

Marxist's Ideology and Revolution Analysis of George Orwell's Novel "Animal Farm"

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Abstract

This research is presented to discuss about the Marxism ideas in George Orwell's novel entitled "Animal Farm". George Orwell wrote Animal Farm to reflect his experience, and responding to the important events that took place in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century. In this research, the author will analyze George Orwell's novel entitled "Animal Farm" focusing on the ideology and the revolution through a Marxist perspective. George Orwell is known as one of the most famous British writers and the fame of his work is still worth studying until now.

Keywords: *Animal farm, Marxism, ideology, revolution.*

INTRODUCTION

Animal Farm was written by George Orwell between 1943 and 1944, and was published in 1945. Most of what Orwell wrote was his view of politics and humanity. It is widely acknowledged that Orwell has a keen literary mind and he uses his acumen to analyze and put his political views in his work. His works provide the readers about the useful political and historical views and clearly reveals the consequences of certain movements of society. Animal Farm focuses specifically on the conditions that developed in Russia under the leader of Lenin and Stalin and seems to warn others not to repeat the mistakes made there. It supported by Richadson (n.d) said that "Animal Farm can be considered an allegorical novel. In an allegory, certain characters, events, objects, or ideas in the text serve to illustrate meanings that go beyond the literal, beneath the surface of the text. The allegorical representations often serve to reveal a particular insight or truth about human behavior or human faults. In Animal Farm, most of the characters and events are designed to refer to specific figures and events from the time of the Russian Revolution and shortly afterwards.

Furthermore, Shelden (1991) in Pelpuo, Bakuuro, and Tuurosong (2018:4), animal farm aims to show the elements of satire in Animal Farm, and to compare characters, events and some elements of Animal Farm and The Russian Revolution. Orwell clearly explains that his main purpose for writing Animal Farm was to write a satire on the Russian Revolution.

Based on the explanation above, the author concludes that the novel entitled Animal Farm is a novel that explores the process that leads from an oppressed rebellion. Therefore it

is important to analyze about the exposure to ideology and what causes the revolution and the results of the revolution of the new power structure. This research will analyze the novel "Animal Farm" about Marxist's ideology and revolution that has purpose to change the characters' destiny and life. This research will focus on a Marxist point of view. That means, the author will define Marxist thought and criticisms in such a way to facilitate their coherent toward the novel "Animal Farm".

Review of related theory.

The theoretical part of this research will focus on forming an understanding of intention and Orwell's point of view in writing Animal Farm. This will enable the analysis of this research related to Marxism, ideology, revolution.

Marxism as an Ideology

According to Anwar and Hasnu (2012: 173), ideology is a systematic body of beliefs, philosophy or concepts about human life or culture. Ideology can be said as the fundamental system of social cognition. This means that ideology governs the attitudes and social representations that belong to each group member. Ideology is also as a paradigm of thought at the organizational level that defines the character of an organization that functions as the spirit and spirit of the organization and inspires, directs, and controls the organization's vision. The source of guidance for a strong ideology is God. Healthy ideology has universal principles, core values and greater goals. There are 5 basic themes in the ideology captured by Anwar and Hasnu (2012: 172), namely:

1. Defines the belief system and enduring character of an organization
2. Inspires, controls and guides vision of an organization
3. The soul and spirit of an organization
4. The source of Sound and authentic Ideology is ethical Monotheism
5. Sound Ideology leads towards clear vision

One of popular ideologies in the world is the Marxism ideology. Marxism can be said as the legitimate successor of some of the great minds of the people humans in the 19th century, represented by classical German philosophy, British political-economy and French socialism. Marxist ideology was first coined by Karl Marx who opposed capitalist ideology. In Marx's thinking, all that is done by the capitalists will only harm the workers. According to Hamadi (2017: 155) Marxism views works of literature or art as the products of historical forces that can be studied by looking at the material conditions in which they are produced.

The theory of Marxist generally focuses on the conflict between the dominant and repressed classes in any given age. In other words, Marxist literary theory starts from the assumption that literature must be understood in relation to historical and social reality of a certain society.

Furthermore, Burawoy (1990: 775) argues that Marxism is consistent with a progressive model of research programs when viewed from several historical qualifications of Marxism, namely from Marx and Engels, German Marxism, Russian Marxism, and finally to Western Marxism. Burawoy (1990) also claimed that there was a deviation from the Marxist model, namely Soviet Marxism. This happens because of the damage to reciprocal interactions between heuristic Marxism and historical challenges. Furthermore, Rikowski (2006: 1-9) stated that there is 10 points in Marxist, those are: status groups – not class, classes and sources of income, social class and the social relations of production, an anti-class approach to class, our social constitution and commodity classes, the psychology of class, the psychology of labour, the psychology of capital, class identification, the contradictory role of education in class struggles. Thus, Marxism is the basic ideology for the entire communist party in the whole world. Marxism is a form of working class struggle for subvert capitalism and bring socialism into life.

Some of Marx's important thoughts that can be concluded are: First is the fact that the history of mankind is colored by struggle or struggle between human groups and in a transparent form namely the struggle in the form of class struggle. This class struggle according to Marx is permanent and is an inherent part of social life. The struggle has occurred since the beginning of the emergence of social classes in ancient society. Second, that the history of community development always has polarization. A class is only in a position contrary to other classes. And the opposing class is nothing but the oppressor class and the oppressed class. Marx argued that the split then formed two fighting classes, the capitalist bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Bourgeois class capitalists are those who have the means of production and gain capital and material benefits by exploiting the working class or the proletariat.

Marxist as the revolution idea

The term "revolution" means different things for people. For social scientists, this refers to some major changes or structural changes in society as exemplified by the French revolution of 1789, the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the Cuban Revolution of the 1950s.

The word revolution tends to relate to political power. That means that the struggle for political power is an important element in the revolution. The political phase is needed in every revolution. Therefore, a decent revolution must try to destroy the outdated political system to enable the emergence of new political and socio-economic structures. Thus, political power in a revolution is not a goal of the revolution itself, but a means to an end, a means of structural transformation of society, which is the end of all social revolutions

According to Tilly in Andres and Ramas (2017: para 5), revolution analysis must focus on human action studies. Tilly's revolutionary concept emphasizes the political dimension, the description of the stages of the revolutionary process from the initial protest to the transfer of power; a very useful tool for analyzing the phenomenon of post-election protest which after the conflict phase, succeeded in bringing the transfer of power through non-institutional channels.

One of the main characteristics of the revolutionary movement is the use of violence to produce changes in the social system. Jhonson (1966) in Enor and Chime (2015: 14) stated that in general, the irreducible element of the revolution is resort, or acceptance, violence. It can be said that the methods of violence as a political strategy are the characteristic of the revolution because the direct nonviolent action basically produces few results, especially on the occasions where powerful elites do not want to give up power voluntarily. Revolution is not like reformism which is an attempt to change in the social system by operating outside the boundaries of the legal system which is considered invalid. According Enor and Chime (2015:16) Some examples true revolution are the Russian and Cuban revolutions where the revolution gave birth to the widespread structural changes that crossed the social, psychological, legal, philosophical and even religious fabric of society. Although a decent revolution is needed involving the seizure of political power from an oppressive class, the act of seizing power is not the aim of the revolution itself, but for a greater purpose. It can be concluded that the movement of the revolution is always accompanied by the widespread social, the political and the economic changes.

According to Ree (2013:540-546) revolution was the dominant element in Marx's political discourse. The point in revolution in Marx concept is the proletarian revolution in the mid-nineteenth century in the terms of 'permanent revolution'. Marx made proletarian revolution conditional upon integral industrialization and the proletarian revolution depends on conditions created by capitalist development and it will be mature class antagonism

between proletariat and bourgeoisie. Ree also argued that for Marx's the permanent revolution did not represent a shortcut. Marx believed that revolutions by bourgeois classes tended rapidly to trigger proletarian revolutions in an uninterrupted process. Karl Marx (1818–83) was born in the German Rhineland. They grew up in the aftermath of Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat. The conception of the 'permanent revolution' was meant to provide a solid foundation for the revolutionary strategies. Marx was the first to use the term permanent revolution in 1843. Permanent revolution here referred to a proletarian revolution rapidly triggered by the seizure of power by the democratic petty bourgeoisie. The term permanent revolution first appears in Marx's writings in *The Jewish Question*, written in late 1843.

Ree (2013:561) also have argued that the permanent revolution served as a master concept in Marx's thought. Marx formulated it during the first ten years of their communist activity. Marx understood that the social question alone would never generate sufficient energy to create a revolution. The only chance of coming to power was by surfing the waves of the powerful in the democratic movement. Democratic and patriotic upheavals might generate the turmoil the workers' party needed. Permanent revolution signified a pattern of bourgeois and proletarian revolutions following each other in rapid succession. The moment of the proletarian revolution was defined by two sets of circumstances. First, the insurrection of bourgeois classes against the remnants of the feudal-absolutist order serves as a socio-political triggering mechanism and as the immediate cause of workers' revolutions. Second, the working class revolution obtains the potential to consolidate its hold on state power and to initiate the socialist transition from the moment when the capitalist mode of production has outlived itself. Ree (2013:563) concluded that the permanent revolution about Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin, Mao and other twentieth-century Bolsheviks, widely held to be the paradox of Marxism in which this philosophy was intended empower the working class of advanced industrialized countries.

METHODOLOGY

This research is a descriptive qualitative by describing and analyzing the novel. The writer used the text and dialogues of *Animal Farm* novel as the data in this descriptive qualitative study. Meanwhile, the writer used secondary data and primary data in this study. The methods of collecting primary and secondary data differ since primary data are to be originally collected, while in case of secondary data the nature of data. According Kumar

(2011 :347) secondary data refer to the data which already available in other source and other researcher extract that information, and Creswell (2012:212) stated that the qualitative data collection is to identify the types of the data that will answer the research question.

RESULTS

Marxism as an Ideology

Marx's important thoughts that can be concluded are: First is the fact that the history of mankind is colored by struggle or struggle between human groups and in a transparent form namely the struggle in the form of class struggle. Second, that the history of community development always has polarization. A class is only in a position contrary to other classes. And the opposing class is nothing but the oppressor class and the oppressed class. Marx argued that the split then formed two fighting classes, the capitalist bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Bourgeois class capitalists are those who have the means of production and gain capital and material benefits by exploiting the working class or the proletariat.

Animal Farm is a description of a country where ideological officers play a major role in the hegemony of the ruling minority (pig) above the majority of those who are exploited (livestock). Animal Farm draws the clearest parallels between fact and fiction where many gullible animals are exploited by a group of powerful pigs. Pigs use influential rhetoric to manipulate and enslave animals. The media version that they use serves as a communication tool to build not only relationships but also the regimes and the governments. They also play an important role in manipulating and controlling people to bring about positive and negative changes. Thus, Animal Farm is a novel that records the whole scene in which a country is run politically. In Animal Farm novel, there are seven commands representing ideological and legal pillars. These pillars have serves to protect the state system against any violations, although commonly can be freely abused by the authorities to fulfill their needs. The content of the seven commands can be seen from the following data:

Data 1:

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.

7. All animals are equal.
(Animal Farm; 1945:8)

But at the end of the novel, there is the betrayal especially at the changes of the seven commands representing ideological and legal pillars. With propaganda and Squealer rhetoric, Napoleon was able to gradually change Animalism's orders to suit what he did like drinking alcohol, sleeping in bed, and dealing with humans. At the beginning of the novel, pigs were still not sure about animal loyalty. Squealer began to change Animalism teachings to be consistent with their political schemes and new conditions using the most intentional language abuse. As a result, he succeeded in reformulating the commands and convincing the animals.

One of the seven commands that changes was when a pig moved to a farmhouse and began to adopt human behavior such as sleeping on a bed. The sleep ban on the bed was changed by Napoleon by adding two words 'with sheets', so the order after the change read. It can be seen from the following data:

Data 2:

'No animal shall sleep in a bed *with sheets*
(Animal Farm; 1945: 20)

When the animals protest the new pig norm, Squealer assures them that the bed is just a place to sleep but the real rule is against the sheet.

Marxist as the revolution idea in Animal Farm

Based on the explanation in the review of related theory above can be concluded that Marxist revolution is the struggle for political power to destroy the outdated political system that focus on human action by using protest to the transfer of power political strategy as the characteristic of the revolution. Some examples of true revolution are the Russian revolution.

Animal Farm was written in 1943 and published in 1945. It is one of the novels describing the great political parable. It tells the all too familiar story of revolutionary power. Orwell's aim was to expose the 'Soviet Myth', namely, Soviet Russia's claim to have achieved the socialist revolution. Animal Farm gives us the whole revolution of the rebellion right from the beginning. After Mister Jones has gone to sleep, Old Major awakens all the animals ideologically with his speech as the revolution motivation. It can be seen from the following Old Major's speech:

Data 3:

“Comrades, you have heard already about the strange dream that I had last night. But I will come to the dream later. I have something else to say first. ... I have had a long life, I have had much time for thought as I lay alone in my stall, and I think I may say that I understand the nature of life on this earth as well as any animal now living. It is about this that I wish to speak to you.

“Now, comrades, what is the nature of this life of ours? Let us face it, our lives are miserable, laborious and short. We are born, we are given just so much food as will keep the breath in our bodies, and those of us who are capable of it are forced to work to the last atom of our strength; and the very instant that our usefulness has come to an end we are slaughtered with hideous cruelty. No animal in England knows the meaning of happiness or leisure after he is a year old. No animal in England is free. The life of an animal is misery and slavery: that is the plain truth.

”But is this simply part of the order of Nature? Is it because this land of ours is so poor that it cannot afford a decent life to those who dwell upon it? No, comrades, a thousand times no!

(Animal Farm; 1945:2)

Upon hearing Old Major’s big speech, all the animals are totally surprised. This immediately gives the old boar a head start in conveying his point: convincing people who do not have their opinions formed yet, is easier than to persuade those who have already made up their minds. In this speech we can see how exactly Old Major wins over his audience. First, he presents himself as a wise animal that understands the nature of life and passes on his wisdom. This depiction of himself as the wise person who sees things through and uses his intellect for the benefit of the audience is a typical feature of people who are proclaiming an ideology.

Orwell presents Old Major as a charismatic and purely idealistic character. His speech has an important influence on the animals so the animals decide to start their rebellion against Mr. Jones in an atmosphere of all-for-one and one-for-all. Major speeches have given animals the view to be smarter in seeing life. Although, they do not know when the rebellion voiced by the Major will occur. But Animals at Animal Farm see clearly that it is their duty to prepare it (Animal Farm ;1945: 5).

Orwell's fable is about a farmyard rebellion in which the animals felt downtrodden by their human masters and rise in revolt, drive out their oppressors and establish an animal

republic. This barnyard revolution is made to conform to the pattern of the great Russian Revolution. In the Animal Farm, the revolution is sounded by old Major as a figure representing Lenin with a well-defined ideology. Its aim is to tear down a traditional power structure or seeks to replace the old system with a new social order. The new power that will rise in place of the old will have a revolutionary legitimacy, because it is the expression of the collective will and it will remain legitimate as long as it commands the allegiance of its followers.

Major has had a dream of a golden age and this confers a sort of mandate on his mission. He calls his comrades together and explains to them the miserable conditions of animal existence, their subjection and exploitation by man, the ideals and goals they must set before themselves, and the need for radical action to achieve their aims. Old Major's theory of revolt is easy to see in its detailed argument well known Marxist themes rehearsed in zoomorphic terms.

Major's speech introduces several concepts to motivate revolution action, for instance the notion of an artificially created scarcity of life-sustaining resources, the scarcity resulting from the exploitative structure of society. It can be seen from the following statement:

Data 4:

"The soil of England is fertile, its climate is good, it is capable of affording food in abundance to an enormously greater number of animals than now inhabit it".
(Animal Farm;1945:2)

Meanwhile the specific form of this exploitation is the theft of 'surplus value also can be seen in the novel such as the following statement:

Data 5:

"nearly the whole of the produce of our labour is stolen from us ..., the animals being "given just so much food as will keep - the breath in our bodies... Man is the only creature that consumes without producing... Our labour tills the soil, our dung fertilizes it, and yet there is not one of us that own more than his bare skin... how many of those eggs ever hatched into chickens... have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men.
(Animal Farm;1945:2).

The above statement also motivates to against the 'bourgeois' practice of living on unearned income. And there is the theme of the alienation of the worker from the productive

forces. There is the commodification of the products of labour, that is: the surplus eggs produced by the hens have all gone to market to bring in money for Jones and his men.

Major also speech that the productive relation between Jones and his farm animals is worse than any Man. Major gave the conceived that where the animals are not just wage-slaves but on the fact that they (animals) are Jones's property and he owns their bodies as well and does what he pleases with them once they have outlived their usefulness as workers:

Data 6:

'... No animal escapes the cruel knife in the end"
(**Animal Farm; 1945:3**)

The above statement means that the animals end up as commodities on the market affording yet another source of profit for Jones and his men. Animal farm described that there is relation between man and animals namely the relation between the exploiter and the exploited or there is bound to be intense 'class antagonism'. This condition also can be seen in Major's speech like the following data:

Data 7:

"the life of an animal is misery and slavery... .
Man is the only real enemy we have"
(**Animal Farm; 1945:2**)

The above statement describe that the revolutionary task for the animals is to expropriate the exploiter like Major speech: "Remove man from the scene, and the root cause of hunger and overwork is abolished forever" (Animal Farm; 1945:2).

Having established the rationale of the rebellion, Major gave a passionate exhortation to revolutionary action by giving the statement that "Man and animals have a common interest, that the prosperity of the one is the prosperity of the others" (Animal Farm; 1945:3). It means that Major reminds his comrades to against their common enemy, namely man. This purpose also can be seen from the following data:

Data 8:

"All men are enemies. All animals are comrades"...whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings is a friend"
(**Animal Farm; 1945:3**)

So far, Major has concentrated on the aspect of revolution. He placed a new ideology of which the cornerstone is the notion of the freedom and equality of all animals. It can be seen from the following seven commands data:

THE SEVEN COMMANDMENTS

1. Whatever goes upon two legs is an enemy.
2. Whatever goes upon four legs, or has wings, is a friend.
3. No animal shall wear clothes.
4. No animal shall sleep in a bed.
5. No animal shall drink alcohol.
6. No animal shall kill any other animal.
7. All animals are equal.

(Animal Farm; 1945:8)

Every revolutionary program needs the conception of a golden age to come, which might be used to inspire action and devotion to the ideals put forward. Old Major's dream fills this role in his revolutionary program.

DISCUSSION

Animal Farm is the novel representing Russian country which has the problem about the rebellion. The rebellion occurred in 1917 which called Bolshevik revolution. Bolshevik revolution replaces the outdated political system into communism / Marxism political system. The revolution is led by Lenin. He spreads the Marxist ideology as the political system of Russia. But in the middle of his mission he passed away. He has two leaders to continue his mission namely Stalin and Trotsky.

Ideology is one of the main pillars in Orwell's works. In this research tried to show how ideology and revolution influence the lives of the characters in Orwell's novels. This condition can be seen in Animal Farm novel. Marxist ideology is sounded by Old Major. He made the pillar called as the seven commands to motivate the revolution action. In Animal Farm we get a fuller view on ideological systems. For the first time, ideology becomes a real tool for domination, a means by which people or animals can be enslaved.

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