

THE ASPECT OF SOCIOCULTURAL OF ENGLISH NOBLEMAN IN THE 18TH CENTURY AS SEEN ON THE FILM ENTITLED "THE DUTCHESS" BY SAUL DIBB (A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH)

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Abstract

The objective of this research is to describe the aspect of sociocultural of English nobleman in the 18th century as seen on the film entitled "The Duchess" by Saul Dibb and the approach that is used is Sociological Approach. This study focuses on the cultural component in English nobleman's life in the 18th century as reflected in the film.

The aspects of sociocultural in English nobleman's life in the 18th century are good. The development of culture grows fast and the concept of life in their life is changing, from traditional concept to modern concept. They hold firmly their principle as nobleman, as holding trust concept, education, and norm of the things in local of nobility of British is very strong. At 18th century, it is also showed that the position of countess is still being placed lower in any aspects of life. The concept of thinking of British nobleman at 18th century is highly developed and the education is heavily affected by French. The Aspects of sociocultural of English nobleman have affected also the public of British in general.

Keywords : *The aspect of sociocultural, English nobleman, The Duchess film*

A. Introduction

Every human in the world cannot live alone without the presence of other human beings. Human being has relationshi in all aspects of life in his or her life. It is starting from language that he or she uses, his or her behaviour in society, foods that he or she likes, interaction in his or her environment, and so on. Sociology is a systematic study related to society which deals with the social behavior as a part of society through their social relation. It is as stated by Scafer and Lamm (1989:5) that "sociology is the systematic study of social behavior and human groups. Sociology would focus on the group associations, relationship, and sociology perspective goes beyond identifying patterns of social behavior; it also attempts to provide explanations for such patterns here the impact of broad societal forces becomes a central consideration of sociology."

Literature has a tight relationship with sociocultural of the nation. We can see about the nation's social life and its culture through literature. Literature is a place in reflecting the culture of a nation. According to Wellek and Warren (1956:94) that literature is a social institution using as its medium language a social creation. It means that literature as a tools that can change the human relationship with the existing aspects of their lives. Then, it is also the same opinion as Lev Vygotsky stated (taken from www.nickroy.com/.../vygotkys-sociocultural:2008) that sociocultural is a theory of human development that result from the dynamic interaction between a person and the surrounding social and cultural forces.

Film, as a part of literature beside prose,

drama and poetry, becomes a mirror of life. A film is a different way to show the various aspect of life in people's life. Culture is one the most basic yet profound realities of our lives (Doob, 1988:46) and it can be seen from a film. As seen on the film of Saul Dibb, entitled **The Duchess**, it shows us about Georgiana, a dutchess of Devonshire, who got married with a Duke without love. The story of this film is very interesting because it tells us about premarital agreement which is made by Georgiana's family and this marriage is not for love but it is for giving birth or giving a descent. For Georgiana, her marriage is a bad fate. After marrying Duke, she cannot give a descent and it make the Duke hate her so much. One day, she meets her friend namely Bess who has the same fate with her. But, in this case, Bess has a bad experience because she get violence from her husband and she is forbidden to see her son. Then, Georgiana invites Bess to live with her family but unfortunately, the Duke then has an affair with Bess. And it becomes worst when Georgiana also has an affair with Charles Grey. Charles Grey has a lower position in social life of nobleman. So, at that time, the relationship between the employer and his or her worker is very unacceptable. It can be seen that such marriage like this is not based on love and it will cause serious harm. It can cause the violence and influence the personality of wife and children.

Duchess Georgiana's family background is highly respected and wealthy, so that Georgiana gets a very high educational background for her age. She masters French language, Italian, Latin, and also she is good in dancing. Georgiana joins politics actively. She collects the support for the Whig Party and she

tries to make Charles Grey to become the British Prime Minister. From what Georgiana did, it can be reflected that she also has taught a resurrection of the modern woman. A woman who has the same position with man and there is no limit to get ambition.

There are four aspects in this film that have an interesting side to be considered. First, this film has an interesting story, it contains of history elements especially about the history of nobleman's life in the 18th century. Saul Dibb, the director, wants to illustrate that love which is not based on sincerity will come to the divorce. This film is full of life lesson and values that can be imitated by the moviegoers.

The second aspect is about the visualization of the film. The film shows about the life of Duke of Devonshire starts from beginning of his life, then his marriage, until his affairs with her wife's friend and his servant. It also visualizes about Duke party's habits.

The third aspect is the spirit and values as reflected on the film. It can be seen that Duke of Devonshire is not a good husband. He is not loyal to his wife and he likes to have affairs. He gets married to his wife without the foundation of love and the main purpose of the marriage for him is only to get a son from his wife. His wife is just like a servant for him and there is rarely communication between them. Saul Dibb succeeds to give an overview to the moviegoers about the importance of communication between couples in marriage. It is also very important that the respect of each other is the most important thing in the marriage.

The last aspect is the reflection of sociocultural in the film. It is about belief, technology, norms, and language which are very important to be learnt by the people. In this film, the sociocultural concerns on the life of English nobleman in the 18th century. Saul Dibb wants the moviegoers to understand and know about the history of the English nobleman in that time by watching his film entitled 'The Duchess'.

B. Research Method

Methodology is related to each of the strategy that is used by researcher to solve the problems that have been determined and found the best way in finishing the problems. By methodology,

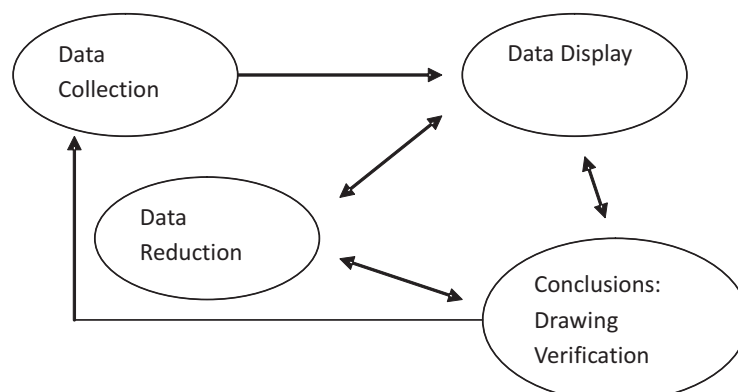
the researcher could avoid the subjectivity and objectivity come. A method, according to David (2001:25), should depend upon what you are trying to find out. Furthermore, Kothari (2004:1) said that research as a scientific and systematic search for pertinent information on a specific topic.

Type of the Study. This research used descriptive qualitative and the type of the study is library research. This research belongs to social research which has to do with cultural analysis and it concerns on qualitative methodology. In this research, the research findings tries to explain about the aspects of English nobleman in the 18th century as reflected in the film entitled 'The Duchess'. Nawawi (1990:63) said that *Metode deskriptif dapat diartikan sebagai prosedur pemecahan masalah yang diselidiki dengan menggambarkan atau melukiskan keadaan subyek atau obyek penelitian pada saat sekarang berdasarkan fakta-fakta yang tampak atau sebagaimana adanya.* It means that descriptive method can be defined as a procedure in solving the problem by describing the subject or the object of the research based on the real facts.

Source of Data. There are two kinds of data namely Primary Data and Secondary Data. Here, the Primary Data sources are the film entitled 'The Duchess' which is directed by Saul Dibb and it is produced by BBC film and the script film which is written by Jeffrey Hatcher, Anders Thomas Jensen, and Saul Dibb. Then the Secondary Data Sources are books, internet sources, and others documents which can support the research.

Technique of Collecting Data is (1) watching the film for several times; (2) reading the film scripts intensively; (3) determining the character that will be analyzed; (4) taking notes about the important parts in both primary and secondary data; (5) classifying and determining the relevant data; (6) taking notes about supporting information from other sources which are related to the research.

Technique of Data Analysis uses model of interactive data analysis by Miles and Huberman (1992). The data analysis can be conducted based on the following chronology:



C. Research Result

The aspect of sociocultural of English nobleman in the 18th century can be seen on the film entitled 'The Duchess'. The aspect is from belief, technology, norms, and language which are reflected by the Duke and the Duchess. According to Bates Dobb, 1988:48) beliefs are based on observation, logic, tradition (marriage, education, cloths, leisure) other people's opinion, or faith. A marriage can be happened if there is two person (woman and man) have the same class of society. Upper classes of pre industrial revolution in England have strong feeling in mutual cohesiveness and identification of their own class. They have their own opinion to choose their mate from their own class to get married and collect the wealth. To find the mate who has the same class of society is the best way for them in order to avoid the wealth run to other families. Marrying someone from a lower class (for nobleman) would be a shameful thing and it can cause degradation.

After the striking of industrial revolution in England (1700-1850), the society become more open to speak and to do something. Inter married concept has been accepted by society. The member of middle class society grows bigger, faster, and more prosperous. They make interaction with the upper class by joining the party. According to David (2009:173), English becomes more widely used among the upper classes. There was an enormous number intermarriage with English people.

Marriage in England is started from the society who choose their couple from their same social status or class. For nobleman, a marriage has a main purpose is to get a descent and premarital agreement. Nobleman, a wealthy people, and landowner have a high criteria in choosing their couple and he or she must come from the same family background with him or her. It can be seen from the film itself when Georgiana's mother discussed and assured the Duke that her daughter has a good capability, good education and she can give a birth to a son. Georgiana's family is from upper class and they must get a couple from the same class too. If one of the member of family get a couple from a lower class, it must be a shameful thing for the family.

In the 18th century, scientists and innovators in England become bigger and spread through the land of England. Education is the right place to get knowledge. But unfortunately, education in that time is only for nobleman or wealthy people. Most of innovators and scientists are the wealthy people who have a lot of money to conduct many researches. The grow of scientist and innovator is one of the impact of Industrial Revolution. According to Richard (1959:246), education is only for the upper classes in England before 19th century. English education is controlled by the church, charitable organization and private schools. It can be seen that the popular schools

for the children from the wealthy and aristocratic family are Eton Schools and Harrow. Education is very important things in England. Almost the nobleman has higher education background. They are clever and they master in speaking other languages such as French, Italian and Latin. It can be seen from Georgiana's ability to speak in other language beside English in that film.

In Industrial revolution, England has good fortune in economic aspects. The consequent of this fenomena is the people in England become glamour and fashionable especially English nobleman. They order expensive cloths, gowns, and accessories. They have a new hobby, that is attending many parties in their social class and showing their style of fashion to their friends. It becomes lifestyles. Georgiana, in that film, also gives the description about this. She wears a blue gown which becomes a Whig party uniform. Whig Party represents a lower society. Duke and Duchess are the participants and financiers for the Whig Party.

Leisure, in the 18th century, is an important thing for wealthy people, landowners, and nobleman. In the 18th century, many rich people always come to visit spas. They believe that bathing and drinking spa water can cure illness. They like to visit many towns likem Buxton city, Bath city and other prosperous towns. At the end of 18th century, wealthy people begin to spend their time in the seaside to relax.

England is very popular in literature. Many poetry, prose and drama were born in England. In the 18th century, drama becomes the famous genre to be presented or written. There are two theaters in that time, they are Drury Lane and Royal theaters. The seats for the audiences is divided into two parts. The upstairs part is for upper classes and the downstairs part is for labor and lower classes. In the 18th century, the theme of drama is about affairs, money, and parties.

The rise of woman's role in the 18th century is also seen in this film. Woman begins to have a role in society, parliament, and the politics career. In that film, Georgiana is very interested in politics and she becomes an icon from her party. She joins with the Whig Party. It proves that women in the 18th century also have an important role in society and they can be a leader. In the 18th century, the rise of woman's role is dominated on profession as writers and they speak up by writing their opinion in newspaper.

England is good in inventing many tools in medicine. In the 18th century, there is some invention about healing the disease. According to Richard (1959:238) that Henry Cavendish invented proved water and was composed of oxygen and hydrogen. William Harvey discovered how blood circulates through the body. In the 18th century, the health aspect is developed. Many medicine are invented to heal many diseases. Nobleman does not only trust a doctor, but also she or he trusts the herbal medicine. It can be

seen when Georgiana drinks Thermal water to strength the baby in her womb. Georgiana drinks it twice a day for four weeks. Georgiana does it because she has previously miscarried.

There are two kinds of norms. First, Folkways are norms that specify the way things are customarily done violation of folkways seldom lead punishment. Second, Mores are norms consider vital they are embedded in what member of society believe to morality. The violation of mores is serious, such as child abuse, forcible rape, torture, murder, and cannibalism. Norms in the 18th century for nobleman is private life, women is less upon men, the king rule, attitude, and decorum.

Secret, bad habit and attitude of English nobleman is only known by themselves. They covered the secret by showing a good attitude, good communication, and good personalities. The society does not know about the personal life of nobleman. In the film, it can be seen when Duke and Duchess sign their contract of the marriage. If the Duchess gives a son for Duke, she will get reward from the Duke and she will also get freedom from him. This is premarital agreement and the society in that time does not know.

Language in the 18th century is influenced by French. By the end of the 20th century, language is changed to be English use. The influence of French has branches to other. French vocabulary is used in England such as in administration, religion, law, fashion, food and beverage, teaching learning process, and art. The language in the 18th century is very close to the present day and there is very little way of linguistic commentary which can be added. In scientific terms, there are many inventions of new vocabulary, such as anesthesia, antiseptic, dicotyledonous, hydrogen, and nitrogen.

Industrial revolution in England has brought the big impact to society, such as in economy, politics, culture, concept of life, the way of thinking, and lifestyles. The film proves that cultural aspect of English nobleman can also influence the society later. The moviegoers are hoped to be able to get the good values or moral values from this film about life and about how to respect the marriage institution.

E. Conclusion and Suggestion

The film, entitled 'The Duchess' is very interesting film. This film gives many moral values for the moviegoers. They can know about the condition of woman in the 18th century, especially the nobleman. The major character of the film can transfer the moral message for the moviegoers easily so that they can be aware and try to build equality and eliminate discrimination based on gender in all aspects of society.

The main character, Georgiana, reflected the nobleman who has big interest in fashion and

pleasure. She is an icon of fashion and she treats people equally. Georgiana reflected a woman who get emancipation in the 18th century. She is a symbol for every woman in that time who can get the right to have the same position in society as a man. The aspect of sociocultural of English nobleman in the 18th century are belief, technology, norms, and language. Those aspects influence English society generally in the 18th century.

Sociology of literature is a study which tells about social phenomena in the society. The phenomena can be seen from culture, religion, belief, technology, norms, language, science, education, and law. The theory of sociology can be used to conduct the research in order that the research will be suitable and appropriate with the subject.

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