

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Oppression depicts a power imbalance in which a group's dominance is subordinated by limiting access to social, economic, and political resources (William et al., 2023). As stated in this statement, oppression is defined as an imbalance in which power is held by one group (dominance or authority) over another group (suppression) and that power is maintained by the dominant group by denying the subordinated group access to resources (e.g., social influence, economic opportunities, and political participation) that would otherwise enable the subordinated group to advance or achieve equal rights, thus reinforcing and maintaining the power imbalance.

Oppression also refers to the subjugation and marginalization of specific groups of people within a country or society, such as women, people of color, religious communities, citizens in poverty, youth and children, and more. This socioeconomic, cultural, political, legal, and social oppression can occur in every country, culture, and society, including advanced democracies. There are five faces of oppression, namely exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, cultural imperialism and violence. Starting from exploitation which consists of unfair capitalist practices, some of them carry out their capital under control according to the interests and goals of that person. The second is related to marginalization, namely unfair practices which exclude lower groups of society from important participation. The third is powerlessness where society does not have a voice that

is strong and confident enough to reveal to someone who commits capitalistic actions. Then, cultural imperialism means that society is controlled by the dominant party. Finally, violence is an intentional practice that results in mental or psychological harm or injury or even death to someone in a group of people (Ain and Hikmawan, 2023)

Additionally, dealing with oppression, it refers to two group of people as what Karl Marx defined. They are bourgeoisie and proletariat. In the definition or description of Karl Marx about both of these things, the social influence and scope that shape these groups are not forgotten. Likely the bourgeoisie, the group that is at the highest level but there are two typical bourgeoisie, the first is the high capitalist who has a large company or parent and employs many workers, and the second is small entrepreneurs such as shopkeepers, food entrepreneurs and so on and also employ workers. The position of the two social groups is directed at the proletariat, namely a class that has a radical chain, this group also has a universal nature where it is driven by the suffering they experience without any special reason for error, but rather unconditional error that is imposed on them (Umanailo, 2019). Furthermore, Umanailo (2019) stated that

After the formation of classes in capitalist or bourgeois society, their class consciousness emerged, referring to class consciousness itself according to Marx, which is a subjective awareness of the objective class interests that they have with other people in similar positions in the production system. This is done with the aim of increasing greater profits in order to fulfill personal interests and on the side there is social change, namely where the proletariat work together to form a group to overthrow the capitalists for social interests.

In the case above, it is very clear from Karl Marx's theory, namely Marxism which is an understanding that follows Marx's views, but this is what is very popular in

his writings, namely about class differences. Marxism is a form of Marx's protest against capitalism. He considers that the capitalists or bourgeois collect money at the expense of the proletariat, meanwhile, with the proletariat who are always pathetic (Hendriwani, 2020). In the class theory that has been written in Marxism, we can describe and relate it to the film "*Alice in Wonderland*" (2010). In this film, we can see that the plotters and this film want to coup the Borgouists because of the behavior of the Borgouists who are arbitrarily controlling and oppressing.

"*Alice in Wonderland*" is a film that was broadcast in 2010. This film, directed by Tim Burton and written by Linda Wolverton and Lewis Carroll, tells the story of the adventures of a young girl named Alice who enters a world called Wonderland. This young girl aims to destroy the Red Queen and her subordinates because the Red Queen has been arbitrary in giving orders because she has a position. But we will not focus on the plot of the story, but we will see or differentiate between the bourgeoisie and proletariat in the film "*Alice in Wonderland*" (2010).

The role of bourgeoisie in "*Alice in Wonderland*" film is played by the Red Queen and Stayne (Red Queen's right-hand man) because they are the most obvious oppressive characters. This is also because they have power over Wonderland because Red Queen is the one who has become the queen and Stayne is the second in command. It is not surprising that they are very easy to carry out arbitrary actions against the proletariat. On the prolateral side, there are Alice, Mad Hatter, White Rabbit and Tweedledum who are affected by the cruel Red

Queen. They are powerless to face the Red Queen because of the disproportionate influence of social inequality between Alice's people and the Red Queen's power. Red Queen always considers Alice to be a threat so Red Queen always tries to get rid of Alice. Meanwhile, in the eyes of the others, Red Queen is a nuisance and sometimes just a waste of her time, but on the other hand, Alice thinks that Red Queen is a bad queen because of her arrogant and arrogant behavior as if the action he took was a personal desire. The conclusion drawn from the preceding description is that the oppression depicted in the film *Alice in Wonderland* is related to the oppression perpetrated as a result of the dominant nature's and personality's power to dominate something in order to achieve his desired goals.

There are 5 previous research findings related to the film "*Alice in Wonderland*" (2010), Elliot (2010) discusses how this film is not only an adaptation of Lewis Carroll's work but also combines various elements of popular culture and film genres. The focus is on how this film reflects the change in Alice's identity and the intertextual approach used by Tim Burton. Then, Hasanoglu (2023) examines the transformation of Alice's character into a symbol of feminism in the film. The main focus is on how Alice challenges Victorian-era gender norms, including rejecting traditional female roles such as arranged marriage. Moreover, there is another previous study that discusses the movie "*Alice in Wonderland*" quoted from the study conducted by Putri (2014) that examines Alice's language style towards the characters in the movie and the situation of Alice's language speech. Additionally, the thesis developed by Johannessen (2011) aims to analyze Alice's identity in selected adaptations from

the author Lewis Carroll and compare “*Alice in Wonderland*” (2010) by Tim Burton, video games inspired by this film (2010), and the video game American McGee's Alice (2000). This thesis aims to analyze the identity of Alice from various angles and existing application media to align the story. Finally, Widiasti (2022) has found out the types of ambiguity used to identify, classify, define types of ambiguity and explain how to eliminate ambiguity in sentences in the film “*Alice in Wonderland*”. Some of these previous studies do not have continuity with the research that is studied now because they focus on different aspects and objectives between one study and another where this study is related to literary one, that is, the main character's act of oppression.

2.2 Statement of Problem

The problems of the research are answering the following questions:

1. What are the Red Queen's characteristics of oppression?
2. What are the effects of the Red Queen's oppression to other characters?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are the following:

1. To describe the Red Queen's characteristics of oppression.
2. To find out the effects of the Red Queen's oppression on other characters.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research discusses the Queen's oppression in the movie "*Alice in Wonderland*". She does these because she has the will to achieve pleasure and power for herself. She oppresses all common people, even to the main characters, namely; Alice, Mad Hatter, Stayne, Tweedledee and Tweedledum, the White Rabbit, Frog Servants, Bayard, and White Queen. This study is limited only to the attitudes and actions of the oppressor carried out by the Red Queen. Additionally, there are some effects of the Red Queen's oppression that happen to Bayard and his family, Hatter, and Wonderland people.

1.4 Significance of the Study

1.5.1 Theoretical Significance

This research can be a significant reference for further research in the field of English literature, especially dealing with other concepts of Marxist theory in the movie "*Alice in Wonderland*" and other literary works.

1.5.2 Practical Significance

This research can provide insight for film lovers as a basic reference in increasing attractiveness and critical thinking. Besides, by studying this, we can discuss how oppressive systems often create environments that are confusing, illogical, and designed to undermine personal agency, which can mirror real-world authoritarian systems, where the rules are constantly shifting and hard to decipher.