Trotsky was found with a pick axe in his head at his villa in Mexico.

D. CONCLUSION

George Orwell describes the idea of Marxism in Animal Farm by using historical background. The historical background can be seen in Karl Max through Old Major. This book shows that only true democracy can bring about the equality of people's worth.
Though there are still social classes, every human being counts as one vote, and only one. There is no oppression by the government, because the people elect their government officials. Orwell clearly states what he thinks of Marxists in his final line of Animal Farm: "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which."

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