

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

In a religious way, this caste structure was formed by the only Hindu creator, the highest God, Brahma. They are divided into four classes, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras. Brahmins are classified as a Brahma's mind, meaning they are born intellectual, have a good job such as teacher, people who are religious such as priests. Basically, they are meant to be the ones who are close to Gods, they are always in temples, and not eating meat. The Kshatriyas are classified as a Brahma's shoulders or called as the warrior class, they will be involved in politics or people who have ability to fight. For Vaishya's class, they are from Brahma's stomach and are basically involved in merchants. And the last is Shudra class, who are classified as Brahma's legs and included in laborers' jobs and servants.

There is still one caste that were added in the early 20th century is the Dalit class, where they being as an 'untouchable' caste (Maulana and Putra, 2021, p. 4). Dalit caste is labeled as an outcast because they are handling lower job for instance not only cleaning dead animals, human's blood, rubbish, but also sweeping the streets, feces, urine and saliva. Spiritually, they are considered polluting in India due to handling dirty and impure jobs like mentioned before.

This caste system in India is the most powerful system that still affects people since the 19th century or Britain colonial period. This system was transformed by the ruling religion based in Hindu and elites so it became a part of Hinduism culture which is the first majority religion in India. After seeing how the caste system works in India, Britain took this opportunity as the way of controlling

them in social stability. They separated between upper caste and lower caste. The system classifies people into four different groups and determines status, job, behavior, social class and still has the crucial thing of impact in society.

This caste system in India is led into stratification which the higher caste would not touch what the lower caste does or touch. Even it shows how higher castes ostracize and discriminate against lower classes mostly come from lower castes that come from rural parts of India. The lower caste does not have private facilities for their own needs but they use public facilities and even do not have security systems. Generally, since then the lower caste has more disadvantages compared to upper castes. Being in a lower caste means that everything is restricted including difficulties in looking for jobs, education, facilities, etc. If by chance they get a job besides cleaning the human's waste, the lower caste will be asked about their background and caste.

This discrimination act, when a person or group of people is treated unfairly than another due to their background or certain things, can be referred as obstructing the law. According to the Oxfam India, reported Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) data in India Discrimination Report 2022, a data for 2019-2020, the share of workers in Regular/Salaried Employment and Self-Employment (R/SE) for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe (SC/ST) in rural India is 35.2 percent. Scheduled caste means people known as sub-communities or categorized as lower status who have been historically dealing with deprivation, oppression, and extreme social isolation in India, meanwhile Scheduled tribe is classified as sub-communities on the basis of geographical isolation. Both terms have faced and continue to face the same issues in India.

This report captures the extent of identity-based discrimination, which explains inequality in access to employment, wages, credit and access to health facilities, in the context of formation of human capital across different castes, tribal and religious identities and gender. One of the studies is by Attewell (2007) he stated that 98 percent of discrimination against SC/ST workers either in private or public sector that are distinct from education, experience or family background. From a short explanation of the report above, the researcher can conclude this discrimination act based on caste is still quite prevalent in India until this day.

This new generation, globalization has been thriving from time to time and the idea of caste is getting rid of, the rules have been changed a lot, including the classification of caste stratification in India, they are getting aware and very well educated that everyone should have equal rights. But still there are people who normalize acts of discrimination based on their social class to this day, especially people who are still narrow minded. In the era of advanced capitalism, seeing cases of caste discrimination is no longer about which caste you come from, yet about looking at all the elements under socioeconomic interests in social classes based on wealth.

Some people in India are getting aware of how discrimination based on caste became major cases that have been happening over the years therefore they are trying to delineate how it can be delivered the resistance acts against discrimination through some literary works, especially movies. Movie, which portrayed through a collection of actions that moving around in one frame, is one of the biggest industries all around the world. Moreover, India has their biggest film industry which has been carried out for centuries that popularly known as “Bollywood”. By

all means Bollywood movies have been taking place as the big role influenced by the cultures and daily life in India.

One of movies that can describe the culture and some kinds of certain aspects is *The White Tiger* movie, an adapted *The White Tiger* movie which is released on 6 January 2021 in Las Vegas. This movie is adapted from novel written by Aravin Adiga which released worldwide on 22 January 2021 through Netflix streaming platform. This movie received positive reviews from critics praising the direction, script and cast performances. Adiga created a character named Balram Halwai who is described as a guy from a lower caste born in a rural area. He does not get any chances of privileges. In *The White Tiger*, Balram is a victim of social inequality in getting his rights with inadequate facilities by the government, the lower quality of education, difficult to get clean water, limited job opportunities for lower castes. However, the writer of this movie wants to show how their life struggles to survive as a lower caste.

Upper castes, usually called bourgeoisie, controlled the economic, the proletariat, and human's resource. Balram, who is considered as a proletariat, his self-consciousness resisting the upper can be seen in a Marxist perspective as in socioeconomic differences. Marx stated that class and class consciousness develop in one and the same process. So, both precondition and result of the class struggle is a class consciousness, it can be created only by the working class itself (Schmitt, 1997, p. 154).

To research this topic, it is described from Marxist approach developed by Karl Marx in order to assist the idea of how caste-based discrimination is seen as an economic interest and power. Therefore, Marxist in sociology literature review the relationship between societies and human activity based on socioeconomic

classes and the theory is used for finding why caste-based discrimination still exists and how to break out the caste system.

B. Questions and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the study above, the writer formulates research questions as follow:

- a. Why does caste-based discrimination still occur in The White Tiger Movie?
- b. What caused the Balram movement that makes discharge himself from the caste system in The White Tiger movie?

2. Scopes of the Research

There are many aspects that can be used in this movie to explain the domination of the population based on caste can lead to discrimination against lower caste. In this case, the research is focused on society and how the resistance of main character 'Balram' to break out from caste system. The data source can be found in The White Tiger movie. Therefore, the data were selected from this movie using Marxist theory by Karl Marx (1844) in Richard Schmitt (1997).

C. Objective and Significance of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

- a. The researcher aim to know the reasons caste discrimination still occur.
- b. To know what caused Balram's movement that discharge himself from the caste system.

2. Significance of the Research

From this research, the researcher hopes it can provides benefits to multiple parties. Theoretically, to increase reader's knowledge about caste-based discrimination based on Marxist theory to see how the caste system still exists that is embodied in The White Tiger movie. Practically, hopefully this research can be used as a reference to further researchers to analyze and understand or might fill the gap of this research especially for the English literature students.

D. Operational Definitions

1. Caste

It is the religious matter to classify the level of human dignity where they are supposed to be in Hindu society based on profession, occupation, privilege, or race.

2. Discrimination

Treating people or subordinate groups less favorably and unequally from others in terms of norms, social and religion imposed by a group that holding the domination based on negative stereotypes.

3. Capitalism

It is an economic system where the private owners having control in their own property which aimed to make a profit as big as possible and generally occurs in the industrial sector with only paid labor.

4. Movie

Movie is a part of literary work that is conducted through the facial expression of the actors, which aims to assist the audience in visualizing

the story how it started along the way to the end, and it has an impact physically and mentally.

E. Systematization of the Research

The systematization of the paper means to present the paper in well-structured composition. This paper is divided into 5 chapters as follows:

Chapter I is Introduction explains about background of the research, questions and scopes of the research, objectives and significances of the research, operational definitions, and systematization of the research.

Chapter II is Theoretical Description explains about literature, Marxist, and research of the relevance.

Chapter III is Research Methodology consists of method of the research, procedure of the research, technique of data collection, technique of data analysis, and data sources.

Chapter IV is Analysis Data contains the data descriptions, data analysis, and interpretation of the research findings related to the theories that used in analysis data.

Chapter V are Conclusions and suggestions give summary and suggestion.