Exploitation and Social Discrimination Portrayed in the "Joker" Movie (2019): A Study of Class Analysis

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Abstract. Film is a cultural instrument that can educate people. Through an interesting film, people can activate their intellectualisation in seeing the social situation that occurred in the film. This research examines Joker (2019) a movie containing the discourse of exploitation and the social discrimination system related to this era. In this study, researchers elaborate (1) what forms of exploitation and social discrimination does the Joker film have?; and (2) what are the impacts of the exploitation and social discrimination in the film. The research method used is qualitative. Then in collecting data, the researchers first classify three types of data, namely primary data, secondary data, and supporting data. These three data are an effort to strengthen the arguments of this study. Furthermore, to analyze the research problem above, the researchers use one of the branches of the sociological theory of Marxism, namely class contradiction analysis and also the theory of communication science called critical discourse analysis to analyse the issue of news media coverage in this film. The results of this study indicate that the form of exploitation and social discrimination three areas, namely (1) the Health Sector; (2) the Labor Sector and (3) the Media News Sector.

Keywords: the art of film, the Joker film (2019), the class analysis theory, the social discrimination

INTRODUCTION

In the art theory, explained by Horatius in (Teeuw, 1984), the substance of literary work and art must be based on two main things, namely the art/literature as a medium of entertainment (dulce), and art as moral teachings that have values and useful in social life (utile). Similar to the theory above, the socialist realism theory also stated that the literary work should become an instrument of aesthetic (dulce) and ideologic (utile) (Toer, 2003).

Based on the two characteristics of art/literature, aesthetic and ideologic, they may have different meanings but must be integrated into the work. The meaning of aesthetic characteristics, in the art, can be interpreted as the beauty of artistic creations that exist at work (Kusumastuti, 2009). The artistic quality in a work can be viewed from the language styles in the poetry, the colours in the paintings, the body curves in dance performance arts, and the physical character in the movie.

In contrast to the aesthetics characteristics. the ideological characteristics in literature and art have more to do with the social message or value of the work. Ideological quality plays an important role in shaping the concept of work. Through this quality, the art or literature lovers can be motivated, triggered, and propagandised according to the author ideology and interest (Baharuddin, 2018).

Fundamentally, art can be divided

into several types such as music, literature, dance, film, painting, sculpture, and various other arts. Definitely, all these types of art, are based on the two qualities above so that the art lovers can be addicted and amazed in watching or reading the work.

This research focuses more on the study of the arts of film. In communication studies, film as a work of art is influential in shaping society's character in today's era (Mudjiono, 2011). Through films, the viewers can activate their imagination and even imitate some parts of scenes from their favourite characters. Movies are also often interpreted as moving images that appear to live like real life. No wonder that many film lovers often imitate scenes from popular characters (Ningsih & Widiharto, 2014).

In Ningsih & Widiharto's researcher explanation, these seem have similar perspective with Mudjiono's research, which states that films are the picture of real social life. Mudjiono also states that films, in the current era, have become a media of entertainment and education which are packaged in the form of stories, events and comedy (Mudjiono, 2011).

In contrast to the above researches, (Desti, 2005) More perceives that films, in the framework of communication studies, can also harm children's growth. Desti's research reveals that watching films frequently, especially for children and adolescents, will degrade their imagination. In fact, if their parents do not control their spectacle, it can be worse for mental and psychology.

Nowadays, cinema in Indonesia, from various TV broadcasts, still inundate the operas that tell stories about love, domestic violence (KDRT), divorce, mysticism, and even juvenile delinquency. As has been explained by Desti's research above, if the above broadcast over flow and becomes a spectacle for children, then this can degrade their intellectualization. Moreover, if it is analysed in further, the film can shake children's psychology which ultimately affects their communication style and eventually leads to destructive behaviour (Unayah & Sabarisman, 2015).

This definitely can undermine the children's consciousness and civilisation if the Indonesian Broadcasting Commission (KPI), as the state institution, keep presenting films/soap operas that solely tell stories about the above themes. Therefore, KPI as a film broadcasting mediator in Indonesia must transform and refine its system in airing every film/movie that will be shown. The question is, how does the KPI filter the film? In this case, KPI must refer to both dulce and utile theories in order to attract public sympathy and increase the connoisseurs' awareness about the movie that they watch.

The Joker film, released on October 2, 2019, could represent the Horaitus theory above, regarding the dulce and utile that can satisfy the cinema lovers. This film, played by Joaquin Phoenix, has been claimed as a top movie in the international box office rankings (CNN Indonesia version, Monday, 7/10/2019). This film, directed by Todd Philips, attempts to portray the social life of a lower cluster that is marginalised by an exploitative government system.

The main character of this film is named Arthur Fleck. Although the tittle of this film is called Joker, which has a similar meaning to someone who often makes jokes, yet the comedy content is not a substantial point. In fact, this film talks more about the sadness and the pain of the main character which is often perceived as the object of violence both physically and mentally. This is the reason why this film is surely interesting to analysed and can be studied using various thought and varied approach in discussing psychology, social and economic issues. Wibisono (2019), views that the Joker film presents the main character who suffers sadness, physical violence and mental illness due to the exploitative system and the social discrimination where he grows up. In his research, Wibisono applies the existential philosophy approach, as the main theory, to analyse the Joker's mentality.

In addition to the above explanation, (Fernando et al., 2020) also analysed this film with the human mental discourse. Nevertheless, in Fernando's research, the theory used as the analysis method is the theory of Cognitive Psychology, which focuses more on the impact of mental illness.

The above research views that Arthur's character is shaped by loneliness circumstance. He was born and raised without the father characteristic, so he is often alone. Moreover, as a person who works in the entertainment media, Arthur often gets bullied by his colleagues and supervisor.

Furthermore, a thesis, written by (Muthmainah, 2020) also has a different perspective which is slightly in line with Fernando's research particularly about mental disorders. This thesis reveals that Arthur's character as the main character in the Joker film is formed by mental disorders which he has suffered for a long time.

This mental disorder was caused because Arthur did not get more attention from the father characteristic and was only raised by his mother, Penny, who also had mental disorders. This thesis applies a branch of communication theory, namely semiotics (signifier and signified) in analysing the social issues in the Joker film.

Based on the above information regarding to the three previous researchers, it can be concluded that the Joker film is a very interesting work because it portrays people's lives which sometimes occur in real life. The Joker film can use various approaches such as the philosophy of existentialism, psychology, and communication (semiotics).

The researchers perceive that if these types of research basically have similarities and distinctions with the researchers' research. The similarity could be seen in the object of research, namely the Joker film released in 2019. Besides, the previous research also use qualitative research methods as this research does.

On the other hand, the distinguishes between this research and the previous researches could be perceived in the theory application. The researchers objectify that the three previous types of research do not comprehensively explain what shapes and affects the psychological condition of the main character in the Joker film. The three previous researchers only explained Arthur's mental condition without elaborating the cause of it.

The researchers perceive that mental disorder is just the effect of the external cause. Therefore, claiming psychological disorders as the primary cause of Arthur's character is not appropriate. For the researchers, this is the weakness of the three previous researchers who were unable to explain in detail the concrete situation in Gotham city (where Arthur lives).

Based on the previous researchers weaknesses above, this research presents a different perspective by using one of the Marxist sociological theory branches, namely the class analysis theory, to analyse the class contradictions between the elite and the marginalised (non-elite) class of society. Besides, the researchers also use a branch of communication theory, namely critical discourse analysis, in analysing Wayne's communication style in the Joker film.

METHOD

As cultural studies, this research also

uses qualitative research methodology to analyse the text's social phenomena. In this case, the researchers transcribe each conversation in the Joker movie into a scriptural text to gain the main reference/ data. Furthermore, in collecting data, the researchers firstly divide three types of data such as the premier data, the secondary data, and the supporting data. The premiere data is the main data from the research object, in this case the Joker film released and directed by Todd Philips in 2019. Meanwhile, the secondary data are data that researchers obtained from the previous researchers who also analysed the Joker film (2019). Then, the supporting data are data that researchers get from books, articles, electronic media news related to this research.

In obtaining the three data above, the researcher secondly divided into two steps; 1) the researcher downloaded this film on the IndoXXI.com site. 2) the researcher transcript each conversation in this film. After gaining these three data, the researchers finally classify the above data into some instruments such as colour paper, highlighter, and pencil (Endraswara, 2003).

In obtaining data related to the exploitative system in the Joker film, researchers used a red highlighter. Besides, to obtain data related to the social class analysis discourse the researcher used a yellow highlighter. Subsequently, to obtain the secondary data, researchers search and read several studies (journals, articles or theses) that analysed the Joker film. Each point of these studies is written by the researchers on paper colour (blue paper and green paper) and objectify it as the secondary data. Furthermore, to classify the characters' names in this film, the researcher underlined them using a pen.

For the last point, in analysing the discourse of exploitation and social discrimination in this film, the researcher uses the sociological theory of Marxism, namely the class contradiction theory, as an analysis tool to study the social discrimination and exploitation of human groups (elite class) over other groups (marginalised classes).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the bellow point, the researchers separate two parts as the essence of academic research namely result and discussion. The result elaborates on each of the research problem namely the exploitation form in the Joker movie and its implication. Furthermore, for the discussion part the researchers discuss and analyse the result data.

Finding

The Form of Exploitation and Social Discrimination

At this point, the researchers separate several types of exploitative form and social discrimination into three sectors, the Health Sector, the Employment Sector and the Media News Sector. These three sectors are the primary cause that finally destructs Arthur's consciousness, psychology and mental health. The reason why researchers use the exploitative term in these three sectors above because the government, as a regulator, do not protect its civilian and provide the social insurance (health and economy) for its civilian. Indeed, the government, in this film, use his political power to esteem their status-quo.

For the health sector, this exploitation can be perceived in the Gotham city's people's life, represented by Arthur, who lives desperately. In fact, in a democratic system, people's rights are extremely crucial and necessary particularly for the health sector. At the beginning of this film, it could be seen that there are discriminative phenomena where the health insurance that should have been given to the people is finally

Scene	Minute	Script
Angeran kami dipangkas	40:39 - 41:37	Arthur, I have some bad news for you, The city (the government) cuts funding across the board, social service is part of that. This the last time we'll be meeting

Scene 1:

The psychiatrist face explained to Arthur that the government's budget for public health insurance had been cut. So that the poor community seems to no longer have access to this.

cut off unilaterally by the government.

At that time, Arthur asks the psychiatrist to increase the medicine dosage he usually consumes to overcome his emotional disturbance, schizophrenia. However, the psychiatrist states that the government had stopped the health insurance, including access to medicine for sick people like Arthur. This phenomenon can be seen from TABLE 1. Based on the psychiatrist's statement above, it shows that she also expresses her disappointment in the government decision, which apparently do not care about what happened to their people's sickness. This condition makes Arthur's emotional disorder more unstable and leads to psychological and mental disorders.

Besides, the scene demonstrating

TABLE 2: The Government's Ignorance Discourse

Scene	Minute	Script
Mereka tak peduli dengan	41.40-41.47	"They (the rulers) don't give a shit about people like you, Arthur, and they don't really give a shit about people like me either"

Scene 2:

This picture explicitly shows the precariousness of the situation because the government, which constitutionally must serve people and seen as the public servants, does commit its function and tends to be passive for the people's livelihoods.



42.02-42.08 Where am I supposed to get my medication now? Who I talk to?

Scene 3: Arthur's face seems desperate because he didn't have funds to buy medicine.

Scene	Minute	Script
Li Le servet	1.37-2.09	, if you wanna be a clown, at least you do that right.

TABLE 3: Physical Bullying in Jobs

Scene 4:

The scene shows Arthur is getting bullied and physical bullying when he works. This can be seen in the position of Arthur's body which seems skewed because he is pushed and finally falls.

the government's ignorance about their people, especially in the health sector could be seen, at 41.40 minutes. This phenomenon can be seen in the conversation between Arthur and the psychiatrist in the TABLE 2.

In the above data, it shows that the government in the Joker film (2019) does not bring welfare and equality to its people. Moreover, this indicates that the government is exploitative because it does not provide prosperity and good services. This finally causes Arthur mental sickness is getting worse.

From the above data, it can be said that this study is certainly opposite to the findings data of the three previous researchers. They state that Arthur suffered his mental disorders from his internal condition. In fact, this research perceives from a different perspective where Arthur's mental disturbance is basically from his external conditions (social), i.e. the lack of government responsibility in providing social access for health and welfare.

Furthermore, in the employment sector, the form of exploitation can be seen in the Arthur's profession as a clown which really pathetically. At the beginning of this film, Arthur is ordered to dress like a clown, dance and make fun publicly, to attract people's attention to Kenny's musical store. However, as he dances, he gets bullied and attacked by strangers. The strangers are taking his comedy board and hitting Arthur physically. This incident can be seen in the TABLE 3.

The above data shows that the comedian profession, especially for a clown, frequently gets "bullying" by society. This condition also demonstrates the governments cannot provide job vacancy for the people of Gotham City that protect them constitutionally. Besides, physical bullying in the employment

IABLE 4: Physical Violence to the working class		
Scene	Minute	Script
Hair da. Ambil baragnya.	02.56-03.05	beat'em up. Take his stuff
Scene 5:		
The fifth picture shows the young strangers were physically attacking Arthur while working.		

TABLE 4: Physical Violence to the working class

		11000
Scene	Minute	Script
	1.43.14-	Why is every body so upset about
	1.43.28	these guys (killed by Arthur
		because these guys were beating
		Arthur on the train). If it was me
		dying on the side walk, you'd
		walk right over me. I pass you
Kita berpapasan tiap hari dan kalian tak sadar.		everyday but you don't notice
► TI € 843794		me, but these guys, what, because
Scene 6:		Thomas Wayne went and cried
This scene was taken when Arthur spoke in front		about them on TV?
of the media regarding his disappointment with the		
government that seems to ignore the social conditions of		
the informal working class.		

TABLE 5: Arthur's Protest to the Media New
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sector could also be seen when Arthur's comedy board was stolen by strangers and even attack him blindly as has been stated before. This case can be seen in the data TABLE 4.

The above data shows that jobs in the informal sector (like comedian) do not get a legal protection from the government. Moreover, the government only appreciates and protects human rights to those in the elite class and work in the formal sector. Thereby, it indicates the social discrimination of the two classes between those who work as government elites and those who only work in informal jobs.

This situation was demanded by Arthur where the elite class could only blaspheme and insult the lower classes society. Arthur perceives that the elite class never feel how hard live in the poor society. Arthur analogised that if there was physical repression committed by the lower class to the elite class, the government seemed to be alert and get support from media to stigmatise the lower class.

On the other hand, if people from the elite class represses the lower class, then the government seems to neglect the case and not protecting the people from the lower classes. Moreover, the media does not broadcast it as well. This criticism was conveyed by Arthur when he spoke on the entertainment TV station which Murray Franklin directed.

The above data shows how disappointed Arthur in seeing the social atmosphere of Gotham City which is discriminative to the lower classes. Arthur further criticises the Wayne's attitude (an elite businessman who wanted to become

Scene	Minute	Script
B M B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B	38.55- 39.02	There now seems to be a groundswell of anti-rich sentiment in the city. It's almost as if our less fortunate residents have taken the side of the killer.

TABLE 6: The Media News that Discredits People from the Lower Class

Scene 7:

The picture of his scene shows that the expression on Wayne's face seems to offend society from the lower classes with his racial statement "there is a sentiment towards the urban rich".

yang berbuat keji itu?

the ruler of Gotham) who only shows his sympathy for the elite society in all TV media broadcasts. Therefore, by applying the media broadcast to hegemonise his expression, the public felt sorry and empathy for the elite workers who had previously shot by Arthur on the train.

Besides, the above data also relates to the form of exploitation in the media news sector. To amplify the media news, the researcher elaborates it with one of the communication theory branches, namely critical discourse analysis based on the perspective of Norman Fairclough (Munfarida, 1970).

When Arthur shot the three people who firstly attacked him, the media news seemed to generalise and judge the lower class as the mastermind behind the murder without committing a journalistic investigation. Wayne, when interviewed by media, even accused the perpetrator of the shooting was a poor person. This scene can be seen in the TABLE 6.

If the above statement is analysed using a critical discourse analysis theory, the sentence " anti-rich sentiment " asked by a reporter to Wayne in the table above shows a discriminatory, racial and sensitive statement towards the lower class. Moreover, there is an assumption that the lower class tends to stand with the killers. This statement is surely very premature and does not investigate the case legally.

The researchers perceive that the above data also shows the social position of the elite class, with its political power instrument, can stigmatise their class opponents (lower class / non-elite). This media news practically caused the social friction at the grassroots (society) and causes both classes' antipathy.

In addition to the forms of exploitation in the media news sector above, another exploitative for can be seen when Murray Franklin, a TV presenter on a comedy series, invites Arthur to be interviewed. Yet, Arthur sense a bad sign that he is just invited to be bullied by the the studio watchers.

Previously, Arthur had witnessed in the TV program that his comedy video is being re-broadcasted by Franklin's TV program.

However, instead of appreciating the comedy content in the video, Frank criticises Arthur's comedy material so that he knew that his presence was only to be used as a bullying object. This is what makes Arthur annoved which definitely affects his psychological disorders. This scene can be seen in the TABLE 7.

In the above table, the phrase "playing my video, inviting me on the show. You just wanna make fun of me" can be explicitly conceived as an expression of Arthur's annovance that the TV media only wants to make Arthur a stunning object and not to be appreciated as a good comedian. Moreover, Arthur was born as a lower class and Franklin, as a TV presenter, has a social dignity in society. Thereby, in this case, it seems

Scene	Minute	Script
Kau cuma ingin meledekku.	1.44.19- 144.37	You're awful Murray, playing my video, inviting me on the show. You just wanna make fun of me. You're just like the rest of them.

TABLE 7: Arthur's anger expression to the Media

Scene 8:

This scene explicitly shows Arthur's anger towards Murray who only invites him as the object of jokes and bullying in front of the watchers.

that the media is also objectified as a powerful instrument to degrade the nonelite society.

The Impacts of The Exploitation and Social Discrimination in the Joker Movie

Base on the health sector exploitation above, the Gotham city government seems to neglect its function as the public servant particularly in medicating people. No wonder if this exploitation form's impact causes the mental illness (psychic) that Arthur suffered is getting worse.

This can be seen in the second table above where the government does not seem to have a strong will in providing security and health insurance to its citizens, as has been stated by psychiatrist when giving a medical consultation to Arthur, "They (the rulers) don't give a shit about people like you, Arthur, and they don't really give a shit about people like me either".

Furthermore. the impact of exploitative forms in the employment sector is the erosion of public optimism about to work. Why researchers argue this, because since Arthur work as a clown/ comedian. Arthur has often received physical and mental violence from both his colleagues and society. Moreover, this mental pressure causes his attitude to be pessimistic in every sector of his life. These events can be seen in the Table 8.

The expression of "don't smile" sentence written on the above table indicates how Arthur irate with his work and turns into a pessimist. This feeling is the impact of the lack of the government's effort in providing the rights for the working class, in terms of legal protection. In contrast, Arthur perceives that other working classes, especially those who work in the formal sector (elite) are given rights and legal protection and media support.

The last form of exploitation and social discrimination could be previewed in the media news which tends to stand for the elite class. As has been explained in the sixth table that after the emergence of anti-rich sentiment stated by the media itself, it can be seen that this news has been sharpening the social chaos between the two social classes because, the media news frames the lower class as criminal and the elite class as the victim.

The researchers perceive that this chaos is the impact of media news that attempts to broadcast the sensitive which discourse is discriminative for the lower class. So that people eventually began to lose their respect for the government and the media its self. Besides, the civilian start to hold demonstrations as a protest to criticize the government. The scene can be seen in the TABLE 9

The demonstrator's statement above is a protest towards the government, the media and Wayne, have been discrediting the lower class as a criminal group. The researchers observe that the media news

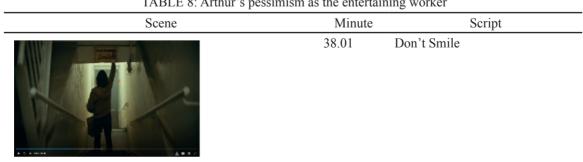


TABLE 8: Arthur's pessimism as the entertaining worker

SScene 9: A picture that shows Arthur's pessimism in the world of entertainment work

Scene	Minute	Script
b the water and the second sec	1.02.21	We're all the clown. Kill the rich

TABLE 9: The Demonstration to the Media News and Wayne

Scene 10:

This scene shows the public protest against Wayne's tendentious and racial statements

assumed that the murder of the three elite workers on the train was committed by someone who works a clown. Clown in this movie context is classified as the informal worker profession.

If this assumption is analysed objectively, then it is very premature and unacceptable for human's logical sense. Therefore, it is natural for the protesters from the lower class' society to protest their demand. The sentence "We're All the clown" at the above table is the lower classes' solidarity feelings.

The researchers conclude that the exploitative forms reported on the result finding points above are the roots of the problem. Thereby in order to construct a good social circumstance and the public trust, the government must protect and provide the equal rights for all people regardless of the class type. The health insurance as one of the civilian needs/rights must be given to people who are sick so that they have good health and prime bodies.

Discussion

At the discussion point, the researchers elaborate the above results point data with the theory of class analysis as an analysis method in studying the social class conflicts between elite and non-elite classes in the Joker film and as previous, different researches projects.

The Theory of Class Analysis

Based on the Marxism sociological

theory, the human character is not determined by the human internal condition (mental/psychic). Nevertheless it is formed by an external condition (social condition) that contradicts one another (Prawironegoro, 2012). The social conditions will furthermore affect civilians' awareness or perspective. social Therefore, condition every definitely cannot be separated by the social system in a particular country.

In the theory of cultural studies, it also discusses that if the economic and political system is exploitative, then the governance will also colorise the atmosphere of an exploitative system for civilian (Barker, 2003). In contrast, if the economic system, in a country, is collective and democratic, then the governance system, in that country, will be democratic (Baharuddin, 2019)

Furthermore, each of both systems above will form the social classes that contradict one another, in this case, the elite / bourgeois class (minority) and the non-elite (majority). People who are in the former social class are those who have the power, either economically or politically, in determining the public policy which stands for their interest (Bourdieu, 2010).

Because of having political power in the social system, these elites will always release the public policies that surely take sides and maintain the class status quo. On the other hand, people classified as the "non-elite" class do not have the political power either economically or politically. This class is often perceived as social system's violence object that tends to be exploitative and discriminative for them (Asrinaldi, 2012).

Subsequently, in maintaining the elite class status quo and their power, they first build political communication with the lower classes. (Martono, 2012) Perceives that the political communication between the elite and lower classes tends to be hegemonic. This means that people from the lower classes do not have a bargaining position in expressing and communicating their own interest. According to (Siswati, 2018) this how elite class constructs political communication scheme

The Relation between The Joker Film and The Theory of Class Analysis

The above theoretical framework has the same relationship to the data findings of this study. If it is perceived closely by the elite class rulers in the Joker film, it seems that the government lost its responsibility in serving their civilian. This can be seen from the government's treatment that really arbitrary to their people.

Based on the findings data above, the form of exploitation and social discrimination committed bv the government is divided into three sectors such as the Health sector, the Employment sector, and the Media news sector. These three sectors are the political consequences of both classes that contradict each other. People who are in the elite class such as Thomas Wayne, Murray Franklin, and Dr. Sally certainly do not feel the social problem of these three sectors. As a matter of fact, these elite characters (Wayne and Franklin) have the power to design the social system that stands for their class interest.

This scene can be seen in Wayne's discourse communications when campaigning his interest to the media

(see table 6). Wayne's statement in table 6 seems to build the racial issue which is tendentious and attacks the poor class which out of his class. So that society, particularly in the lower class, seems not to accept the racial statement which can cause the social chaos between the two classes.

Arthur Fleck represents a nonelite class who has been repressed by the exploitative system for a long time. As a lower class, he does not have the social capital (relation), cultural capital and financial capital in accessing health, education and employment. Therefore, this external condition causes disastrous and eventually made Arthur's mental illness are getting worse.

The hypothesis above is certainly different from the three previous research types which only perceive that Arthur's mental illness was his internal (psychic) condition problem. In fact, according to the above theory, people's consciousness and awareness is a manifestation of every external (social) condition that contradicts one another experienced by someone.

CONCLUSION

The researchers summarise that several points form the exploitation and social discrimination in the Joker film (2019). These sectors are divided into three areas, such as (1) Health, (2) Employment, and (3) the Media news. These three sectors seem to represent the spirit of Bad Governance that ignores the civilian in the Joker movie. In consequence, these three sectors have an impact people's resistance as the social class has frequently been marginalised. Thereby, the atmosphere of a peaceful, prosperity, and the social harmony does not appear in this film. This research certainly has more the advantages than the three previous researches which only analyzing Arthur's mental illness from his internal (self) condition. However, this research

can describe the external conditions that shape and can be argued as the cause of the psychological illness suffered by Arthur. The researchers also perceive that this research was far from perfection. Therefore, the researchers suggest to dear readers and any researchers to develop or criticise this research scientifically.

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