

CLASS STRUGGLE AS THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS SEEN ON PASUKAN ANTI PREI SONG: MARXIST CRITICISM PERSPECTIVE

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Abstract

The covid-19 pandemic has affected negatively many aspects all over the world. Indonesia is not an exception. The economy was one of the aspects affected. There were lots of people who lost their jobs because of it. People were forced to adapt to this situation. Low-class people were struggling to have a better economy during this situation. Pasukan Anti Prei song was one of the Javanese songs that showed the class struggle of the low class. This paper investigated class struggle as seen in the music video entitled Pasukan Anti Prei. This research used descriptive qualitative using Marxist criticism as the theory in analyzing the song. The data were collected by listening, watching, and analyzing the video and the lyrics of the songs comprehensively. The data was then sorted and analyzed according to the relevant theory. The result showed that the father of the family in the low class decided to work all day long every day to upgrade the class. He did not care about what people said about him. The only thing he focus on was how he could upgrade his class and get better related to his economy. He also prayed to god as one of his struggles to upgrade his class. He even gave his only money to a scavenger since he believed that when he helped other people, his god would help him. At last, a high-class person helped him and gave him a lot of money. In this case, His economic problem was solved.

Keywords: Class Struggle, Pandemic, Marxist Criticism

INTRODUCTION

The covid-19 pandemic has changed many things in people's life (Alzueta et al., 2021; Panarese & Azzarita, 2021). One of the thing that has changed was economy (Islam & Muyeed, 2020; Muhyiddin, M., & Nugroho, 2021; Verschuur et al., 2021). Because of the pandemic, there were several rules created to overcome the virus spread. One of the rules was Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM). During the implementation of PPKM, Indonesian people should stay at home and do everything online (Rudianto et al., 2021). Many alleys were blocked. That means not all people could go in and out of the alleys freely just like before the pandemic. The regulation created some dilemmas and problems for some class people. One of the classes was low-class people that they had to go out of the home for working unless they do not earn money to survive.

There are several literary works created as a reflection on the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the literary works is songs (Risdianto, 2016; Rosita et al., 2019; Wibowo & Jacky, 2019). The song is one of the literary works people like to enjoy. There are many genres of songs. Jazz, Rock, Pop, Dangdut, etc. One of the genres that becomes a favorite in Indonesia is Dangdut (Omigie, 2015; Rahayu, 2018; Wallach, 2018). Dangdut becomes my favorite music especially Javanese Dangdut songs. The lyrics of Javanese Dangdut songs are considered to be favorite because the

songs are reflections of the Indonesian people's feelings. The song is usually available with the official music videos (Omarjee & Chiliya, 2014). Songs are not only become entertainment because of the sound but also the short videos. Some people like to enjoy listening to the song while some others like the official music video better. The use of music videos can be a visualization of the meaning of the songs (Tapper et al., 1994). By watching the official music videos, people can understand more about what the song wants to share.

The covid-19 pandemic created a class struggle. The low-class people struggled harder as the impact of the covid-19 pandemic. The regulations made by the government have affected everything especially the low-class people. Low-class people had to struggle not only just to improve their economy but also to stay alive and survive during the covid-19 pandemic. Class struggle was an effort of the proletariat to have a better life (Auweele, 1955; Bell & Cleaver, 2002; Marx, 1859).

There were several previous research discussing class struggle as seen in literary works. The first was entitled *Class Conflicts Seen in Parasite by Bong Joon Ho: A Marxist Study* (Herman, 2020). The result of the result showed that the proletariat and the bourgeoisie are so different in terms of economy, daily life, and environmental relationship. The research focused on analyzing a movie using a class struggle perspective.

The second research was entitled *The Portrayal of Class Struggle in Victoria Aveyard's Novel "Red Queen"* (Ashari et al., 2020). The research focused on analyzing a novel using the perspective of class struggle. The result of the research showed that the novel Red Queen portrayed two classes in the United States. The first class was the working class or proletariat while the second class was the rich class or bourgeoisie. The distinction created a class struggle for the working class to be free from the capitalist's exploitation.

The third previous research was entitled *Class Struggle in Alice Munro's Selected Short Stories* (Fanani, 2020). The research focused on analyzing class struggle that existed in selected short stories of Alice Munro. The result showed that class struggle was through psychological conflicts such as being unbearable to the rich people, ignoring the rich people, and behaving in low profile ways.

Based on the previous research, a gap was found that there is no research regarding class struggle on a song especially a Javanese Dangdut song. This paper would like to fill the gap by researching that. This research would like to analyze a Javanese Dangdut song using the perspective of class struggle. This research tried to answer two questions: (1) What aspects are considered as a class struggle as seen on the official music video? and (2) How is class struggle portrayed on the official music video?

METHOD

The approach used for this research is qualitative. It was chosen because the research approach highlights how theories were generated (Collins & Stockton, 2018). The method was descriptive because this research would like to describe the class struggle as seen on the Javanese Dangdut song entitled Pasukan Anti Prei. The data was gained through watching the official music video and reading the lyrics of the song while analyzing comprehensively using the perspective of class struggle.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The result of this research was in two aspects. The first was related to the lyrics of the songs while the second one was related to the actions that can be seen from the official music video of the song.

Lyrics

On the lyrics, the first utterance was “*Pasukan Anti Prei Budal Golek Rejeki*”. It means the low-class person in the video works really hard days and nights without considering free time or holidays. From the utterance, we can see how the low-class person struggled to have a better life. The next finding was from the utterance “*Kerjo Wani Rekoso Ben Uripku Sesuk Mulyo. Ra Peduli Omongan Tanggunganku Bulanan. Anak Bojo Ro Wong Tuwo Kabeh kuwi Semangatku Kerjo*”. It means the low-class person works hard to have a better life. He does not care about what people say and he focuses on working. His parents and family become his motivation to work hard for a better life.

The next utterance was “*Duh Gusti Pangeran Tulung Paringi Dalan Dinggo Nyukupi Kabeh Kebutuhan*”. From the lyrics, we can conclude that the low-class person struggled not only by working but also by praying. He asks for help from his god to fill all his family's needs. So, he struggled practically and spiritually. The last lyrics was “*Pengen Tak Buktike Lek Aku Ra Sepele Senadyan Kahanane Koyo Ngene*”. From the lyrics, we can conclude that the low-class person wants to prove that he can change the condition even if he is in a miserable condition.

Actions

Related to the actions as findings of this research, the first action on the official music video that portrayed class struggles was the scene that when the child's needs run out. The mother directly said to the father that the milk for the child ran out. Then the father quickly goes to work even if his activity at home is not finished. This time we can see that the family struggles to have a better life.

The next action is when the father was in the middle of the work, he parked his biker and stopped over in the mosque to pray to his god. This is a struggle for him because he believed that his god would help him to have a better life. The belief in God was part of his class struggle. The next struggle was coming from his action in giving some money to a scavenger. He needed money but when he saw a scavenger sitting next to him, he decided to give his own money because he thought that the scavenger needed the money more than him and he believed that by helping other people, his god would help him too. By seeing those actions we know that the song includes class struggle.

Discussion

They suffered during the Covid-19 pandemic can be seen in the songs. We can see the impact of the pandemic on people's life. Covid-19 pandemic has made the low-class people struggle even harder than before. Both lyrics and the actions of the song with the official music videos could be classified as the portrayal of class struggle. The lyrics showed how the father of a low-class family struggled to have a better life. He worked days and nights and ignored holidays just to survive during the pandemic. He tried to fulfill his family's needs. He also prayed to God and helped other people as part of his struggle.

CONCLUSION

The covid-19 pandemic has changed people's life. One of the impacts was in the field of economy. Because of the regulation to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic, the low-class peoples struggled harder. Pasukan Anti Prei's song showed how low-class people struggled during the pandemic. The struggle of the low-class people in the song can be seen from two aspects. The first was from the lyrics of the song and the second was from the actions that can be seen from the scenes of the official music videos. Pasukan Anti Prei song was a song that showed class struggle as a part of Marxist Criticism Theory.

This research was limited to a Javanese Dangdut song analyzed using a part of Marxist Criticism Theory namely class struggle. It is suggested for further research to conduct similar research with a different part of Marxist Criticism theory and different genres of songs.

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