This paper analyzes about Flipped (2010), a movie by Rob Reiner. Flipped is an adaptation of Wandelin Van Draneen’s novel. The movie is being chosen because there is a social class gap in the society. Therefore, the writer uses Marxism theory. The problems that have been discussed are how the social inequality revealed in the movie and how misperception constructed to the character. To find out the result of the problems, library research is being used in this paper. The result concluded that the social inequality revealed from the social class gap between the two families and the social prejudice in the society, and the misperception constructed in the character are caused by the parents’ opinion that makes the misperception to the main character.

Keyword: social inequality, social prejudice, social class, misperception, Marxism

Background

Human beings are destined to live side by side with the people around. Every person wants to be accepted in society. In Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary (2005), society is “(1) people in general, living together in communities; (2) a particular communities of people who share the same customs, laws, etc.” In society, many kinds of people are different one from another in their perception, thinking and feeling. Therefore, people in one society have to unite their perception, thinking and feeling to make a good relationship. However, it is so difficult for people to accept the others in society. Some groups in society have a principle that a person’s behavior verifies if he can be accepted or not. Moreover, a lot of groups believe that material is the only way to determine whether a person can be accepted in society. It means that someone will be seen if he has a wealth of material. This principle makes these communities have a perception that money is everything. And from this step, the social class gap happens in society.

One of the movies that show the social issues is Flipped movie. Flipped is a 2010 romantic comedy drama movie set in early 1960s by Rob Reiner. It is an adaption of the novel Flipped set in 2000s by Wendelin Van Draneen. The Marxism theory is chosen in this paper because the society can never be separated from social issues. And one of the social issues is social inequality. From year to year, the social inequality is more and more clearly visible. That’s why, the writer interested with the topic because the social inequality still exist until now. And the writer interested in Flipped movie because the social inequality happens in the society though only in a trivial problem, that is a small yard of the one family. This social inequality also makes misperception between characters.

The problems formulation in this research that will be discussed are how the social inequality revealed in Flipped Movie and how is misperception constructed in the main character. The scope in this research is Flipped movie by Rob Reiner. The limitations are Juli Baker, Bryce Loski, Mr. Baker and Mr. Loski, and also each family, the Bakers and the Loskis.
The goals of this paper are to know whether the social class can cause misperception about someone and to find out the false teaching of social inequality for the parents that influence the children. The function of this paper is to give the lesson for parents and the readers to teach children that social inequality is not good.

Research Methods

This research uses library research which is collecting data and information from libraries. Website research is also used to get information outside textbook. And the basic material is Flipped movie. The instrument of this analysis is Marxist Literary Criticism by Karl Marx. This Marxism will be the main theory because the movie shows the audiences about social class in society. This analysis will take several months, it is about six months. During these six months, the writer will find the answers to the main problems in this paper by connecting the movie with the theory. Data compilation of this paper divided into two parts. First, the elements of fiction (character, characterization, social setting and point of view) to make the writer more understand about the characters in Flipped movie. Second, the writer studies about Marxist Literary Criticism to find out the meaning and to more understand about social inequality in society and misperception that have connection with Marxism, then related the theory to the incidents in the movie that revealed in the society.

Analysis

3.1 Analysis Elements of fiction

3.1.1 Character

The person who has uncomplicated and just has one mannerism is called flat character, while the person who has more than one mannerism is called round character. The flat character is also called as a static character, in which the way of what character do and think is never change from the start until the end of story; whereas the round character is also called a dynamic character in which the character has been changed significantly by the progress of story (Barnet, Burton and Cain, 2005, p. 228-229). Juli is the major character, or can be said as the protagonist, in the movie because the story is about how she feels and thinks of someone or something that the story shows to the audience and she has round character. Bryce is also the major character in the movie because the story is about how he feels and thinks of someone that the story shows to the audience and he has round character. Mr. Baker is Juli’s father and he is supporting character in the movie. He has flat character. Mr. Loski is Bryce’s father. Similar to Mr. Baker, he is the minor character in the movie. He has flat character.

3.1.2. Characterization

According to Arp and Johnson in Story and Structure (2006, p. 530), characterization is analyzing process of infinitely complex, variable and ambiguous in human character. Juli Baker’s characters are helpful, friendly, grateful and optimistic thinking. Bryce Loski is weak-minded boy, hypocrite person, and easy to be susceptible. Mr. Baker is a cares person. Mr. Loski has negative thinking.

3.1.3. Point of view

Flipped has a unique point of view. The study of point of view in Flipped movie is important to reveal the perception which the theme of this paper is misperception. From the study of point of view, the perception from major characters, Juli and Bryce, can be analyze to get the answer of problems formulation. And in this movie, point of view is based on Juli’s perception and Bryce’s perception. So, the audiences know each feeling and thinking at the same time. When the story based on Juli’s perception, the audiences will know how her perception for every incidents in the movie. Then from her perception, the audiences know her feeling and thinking at that time. Meanwhile, when the story based on Bryce perception, the audiences will know how his perception, feeling and thinking for every incidents in the movie.

3.1.4. Social Setting

Juli’s and Bryce’s school, Mayfield Junior High, always held the Mayfield Booster Club Auction every year. The name of this tradition is Mayfield Annual Boosters Auction Basketboys of 1963. This tradition is the selected boys will auction off in front of the student body to the highest-bidding females. The meaning of Basketboys is the boys who come with a lunch in a basket. This tradition show that the social setting always related to money. The female with the highest-bidding will get the boy with the lunch. This is like a bargain between money and human being because the person who has much money can bid the boy. Although the boys get nothing but this tradition is really prestigious, so the boys are very precious in this event. In here, Figure 6 shows the illustration in Booster Club Auction.
3.2. Marxism theory

This sub-chapter is the analysis of the movie using Marxism Literary Criticism, which means that this sub-chapter is the main point of analysis because the main problem formulations, misperception and social inequality, will be discussed here. The chapter is consists of the analysis of social inequality in *Flipped* movie and the analysis of misperception between two characters.

3.2.1. Social Inequality

This study is to know every social inequality revealed in the movie. The study itself focuses on two families, the Bakers and the Loskis, because they are the main-family that showed how social inequality happens. The social inequality in this analysis is divided into two parts: the social class and the social prejudice. Every incident in the movie will be analyzed to prove that the social inequality is really revealed along the story.

3.2.1.1. Social Class Gap

Mr. Baker is a bricklayer and also a landscape painter to sell them at the market to gain the family income. But as a bricklayer is not a job for several people. A job for middle-up class is an activity that can earn much money and has a good position level. Moreover, becoming a bricklayer is always looked down in society. So, when Mr. Baker does a landscape painting in his yard, Mr. Loski watches Mr. Baker from his house and he look down on him: “Oh, there he is. The bricklayer who thinks he’s a painter. That truck’s not ugly enough in real life? He’s gotta make a painting of it?” (00:08:27). Mr. Loski feels so annoyed to see a bricklayer does a landscape. It means that the profession of Mr. Baker is nothing and it has no value so, he also does a landscape to support the family income, that’s why the Loskis especially Mr. Loski always looks down on his job.

Another incident that shows the social class gap is when Bryce throws away the eggs from Juli. The reason is the Loskis not want to take a risk of being poisoned because the Bakers’ yard is so messy. Juli finds out that Bryce throws away the egg every time she gives it to the Loskis. The simple reason from Bryce proves that the Loskis do not accept the gift from the Bakers because of the messy yard. Figure 8 below shows the messy back yard of the Bakers’ house with the coop. When Bryce peeps Juli’s coop in her backyard, he sees the completely messy yard with turds. Bryce tells his family about the yard and this scene makes the Loskis who are rich people do not want to accept the eggs because the Bakers have an ugly yard.

The Bakers live in the house which is not theirs. They just live in an empty house and the owner asks them to take care of the house. Therefore, the Bakers live in there. And again, for Mr. Loski who lives
in his own house, he cannot accept the reason for it. He still blames the Bakers because they never manage to take good care of the house and the yard. For some rich people, there is no reason to become poor people. Chet who is nice to the Bakers explains to Mr. Loski about the house. But, Mr. Loski does not accept the explanation and not feel sorry because the Bakers’ money is for Mr. Baker’s brother, Daniel. For him, family troubles are not a reason for the Bakers to not manage their lawn. Although they have to spend the money for Daniel, Mr. Loski still cannot accept the reason by saying “it’s not our fault that their family has some chromosomal abnormality”. These words prove that there is a social class gap between the Loskis and the Bakers.

In almost the last part of the story, there is also the incident that shows the social class gap between these two families. It happens when the Loskis invite the Bakers to sit-down dinner, the Bakers tell about the demo music that will be done by twin-brothers Matt and Mark Baker. After the dinner and the Bakers going home, Mr. Loski looks down on them. “How you think they can afford all the recording gear? … do you know how expensive it is to record a demo?” (01:05:20). For Mr. Loski, it is impossible the twin-brothers Baker can make a demo. To make a demo is very expensive and the Bakers do not have much money to do that. The quotation above proves that the Loskis looks down on the Bakers, again.

The next analysis is from the Bakers as the poor people. This analysis is to show the lower-class’s opinion about the social class difference that happens to them. Juli’s mind about her father shows how it is hard to become at least a successful person. “He told me all sorts of things like how he got his first job delivering hay and how he’d wished he’d finished college” (00:12:33). In here, it can be seen that the poor people have also a dream the same as rich people that is to finish the college. Unfortunately, for people in poverty it is so difficult to do that because they live in poverty. Mr. Baker’s first job is delivering hay and he has a wish to finish college. It means that whatever a job that he gets is very helpful and proud of it because he is not rich. Moreover, to finish college is just a dream for poor people.

The last is when the Mayfield Annual Boosters Auction Basketboys of 1963. On the way to go to the school for the event, Juli meets Mrs. Steuby and Mrs. Steuby gives much money to Juli. The money is the payment for the eggs. The students know that Juli brings much money to the school. All neighbors know that the Bakers are not rich. So, when other students know that Juli has money that is the big question.

3.2.1.2. Social Prejudice

The social prejudice also happens when Juli gives the eggs to the Loskies. The Loskis have a discussion about the eggs. The Bakers have a messy yard and the Loskis think that the messy yard source of a poison, so they do not want to take the eggs from them. This discussion from the Loskis shows that the prejudice between the two families really happens. They think that the eggs can have a salmonella and the reason is simple, because the yard is messy and full of turds. Actually, the fresh egg is good for the health. But the Loskis, especially Mr. Loski, do not want to take a risk by accepting the eggs from a family who have a messy yard. That shows the social prejudice from the Loskis to the Bakers. In the same incident about the eggs, Bryce tells Juli why he throws away the eggs. The Bryce’s reason makes Juli upset because she always cleans the yard and washes the eggs before giving them to the neighbors. Unfortunately, since the first time the Loskis have had a problem with the Bakers’ yard. This problem makes the Loskis consider the Bakers’s yard is still in a mess. The messy yard is still messy yard. The chats below show the conversation between Juli and Bryce about the eggs and the yard. Juli is shocked when she knows that her neighbor throws away the eggs from her just because they are afraid of the salmonella. Moreover, they think of salmonella just because her yard is messy. They never know that Juli always cleans up the yard and the eggs. They just know from what they see without needing any explanation. This act is also a kind of prejudice in society.

The prejudice also comes from the boys. Bryce and his best friend, Garrett, are the seventh grade. In this time, they are still children but they have a prejudice to Juli. It happens when Bryce tells Garrett that he likes Juli. He also tells that the Bakers have to treat Daniel in good hospital because he is retarded. And this situation makes Garrett tell Bryce about Juli. The sentence “the apple does not fall far from the tree” from Garrett tells that Juli is also retarded because she has a retarded uncle. That’s why he warns Bryce not to like Juli because of the retarded family. Here, the social prejudice happens. The lack of a member in family reflects all members of the family. That is a common opinion in society. Daniel Bakers is retarded, and the Bakers are also retarded.

The last incident that shows the social prejudice is when the Loskis invite the Bakers to sit-down dinner in their house. Mr Loski tells that they are starting to make a demo music. After the dinner ends, Mr. Loski thinks that Matt and Mark do something to get much money to make a demo. The Bakers is not rich and it is impossible if the twin-brothers make a demo. So, Mr. Loski has a negative thinking about them. Mr. Loski thinks that Matt and Mark steal something to get the money: “How you think they can afford all the recording gear? … do you know how expensive it is to record a demo? They
are probably stealing hubcaps, for chrissake,” (01:05:20). These sentences from Mr. Loski mean he has a prejudice to his poor neighbor, the Bakers.

### 3.2.2. Misperception

The study focuses on the two main characters’ perception, Juli Baker and Bryce Loski. The analysis is to know the perception from Bryce and the perception from Juli when both of them experience the same incidents. The movie itself is started from Bryce’s perception, after that from Juli’s perception, so the analysis first is based on Bryce’s and second is from Juli’s. In here, Bryce is the person who always has misperception to Juli. As the goal has been said in before, this analysis is to know how misperception is constructed in a young boy, Bryce. But before that, the analysis will be started by the incident that shows the misperception of Bryce to Juli, and how Bryce has flipped and changed his perception about Juli. And the analysis only discusses one incident that has a strong evidence to prove that there is a misperception in the movie.

#### Bryce’s perception when Juli is sniffing him

(Source: *Flipped*, 00:04:45)

#### Juli’s perception when she is sniffing Bryce

(Source: *Flipped*, 00:06:44)

The incident will be used in the analysis is when they are in sixth-grade. In the school, Juli always stalks Bryce from the first time they meet. And in the sixth-grade Juli starts to sniff Bryce in the class. Based on Bryce’s perception when Juli starts to sniff Bryce in the class, Bryce feels so irritated. For him being stalked by Juli is like a disaster. But the disaster becomes worse because Juli starts to sniff Bryce. Bryce as a boy, it is a common if he feels irritated because it has a girl who aggressive and starts to sniff him in the class: “Word got back Juli, and pretty soon she started up with the goo-goo eyes again. Only this time is was worse. She started sniffing me. That’s right, sniffing me. What was that all about?” (00:04:40). Meanwhile, based on Juli’s perception, for her there are no dazzling eyes in this world except Bryce’s and there is also something with Bryce’s smile. Moreover, she likes to smell Bryce’s hair because it is like watermelon. That’s why she always sniffs Bryce in the class. “He was so shy and so cute and his hair, it smelled like watermelon. I couldn’t get enough of it. I spend the whole year secretly sniffing watermelon and wondering if I was ever going to get my kiss,” (00:06:51). This quotation is from Juli’s mind when she sniffs Bryce. Juli as a girl it is also a common for her when she likes someone, she starts to like everything from him.

From this study, it can be seen that there is a misperception of Juli from Bryce. For Bryce, what Juli does is shameful and cheap. But for Juli, what she does is right and no shame. The differences of these
perceptions are appearing because of the life’s background. Juli is a daughter from poor family. It is a common if the poor people always do whatever they want as long as they could be responsible. They are free to express their thinking and feeling because in their life there is no a limitation. That is why Juli has never in doubt to express her feelings of Bryce by sniffing him. Meanwhile, Bryce is a son from rich family. Different from poor people, the rich people cannot do whatever they want because they have limitations in their life. The rich people often concern about their identity and image in society. That is why the rich people always confined themselves in doing an action or express their feelings because they do not want to be looked down in society. This is the reason of Bryce’s perception in which makes Bryce think that Juli is always wrong. The differences of background between Bryce and Juli make their perception cannot be put together until Bryce has misperception of Juli.

Bryce is a young boy. In that age, a boy just learns about something from what he sees and hears. Hence, the boy needs guidance from the adult, especially parents, because he still needs someone to guide him to discover which one is good and which one is bed. And in here, the misperception from Bryce about Juli is not from himself. His perception about someone still been affected with people around him. Bryce who is a young boy always spends his time in the house. So, most of the time he is spend with his parents. The Bakers as poor family always are looked down by some neighbors. Although he knows that other neighbor also have negative thinking about the Bakers, he will not have misperception about Juli if his parents teach him and guide him as a young boy. Unluckily, Mr. Loski, Bryce’s father, one of the neighbors who always look down on poor people. The house of the Loskis and the Bakers are face-to-face. Even though they are neighbor, Mr. Loski always has negative thinking about the Bakers. And these actions of Mr. Loski influence his son, Bryce, who is still young. He learns about a family from his father. Unfortunately, Bryce still does not know the bad one or the good one, so he just accepts what he sees and hears. It happens when Bryce is still 7 years old. When they move to the neighborhood, Juli wants to help the Loskis. But Mr. Loski refuses Juli’s help. Since then, Mr. Loski restricts his family’s relation between the Bakers just because the Bakers are poor people. Moreover, Mr. Loski always looks down on the Bakers and insults Baker’s house and yard. And the reason why misperception about Juli constructed in Bryce’s perception is because he learns about Juli from his father, not from the facts.

The above incident is one of the misperceptions that Bryce has to Juli. But after those misperceptions, finally he knows that he is wrong and he then flips his perception about Juli. It needs much time and progress to make him flip his perceptions. At first he does not realize that he has started to flip his perception. Moreover, he is confused about his feelings to Juli: “I had to put Juli out of my mind,” (00:49:06). The quotation is taken from the time when Bryce always thinks about Juli. He tells himself that he just feels bad after he insults her yard so he just keep thinks about his mistake. And when Bryce tells about his feelings to Garrett, in his heart he is angry to Garrett because he insults Juli and the Bakers. Bryce: “He’d crossed the line. And standing right next to him across the line was my father. I didn’t care what they thought. I liked Juli Baker,” (00:51:06). The quotation shows his feelings when someone has negative thinking about Juli. And this feeling makes him realize that he likes Juli. Although he knows that he likes Juli, he still does not realize that he has flipped his perception. Almost in the last part of the story, when Bryce and Garrett fight in the annual school fundraiser because Bryce likes Juli, Garrett pronounces that Bryce has flipped his perception about Juli.

Conclusion

From the analysis in Chapter 3, it can be seen that there are the social class gap between two families and the misperception between two characters. And Flipped movie revealed the social class gap and misperception along the story. The purposes of the analysis are to know how the social class revealed during the movie and how the misperception constructed in the characters. Here is the conclusion of the analysis in Chapter 3.

The social class gap happens between the Loskis and the Bakers as the main families in the story. The Bakers are the poor family. They live in the ugly house that is not theirs and they have a member that is retarded. Meanwhile, the Loskis is a rich family who live in their own house. The situation of the house is the main problem between these two families. And the social class gap in here is always revealed from the Loskis whenever they look down on the Bakers’ house and yard.

The social prejudice focus on the characters, which is the prejudice always intended to the Bakers. In here, the prejudices of the Bakers are from Mr. Loski, Bryce and Garrett. Mr. Loski is the only person that always has prejudice to the Bakers. His prejudices are when the Bakers give them the eggs but Mr. Loski does not want the eggs by reason the Bakers have a messy yard, and also when the twin-brothers Matt and Mark Baker start to make a demo but Mr. Loski thinks that the Bakers are poor so it is impossible if they make a demo music. The prejudice’s from Bryce is when he throws away the eggs from Juli because
the back yard of Juli is so messy, so his family afraid of being poisoned. The last prejudice is from Garrett. He believes that Juli is retarded because she has a retarded uncle.

The misperception happens between Bryce’s perception and Juli’s perception. Bryce is the one who has misperception about Juli. At first, his perception about Juli is she is a strange girl. This perception is constructed because his father (Mr. Loski) does not like the Bakers since the Loskis move to the neighborhood when Bryce is 7 years old. Then, in the end of story, Bryce flips his perception about Juli and he finally likes Juli.

From the conclusion above, the two problems formulation of this paper can be answered: How the social inequality revealed in Flipped movie? How is misperception constructed in the main character? The social inequality is revealed from the social class gap between the Loskis and the Bakers, and also from the social prejudice that the other characters have to the Bakers. Then, the reason why misperception is constructed in the character (Bryce) is because Bryce is a young boy who learns the wrong perception about Juli from her family, especially his father.

REFERENCES


Biography

Fitria Rahmayanti was born in Jakarta on April 28th 1990. The writer has graduated from Bina Nusantara University in literature field in 2012.