

Social Contradictions in Indian Capitalist Society as Reflected in Aravind

Adiga's The White Tiger.

A Thesis

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Abstrak

Skripsi ini membahas novel The White Tiger karya Aravind Adiga yang merefleksikan kehidupan realita di India. Di dalam novel ini terdapat perbedaan kelas yang dominan diantara masyarakat. Adiga menceritakan tentang Balram, tokoh utama di dalam novel, berasal dari masyarakat kelas bawah yang ingin menjadi kaya, mempunyai banyak uang dan menjadi seorang pengusaha sukses. Keinginan dan impian ini didorong oleh sistem kapitalisme yang menguasai masyarakat India.

Penulis menggunakan teori refleksi dari Georg Lukacs dalam menganalisis novel ini. Novel ini mampu memperlihatkan keadaan sosial-ekonomi di dalam masyarakat India dari sisi negatif kapitalisme pada abad 21 yang terefleksi di dalam teks. Georg Lukacs di dalam teorinya berpendapat bahwa karya yang beraliran realis mampu mengkritik kapitalisme dengan memperlihatkan totalitas kehidupan di dalam masyarakat.

Dari hasil analisis, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa novel ini merefleksikan permasalahan sosial pada masyarakat yang diakibatkan oleh kondisi ekonomi dan sistem kapitalisme. Novel The White Tiger memperlihatkan sisi negatif kapitalisme pada masyarakat India abad 21 melalui pengalaman Balram untuk mencapai mimpinya; seperti adanya individualisme diantara masyarakat kelas bawah, perbedaan antara kelas atas dan kelas bawah dan suap-menyuap yang merupakan hal biasa bagi masyarakat India untuk mendapatkan apa yang mereka inginkan.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research

India is one of the countries that ever been colonized by British. The main purpose of the British colonizer is to achieve a monopolistic trading position in India as a major market for British goods. The British Empire wants to search the raw materials in India to be exported to the other European countries.¹

However, the colonization also brings India into its development or modern era. Many progress such as the advance network of railroads, introduce the technology and develop the education. This phase of modernization changes India from feudalism country into industrialization country. This industrialization leads India under capitalist system. This system has influenced India society until 21st century.²

Related to the system of capitalism and the social condition of India in 21st century, the writer feels that Aravind Adiga's work, entitled The White Tiger is appropriate for this problem. This novel tells about Balram, a poor driver who becomes a successful entrepreneur by applying means deceits and murdering his boss. He spends his childhood in poverty and oppression from the ruling class. Then he has the ambition to be a rich man and an entrepreneur. To make his ambition comes true, he kills his boss and brings his boss's money to Bangalore. In that place, he builds his own business and becomes a success entrepreneur.

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1. Further information on, http://khan.com/download/2_keyword-family-gender-india-caste-class-structure/structure-of-indian-society.pdf retrieved on 10 November, 2010
 2. Ibid.

The White Tiger is Aravind Adiga's first novel. He was born in Madras in 1974 and was raised partly in Australia. He studied at Columbia and Oxford Universities. As a former correspondent in India for Time magazine, his articles have also appeared in publications like The Financial Times, The Independent, and The Sunday Times. Now, he lives in Mumbai. The White Tiger is a winner of the man Booker prize 2008.³ According to Apurvadesai in his article Shantaram and The White Tiger : A Stark Contrast, he said that both of these book (Shantaram and The White Tiger) is provide a glimpse of Indian life through a different lens...⁴

The White Tiger is the novel that chosen by the writer in conducting this research. Through this novel, the writer finds the contradictions which are created by the characters between the working and ruling classes where the interaction of these classes created conflicts in society particularly in social economic aspect. This novel reveals clearly and frankly about the problems in society which are faced by India people. This novel is a brutal picture of India society as a developing country. It is seen from the problems that refer to the poverty, the extreme competition of living, and miserable condition in society. This work is also regarded as the comment toward social life in India. Therefore, to analyze those problems, Marxist criticism is required.

In this research the writer uses one of the concepts of Marxist theories that concerns about the reflection of socio economic in reality toward this novel. The writer uses reflection theory by Georg Lukacs an Hungarian Marxist that sees literature as reflection of socio-economic in reality. From this theory the writer sees

3 .further information on, <http://www.aravindadiga.com/bio/index.shtml>, retrieved on 5 November 2010.

4 .further information on, <http://apurvadesai.com/2009/09/26/shantaram-and-white-tiger-a-stark-contrast/>

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The White Tiger shows the effects of capitalism in India society. The problems in this novel are shown clearly. This novel shows how money and social status play the important role in India. Everything can happen if we have money. After analyzing The White Tiger, the writer has found critique toward capitalism. This proved by Lukacs theory that a realist work does not only reflect society but also become a critique of ideology of capitalist system. This novel also presents critique of capitalist system through the ruling class treat the working class. This novel shows that people who own a lot of money has the important role in control society. This is proved by the characters in this novel where if we have a lot of money we can get anything what we want. This capitalist system can change the life of the main character, Balram Halwai, where he comes from working class people who have the ambitions to have a lot of money and becomes an entrepreneur.

In analyzing The White Tiger, the writer uses Georg Lukac's reflection theory. In analyzing this novel, the writer found out three main points as effects of capitalism. They are the individualism of the working and ruling classes, the contrast between the ruling and working classes, and bribing and commodification in India society. These three points are the contradictions that show how capitalism still dominant in 21st century in India.

The individualism of the working and ruling classes can be divided into two types. First is exploitation of working class by the ruling class. Here, working class people always follow what their boss want although it is dangerous and

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